

WFF:RL

2nd October, 1918.

My dear Laning:

Now that Senn has gone to sea I thought you possibly might get his job.

I hope, at least, that you will not leave the Department, for I wish to have two friends - you and Palmer - at Headquarters.

I have just received a letter from the saying

Of course, knowing the attitude of certain people, I am fully resigned and quite willing to retain my present job until I retire, and longer, if possible.

I am holding down the lid and keeping busy.

I have tried to take all precautions against influenza on this Coast.

I greatly regretted seeing the changes in our manual of arms, etc. This was a very great mistake, and I am sorry the Bureau did not at least consult me and let me make a statement, before committing itself to changes that are most unfortunate, and which were not justified by any theory of uniformity with the Army. The Army manual will be a source of very great embarrassment to the Navy, because it does not consider our environment - ships, boats, skid beams, awnings, ladders, gangways, etc.

We too often change things that ought to be perpetuated, and perpetuate things that ought to be changed!

We are all very well and happy. The members of my family are all hustling in war work. Give my warm regards to Palmer and to Mrs. Laning.

Always

Sincerely yours,