145 West 58th St. New York
October 15, 1918

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Two chapters of the book are in practically their final form: all that is to be added are some statements that are being prepared. One of these is the hardest of all; "Women in Industry", and I am anxious to submit this- and for that matter, the other also- to you as soon as you can find time to look at them, for the publisher would like at least a detailed synopsis of the book very soon now, and the completed MS as soon as possible. So I am sending this letter in duplicate, hoping it may meet you somewhere along the road.

What do you think of the title"How Can I Serve My Country?" : A Practical Handbook for American Women in War and Reconstruction.? This is submitted as something definite to begin on, but if you think it should not be so personal, I am not wedded to this . But I do think it should say something about reconstruction, because practically every opportunity for women's service that I have been listing lately - industrial or professional, volunteer or paid - involves a post-war program of considerable extent. And I think a publisher would prefer it.

The sketch of the table of contents and of the contents of the two completed chapters I enclose with this: the arrangement is that which seemed naturally to develop from the material, when the organization arrangement was no longer needed. The organization arrangement, however, was the greatest possible help in getting and classifying material, and I am so glad you suggested it. Will you tell me, please, if the table of contents seems to be what you had in mind?

I hear everywhere that this is a pioneer work, and that gives me comfort when it seems something like pushing over the Woolworth Building to get it into readable form.

And now may I ask your advice on a personal matter, but tied up with this. My lecture season has suffered greatly this year: I appear before drawingroom classes managed by committees of just the sort of progressive and cultured women who would be called first of all to absorbing and much needed patriotic service and I am , quite naturally, in the position of having an especially valuable course of lectures ready and only less than a third of my classes to hear them. My time has been so filled for twelve years with this sort of work - I gave 170 lectures last year that I have not made any effort to get in touch with lecture bureaus, schools, or other avenues of employment for a lecturer. Do you know of opportunities of this sort? I have been so immersed in the Committee work that I have scarcely come up for air, and do not know what lecture courses are being given. I know that this is a

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matter on which I have no right at all to speak to you, but if there is any information you could give me either by telephone or interview, I should be very glad. For like most working women, I have a family to take care of, and don't want to have to go into some work that will take all my time and shut me off from working for the Government as speaker or writer, in ways that I know have proved valuable. As these of course are ways that are not paid, I shall have to support myself meanwhile, and I do hope I can do it through extending my work as a paid lecturer for the Living Points.

I spoke with Mr. Reynolds of the News Section when I was last in Washington and he is evidently as much interested in the Foreign News Bureau as any of us; he spoke of it with the greatest enthusiasm, and had evidently made himself familiar with its workings. I told him that it seemed to me it had reached the point where it should either get much larger or stop altogether - that is, send out more material and get into closer relations with all the foreign information bureaus , or just lapse. He said the first was all right but the second not to be thought of. I told him I had just been planning out with the French Information Bureau and other such agencies a system whereby they would provide us with material that they wanted put out, and that I thought a similar plan for getting it to women's magazines, clubs, and the newspapers generally, should be instituted: but that my work had come to the point where . intensely as I wanted to do it, I was financially unable to put any more of my time than I was now giving, into the work. He suggested at once that I make out a program for the Foreign News Bureau such as I had outlined, and tell him what was the lowest amount I could manage to attend to it for. If you approve, I would like to do this as soon as the book gives me a moment free. Honestly I am not trying to hold up the authorities, but this seems to be a one-woman job and I seem to have become the one woman, and with the best will in the world I can't afford to give all the time it would need without some money, especially as it has been costing me a good deal in incidentals such as subscriptions to foreign papers etc all along. Will you please tell me what you think about the idea? And if you would be so good as to tell me what in your opinion would be a proper sum for me to state - for I do not know what the range of wages in the office there is - it would be a great simplifier.

Yours sincerely

May Lamberton Becker

145 West 78th Street, New York City
October 15, 1918.

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"TO-DAY"

A Series of Lectures on Contemporary Literature by

May Lamberton-Becker

This was last year's lecture-list: this season is at the printer.

