COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1917.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Johns Hopkins Hospital,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Mr. Shaw has been in Chicago resting for about two weeks, and your letter and the article came to me instead. Dr. Copeland and I read it and you will see something of our impressions in the enclosed note with which we sent it on to Mr. Shaw. The article has come back from Chicago this morning with a letter indicating that the Chief was as well pleased with it as we were. He says he cannot suggest any changes in the part concerning deliveries. Then he adds, "I do feel, however, that Miss Tarbell is hardly justified in singling out leather, on the bottom of page 17, for unquestionably there are other commodities that are more urgently needed than leather. In other words, I don't think that it strengthens her article to single out a commodity in which there is not more of a shortage. At least, such a shortage is not indicated by the price. The price of leather is about the same as a year ago. The price of wool is exactly double. As a matter of fact, I think it would be better to reconstruct that part of the article without singling out either wool or leather.

"I think the work we are doing to curtail the consumption of wool at the source is the most effective method, and the little that might be gained by having the reference in the article, might be offset by the influence the article might have on the larger work we are doing. I think it would be much better if this were taken out."

In other words, he feels that by going to the consumer so strongly for economies in wool just now we might interfere with the work we are doing for economies at the factories.

You will be glad to know that Mr. Shaw is feeling quite fit again after his rest and is expected to be back in the office here next Friday. I hope you are still gaining and will soon be out of the hospital.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Peterman

Encl.
AP/DMS

What Mr. S's suggestion really amounts to is that the paragraph beginning "Except— at the bottom of page 17 be dismissed—

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