Dear Ida Tarbell;

It's the best kind of a wind that blows me a letter from you, and having gone through the Ph.D. mill myself, I have the liveliest sympathy for your friend who wants three weeks of perfect quiet. She can have them, about a mile down the road from our house in the MacAulay Inn, which is now closed for the winter, except for the two sisters who keep it, and who have telephoned that they will be glad to take in your friend. She would have a room, front room, with southern sun, a coal stove in it (really lots better and more reliable than steam-heat as she can have what heat she wants when she wants it) and three pretty good meals a day (at least the reputation of the MacAulay sisters is for a good cuisine of the plain country sort) and they would ask eighteen dollars a week for it, twenty-one a week being their summer price. She would be a mile out of the village, on the main road, with the R.F.D. passing once a day. And she would be only "guest" in the house, so she ought to have all the quiet she wants. I'd be glad to be at her disposition for anything I could do (you'd better believe any friend of yours is a friend of mine) and could run her around in a car anywhere she needed to go.

BUT, she must understand that she must bring all the books she will need, for there is no reference library, short of Albany, which is two hours by train. Of course there are encyclopædias and such-like primitive books of reference, but nothing that would avail her, at all.

Except for that, I should think Arlington would be a good place for such
for such a "retreat". I did that one summer in a Norway village and enjoyed every minute of it.

Her subject sounds absorbingly interesting and worth-while, so infinitely more than most Ph.D. subjects! I do hope she'll come and let our sunny, quiet valley help her to forget the awfulness of the "certain young upstarts" whom I can only too easily imagine.

Yes, wasn't it fine to have that glimpse of each other! And yes, by all means...I will if you will...only agree to serve on a Committee if the other fellow is on it too. That'd give us a chance once in so often to get in touch again. Though it's queer how little I seem to need that physical contact. I always feel you "right there," and when I actually see you in the flesh, it's as though I'd seen you the day beforehand.

Blessings on you always, from

Yours devotedly

[Signature]