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HOTEL BRÜHLOWSKI, Varsovie, le August 4th *1920.*

Miss Idarem Tarbell,
132 East 19th St.,
New York City.

Dear Idarem:

Yours of May 10th arrived just a few minutes ago, nearly three months enroute. This quick answer will show you what a Godsend it was. I can't tell you how relieved I am to know that you weathered the trip. Of course I don't believe all your statements any more than I believe the Daily Communique. Anyway I can see you got a lot out of the trip as you always do and incidentally it helped me as your letters always do to try to keep my equilibrium in these messy times.

As you know from the papers it seems as if Hell had let loose over in this part of the world. I had a nice talk with your friend Dana Durand the other night. He is one of the wisest Americans here and of course he spoke of you with the greatest admiration and wished you were here as I have so often.

What's going to happen to Poland I have no idea. It is all too complicated. We had a rumor last night that the English are sending four hundred officers to land in Danzig at the end of the week and that they have ordered two regular divisions to Danzig. I am sceptical until this is corroborated but even if it is I rather imagine those troops are sent over to keep order in Danzig and to show the Germans that they need mobilize on the eastern border under the guise of protecting it from the Eastern Bolsheviks. It seems as if this week must settle something. If it does not, it will be too late at least to save Warsaw unless the Bolsheviks slow up. We are all down to dress suit cases and everybody has his passport ready

to go out at a moment's notice. All the legations have sent their important documents away already and I think all the American women are out of here or will be within a day or two. Fuller, Hoover's representative here, and his wife leave tonight. ~~You know~~ At first they had stylish thoughts of staying here and try to feed the children under a Bolshevik regime. The terrorism that these people have spread for two years is certainly a marvelously effective instrument of war. The Poles have been invaded by both the Russians and the Germans most of the time for the past six or seven years but the horror they have at these oncoming hordes of Bolsheviks is pitiful to see.

Refugee wagons are swarming the streets of Warsaw, horses, cows 'n everything. Of course all railroad yards of the important centers are filled with refugees living in trains. The sanitary condition resulting you can imagine. Dysentery is of course killing more soldiers than bullets. As I wrote Martha, ~~pictures~~ Trains of some of these soldiers coming in are exactly like descriptions Florence Nightingale gives the Crimean War. The whole thing is just about as primitive as that. Farm carts are the main supply wagons. By the time you get this letter certainly we will all know something; either Warsaw will be taken or some kind of a peace will have been fixed up. They are raising a big voluntary army now and if they can get them trained in time to use them it is of course possible that the Poles may be able to turn on the Bolsheviks, but it seems hardly probable at this moment.

Qur work with the Polish Red Cross has been coming along wonderfully lately. We are now in the middle of our drive; have over 900,000 members; started with 27,000. General Haller, the most popular man in Poland today, has been elected president. There will certainly be plenty of work for them to do even assuming that we get a decent peace for of course this thing has upset things so that Poland, which a few months ago looked as if it might get through next winter very comfortably, will be sure to be as badly off as last winter.

I am stronger for the League of Nations than ever so you can imagine how blue a speech like Harding's acceptance makes me. I hope Cox will do better though I suppose there is very little chance of his nomination. At this distance of the two he looks as if he were less objectionable.

Give my love to the family.

Affy Bert.

What are you doing now? Book or articles or speeches?

Address me at Geneva hereafter -

Love W 9.25.

This is a rather better but I can't write more now.

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