COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE
1814 N STREET NW.

Aug. 23, 1918.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York City,

My dear Miss Tarbell,

I am enclosing a statement of my resignation from the position of assistant in the News Department of the Woman's Committee. In addition to his formal statement, I do, however, want to write you a little personal note to tell you how much this summer's work has meant to me.

The fact that it was all so difficult for me at first, and that I was afraid I could not make a place for myself, makes it all the more satisfying to know that Mrs. Wilkes has wanted me and asked me to stay.

I would have been very happy to have stayed on, as it is a real joy to work with

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

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Mrs Wilkes and Mrs. Blair, and to feel the National import of the things accomplished here.

I had rather a bad time coming to a final decision, as I wanted both to stay and to teach, and that didn't seem a feasible plan!

Then I looked at the matter solely from the point of view of what I could give to the work if I stayed. In that light, I found that there were so many responsibilities, financial and otherwise, that would make it difficult for me to live as I should here, in order to give all my devotion to the work, that it seemed to be the wiser plan to go home, at least for this winter — perhaps for two years, when I may be in a position to give myself unreservedly to this kind of work or to work abroad.

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Meantime, I shall write, and when the time comes that I can freely give all my services, my capacities will be greater.

It has been a wonderful opportunity for me personally, and a satisfying experience to be able to spend this summer in definite war work. I am going back to teaching - and writing - with renewed vigor and vision.

I hope, dear Miss Tarbell, that you will read between the lines sufficiently to see that I am doing the best thing for the department in resigning, since I could not do my work here this winter with quite the same attitude toward it that Mrs. Wilkes and Mrs. Blair have.

And I hope too, that I may be able to keep in touch with the department and with you. I am planning to work with the

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Women in industry department of the ~~state~~ Ohio division in Cleveland.

Would it be asking too much of you to ask ~~you~~ to drop me a little note, if you feel that you understand my decision?

Since my early summer contact with you was rather — well, tearful, in nature, it would give me great joy to know that you were not entirely disappointed in your choice of a person for this summer's work.

This is a frightfully lengthy letter, but you told me once to write freely to you, and this is the first time I have done so!

Sincerely and appreciatively yours,

Lenette B. Pollock.