1921-12-28

Memorandum: Ida M. Tarbell to Samuel S. McClure, December 28, 1921

Tarbell, Ida M.

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MEMO.

Mem to Mr. McClure. Dec. 28, 1921.

PROPOSED S. O. ARTICLES.

In writing him I said: before I die I must find time to bring the Standard Oil story up to date. What I contemplate begins with the suit itself and would be a pretty fine chapter out of recent American history, Roosevelt himself being the central figure. Then comes the Southwest, and the immense efforts of the independents, free, as they suppose. There are remarkable chapters of struggles over new fields in different countries, and there is the story of the way oil has become a governmental necessity and the entering into the fight of governments. Altogether its the material of which Oppenheimer novels are made, only that most of the characters don't wear as good clothes or speak as many languages. Again, its a prodigious piece of work and I would not undertake it until I had sufficient financial backing.