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Letter: Elleyne Ireland to Ida M. Tarbell, April 30, 1921

Ireland, Elleyne

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My dear Miss Tarbell:

In pursuance of our recent conversations I appeal to you to become one of the Vice-Presidents of a Society for the Scientific Study of Government, now in course of formation.

Your well merited reputation as a capable and sincere investigator will be a valuable asset to any institution with which your name is associated, and I hope that your knowledge of my work will serve to give you confidence in the undertaking which I have discussed with you.

The world is now clamorously insisting that its order, its health, its convenience, its comfort, and its sense of justice must be ministered to with much greater efficiency than is associated with the operation of present agencies; and the alternative which is constantly forced upon the attention of thinking people is to reform these agencies or to set up others in their place. For my part I am firmly convinced that the present institutions of Government can be made so to serve the social aim that the ground can be cut from under the feet of all advocates of revolutionary change.

The failure of Government to become an efficient agency of social guidance and control is due to causes which could be removed by a scientific study of Government and by an educational campaign based upon the results. The strongest argument which can be adduced
in support of this statement is that a notable advance has occurred in every department of human activity to which a scientific method of study has been applied, and in which education has kept pace with the growth of knowledge. No one familiar with the technique of analytical investigation would assert that modern Government has ever been scientifically studied; and it is to remedy this state of affairs that the Society for the Scientific Study would address itself.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

Allan True Ireland