

MARY BARNETT GILSON
1154 EAST 56TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Sunday
Feb. 23, 1941

Dearest Miss Tarbell,

I wanted to answer your letter at once and urge you not to let my book "come in" until you are all well and feeling "made over". But I have had an awfully lot of duties pressing on me and today, Sunday, at the first minute I have had to get caught up, or rather to begin to get caught up. It's all such a vicious and discouraging circle. I have a tiny salary and can not afford to hire a secretary and the longer I stay the more old and new students and faculty contacts there are. They ^{with} heaps of papers to examine and little time to examine all the interesting books and magazines I want to read. I have nothing inside a good deal of the time. If only I had not been in Geneva in 1928-29 writing that stodgy tome on unemployment insurance I might have saved some of my life's earnings from the smash. But again

I mightn't +!

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

And now I am approaching
retiring age. A year from this
coming June I must give up
my interesting, even if financially
unsatisfying, work here. I am
amused at the many question-
naires Washington has sent to
me and I have faithfully filled
out. Yesterday a ludicrously
elaborate one came and I
decided life was too short! I
consigned it to the waste basket.
If Washington doesn't know by
this time what I did during the
last war and what I am capable
of doing in dealing with human
beings and human affairs I
shall spend no more time informing
them. Frances Perkins is vin-
dictive and remembers the times
I used to challenge her in her
old Consumers' League days when
she and Mollie Dewson and other
C. h. banner bearers generalized
about employers and accused
them, without discrimination,
of having something sinister
up their sleeves. So of course

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I can expect nothing from that
quarter, tho' I long to be doing
all I can in the preparation for
war and I think I could help.
I am one of those who regard Nazism
as a real + not imagined menace
to our country. I do not agree
with President Hultchin that
we must perfect a democracy
in the U.S. and not be too
concerned about foreign affairs
for even a brave new world, if
we could erect one, would
be destroyed if Hitler conquers
Britain and we are left with
no friends and four dangerous
boundaries of great extent.
I am strong for declaring war
now and ridding ourselves
of the German consuls +
their spying retinue. I think
history will prove I am right.
As for Burton Wheeler + Nye +

Vandenburg + Lodge, et al, they
are playing the old game Borah
& Lodge played in another era,
selling their country down the
river in the interest of Partisan
politics.

Your experience with in-
fected teeth makes me wonder
if I would not do better to stop
paying out precious dollars for
patch-work and get me "Store
teeth" now! I resent the money
I put into patching up poor teeth.
Moreover, I believe it might save
a lot of trouble later on just to
have them out.

Who write your "Life After Eight"
book!

I don't know where I shall
live when I retire. I wish the
Storks had dropped me in New England
or New York instead of Pittsburgh for
I don't want to spend my last years
there and I don't want to spend
them in Chicago! Maybe I can build
me a little pre-fabricated house
somewhere in Connecticut.

Now do get well + don't bother
about my old book!

Full of love,
Mary Gilman

The University of Chicago

The Department of Economics

Part of Feb. 23, 1941

Memorandum to

from

P.S. If I am indebted to you for the
New York Herald-Tribune review I can
never thank you enough! Paul Hays
told me yesterday he had just read
your review he had written for
the New Republic. I don't know what
he said, - course, but he is always kind
and if I don't deserve commendation of
course I won't give it to me.