PURE OIL COMPANY

61 MANHATTAN BUILDING,

GENERAL OFFICE

PHILADELPHIA, PA., February 27, 1908.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

#40 West Ninth St.,

New York, N.Y.

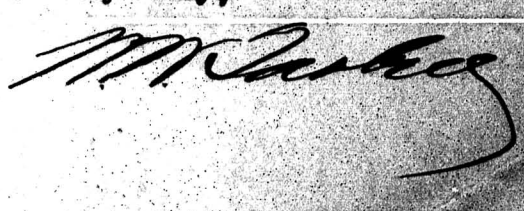
Dear Ida:-

Yours received. I feel that I have been neglecting you, but know, too, that you understand why. Our meetings were held this week and the Directors were here three days, going home yesterday. You can imagine the condition I am in. I am enclosing you a clipping from the Ledger this morning and also a copy of letter the Directors sent to stockholders, with some political "hot air" that seems foolish to me.

I have quite a story to tell you, and expect to be in New York next week with Mr. Lamont and will try and get an opportunity at that time. My position now with the P.O.C. is definite, and though it means severing my connection in the near future, I woke up this morning, after a very few hours sleep, feeling better than I have in months. I am now engaged in mapping out a scheme, which I want to talk to you about, and to you alone, that will surprise you. My ambition, as I feel now, and I do not think it will change, is to discredit the figure head of the Pure Oil Company, as he has discredited me after all the years of my bolstering him up. He licked the hands of the crowd who were against him, and seemed to think it was necessary to use my neck to do the rest, to keep his position. I have had this happen many times, but there never was any manure on the foot before. Now do not let this worry you at all, as I am going to do nothing rash; in fact, all the fox of a good many years' study against foxiness, is working in me. The crowd went away, feeling better than they ever did before and throwing bouquets at each other, so that the air actually smelled. In fact, they never were in such a dangerous position as they are now and they do not seem to realize it.

I hope your magazine matters are showing signs of a shange soon. There seems to be too much money in the country for the amount of business. Certainly the amount of business is too little for the money and I fear it will not change soon, though it may, and when it does, it will be a very sudden and decisive one. I think now that I will be in New York Wednesday and Thursday and may possibly come over Tuesday night. Let me know if you will be there.

Yours very truly,



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