

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

June 11th, 1917.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
1814 M St., NW.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Herewith is the following material which I promised this morning to send you:

A copy of the Board's report to the Council, on the delivery service of retail stores. This report, as I believe you understood, has been approved by the Council.

An abstract of the experience of merchants in a number of cities, with cooperative delivery systems.

A copy of an article by Sir Richard Burbidge, Managing Director of "Harrod's," the London department store. This article is from the British System for April.

I am asking the Census Bureau to send you a copy of its pamphlet on "Cartage Costs in the City of Washington."

Dr. Copeland and I had a talk at luncheon about the number of delivery men employed by retail stores. Dr. Copeland had already looked up what the Census Bureau has on the subject, and had found it of practically no use for our purpose. The Bureau has made no distinct classification for retail deliverymen.

You will see that in the Board's report to the Council it is estimated that 100,000 wagons and trucks are employed in the delivery service of retail grocery stores in this country. This also is approximately the number of delivery men, since in retail grocery stores there is usually one delivery man to the wagon.

Dr. Copeland thinks it is not possible in any way to be very exact about the number of ^{delivery} men employed by retail dry goods and department stores. The facts he has, however, lead him to the conclusion that there are some where in the neighborhood of 100,000, including the men employed in packing and on the wagons and trucks.

If you think of anything more you would especially like to have, please let me know and I will do my best to get it.

Sincerely,

Alfred Pittman