Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

THE EDITOR'S OFFICE

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE

NEW YORK

December
Eighteenth
1 9 3 1

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am enclosing our check for $2500. I am sorry that you have been inconvenienced, but unfortunately the manuscript came in just after we had closed our weekly payroll.

I am none too happy with the article, and I am particularly distressed because I have a feeling that my editorial direction may have been inadequate. In other words, that I did not express myself as clearly as I should have. I had thought that the article would stick more closely to the theme indicated in the title than it does. My feeling is that as written, although a splendid reporting job, there is little excuse to add it to the two Young articles we have already published. In an effort to satisfy myself whether there was in it enough material bearing directly on the theme, I cut out what seemed to me to be digressive material. The result is enclosed and, of course, I am not happy about that either, and I am wondering if you haven't material that would fatten this up.

Perhaps we can have a talk one day soon, not necessarily before the Christmas holidays, if you are occupied. Maybe between us we can solve the problem. Anyway, I feel that you would want me to tell you frankly how I look at it, and I do want you to know that I realize I have been remiss in my handling of these articles.

With all of the good wishes of the season, I am

Sincerely,

Summer Blossom

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York, N. Y.