

Ohio and West Virginia Field Committee
National Board
Young Womens Christian Associations

703 First National Bank Building

Cincinnati

Telephone, Main 441

Minden, West Va. April 29/22.

My Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am sure you will be surprised to hear from me in this locality. When I could not find what I wanted in Texas, I made application to the Y.W.C.A. and was assigned to this little mining town with a salary that enables me to send my daughter to a church school, we are Episcopalians, my Virginia is in school at Chatham Episcopal Institute Chatham, Va. So far as the natural outlook here it is picturesque and beautiful, nature has surely done a good part by this locality, but this strike and all these idle men it is appalling, many new babies and many more coming on, one new one of a T.B. father, another of an insane Mother and the limited rations these people have been on for months, it has a social worker helpless, the ignorance and idleness is truly pathetic. I am in charge of the 'Y' Community House, we have a small Library, girls clubs, Recreational and constructive programs, also distribution of clothing, my record shows 218 articles clothing and shoes issued this month. When I have time to think I wish I could see the Dept. of Labor and let them know just what my three months service has shown me of these idle men, there is plenty moonshine and plenty time, fighting, stealing, and things productive to criminology. There must be some adjustment, surely this idleness cannot continue much longer, these mines in Minden have been closed nearly a year, so you can imagine the poverty of the place. I have many pitiful cases calling here daily a few days ago in answer to a knock at the door I admitted an old man 74 years old, he asked if I could give him a little grub. I explained we did not issue food, then he asked if I would give him and his old lady 75 years old a change of clothing, I was glad I could meet his second request, he sat in here and looking at the rows of books

asked if I could give him a bible, the only one I had the print was too small, I told him I would try to get him one, he said he would come back and get it, also said he had been a very wicked man, and as he felt his days were numbered he wished to have a bible and read God's word, said he sure would read it and get better acquainted with God. The work here is interesting, I am very glad I am with the Y.W.C.A. I like the work very much, it is a splendid program.

The deadness of this little town and this is only one of many, surely stirs one and makes them want to fight for the right, man must have work, there is surely a great misunderstanding existing somewhere that must be adjusted. I have thought of you many times since I came here and wished I could see you and talk to you about this new interest my work has taken me to. Mr. Wintthrop Lane of the Survey was here the first day I came.

Trusting you are well and with all good wishes,
I did not want you to lose track of me,

Very cordially,

Mary H. Wolford,
Y.W.C.A. Mining Town Worker,
Minden, West Va.

Mary H. Wolford

Please pardon errors of machine.