

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
120 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

January 2, 1931.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

You may know all of the information in
the enclosed, but I am sending it with the hope
that there may be something to add.

Sincerely yours,

Gustav Chandler

Miss Chandler:

In re the "chalked-hat" letter. It was written to R.P. Morgan (General Superintendent of the Chicago and Mississippi Railway in 1854-6, of which Lincoln was at that time the attorney). The date of the letter is Feb. 13, 1856. Lincoln returns the "chalked hat" which is a railway and asks for another. The name originated in the custom of the conductor making a mark in chalk on the hats of those travellers who had already paid their fares so that he could distinguish them from the newcomers on the train. He says in the letter that he expects to need the new the first of March. Lincoln at this time was in active practise in Springfield and conducted suits for several railroads.

S.A. Dickson.