
Rose Pastor Stokes Leaves the Pacifists: Believes in Peace, She Says, and Is “Not a Patriot,” but Would Serve County.

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Rose Pastor Stokes has resigned from the Woman's Peace Party. She says that, while she loves peace, she is not a pacifist and “would serve her country.” In her letter announcing her withdrawal from the party, Mrs. Stokes says:

Through long and earnest seeking of light I have come to this attitude, which was not my attitude at the



outbreak of war. My present definite conviction in the matter naturally leads me to tender the Woman's Peace Party my resignation.

I love peace, but I am not a pacifist. I would serve my country, but I am not a patriot. My love of peace does not blind me to the lessons of history, nor could I, though I have

not that spirit we call patriotism, turn my back upon a people in the throes of a conflict, and refuse to help during a state of general suffering. I see for this country, as for the world, the highest good; and I consider it essential to support peace, or conflict, as seems best for the world's progress toward unity.

Since the outbreak of the war I have striven earnestly for clear, impartial vision, and I have come to see that through the selfish, violent struggle human society has generally been compelled to recognize the folly of human division, and has moved, after conflict, toward larger unity.

If the United States enters the war, I shall regard it as the perfectly natural result of causes long inherent and deep rooted in the worldwide competitive system. This system no man or nation is responsible for. In the long, slow rise of human society we have moved from less to more desirable systems. We have not yet come to the best. If, through our common misfortune of not being born after the arrival of the “best,” we find ourselves still impelled to violent struggle, it seems to me as futile and unscientific to inveigh against it as it would be to scold an earthquake.

I would fight or serve if called upon, and I would recognize myself to be fighting and serving, not for national glory or for those petty “spheres of influence” which our loudest voiced patriots would, perhaps, be definitely seeking through the war, but as an infinitesimal part of a great instrument, in use since the beginning of history, for the perfecting of human unity and human freedom.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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