

Villa Imperialino,  
3. Poggio Imperiale,  
Florence, Italy.

May 9th. 1928

Dear Miss Tarbell.

Your invitation for luncheon on Thursday April 26th at the  
Cosmopolitan Club, has only just reached me, here in Florence.

I am exceedingly sorry that I could not have accepted it.

I wonder if you know of my little book, called "A Primer Of Citizenship".  
It was written in the attempt to provide a similar book to that of  
Mr. Arnold Foster entitled "The Citizen Reader" and which, the Author himself  
considered to be his principal contribution to his country. When my book  
was presented, in manuscript to "The New York Board of Education", it was  
declared, by the experts of that organization, to be the best book, yet  
written on the subject. They expressed their approbation in the practical  
form of guaranteeing the sale of the first edition, to the publisher and in  
fact demanded its publication. At this juncture, Mr. Mc Andrew, Mayor  
Thompson's haloed martyr, vowed that no book written by an outsider and  
"a woman of society" should be used in the schools. They did not succeed  
in eliminating it from the authorized list of books for the schools, but did  
prevent its circulation by listing it as a library reference book, instead  
of a regular text book. The influence of Mr. O'Shea and others has lifted  
this ban, finally and a new Agent recommended by Dr. Butler is now having  
considerable success in placing it in the schools where she has found the  
very definite impression that the book deserves the original opinion passed  
upon it by the school experts of the City Board.

I hope you will pardon these details in regard to this book, for they  
seem to me not irrelevant to the subject which was to have been discussed  
at Mrs Riis' luncheon at the Cosmopolitan Club. I am asking my publisher  
to send you a copy of the book and the circular which contains some

of the opinions in regard to it. The book is now used in twelve of the best schools in New York City, including "The Model School". You can see that I have had to wage a long and determined fight to get this book into general circulation. I hope you will be interested in the book itself and in the opinions in regard to it, which you will see are of such a character, that I have not felt myself released from the obligation of attempting to secure its circulation.

I have greatly regretted not seeing you during these latter years and I hope you will permit me that opportunity when I return to America in the autumn.

Again thanking you very warmly for your invitation

Yours very sincerely

*Anna de Rouss*