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Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to Hannah J. Patterson, November 9, 1918

Tarbell, Ida M.

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November 9, 1918

Dear Miss Patterson:

Please forgive me for my long delay in replying to your letter of October 26th. I have not been attending to anything but family matters lately.

You ask my opinion of Mrs. Becker as a possible Regional Director at large for the Field Division. I don't know that she is the ideal person, I doubt it; but I could not name anyone better, I am sure. There are many things in her favor--her unquestioned interest and loyalty, her quickness in catching on, her quite unusual power to interest and hold an audience. She would do better work, in my judgment, than anybody I could name, and she has, of course, the great advantage of having been close to the Woman's Committee for a good many months. I doubt if we could do better.

I suppose a salary goes with this position, does it not? She would have to have something more than her expenses, as she has not only herself but two or three other people to support. She has already given more time than she can easily afford to the work.

There has been a question, as you know, of giving her a salary in connection with the F.N.B., but I doubt if we ought to try, particularly now, to expand that Bureau in the large way which we had planned. If Mrs. Becker would be willing to go on collecting items which we could work up in Washington and we could give her a nominal return, that is, enough to cover her expenses in doing the work, I think it would be quite sufficient, and she could do that in connection with the work of the Regional Director. So I vote for her.

You sent me some time ago a copy of the enclosed pamphlet "From the Carnage." I should be opposed to the Woman's Committee endorsing this, on literary grounds. It is pretentious, unclear.

Faithfully yours,

P.S. I have a telegram from Mr. Clarkson saying that the next meeting of the Field Division is on December 13th. Is this right?

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