Letter: Gertrude Shelby to Ida M. Tarbell, March 6, 1918

Shelby, Gertrude

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March 6, 1918

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 E. 19th St.,
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Miss Scott today came to me about a change in her affairs which makes it necessary for her either to have a salary here, or to take two whole days a week, away from the office. She is finding it too expensive to live here with no income except her private allowance. She must either take two days to make some money by writing articles, or she must have a salary. Miss Scott wants to be away during the summer months. I think that she would stay some part of the time if she felt herself to be very necessary, but I don't believe, unless her family comes east, that she will want to stay all through the heat.

So far as the office is concerned, it will of course be quite impossible for Miss Scott to be entrusted with any daily responsibility like that of handling the Creel Bureau stuff, unless she is here each day. The matter cannot want two or three days until she comes back. I feel that she has earned her first stride here, and I would a great deal rather have her stay than break some one else in, but I don't know that it would be a good idea to put any one on a salary who does not expect to stay during the summer months. We should make our force permanent if we are to pay a salary. I hope that we can pay for the necessary help. The job grows larger each day.

I am simply swamped with stuff for the News Letter. After cutting all I could I needed certainly two pages more, and could have used four. Miss Patterson expressed herself as better pleased with the copy, over which I took every possible pains, and Mrs. Lamar said she was delighted with the report of the Food Conference. I have reduced the conference notes to 6 point leaded in order to get in more information.

This little paper is certainly bursting its jacket.

I am in some distress because the announcement of the Conference on Child Welfare and the adoption of the Women in Industry standard has had practically no notice in the newspapers. Miss Lathrop and Dr. Peixotto have a right to feel disturbed.

Otherwise things are going well.

With much love,

[Signature]

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE
1814 H STREET NW.

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