Dear Miss Tarbell:

Some months ago letters were sent out from the Publicity Bureau of the Women's Committee to the representatives of certain allied and neutral countries here, asking their cooperation in the service of our Foreign News Bureau. Specifically, that they allow our representatives access to their newspaper files. The answers were uniformly polite, but various. Some regretted that they had nothing of interest to us. Others referred us to their national news bureaus in New York. Others opened their files to us, and apparently their hearts. The cooperation of the French High Commission, and of the Swiss and Dutch legations has been especially cordial, for they have sent papers to the homes of the women who are helping us. The Mexican News Bureau has eagerly sent us items; and in addition to have had the Congressional Library to draw upon, and the more private files of the Carnegie Institution, where there are about twenty newspapers and magazines not available to the general public.

Meantime Mrs Becker has carried on the main part of the work in New York. I feel however that the Washington end of it have possibilities of the scarcely been touched, and this in spite of the very faithful work of the six women who have assisted us. There is enough to keep six women busy in the Carnegie Institution alone. Unfortunately those who have assisted us are now leaving town for the summer, so for some months to come this mine must remain practically unworked.

At present the mass of material gathered during the year is being re-classified, to make it more available for use by our own bureau and by writers who may want to consult it.

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

Your plan to issue monthly bulletins on given subjects, made up from material gathered by the Foreign News Bureau, is well under way.

Yours sincerely

Helen Nicolay

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