The "Woman's Home Companion",
361 Fourth Avenue,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

How would you like to be told that a girl of
the "Twenty-Cent-Dinner" type threw your magazine across the
room with disgust after reading Miss Tarbell's absurd discourse
in the May issue? I feel safe in making the assertion that
the majority of girls, working for a song, who read the
article, did in spirit, if not in very deed, this very thing.

What does Miss Tarbell know about the undernourished,
undeveloped minds and bodies of the several millions of wage-
earning girls and women in this country? Her statement—"Having
done it for the major portion of THREE HAPPY AND PROFITABLE YEARS
in a great city, the writer flatly disputes this assertion," that
one who must work and cater to one cannot live upon much less
than twenty-cent dinners. (The underlining is my own.) What
is THREE YEARS of a lark, "doing profitable work", compared with
centuries of starvation— for a girl of the average wage of $6.00
a week (this is the average wage of over 8,000,000 girls and
women in this country) is but the product, in thousands of cases,
of the undernourished minds and bodies of her ancestors for
generations! Mary Lyon—Susan B. Anthony indeed! Likely
comparisons to the mill or factory girl of today who works at a
task that wrecks her mind and stunts her moral, spiritual and
physical growth! Who would not go through fire and water and
a few other things to accomplish an ideal? But what are you going
to do with girls who do not even know the meaning of the word
ideal, let alone the privilege of working to attain a coveted goal?

I have discussed this article with a dozen girls, girls
who are above the level of the mill and factory girl, and each has
made some such remark as this:— "The old story of some one trying
to preach about something she doesn't know anything about!"

Why do you not give girls what they want? What is there
possibly in an article of this kind to help a girl solve her
problems and make the most of her hard conditions? Nothing! If
you really care for the millions of wage-earning girls and women in this country, you will give us something worthwhile and not stuff we long to throw in the fire.

This article has one redeeming feature and it is not in the article itself. It shows that you are beginning to realize that the problems of the girls and women who are engaged in gainful occupations, are the most vital problems of our nation, and when a magazine has awakened to that fact it is entering upon its greatest work. It is people you want to reach--not things.

We want facts not fiction. Have you anything to give us?

Very truly yours,

Anna M. Bigelow

Anna M. Bigelow
935 Woodward Building,
Washington, D.C.