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Letter: Walter Graves to Ida M. Tarbell, March 7, 1931

Graves, Walter H.

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307 S. Main St.,
Wichita, Kansas, 3/7/31.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I think that I sent you a copy of this a couple of years ago - that is, of the "first edition". That was destroyed, and the article was rewritten. A few weeks ago I dug it up and touched it up, and sent it to the Chicago Tribune. It came back with the statement that their space was too limited to permit of its publication. Then I sent it to the Herald-Tribune of New York City. It came back with the usual formula. Then, only a few days before the anniversary of Mr. Lincoln's birth, I sent it to the Boston Transcript. Again it came back, with a letter from the editor expressing his regret that he had not received it a few days earlier, but stating that he had already provided for an article for that anniversary.

So you see how a merciless fate pursues me. I suppose that I ought to be proud of this distinction - of being the object of this pursuit by a singularly malevolent Fate. Well, strange as it may seem, I am not.

I am sending it today to the McClure Syndicate in New York City. It will come back, of course, but all the same, I am sending it.

Isn't there somebody in New York who acts as agent for authors, who would give serious attention to this for an unknown writer? The only agent I know anything about is Miss Holly, and I am not fond of Miss Holly. She returned my stuff without reading it. I caught her at it, and said things to her.

While you have been having very cold weather in New York, we have enjoyed a remarkably mild winter. Now, however, old Boreas has got his spunk up, and is putting on a great show of fierceness. But it's too late. He can't last long. And it is raining again in Paris. I had a letter yesterday.

If you have any more articles on prohibition, you must let me know where I can find them. I have read the Wichersham report with mingled feelings, as probably most people have done. I am still of the opinion that the Government can and will win out. Of one thing I am more sure than of anything else - that nothing in the nature of a compromise must be considered; that it would be the rankest folly to make a bargain with the real wets, and expect observance of the new law by the liquor interests.

I hope that this finds you well, and comfortably busy and happy.

Very sincerely, Walter Graves.

P. A. Keep this, if you like, and destroy the old copy if you have it. W. G.