

March 10, 1934

Dear Dr. Tolley:

Since I cannot be in Readville Monday at the Board Meeting I am making this report of the first attempt of the Allegheny women in and around New York to organize.

To begin with we have called together a central committee of twelve women - nine of us met yesterday to talk over the situation. I was surprised and pleased with the zest the women showed for the undertaking. We decided that our surest road to something substantial in the future was a social beginning. What we need here is acquaintance and to make that acquaintance we must have some attractive form of getting together. That was what we planned for yesterday.

Mr. Robertson was good enough to tell us we could have his apartment for a tea, so we have arranged to hold one on March 29th or April 6th. We want it when Mr. Robertson can surely be here. The machinery is set in operation for this tea.

Miss Yost who is acting as secretary of the committee had a list of, I think one hundred and forty four, women within the New York area. We went over all the names and each woman took a number which she would personally approach. We shall send out cards for this tea to men and women and the women, themselves, will be personally approached by the members of the committee.

We have planned for a second tea party in May and possibly a summer picnic at the home of Mrs. Beck on Long Island. That was thought a good idea by Miss Stoke because of the number of Allegheny people at the Columbia Summer School.

Now, you see this is a social beginning. By Fall we hope to have enough interest to arrange for a permanent meeting place. Also, we hope to stir up enough interest by these informal gatherings to make our next annual dinner a rousing gathering.

As for helping out financially, taking a room at Hulings to furnish, for example, we concluded it would be foolish to attempt to do anything until we had brought our women together socially and refreshed their interest in the College. It looks to me as if in a few months we would have, if we follow up what was proposed yesterday, a group here who could be depended upon for any enterprise where the Alumnae can be useful.

Miss Yost and I will follow this matter up until we are sure of a solid, interested, central group. I think we had all of the committee with us yesterday and certainly a 'good time was had by all'.

Regretting again that I cannot be at the Board Meeting, believe me

Very sincerely yours

Ida M. Tarbell

William P. Polley
President, Allegheny College
Meadville, Pa.