MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY
FOUNDED BY JULIUS ROSENWALD

57TH STREET AND LAKE MICHIGAN — JACKSON PARK · CHICAGO — TELEPHONE: PLAZA 8100

August 6, 1935

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

Dear Miss Tarbell:

On receipt of your letter of July 25th, we made a check of our industrial material dating from 1878 to 1898, and found such a large number of items that it is hardly practical to give you a detailed list. The list below indicates the chief groups which are represented by these relics:

a). Coal mining equipment, including early coal cutters and punchers, safety lamps, etc.

b). Metal mining: One of the earliest diamond drills, about 1880 (the beginning of systematic sampling of ore bodies in advance of actual mine openings).

c). Machine tools: Gear cutter, drill press, milling machine, etc.

d). Agriculture: Plows, grain drills, windmill models, cotton press, and reaper models

e). Textiles: Looms, textile printing blocks, sewing machines

f). Forestry: Models of logging and forestry tools and models of various primitive sawmills.

g). Power: Model of the famous "Centennial" Corliss engine used at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition; hot-air engines, gas engines, steam engines, early electric motors and generators; model of the Pearl Street power station, the first metropolitan central station.

h). Transportation: Sections of railroad rails, full sized railroad signals from the earliest times, and locomotives both full sized and in model form; bicycles, automobiles, stage coaches, carriages of various kinds; horse car, cable car, and ship models.

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1). Miscellaneous: Electro-static machines, cameras, clocks, microscopes, phonographs, and early telephone and telegraph equipment.

If from the foregoing very general list you can distinguish any material which you think would be of interest to you, please let us know what we can do to aid you.

The Museum, as you have surmised, has a great many originals and models covering the period you mention. At the present time most of these are in storage since our building is not yet finished and only a small part of it is open to the public.

Our library is becoming one of the best special libraries in the country in the field of industrial history, and our Librarian, Miss Mary B. Day, who has previously been in touch with you on other matters, will be very happy to aid you in any way that is possible. I am enclosing herewith a selected reading list on the industrial history of the United States which may contain a few items that are new to you, although most of them are undoubtedly an old story to you. I am also enclosing a copy of our reading list, No. 4, on the history of railroads which goes quite exhaustively into that subject.

Very truly yours,
Museum of Science and Industry

J. R. Van Pelt

J. R. Van Pelt
Assistant Director
in charge of Technical Division

VP/nm
Enc.

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