

File Maseye

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

December Twentieth
1 9 1 8

My dear Miss Tarbell,

As I suppose you know, I am leaving the Field Division, and it is with the greatest regret for it has been a most happy time, and I consider one of the privileges of my life to have been associated with you and the Woman's Committee as I have. I have thought so many times that the inconveniences of living in Washington at this distressing time were not to be considered when we think of the wonderful advantages we have gained. I think one must ^{be} greatly lacking in appreciation and imagination who could have lived through this last year and not have been immeasurably enriched by the experiences. I, for one, feel that while I am poorer in material things, am infinitely richer every other way. And by no means among the least of the good things which have come to me, is my association and acquaintance with you.

We have been sending the bibliographies out as fast as we could. We have received many nice letters about them and several thousand requests. One very pleasant letter came from the Department of the Interior this morning, asking for a thousand copies. I am sorry not to dispose of them all before I leave, but I have left the matter in good hands.

I do not like to trouble you, Miss Tarbell, but you know, in looking for a new position, a letter from the previous chief is always expected, and I wondered if you would be willing to write one for me. I heard you were expecting to go to France very soon ~~very soon~~, so I could not give your name for reference, and I thought that if you would write me a general letter, it would help me a great deal. If you would send it to 26 Jefferson Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin,

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

it would reach me as that is my brother's home, and I can always be reached there.

My present plans are to go to Michigan and Wisconsin for a vacation of a month or more and then to go to New York and find something to do. I think I would like to do something in the research line of work. I have been told that there was a demand for work of that kind in banks and other large commercial firms. Do you happen to know if that is true, Miss Tarbell?

The Field Division is a very disconsolate place now and will be much more so after January first, when about three fourths of the people are leaving. I think we all regret to leave, though we knew we were here for the duration of the war only, but the end came so suddenly, when we had prepared for a year or so more. However, is it not wonderful to feel that peace has come, even though there are many other difficulties to be met?

May I express again, Miss Tarbell, my great pleasure in having known you, and my sincere thanks to you for all you have done for me? I wish to say again that it has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to have known you.

Yours with love and affection,

Marion D. Nims