

The University of Chicago

Department of Economics

Dec. 10, '31

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My dearest dear Miss Tarbell!

If only you knew how many times I have thought of you and how regretful I am about my neglect of personal correspondence you would forgive me for not having written to you. You see I flatter myself that you are still interested in the savings of a devoted friend! Just now I am "keeping office hours" and as I have had one student interview since I wrote the first line of this letter and shall probably have five or six before I finish it I must ask you to excuse incoherence.

All last summer I prepared for my new work by reading a number of volumes relating to prices, international exchange, monetary theories, and other subjects I have to cover in my teaching here and in which I am weak. I am "grouped" in the Department of Economics and the professors in that department are my professional colleagues with whom I meet formally once a week in the private dining room of the Quadrangle Club. But my actual day in and day out colleagues are three men and one other woman who, like myself, are helping in the "New Plan" of the University of Chicago as it affects Freshmen.

You were always such a wonder about getting at the ~~kernel~~ industrial situations that I think you ought to come to Chicago when our "New Plan" is a few months older and write it up. There are freshmen survey courses in the Social Sciences, the Humanities, the Biological Sciences and the Physical Sciences. I have five groups (thirty in each group) in the Social Science Division. This quarter the work was centered on economics, next quarter it will be devoted to - Sociology and the last quarter to Political Science. Complete latitude is permitted the students in re attendance at lectures and discussion groups. At discussion they take the lead and I merely keep to coordinate the discussions. I wish you could have heard the group I had yesterday morning discussing mergers, especially chain stores. A dozen wanted the floor at once!

I haven't regretted leaving Industrial Relations Counselors a minute. The atmosphere here is liberal and I do not have to hear colleagues call you a muck-raker nor say that Taus & Luzzetti should have been electrocuted on general principles because they were red! Sometimes I wonder if Raymond Fosdick will ever waken up. May Christmas and the New Year bring you many blessings! I'd adore seeing you!

Effectively yours,
Mary Gibson