JOHN HINSDALE SCHEIDE
TITUSVILLE, PA.

January 20, 1933.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth Street,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I trust you wil be willing to overlook my tardiness in replying to your generous and sympathetic letter of January fifth when I tell you that I have been set upon and shamefully used by a band of ruffians who masquerade under impressive names but who are best known and disliked by most of us under their nickname of"cold germs". I feel that I am now getting the upper hand of the rascals and shall not be sorry to see the heels of the last of them.

Your letter would have indeed left us thoroughly disconsolate if you had not been gracious enough to incorporate that encourageing and relenting paragraph, for this does allow us a ray of hope.

As I understand it, your main concern in connection with the little book on the romance of Oil Creek is the fear that ultimately the chief amount of digging would be left to you;and as I understand the present situation here, I surmise that your fear would be well founded. It occurs to me, however, that possibly there may be someone who has the time, the interest, the intelligence, and the aptitude for such a task who might be willing to assemble the material for you if it were known with considerable definiteness just what your thought is as to the nature of the material and the form in which you would like to have it. The name of Mrs. Hequembourg comes to me as one who might possibly fill the specifications. As a suggestion, I am wondering whether, without inconveniencing you too much, I might telephone to you the next time I am in New York, somewhat along this lineand perhaps meanwhile some further thought may have occurred to you. If I remember correctly, you are ordinarily in New York from Monday until Friday afternoon and that your free time is late in the afternoon. I would promise not to bother you with a personal call or trespass beyond ten minutes of your time on the telephone.

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In reply to your question, I think it might be very helpful if you felt you would care to write a note to Mr. Samuel Semple. Address him at Titusville. He is just now visiting his boys in Texas but will be back before long.

As the result of a thoughtful and timely suggestion of yours I am receiving, from time to time, from various booksellers prints and maps of the oil country, most of which have come with the compliments of the dealer. I thank you very heartily.

With kindest best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

John N. Ackerman

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