Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to Victor Hanson, May 8, 1931

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May 8, 1931

Mr. Victor Hanson
Editor, Birmingham News
Birmingham, Alabama

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I wonder if you would be willing to tell me what it was in Owen D. Young which first impressed you - convinced you that here was a man who should be President of these United States?

I am not wrong, am I, in thinking that your first meeting with him was in November 1927, at the time he spoke at the dedication of the Mitchell Dam in Alabama? May I ask if it was what he said there - personality - or what he may have said to you in private talk that made you at once so fervent an advocate of the man?

I should greatly appreciate anything that you would be willing to say to me or write to me on the matter. For you see, dear Mr. Hanson, I am a great believer in Owen D. Young - have been for some years. It is not as a President that I am thinking of him but as a man that the country ought to know more about - a man most important in bringing industry to the place where I believe it must go. I have undertaken to do a piece of work on his life - a few magazine articles - probably a book. It is being done at my own request; that is I went to Mr. Young suggesting that I should like to try to do something on his life and he was good enough to say, "Go ahead and see what you can get." Of course, you understand that this is absolutely divorced from any kind of political propaganda. I do not know that I want to see Owen D. Young President of the United States - that is another matter. But what I do want to know, however, is just how you started off on your campaign - what was it in the man that so impressed you? If you have put this all down in writing I have not seen it. At your leisure will you not tell me about it?

And may I ask, my dear Mr. Hanson, that you keep this letter confidential. You understand that I am in the process of gathering material and so far I am not saying anything about what I am doing. Thanking you in advance for anything you can tell me, believe me,

Very sincerely yours