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Writings of Ida M. Tarbell

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1933-04-01

Manuscript page: [American Plan]Westinghouse 9and Chicago Exposition of 1893)

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<http://hdl.handle.net/10456/39451>

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Westinghouse:

Place full of men who have been with the concern from early days - '80 and '90 - and mighty proud of it.

Fell into the hands at once of E. S. McClelland (?)

"I have been fifty two years with the concern," he said, "in the power end." I speak of the air brakes. And he says, "Oh, it was the Daddy of us all."

Went over much of their history, but his high spot is the building of the engine for the lighting of the Chicago Exposition of 1893. He says that Westinghouse heard that the contract ~~was~~ to be let and started at once for Chicago. "I am going out and bring that contract back," was his announcement. McClelland says, "I don't know how he did it, but he came back with it. He came into my office and said, 'Mac, I want an engine built, 1200 H.P. We have never built ^{of} one/more than 200 to that date.' Three hundred and ten revolutions a minute. Said the thing was unknown. A hundred and fifty water pressure has got to go into such and such a space.' Well it was something ^{Wt} he didn't know anything about - high speed and limited space.

"But, I said, very well Mr. W. you shall have it in two days, the design in two days.

"I said very well Mr. Westinghouse and went out to see the designer who said, 'He is a damn fool, it can't be done.' Well, I said you know Westinghouse. 'Well, he said