



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Department of
Public Utilities*

State House, Boston

October 23, 1931.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Hotel Brunswick,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

As an admirer of your work since your story of John D. Rockefeller many years ago, I was pleased to see notice in tonight's papers that you are writing the story of Owen D. Young.

I have had the opportunity at two conventions of the International Chamber of Commerce and in other ways of seeing Mr. Young at work. I have spoken to him but two or three times and then only in a casual way during the work of the Conventions but I have somehow conceived the idea that he is one of the real big men in the world today.

My activities outside of my State work bring me on the platform an average of sixty times a year for organizations of every kind and character. For the last four years I have been saying in every one of my talks on international affairs that if the various nations over across could sentence their "trained" diplomats to witness two performances of the great Passion Play at Oberammergau and to remain during the intermission of ten years between performances, and let men like Owen D. Young handle these world problems, it would be the greatest step of progress the world has ever made.

In my description of Young I have said that his greatest asset is that he is not (thank God) a "trained" diplomat, that he has a wonderful personality with a marvelous sympathetic patience. The enclosed items will give you some idea of the work that I have been doing and in view of the fact that I have no axe to grind, politically or otherwise, and no favors to ask, I felt I could, with propriety, express to you my interest in Owen D. Young. Before several hundred gatherings the last four years I can recall no single instance that met with greater approval than my description of Mr. Young in his work, of which, too little, altogether, is known by the rank and file of the people of this country.

I am quite sure you will appreciate the spirit that prompts this letter, again emphasizing while I have nominally been a Democrat, I have no personal ambitions or favors to ask as I will be getting through with my present work in less than three years because of the age limit.

-2-

Again expressing my great admiration for you and the splendid work that you have done during the past twenty-twenty-five years, believe me

Sincerely,

William H. O'Brien