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Letter: Theodore Stebbins to Ida M. Tarbell, 1933

Stebbins, Theodore

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THEODORE STEBBINS
34 GRAMERCY PARK
NEW YORK

My dear Miss. Tarbell:

Your Biography of Owen Young is most interesting and inspiring. Make I make some comments?

Messrs. Stone and Webster ^{were} graduated from MIT in 1888, not 1886. Charles J. Van Depoele had great genius as an inventor, the general public never knew of his talents, your book buries him as "Van Poole". Charles A. Coffin was a shoe manufacturer, was he ever a shoemaker, a worker at the bench? In inquiries within the organization of many years ago I could never find anyone who would say that he was a shoemaker.

Did Owen Young ever vanquish in Texas any Attorney on the payroll of the General Electric? For 17 years I knew the principal GE Attorneys by intimate business contacts and I lived in Texas within the period, but not throughout it, of Owen Young's labors in Texas. Stone & Webster fought, and lost, in a desperate conflict with J. F. Strickland and associated companies, all customers of the General Electric and the GE was on the side lines. Was not the attorney vanquished on the payroll of a GE customer or one of the operations, or holding companies, rather than the General Electric itself? I think this probable. Mr. Coffin was ubiquitous in innumerable enterprises and all he did was tagged "GE". Indiscriminately.

Yours sincerely,

Theodore Stebbins.