

Woman's National Committee for Law Enforcement

Allegiance to the Constitution

Character of Law

Vice-Chairmen

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Young Women's Christian Association
MRS. A. H. KNEVE
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National Woman's Democratic Law Enforcement League

Other Vice-Chairmen will be added later

Secretary

MRS. FRANK SHULER
400 Riverside Drive, New York City

Beverly, Mass., April 10, 1928

Miss Ida Tarbell
120 East 19th St.,
New York City

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I am very much troubled over your letter. Of course, you must know the terrible propaganda of the wets, heavily financed, which we meet at every turn. Even the reputable press is in league with the wet politicians which accounts for lack of enforcement in certain centers and for the perversion of public opinion. We are not, however, in the least discouraged. Two-thirds of the country is doing well.

I, too, have been travelling very steadily and have covered a great many states with special reference to this situation. I think I know the inside facts. It is the same old story of political corruption, spiritual wickedness in high places. This goes down through corrupt patronage especially in our great badly governed cities.

Of course, you would not for a moment say things are worse, if you remember at all conditions with the saloons. I cannot believe that you would be deceived by this propaganda though it is bad enough to deceive the very elect. It is a hard fight. No one knows how hard and it distresses me to think of any of our leading women questioning at this hour the value of this experiment.

I know we shall win in the coming election. I have been in the south this winter and am greatly strengthened by the faith and courage and determination of the southern women leaders. I have just been at one of the greatest conventions we have ever held in the state of Ohio.

There is some law breaking and always will be but it is being made to appear far more than it is largely by the attitude

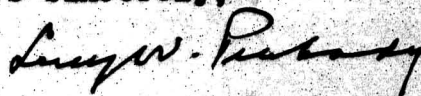
of the press. If women are to do any good as citizens they must see clearly, think honestly and act courageously. Only one strong leader has left us, not because of her convictions, but because of the pressure of her organization.

I wish I might have seen you. I wish you had been willing to write me. I could have told you many things which I think would have clarified your mind. I know the pressure brought to bear upon you. I have been argued with, threatened and yet I must go on and do my bit to save my country and its constitution. This is the worst whiskey rebellion we have ever had. Every trick of politics, every evil mind is at work to undo what the prayers of women and votes of good men did through the 18th Amendment.

I have a remarkable document from a very prominent business man who travels constantly and who is willing to go on record, as many other business men are doing, that 9/10s of this talk about conditions is pure propaganda. The statements about our colleges are just plain lies.

Earnestly hoping you will not be misled and will not mislead others, I am

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Henry W. Peabody