

The Woman Citizen

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THE EDITORIAL OFFICE

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Here I am on your doorstep again.

I attempted to reach you by telephone, and though I mean to try again during the day, I am sending you this note to cover all possibilities.

Because, you see, I am having the great temerity to beg for that editorial to inaugurate our department of Finer Home-Making, within the next - well, I may as well say it - week!

(Aug. 27)

I have been back from my vacation only enough hours to clear away a little of the underbrush and to see the outlines of the new magazine. The Citizen is to be a monthly from henceforth. We want to include the new department in the September issue, and its final copy date is a week from next Friday - that is, August 28th. It would be very difficult to take the editorial as late as that final day - you, with your experience, know why that is, and I am hoping and praying that you may happen to be so situated that you can just as well as not write an editorial now as some other time. It is a terrific hope, you see. If I could have copy on a week from today (i.e. Aug. 26) or a week from tomorrow, I should be perfectly all right so far as our schedules are concerned, and unendingly grateful to you.

Is it a possibility?

When we talked together my understanding was that in case you decided to do this editorial at all it would be of a type to furnish the keynote for such a department - that it would stress the fundamental-ness of the home as the basis for everything else. I remember too that you thought about a thousand words would be a congenial editorial length for you, whatever the theme chosen.

announcement
If you can do this, I will accompany it with an announcement of the department - which I have not yet drafted but which would give the general point of view: the realization that the home is not on a scientific basis, is not organized with the intelligence and the training that characterize many forms of business, and that it is the most important subject for women to concentrate on. I should indicate that we mean to discuss the situation in the light of such factors as the passing of the old type of domestic help, the coming of mechanical simplifications, the beginnings of a perception that specific training for home-making is important - this on the material side.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell

August 19, 1933

I should indicate that we mean to inquire what agencies are at work on the problem - some such agencies as you suggested - the Bureau of Home Economics, specialized departments in the colleges, etc.

Then, we should indicate something of what we mean to discuss planned along other lines, something of family relationships and of child training.

This is, of course, very sketchy, but perhaps it is enough to show what we are working toward. Needless to say, we shall be grateful for any suggestions that you may be good enough to make, but meantime the question is - am I lucky?

Very cordially,

Virginia Rodenick

VR. CL