

THE NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

105 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET
NEW YORK

PORTER R. LEE, DIRECTOR
WALTER W. PETTIT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
MARGARET LEAL, SECRETARY

INDUSTRIAL COURSES
JOHN A. FITCH
ORDWAY TEAD

August 18, 1924

My dear Mrs Tarbell:-

About ten years ago I wrote you a letter expressing dissent from something said by you in a magazine article - one of a series that appeared later in book form under the title "The Golden Rule in Business". I don't remember now exactly what it was I objected to, but I do remember very distinctly that you wrote me a long and courteous letter in reply, explaining your position and point of view, and that I never answered it!

You probably have forgotten the incident, but I remember it vividly both because of my failure to do what ordinary courtesy demanded, and because of the reason for it. And the reason was this: I felt that you had somehow failed to grasp the true inwardness of my protest - due to my failure to express myself coherently

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probably— and it seemed almost impossible to write in a letter what I wanted to say. Whether you were right or wrong was not the point— I felt that there were a hundred or a thousand things that would have to be talked about if we were ever to find out the wrong or right of it. So I said to myself "I can't write a letter to Miss Tarbell, I've got to write a book". Well, I have. It has been taking shape slowly in my mind these ten years, and at last it's here. Of course a lot of things have happened since 1914 and I am afraid the book may not be altogether pertinent as an answer to your letter. But I ~~do~~ imagine that your letter came as near as any one thing came to starting me on the train of thought that led to its eventual production.

So I am asking Harper + Bros. to send you a copy, and I hope you will forgive me for my delinquency of ten years ago.

Yours very sincerely
John A. Fitch