Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to Owen D. Young, January 9, 1932

Tarbell, Ida M.

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January 9, 1932

Dear Mr. Young:

Your biographer is still seeking information and I am setting down the points to save you the trouble of an interview unless there is something your would prefer to talk over with me which of course is always a fruitful experience for me.

Here are my questions:

1) Who did you vote for in 1896? I hope it was Bryan. And a question you may not want to answer - Would you do it today?

2) Up in Boston I was told that Marston's had for many years taken great pride in claiming that you waited on table there when you were a student in the Law School. Is this true?

3) You graduated from the East Springfield Academy in 1889 and entered St. Lawrence in the Fall of 1890 - were you at home working on the farm that year or were you beginning to take on or look for work outside?

4) I found in your Speeches and Interviews passages cautioning against speculation - too rapid expansion, intimations rather than direct warnings, that is, in the main. Have you anything that you would care to say on your attitude towards our period of madness?
I ask this because I want to be sure in quoting you to make you say what you really thought. A biographer is always more or less tempted to twist the views of his subject to suit his own views. I want to avoid any such weakness in reviewing your opinions and activities.

Please forgive me for making you so much trouble and believe that I shall be grateful for your attention to my questions.

Faithfully yours

Mr. Owen D. Young
120 Broadway
New York City