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# Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to Herbert R. Mayes, February 2, 1935

Tarbell, Ida M.

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February 2, 1935

Dear Mr. Mayes:

Thank you for your letter confirming the informal agreement that we reached in our talk Friday afternoon. As I understand the agreement I am to prepare for the Pictorial Review a series of six articles of two thousand words each - the copy of the first to be delivered by March first. *In these days to review 600 - unaltered*

This series is to deal with that which is right and hopeful in the country. It is to show how much stronger and sounder the constructive forces at work are than those which are depressing and destructive. The first article is to be general, emphasizing the theme, outlining its scope and setting a note of courage.

The successive articles should deal with what has been built up by our industries and communities. First, to take care of the old, the infirm by way of pensions and institutions, particularly in our industries. A fine showing can be made.

Second, the movement to establish this as a healthy country - preventive measures, nurses industrial and public - extraordinary development in hospitals.

Third, safety; the movement for safety begun in factories has spread through the country a national movement. It has made the factory a safer place than the street or the home by a systematic and scientific education in the avoidance of accidents. It proves that we need not kill and maim as we do if we train.

Fourth, industrial towns, the owning of a home. For forty years this movement has been pushed with many fine substantial results.

Fifth, the subsistence farm. What it means - what we have done with it - models that have proved its practicality under certain conditions.

These are the subjects which appeal to me most strongly, but there are a number of others which are important - the training of workers - the discovering of a workers aptitude and helping him develop it - the industrial library and what it is doing at various points - sports in industry - the town playground - the boys' club - innumerable constructive things built up particularly in the last forty years - laboratory demonstrations of what is possible where there is good will, imagination, patient determination.

*me* In order to get the last word with what seems to be very important the way these various movements have carried on in spite of depression in industrial centers I shall have to make as soon as I can get around to it a little trip which would include the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, the Hookless Fastener, Armco at Middletown, Ohio - take me to Detroit, Dayton, Pittsburgh. I understand that you are willing to pay my expenses for such a trip - it will not be a heavy outlay.

When this series is completed I understand we are to discuss a second and if it is concluded to go ahead I am to receive a \$1000.00 a piece for the articles - the same length and the same general character.

And now as to the autobiography. I believe I want to do it. This surprises me because I heretofore thought I did not. Let me think about it for a few days, say until Friday afternoon of next week - the eighth - then if it is convenient for you come down here in the afternoon about three o'clock and we will talk it over in more detail.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Herbert R. Mayes  
222 West 39th Street  
New York City