Robert R. Updegraff · Scarsdale, New York

August 24, 1938

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

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am preparing for "Reader's Digest" an article built around the idea that we should "quick-freeze" the ideas we get from our reading and our observing by making notes of them or by some way crystallising them and making them part of us.

The other day Mr. Wallace, editor and publisher of "Reader's Digest," told me that it was his understanding that at one time you followed a very interesting practice: that upon finishing the reading of a newspaper or magazine you either typed or dictated a resumé of the leading points in the articles or news dispatches you had just read. Is this correct? If so, I wonder if you would mind just penning a note on the bottom of this letter telling me in a paragraph about your practice - how you did it and why and what you got out of it.

I assume that you would have no objection to my mentioning your name in connection with this very commendable method of "quick-freezing," in case you have followed this practice.

I am enclosing a stamped envelope for your convenience. Let me assure you that I will appreciate hearing from you.

Incidentally, I recall very pleasantly meeting you at the Scarsdale Lodge a number of years ago when our mutual friend "Chic" Sale gave his Lincoln sketch based on your book.

Sincerely yours,

Robert R. Updegraff

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