

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

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NEW YORK AMERICAN

220 South Street, New York.

May 26
19 32

Owen D. Young, Esq.,
120 Broadway, N. Y. C.

Dear Mr. Young:

I have just read Ida M. Tarbell's biography of you, and think it splendidly done. My pleasure in it, I think, is more personal than will be the lot of most reviewers.

The G.E. was my alma mater. I started off as a machinist apprentice in Shop 24 back in 1904, when I was sixteen. And wound up as full-fledged toolmaker in Shop 60 - the Turbine Department. There were great men in that microcosm. Not the least was Billy Madigan, the general foreman. Though the finest mind was W. L. R. Emmett- who really should have been mentioned in the book. I cherish a small volume he wrote a couple of years ago as a memento of unforgettable days.

I wrote a novel once, Steel Chips, which dealt with the folk I knew at that period, all G.E. workers. It had not much more than a 'success d'estime' even though Knopf's published it, but it help me evoke a past that was not without its charm. I went up to Schenectady last summer, but encountered only a few ghosts and left after three hours...

Truly yours,

IDWAL JONES.

Editorial Writer
Columnist