Season of
1917-1918

Mrs. Becker's home address is
145 West 78th Street
New York City

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How Can I Serve My Country?

A Practical Handbook for American Women in War and Reconstruction.

Introduction etc

1. Food Production.

2. Women in Industry

3. Thrift

4. Child Conservation.

5. The Home Fires (Home Service with the Red Cross, "educational propaganda2 commun
enterprises like "block parties" etc. health and recreation)

6. The Soldier's Welfare
(Canteens, regimental societies, personal service)

7. The Rehabilitation of the Soldier.

8. Foreign Relief Agencies

8. Overseas Service

9. The Americanization Movement.

I do not know where to put Registration in this program. There is material at hand for a chapter, but if it comes at the beginning it gives the book a certain stiffness, and the lack of a present definite policy (so far as I see) with regard to how women should register gives the chapter a certain vagueness that would not be good for a start. Would it not be better at the very close of the book, as a sort of recapitulation? And will you please tell me just what is to be done about registration? I have full reports of what has been done in every states; but cannot seem to find out whether the word has been given for general action in the matter. In the Summer I was told to tell women to wait firther instructions.

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Subjects treated in chapter on

Food Production

Whatever increases production of food patriotic service: honey and maple sugar (where it is being done) ; poultry, pig and rabbit clubs; the Unity Club of White Plains and its sheep-raising scheme; goats for babies; stocking fish in farm ponds. Vegetable gardens: The Warsgardens Committee statistics;

On the farm: making full use of the services of the government; the County extension Agent etc. The patriotic vegetable garden on the farm; berry patches; fruit trees and fruit tree funds; combing out old orchards for slacker trees; walnut trees for the Government. Herbgrowing; knowing the uses of "weeds" for food or drugs.

The city woman's part in food production: Backyard gardens; principles to be borne in mind; saving the seed for next year. Demonstration gardens in parks. Co-operative gardens for women(like the one in Germantown) School gardens; in cities A woman with large estates can place land at disposal of village children; can be of great use in raising vegetable seedlings in greenhouses for transplanting.

Agricultural labor: Women's Land Army of America.Department for women farm workers in state employment bureaus ; steady jobs and part-time; training farm directors

Other ways to help: women's clubs can raise funds for plowing, buying fertilizer. etc, and owners of land on outskirts of manufacturing towns lend or rent plots to foreign-born women. Clubs must also concern themselves with the working conditions of women in farms etc in their locality. Caterpillar campaigns by clubs(like Newport) The shortage of farm domestic labor, and how the states have tried to meet it; call to for this sort of emergency work.

Women in Industry

Present status of women in industry in America; four million men in the army and their places to be filled. One agency a woman's best adviser - U.S.Employment Bureau Organization, functions etc. Location of employment bureaus placing women. How to apply.

The unskilled worker: munition making The Women's Munition Reserve of Richmond Va. Uniforms and spirit. Keeping up the morale. Health officers for industrial plants where trained etc. Optical workers; the aeroplane industry; railroading - outdoor and indoor employment, the new ticketsellers' school; railway mail; mail carriers ; telegraph, telephone, wireless: shipbuilding: storage department in ordnance; finger-prints, photographers etc.

Office workers. Government service thrugh the civil Service. Coming to Washingtn (getting information beforehand; the Travellers Aid etc) Need for those familiar with types of labor saving machines. Clerks of all kinds. Civil Service positions for women(list being prepared) The War Emergency High School for girls in Philadelphia.

Advantages and responsibilities of college training. principles to be observed by college students. Kind of positions that college trained women are needed to fill 21 types, with some details given by way of suggestion), Bureaus of information for trained women. Librarians in war, for food administration, for Americanization. Physicians at home and overseas; nurses the same; Survey of the field of unusual occupations.for war-emergencies. Upholding government standards duty of every woman (these are given) Women who are in the war Labor Administration.

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