September 29, 1934

Dear Miss Tarbell:

May I ask for one hour out of your busy life? I ask it, not only on behalf of the women’s organizations I represent, but for tens of thousands of other working women in our great country—particularly as assistance to that great army of young women which each year pours into the arena of the commercial world.

For their sake and to make our new book, "Women At Work", documentarily valuable, will you become one of our Consulting Editors? Your contribution would consist solely in giving us the one hour I request—time, in other words, to reply to the Questionnaire enclosed. That material so gained through you and the ninety-nine other distinguished business and professional women who will be your associates upon our Board will form the basic text of "Women At Work".

This is all we shall ask you to give us—but it is a point of view on questions of vital interest to women that is profoundly important to us, The American Woman's Association and to the twenty-three other women’s organizations who are sponsoring this compilation in connection with the World’s Fair. You and women like you who have achieved have won your spurs gallantly, justly in a working world in which you are outstanding. Your generous understanding and the wisdom you have gained through life and living—that richness of years rounded and sound—are needed now even more than ever before by this young generation about us.

You will, of course, want to know certain essentials as to the book itself. In format, it will be 9 X 12; 60 pages of text; 40 pages of carefully culled advertising. It will be beautiful to look at—as to cover, paper and illustrations, authoritative as to text. We should like this tribute to the Women Who Have Achieved and to those Who Are To Carry On to be done as to technical details, almost, if not entirely by women. For that reason, we are negotiating now with women printers, typographers, artists, illustrators and photographers to carry on that part of the work. As to the text, you and your
ninety-nine peers will give us that. The manner of treatment of the textual material presented to us will be dynamic, topical and timely. Photographs will have a candid camera slant, and will show typical groups or single individual business and professional women at their jobs and at leisure. "Women At Work" will sell for fifty cents and will be sold at the Fair and through women's organizations.

So that you may have a more complete knowledge of the women's organizations and the committee personnel launching "Women At Work", please find enclosed lists designed to give you that information.

Your acceptance would give me the greatest personal pleasure. Will you not say, "Yes", through the enclosed envelope?

Always sincerely,

[Signature]

Miss Ida Tarbell
120 East 18th Street
New York City