Confidential

May 24, 1911.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Enclosed are copies of the two highly undesirable bills recently introduced, and obviously inspired. The objections are also enclosed and copies of portions of letters sent to Mr. Homer Folks.

For your particular ear, although the New York Institution for the Blind is reported to have over $8,000,000, it refuses to take pupils who don't make a good showing. In other words, they won't be bothered with backward or defective children, so that the plan for turning them over to the Sunshine Society and the Catholics, as in the Merritt Bill, would be agreeable; and it does not like us to prevent blind boys and girls getting so institutionalized that they are not good, and likes to get whatever is coming to it financially from the State and City or in advertising by keeping a show pupil on indefinitely. — We know of a boy who went and prayed to leave, but was always kept to show off to visitors until after he was 22 years old and unfit to be of any use to himself or anybody else outside of an institution.

The letters also enclosed, which appeared in the Times, are interesting. Of course many of the pupils of the New York Institution for the Blind demonstrated at the Exhibition, as a great many of them come immediately to us to learn how to support themselves, but not one of the pupils of that school who demonstrated at the Metropolitan Opera House, except a chair caner, is supporting himself by what he learned there. As for their being able to show athletics and dancing, that is very funny. They haven't even a place in which to learn the dance which was shown at the Metropolitan, and have only recently begun to have one lesson a week in dancing. As for the athletics, they are too miserable and sickly a lot to do feats of daring which require muscle and physical development.

Though we have sent out 30,000 letters like the enclosed from Mr. Choate, our contributions have been very small. I have no...
doubt that the statements, such as are made in the letters and such as were made at the Exhibition where the Superintendent of the Institution said that it was too bad that we advertised so much and interfered with their work and did none on our own account, are somewhat responsible.

I have a good deal of other data which I will send to you when you tell me where and when you want it.

Please don't forget our roof garden and chronic wish to see and feed you when you have time.

Appreciatively yours,

[Signature]

Secretary.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
19 West 9th Street.

Enclosures.

GJK