

Nov 23-1929

My dear Miss Tarbell - I think the fates are
trying to keep my letters from you. I sup-
posed you had received my epistle of Sept.
3rd until this morning I called for a file
and imagine my surprise to find your
letter caught in the clip. Hoping the third
time will be the charm I am sending
it forth once more with a ~~very~~ confidential
postscript. - I have wished so many many
times this year that I could have a heart to
heart talk with you; for there were times
last spring and summer when I felt I would
burst if I could not talk to some understanding
person. I was so worried, and there was no one
to whom I could unburden myself.

What we feared when the Judge died has
been coming to the fore. All we have heard
since 1929 is "junk", "consolidate", "retrench" and
"cut expenses" wherever possible. Mr. Lamed
has handed down his "Twenty Points of Economy"
which every subsidiary company is expected
to carry out. Our Co. has not been making any
money for the past two years on account of floods
and various other conditions in the South.
So many of our employees are out of work,
and Mr. C. has been terribly worried. I think
he has aged under the pressure, and he has
become so pessimistic, and has refused to
try to put through any appropriation in N. Y.
for me, and he has seemed so worried, whenever
he returned from a meeting in N. Y. I almost
felt as if my department was doomed. Fortunately

for my state of mind Mr Close called a meeting
in Pittsburg the last of May which I attended
and after talking with him I felt somewhat
encouraged. The following must not be re-
peated under any circumstances. Mr Close
does not think Mr Farrell, or the power that be, are
particularly interested in the welfare work, but
thinks Mr F., altho he slams it, realizes what it has
done for the employees, and its value and well
not cut it out, but because it was the Judge's
pet he takes delight in knocking it when an
opportunity offers. That because he was held in
subjection by the Judge, that now he has a chance
to talk he likes to show off & make the Judge's
favorites rejoice, and to make light of the things
that meant a great deal to the Judge. That he
has given him and Mr C. some awful wallops
at times. He says Mr Taylor is interested in
the welfare side, but knows very little about
it and has no chance to learn as Mr F.
watches every movement. When Mr F. was in
Europe Mr T. asked Mr Close to lunch twice
and wanted to know all about his department
said he was interested and very anxious to
learn about it etc. and wished when he
wanted appropriations passed that he would
discuss them with him before they came
up as he used to with the Judge. But Mr Close
says he does not dare do it on account of Mr F.,
for when Mr F. got back from Europe he called
Mr C. to his office and said he heard he was
lunching with Mr T. & wanted to know by whose
invitation and what they discussed etc. & did
not like it because Mr T. had invited him.
Mr Close says Mr T. is a diplomat & is studying the
corporation & Mr F. and plying up to him, and

no one knows what he thinks or how he is going
to vote until the time comes. He thinks eventually
Mr T will take the Judge place. & that is what Mr J
does not want. - I am telling you these tales
out of school because I know you are interested
and I can trust you, and because you spoke
of calling on Mr Taylor and telling him what
you thought of our work. I do wish you
would do that Miss Tarbell. I think it would be
a great help at this time. You and Mr T
would like each other, and I think he would
appreciate a visit from you and anything
you could tell him about the work. I say
Skeen about him, and I firmly believe if he
understood the good we are doing and
what an asset my department is to holding
the employees, and making for their efficiency
and good will he would be strong for it,
especially as it reduces the labor turn over.
When you see Mr C. - he may tell you a
lot, but please don't mention having heard
anything from me.

By cutting out some things, and combining
two positions I have cut down expenses of my
department \$23,000 for this coming year. But it
hurt to have to do it, for I have put the best of
myself into this work, and built up a department
of which I am proud. and it nearly
kills me to have to retrench instead of going
forward, and to see my dreams of future
development go up in bubbles and burst.
Mr Close says they have not attacked my dept.
excepting to request we cut down expenses
but one never knows what may happen. All
I can do is to be optimistic, and pray that every
thing will come out O.K. Mr C. has

promised to take down a couple of appropriate
the next time he goes to N. Y. and of course
we are all curious to know what will
happen to them.

I was in Chicago last month and saw
Janet Post. I think she is looking very well.
She told me what a great success you
were at Knox, and the students were
charmed with you.

Please let me know if you receive
this letter, and I will appreciate it if
you will destroy it as soon as you
read it.

I hope you have a pleasant, thank-
giving, cheerful Christmas, and holiday
season, and a happy, healthy, and
prosperous New Year.

I just returned from New Orleans
where I attended the National Girl
Scout convention. The meetings were very
interesting, and the National officers
seem to be a very peppy group of women.
New Orleans certainly entertained us royally.

With love -

Winifred C.

If you ever see Francis Perkins remember
me to her.