Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to Gertrude Shelby, March 8, 1918
Dear Gertrude:

I have your letter about Miss Scott. Of course it is impossible to get a salary for her unless she gives her whole time and we could not give her more vacation in the summer than the law allows, that is, she would have to abide by the rules. You will have to decide yourself whether she is necessary enough to the office to try to keep her on a salary. Your judgment in this would be worth much more than mine. Of course, as you say, she would have to be there every day if she is going to handle the Creel Bureau machine. I quite agree with you that you are going to need a paid worker, but whether Miss Scott is the person or not, I am not in a position to say.

You say you are swamped with stuff for the newsletter, I could see that when I was down. The reports of the Conference are going to make a severe demand on your space, and it seems to me it would be quite legitimate to ask the Council if they could not allow you to have 8 pages once a month through the summer, also to suggest that it might be necessary for you to have two 8-page editions in May when the general conference will be held. It will be wiser to make as little demand on them as you can. Let the letter itself force the increase, both in size and in the editions. I believe that is the sound policy and certainly it is so in regard to the Council.

What seems to you to be the reason for the announcement of the Conference on Child Welfare not getting into the newspapers? I suppose the one on the adoption of women in industry was stopped by the Council itself. That came out before I left. Is the Creel Bureau refusing to carry the stuff? If they are not willing to serve us, we have for a term of weeks given them daily items, getting them down regularly, properly vised; we will have a good case to take to Mr. Clarkson. Of course you will have Miss Scott keep a record of what she takes, and her full procedure in regard to each item. With this, when the time comes, you will have something to base a conference on. I would not be too hasty about it. Get your ammunition first.

I am sending on the letter to Mrs. Becker.

I am enclosing a letter from Mrs. Flagg of the Civic Federation. It has occurred to me that possibly it might be worth while for us to have in the Newsletter on the back page a half column or so which we might call "Things you Can Collect and the Places you can Send Them." This is an awkward title, but you can fix it up. Then make a point of their wanting