Asheville, N. C.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
New York

Dear ~~Friend~~ Miss Tarbell

This letter comes to you from an old railroader, who has worked 37 years in Washington, D. C., mostly as Dispatcher and Transportation Clerk for the several roads in that city.

I have handled Inaugurations, and many large gatherings also Presidents - Royalty - Prominent men in business and public life - private cars, in fact all sorts of transportation.

During the World War I had charge of all Government transportation on the roads through Washington, and for two years worked 12 to 17 hours every day - at high nervous strain and close confinement - during which time there was handled many thousands of cars of emergency freight, thousands of troop and equipment trains, and more than two million soldiers, sailors and marines, without an accident of any kind.

My duties also kept me in close touch with the great American Red Cross headquarters and Canteen service at Washington - called out the ladies of the Canteen to meet each troop train - called out ambulances and nurses as needed - ordered medicines, meals, supplies, etc. for the soldiers - in fact did many things for their comfort to and from the War.

All this, however, wrecked my health. After it was all over I collapsed and it finally developed into Tuberculosis.

My family brought me to this mountain city, more than two long years ago, where I was put in a private Sanitarium in the hope the air would help me, and where I have since fought for health and life. I am better, thank God, but still a very sick man.

The expenses, of course, have been heavy, and while the railroads have been very kind to me financially, it has not been sufficient, since my funds have long since been exhausted. My little home will be lost to my family by August fifteenth, unless I can raise $2500 to pay on a note then due.

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My family consists of self, Wife and 5 dependent children.

The Government cannot help me as I was not a soldier, although my work was commended by the War Department, the Navy Department, General Pershing and the Red Cross.

It is necessary, therefore, to go to those whom I think may aid me in an attempt to save my home, hence this appeal to you.

Won't you kindly consider the merits of my loss and aid me in this effort? It is all my wife and children have and surely my cause is worthy since my health was given to my Country, The Red Cross and the Soldiers.

What you do for us will indeed be gratefully appreciated by a man who would much rather not send out this appeal, but who is compelled to do so.

Thanking you sincerely for any help sent us, and assuring you that I can furnish any reference desired, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

George R. Lee

Asheville, N. C.

Dear Miss Tarbell -

I am mailing this from my home - Pls reply to me here with sincere thanks

Very sincerely

Geo R. Lee

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