

Robert R. Updegraff - Scarsdale, New York

May 23, 1939

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Tarbell:

When one writes the story of one's life and sends it out into a cold world, I presume one wonders how it is being received.

So I am writing you a note to tell you that I purchased a copy of "All in the Day's Work" as soon as it was announced. I am reading one chapter each evening just before I go to bed and I am thoroughly enjoying my evening visit with you. You have the power to picturize and give your reader the sensation of traveling along with you, which is all too rare. Furthermore, you tell your story simply and directly, without the painful selfconsciousness which characterizes so many autobiographies. In fact, I think you compliment the reader by assuming he or she is a friend and is taking you at face value, without the need for apology or explanation. At least that is the way this reader feels about your story.

On Sunday I attended a tea party at which I met one of my old neighbors, a man of about 60, who told me he had just finished your book and was thoroughly delighted with it.

So I can speak for at least two people.

I hope the book is enjoying a large sale and that the royalties will roll in generously.

I recall with great pleasure our visit to the World's Fair together on the occasion of the planting of the Time Capsule. My wife and I were out there last Thursday night and peered through the glass into the hole where the Time Capsule rests. I thought of you at the time.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,
Robert R. Updegraff