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June 19, 1915. Pmr

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,  
381 Fourth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I wrote a rather long report on the Ford Motor Company, in which I described the methods of work of the investigators in some detail and gave my opinion that their tact and character would justify the work they were doing in the minds of most observers. I said, and I still believe, that the public would pronounce the Ford experiment a success. I added thereto my personal opinion as to certain dangers in the method of operation with which, unfortunately, the Ford people did not agree. The plan is working out so well both from the point of view of their own employees and of the public that it does seem difficult to urge any mean and cynical criticisms. My point of view was that we have the right to judge more severely those whose aims are highest. The dwellers in heaven would be justified in complaining if the string of a single harp went false; whereas, denizens of the lowerworld could hardly object to even the cauldron's being too crowded.

The report I made on the Ford Motor Company was privileged as being for only the members of the Executives' Club and on that basis I was given full run of the plant for a month. I represented also the Board of Commerce and any criticisms I made seemed to have an official stamp. I detect a reluctance on their part, I think, to my giving out the report more generally on account of my connections with the Board and, accordingly, deem it best to hold it back.

I tell you this frankly, knowing that you will not allow yourself to form an impression that the Ford Motor Company is suppressing anything. My opinions are formed on the same facts that are open to all observers and it struck me when I made the report that it was ninety-nine per cent favorable to the Ford plant.

Yours very truly,

DETROIT BOARD OF COMMERCE,

*Boyd Fisher*

Vice-President,  
Executives' Club.