

KNOX COLLEGE
GALESBURG ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 31, 1928

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am sorry that I didn't get back in time to say goodbye to you and to wish you a merry Christmas. Unfortunately I was not able to spread myself out over the Pacific coast quite as quickly as I had hoped.

The report which you left for me was most interesting. I think that I would agree with the suggestions that you make for holding down the size of the group and avoiding the classroom atmosphere. As a matter of fact I am still hoping that we may evolve a physical arrangement of the classroom which will bridge the gap between teacher and student. In groups of ten or twelve, a table will do this. In the larger groups the problem is not so easy.

I hope you were not too much disturbed over the fear that some of what you had was over the heads of your hearers. A certain apparent waste of this kind is inevitable no matter how much preparatory reading we may require. In fact, I think we can easily deceive ourselves in calling it waste. One of the advantages of the plan is to bring the students in contact with minds practiced in a field of thought in which they are novices.

No teacher can tell offhand the results of his work. Perhaps ten or twenty years from now they may begin to appear. If you could hear, as I have, the comments on your presence here, the many expressions of a deep and sincere appreciation of what you did merely by being here, you would have no doubt that the "experiment" is an entire success. The ease

with which you stepped into our rather narrow world, adjusted yourself to conditions which must have been at times annoyingly unfamiliar, and fitted your mood to the diverse moods of many people, has been a revelation to all of us. I have been warned already, however, that it would be unwise to appoint another woman to this position for at least four or five years. "You couldn't find another woman who wouldn't seem flat after Miss Tarbell." If this be treason, make the most of it.

I am enclosing the college check for \$2000, the compensation fixed by the donor of the Fund.

With all good wishes for the New Year and my own deep personal appreciation of all you did for us and what your visit will mean in the lives of all of us, teachers and students, I am

Cordially yours,



P. S. I expect to be in New York for the Knox dinner on February 1. Will you put that down in your book as a definite appointment for yourself also? The dinner, I believe, is to be at the Biltmore. The many Knox alumni will be delighted to meet you.

A. B.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth Street,
New York City.