Dans distressed
to know you had influenza! (Hope you
are quite well by now!




Téléphone: MONT-BLANC 6093
Téléphones dans les chambres

Hôtel Richemond
Genève

A. R. ARMLEDER, Prop.

le Easter Sunday
1929

(See Gilson, What's Past is Prologue, pp. 262 ff.)

Dearest Miss Tarbell.

I have been waiting to write to you until I would have time for a real letter but I now have no hope of ever having time for letters! You know how it is when your strength and time are utterly sapped by your work and by the necessity of making new contacts. I do so love my old contacts that I resent bitterly always having to supplant them by new ones. Today I am dining with Prof. Ernest Patterson, of the economics dep't. of U. of Pa., and his wife and "tearing"

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

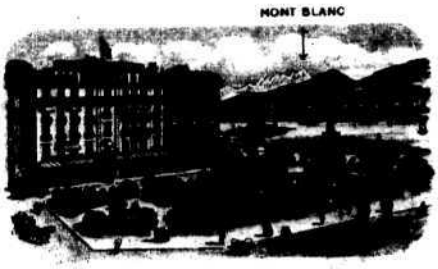
with Madame Bertrand, a
Genevese woman who is a friend
of my dear friend Agatha Harrison.
Of course I did not mean you
to regard anything I told you
about my interview in England
as too secret to mention. I just
meant I did not want the
Baldwin interview to be quoted
by anyone who might mention
it in public print. You are such
a dear that I suppose you thought
you must guard it carefully!
Oh how I wish I could see
you! There are so many things
I want to talk over with you. I
shall have an article on British
unemployment insurance in the
March Survey Graphic but I
wish I had not had to write
so much of it before I came
over.
You may have heard of my hotel,
La Résidence, Bermingham.

Digital Image: 2009. Theoda M. Tarbell Collection; 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library

I was lunching in the country with Captain Ellison of the Y.M.C.A. and in walked the Swiss with whom he lives, announcing he had been watching a fire. When he told us where it was we leaped into Mr. Ellison's car and dashed across country! By the time we got there the roof was in flames + an awful wind was blowing. My room was on the 4th flor and the flames were near it but Ellison, having been an English army officer and I, being a bit lost found excitement, leaped up the stairs two at a time and in half a dozen trips up + down managed to save most of my things. By the time we extricated the last load, including tooth powder and hot water bottle, the flames were attacking my ceiling so I couldn't go back for my best Sunday crepe de chine nightie which was under my pillow! After prayer the 4th flor lost nearly everything they had so I am a Scotchman indeed to deplore the loss of one poor nightgown! (St. Matthew Passion)

I heard the Bach oratorio in the cathedral Good Friday and was thrilled to the marrow. This serious minded Geneva must strike a responsive chord in my Calvinistic bones for I feel so at home here. As I sat in the Cathedral the other day I studied the lot of faces + some of the women were

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




Hôtel Richemond
Genève
A. R. ARMLEDER, Prop.

le

Téléphone : MONT-BLANC 6093
Téléphones dans les chambres

months like this — or like
this — I was sure I
had seen in Presbyterian churches
in Western Pennsylvania!
Have a scheme. There is a
most interesting woman here,
a Mrs. Weaver, who is in the
native labour section of the
I. L. O. She is very anxious
to visit British colonies
to see first-hand how the
native labourers are treated.
She is particularly anxious to
go to the colonies in the
Pacific, - Java, etc.

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

She and I are very congenial and you would love her, I know. She often talk about "our trip", but she has no real hope of going because women in the I.L.O. are never sent on "missions": the men do all the jaunketing. Do you think there would be any possibility of John D. financing a trip for the three of us? The question of indentured labour, as you know, is very much to the fore. My work in Hawaii gave me great interest in the native labour question & for the treatment of primitive

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

people like Filipinos, even when they are not indentured, is well worth looking into. You and Mrs. Weaver and I could do a good job of investigating and writing up and rendering thereby a great service. I remember a British executive on a sugar plantation in Hawaii saying to me, "The trouble is we treat 'em too well, here! In Java a good blacksnake whip is better than kindness and it gets results." Let's go! Do you think John D. would do it? They spend millions on young, crude students who go about researching & don't even have background for their studies. Use three women have industrial background and understanding and could render real service to those poor native laborers. Want you give it thought & find out whether it would be feasible? I'd so love to do it, wouldn't you?

Heaps of love,
Mary Gibson

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