1000
113
1710
19300.00
1930
21230

The New Central House
Provincetown, Mass.
FRANK E. POTTER, PROPRIETOR

July 21. 1928

Dear Miss Tarbell, —

I left town rather suddenly as the heat willed me more than usual. But before going I called you up in reply to your very dear letter and you were not there. So I hope you were - and are - keeping comparatively cool.

Thank you for taking an interest in me as well as in Mary Bolascheff. My difficulty - far more than being subnormal

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

physically — seems to be a sort of loss of vitality as much of the mind as of the body. It has certainly queered my work — as a hard thing to treat, but I suppose its source is physical and that as I get stronger the old alertness, a part of it, may return.

Just now I am wondering whether my doctor may not be right, and whether hills, if I don't have to climb 'em, may not be more energy restoring than a place like this where the air is often heavy. Today, Lord-

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

II

The New Central House
Provincetown, Mass.
FRANK E. POTTER, PROPRIETOR

Ever is cool, sparkling, wonderful, like early October at home — and even when the days are warm it does cool off at night, thank God. So I may find here a place to work in — the perpetual strenuosity of New England house-cleaning as well as of transeant guests makes my room in this little hotel one of the least peaceful places on earth! — Or I may take my dolce rags and search for a more write-in-able spot here in Provincetown.

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

What I want to ask is this: do you know anything about the New Hampshire retreat for writers – Peterborough – and just how – or whether – one may get in? Mrs. Comstock and several writers I know slightly have been there – but Mrs. C. is now in Europe, and perhaps you can give me the information? — I've thought of Lake George, both of Rogers Rock, where Ruth and Fred Wilson are, and where I wrote most of my first book "The Wings of Time," and also of the Club house there. But there is a good deal of absolutely

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

III

The New Central House
Provincetown, Mass.
FRANK E. POTTER, PROPRIETOR

necessary climbing there — and my doctor wants me to walk on a level for the present, and not too much walking at that. — So I've just thought of Peterborough as a possibility — where one does not have to walk in a hotel bed-room, for me always absurdly difficult.

But, my dear, if you are off somewhere and do not get this for weeks don't even bother to answer. I'm just asking on the slim chance that you may be

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

home, or near by - perhaps you might
give me a ring - & the powers - that - be
at Pittsburgh if you are home.

If I don't hear from I'll make
other plans .... and in any case
I'm sure to fall on my feet and
get something more or less satis-
factory. So don't worry about me!
Even when I'm more or less down
as I've been this last year - and it
is hard having to be so darned
careful all the time, and new to the
experience, - Even then there is a funny,
observing, interested little devil in me
that gets a lot of clear joy out of
life; joy and entertainment and the
satisfying of a thousand mental curios-
ities. You know!

Please take care of yourself

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

IV

The New Central House
Provincetown, Mass.
FRANK E. POTTER, PROPRIETOR

my dear. I don't believe you have the faintest notion how important you are to many people- how stimulating and happifying- So that we need you in all sorts of ways. In your humanly down moods remember this, won't you? I feel it rather more strongly than you guess, and have felt it ever since I first joined the club years ago. Even though in actual time we have seen little of each other.

This apart from your work as a writer of which we are all so proud.

A full and happy Summer, dear Miss Tarbell, and much love from "Betty" Hepburn.

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