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COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE

Bethel, Conn. R. F. D. 25
12/2 '17

J. R. Ellison
Portland, Oregon.

My Dear Mr Ellison:- I have delayed too long writing you that I had been all in the hospital since the middle of September and that my doctor had advised against my doing anything so strenuous as a Chautauqua Circuit for another year. As a matter of fact I thought Mr Coit had written you this until I received a letter from Mr Andrews asking for publicity material.

I am out now and in the country convalescing but I have been obliged to cancel everything for this fall and to do only short trips next spring. I dare not undertake your two months this year. It is a real regret to me to decide this. I have looked forward to the work with genuine interest. I should like to try it in 1919 if you still want me.

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I do hope, dear Mr Ellison, this is not going to mean to great inconvenience to you. It is better to settle it now than for me to try it and break down en route as I fear I should do - or at least so I am warned.

There is still another reason why I fell I should not go. I have been obliged by my illness to drop all my work on the Council of National Defense. I feel that I ought to do what I can to make up for this next summer.

With sincere regrets

Believe me

Very truly yours

Ida M. Tarbell

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