Nelson Co-operative Association, Inc.

FOOD SUPPLIERS

OFFICE, 506 SO. PETERS STREET
WAREHOUSE, 511 SO. PETERS ST.

CREAMERY, ERATO & FRERET STS.
BAKERY, ELYSIAN FIELDS AVE. & DERBIGNY

61 RETAIL STORES
4 MEAT MARKETS

New Orleans, La. 11/ 28/16 1916

Dear Miss Tarbell;-

You are to be here December 12th; I know not if you will have any spare time.

I shall be glad to have you meet my common folks associates, of which there are about 350, of whom about 100 are girl clerks. We have a hall of our own in which we have dancing parties, with our own music, and refreshments, twice a month. We can have one of these on any evening that you have to spare. They are a bright and joyous set: my friends from abroad always greatly enjoy these occasions, and I think you would.

I remind you that I am building up a public utility to eliminate the great waste in retailing and to also produce the stuff required out of the ground, and its necessary manipulation, a Socialist program by voluntary action. At the same time I lay equally great stress on educating the employees into honest and straight-forward conduct, in the sense of service, and also of sociability and joy in work. In all these respects, but especially the latter, it has worked better than I had counted on.

It is not likely that you would have time to take a day off at Bessemer, near Birmingham, which is on one of the New York routes, to visit our colored welfare work, part of which is the kindergarten with three teachers and about 125 picaninnies. The little yellow head of it all is a master-mind, in heart as well as head.

Digital Image, 2005, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

If your pleasure, I shall be glad to call.

Sincerely yours,

H O Nelson

'Phone Main 4337.

Digital Image, 2009, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library