MARY BARNETT GILSON

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July 15

Dearest Miss Tarbell,

Only this week have I found consecutive time to read your autobiography as I wanted to read it. It is wonderful + brings you to me in such a way that I feel deeply grateful to you.

I am at the "cross-roads" and I have'nt + courage enough to do as you did; free lance. In the first place + I have'nt had the practice and experience you have had in writing and I am fearful on that score. I have done a good deal of lecturing

since I came here and
I hope you will not
think me conceited
when I tell you my
lectures seem to "go
over". Week before last
I lectured at the biennial
conference of the American
Ass'n of University
Women in Denver and
as a result I had over
thirty invitations to
lecture to A. A. U. W.
groups from Maine
to California. They
do not offer over $50
a lecture but most
of the groups which bid
for me to "set a date"
promised that.
Last summer when I

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was in French Canada I
got so interested in inter-
viewing Jesuit priests &
others about the Pad-
lock Act, Arcand's
fascist movement, &c.
That my sister said,
"Why don't you do a
a piece of research &
get it out of your system?
(I was spending all my
mornings studying
French Canada in the
McGill library instead
of playing with her!).
Well, I suppose her
suggestion took root
for I sat down & outlined
a project & sent it
to the Guggenheim Founda-
tion. It was for a
study of "discharged
for misconduct", "left

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without due cause" and other cases for disqualification of unemployment insurance, involving Employer-employee relations, a follow-up of one phase of my study of British unemployment insurance. I have been so "peeved" because we put through such unnecessarily complicated forms in "social security". Here + I think we are going to get into deeper and deeper water because so many of the Washington blue-print artists have no conception of administration, especially where employer-employee relations are

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concerned. I could have helped to simplify if they had been interested in British experience. As it is, you will see in the enclosure I have done my bit to help straighten out some of the awful-est quirks in our Illinois act - but it is still a mess because the basic act is so involved. -

Now, if was broke, I cannot use my Guggenheim fellowship (which was granted to me at age 61, which surprised me greatly!). I have

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been granted leave of
absence by the University
+ a substitute has been
found to do my work
for next year. My apart-
ment I have sub-let
from September to September.
So I must "get out"
for a year. If I can't
do my study, I shall
be out on a limb. I
have always worked
with others + I woken
in the night wondering
whether I could stand
the loneliness of working
alone! So your book
has helped me more
than you know. The
1929 crash about

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finished me financially
and I must earn. I
need to keep my niece
+ nephew, too. Now
I must look around
+ see what I can do.
Frankly, I hate pub-
lic lecturing. But
you did it + you didn't
like it, either! I
seem to get results
from interviews +
I'm wondering if I
could do any news-
paper work for a year.
At 61 I am pale + hearty
and I shouldn't be
fearful when I have breath!
Must + bother to

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answer this. It is all predicated on the outbreak of war by end of September. That terrible catastrophe may never happen. And it may, too. I can't see Hitler waiting another year, when "his" Czechs are stirring up more & more trouble for him & the English are getting stronger.

Your courage and ability to stand alone are marvellous.

With deep affection,

Mary Gilson

I must retire here fall of 1942 as I shall be 65 on the 10th of Sept. 1942. I may as well start free lancing now & not wait until then.

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