Letter: Harry S. Mecartney to Ida M. Tarbell, August 26, 1925

Mecartney, Harry S.

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Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Your letter of the 24th received.
I am sorry that I did not earlier send you my data connected with the U. S. Steel Corporation "charter" case in the U. S. Supreme Court. But for the last twenty or thirty years I have had so much quiet disappointment in having my serious-and to me costly-messages laid aside by busy people that I was afraid of over-burdening you-not knowing that you were going to attempt a treatment in your Life story of the important and profound and highly technical subject of the U. S. Steel Corporation "charter" test.

I see also that the next installment, which will be out in several weeks, proposes to deal with Judge Gary's work and attitude on the Steel Company labor situation; and therefore I hasten to send you the two printed letters of September 20, 1919, one of which I sent to Judge Gary and the other to John Fitzpatrick, representing respectively the opposing sides of the "Steel" strike of September, 1919. I suppose it is too late for these to do you any good, but they may be of some slight interest to you.

This was the only instance where I pointedly differed with Judge Gary on public issues-not, as I believe, on the main essentials of the controversy (which were never reached), but in his manner of approaching it and in his attitude toward the so-called Labor representatives.

You will of course observe that the letter to Mr. Fitzpatrick bears trenchantly on his attitude in the matter.

But Judge Gary probably knew better than I did the strength of his own position in its concrete bearing on the situation, as he very promptly "won" his issue.

However, it has always been a question in my mind whether he would not have had the same result had he assumed from the first the attitude suggested in my letter; and whether he would not also have escaped the bitter attacks leveled at him by many church and economic and labor organizations throughout the country.

It is the only letter I ever wrote Judge Gary that he did not answer personally, but it was received by him in the height of the tense strike situation and he contented himself, as well he might, by sending me a copy of an editorial of a New York paper which presented his side of the issue and assumed to justify seemingly all that he did therein.

I am sorry that this is the last copy of these printed documents which my secretary can find in all my files, and I
Miss Ida M. Tarbell

ask you either to return it or have a stenographer make a couple of typed copies and send to me, retaining the printed original if you choose.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

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