



*THE NEW WILLARD,*  
*WASHINGTON.*

WILLARD'S HOTEL COMPANY,  
F. S. HIGHT, PRESIDENT.

18 July, 1917

My dear Mr. President:

May I present Mr. Lowell J. Thomas, of the faculty of Princeton, who, with the aid of a group of us here, is going abroad immediately, for the patriotic purpose of preparing travelogue lectures on the war, to be delivering in the principal American cities the coming winter? His associates will be Dr. Louis B. Blan, Publicity Expert of New York City Administration, and a skilled war photographer.

While gathering these material in England, Belgium, France, and perhaps Italy, Mr. Thomas will represent, and send frequent letters to, "Leslie's Weekly," and "The Globe" of New York City, "The Chicago News," "Philadelphia Ledger," and nineteen other important newspapers.

Among the fifteen Chicagoans aiding Mr. Thomas are Messers. E.P. Ripley, of the Santa Fe; Arthur Meeker of Armour & Company; William V. Kelley and R.P. Lamont, of The American Steel Foundaries; Silas H. Strawn, of Winston, Payne, Strawn, & Shaw; Henry Veeder; Dr. William A. Pusey, and Frank Letts, President National Grocers Association.

Mr. Thomas was engaged by Hon. Robert S. Yard, head of the National Park Service, to be a special lecturer for the Interior Department on our national parks; but the entry of the United States into this war and an opportunity to obtain important travelogue materials relating to the war led Mr. Thomas to take up this more important and interesting field. We are interested because he plans to have his travelogues ready to present next winter in the twenty largest American cities, and thus have a part in stimulating and sustaining the patriotic devotion of our people at a time when such work may be most vital.

We hope the undertaking may commend itself to you as worthy of such official approval as will give Mr. Thomas and his associates ready access to prominent points in the western war front.

Very respectfully yours,  
Edgar A. Bancroft.

The President.