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Letter: Morris L. Cooke to Ida M. Tarbell, November 5, 1919

Cooke, Morris Llewellyn

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November 5, 1919.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Powhattan Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Following up a recent conversation I quote as follows from a letter from a friend of mine who happened to be attending the meeting of the Interstate Commerce Commission:-

"When the Kansas City Southern appealed to the Interstate Commerce Commission against the valuation of their road by the Valuation Division about two years ago, the representative of the Directors of the road stated that certain lands not used for railroad purposes and located between their tracks and the city limits of Port Arthur, Texas, were only valued at the value of adjoining lands, whereas they had a special value because they were the only location which, under Police restrictions of Port Arthur, were available for a Red Light district.

"At the request of the Company this statement was permitted to be excised from the stenographers minutes and did not appear in the official record next day."

My informant tells me that the name of the person who gave this testimony was Mr. Loree, prominently identified with the Kansas City Southern, as well as with the "Detroit and Hudson" which I take to be the Delaware and Hudson.

If the foregoing involves the demolition of an idol of yours please accept my very warm sympathies.

How completely have you recovered from the episode in Washington? I feel as if you and a few others had really rendered a wonderful service. If you hadn't been there to raise the real issues I don't know what would have happened to us.

Very sincerely yours,

Morris L. Cooke

I.M.T.-2-11/5/19

P. S. I am enclosing herewith a letter which I have sent to Mr. William B. Dickson, who as you know was Vice-President of the Midvale and who is reported to have resigned from the steel corporation because of a disagreement as to labor policies. How hopeful would you be about accomplishing something along this line?

*If you have any suggestions as to an informant in
Michigan will be glad to hear them.*

WBR