

727 - Nineteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
September 29, 1921.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Powhatan Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

In reference to our conversation this noon, regarding a means of relief for the unemployed, I am taking this opportunity of placing in written form the idea I presented today.

During the past few years, through my connection with recreational activities for the Army, I have had constant requests for aid in securing employment for the men discharged from the service, as well as the men pardoned and paroled from the military prisons. During the past few months, it has been my good fortune to be able to secure positions for a number of these young men by personal effort for them. I have found in many cases that the chief difficulty is that they do not know where to look for work and that often they do not know how to ask for a position - when they are fortunate enough to find an opening. They are, as you know, easily discouraged and many times, when they fail to find employment in the lines of work to which they have been accustomed, it does not occur to them that there may be other work for which they might apply that would serve to tide them over, at least, for a time.

I have observed with respectful admiration the immediate action of the President at the time of the Flood disaster in Colorado, and more recently in the upheaval in West Virginia. Admittedly, this condition of the unemployed is the gravest problem confronting the Nation today, and it is my strong belief that if President Harding would address a proclamation to the men and women of America, asking that they, each one, make it their personal duty to try and find employment of some kind for an individual, either through direct personal contact, with the man himself, or through such local agencies as the Rotary Club, the various churches, etc. etc., that a large percentage of the unemployed would receive relief before they are subjected to the hardships of the coming winter, which will most assuredly result in suffering and exposure and death to a number of them.

I fully realize that the main vision of the present conference is to prevent unemployment in the future and to make impossible the recurrence of such conditions as confront the Administration today, but I do believe that the vital and immediate need of the individual today, suffering hunger and want is of more immediate importance. Forgive me if I speak too freely, but I have been down into the depths with a number of these young men who were hungry and hopeless, and it has been my good fortune to relieve the needs of a few. For these reasons, brought home to me so vitally by the suffering I have seen, I cannot help thinking that

the immediate solution for the individual, through out the country, is the blessed fact that the Brother-hood of man is today as strong and as lasting a command as it was 'nineteen hundred years ago, when we were advised as to our treatment of "The least of these."

Such a proclamation coming, as it might, from the President, would, I believe, receive immediate response from the entire nation and a surprising percent of the unemployed would find temporary relief at least.

May I thank you for allowing me to present this idea, and for the privilege of talking, in person, with you this morning.

Believe me,

Very sincerely,

Foxhall Daingerfield

Foxhall Daingerfield.

FD/GMN.