

Roche

March 13, 1934

My dear Miss Andress:

I owe you a humble apology for the long delay in replying to your letter of January 16th asking me about Josephine Roche. The letter came to my desk when I was tied up in the country - illness in my family. After returning I promptly had my annual siege of influenza out of which I am just coming.

I don't know that I can tell you any more about Miss Roche than you will find in the various articles that have been written about her. Two or three years ago there was something in the Survey. If you have not already seen it you can get it by telephoning their office. I have not the article myself.

I hold very high the work that she has done in Colorado. I do not know of another woman who has carried on successfully in the last few years so important and so difficult an industrial enterprise as Miss Roche. In the beginning when she undertook to save the property after the death of her father she had extraordinary difficulties. Nobody believed that a woman could do what she has done, at least no one in Colorado seems to have believed it. Moreover, there was little sympathy there with her liberal notions, little sympathy with her determination to work out the problem with labor, but here she showed the keenest business judgment, a sense of industrial justice, for her workmen had been her strongest allies. Through all the difficult period she has been able to keep her mind going, to find markets when most of her conservative neighbors have been shut down. My own

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judgment is that she has made one of the best practical demonstrations of the wisdom of sound cooperative relations between management and labor that we have.

Probably I should say that I have never been in her mine, that what I know I know from talking with her, examining her reports and reading what has been written by intelligent observers on the spot.

I do not know if this is what you want, dear Miss Andrews. Of course I am willing to see you and talk Miss Roche over if you still wish it. You can get me by telephone any morning up to twelve thirty at Algonquin 4-6674.

Very truly yours

Miss Mary ~~Ward~~ Andrews
The Chase National Bank
New York City