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Annual dinner of American section of the International Chamber of Commerce.

"To introduce Mr. Melvin Traylor to this gathering is a great responsibility. Was it Tom Reed who said of a certain statesman, whose name I will not mention, that he never opened his mouth to speak without diminishing the store of human knowledge? I cannot hope to add to your knowledge of Mr. Traylor nor to your good opinion of him. The most I can hope is not to diminish these things.

"There is nothing for me to say. I remember Francqui's report of a meeting that was held one Sunday night in Paris - because we worked Sundays, too. I did not attend that meeting, because I didn't want to go myself. The next morning I saw Francqui, who learned all his English in China as a young man and therefore speaks pidgin English, and I asked him what sort of a conference they had had. "Fine, Mr. Young," he said, "I say wow-wow to Mr. Morgan, Mr. Morgan say wow-wow to me, we go home."

"And so I shall only say - no, I think I'll tell you more about Mr. Traylor. Suppose I tell you about some of his failures.

"From his earliest manhood he has failed to avoid advancement in his chosen profession. Others have succeeded.

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

"Having a flair for public service he has failed to get rid of a sense of responsibility to his community and his neighbors. Others have succeeded.

"Understanding the duty of business to the nation and the world he has failed to escape calls to render outstanding service, whether at home or abroad. Others have succeeded....

"As a banker he has played a leading role in developing the institutions with which he has worked and in raising the standards of their services to the community. As President of the American Bankers' Association he fostered an increased cooperation with the government, to the mutual benefit of both. Going to Europe he helped to create a new kind of bank which has proven acceptable to all the world, except to a small political group in this country, which, perhaps, he could never hope to please.

"I do not like - I never did like - a boy who would not play with the other boys for fear of getting his pants dirty, and that is why I like Melvin Traylor. I never did like a business or profession which failed to recognize its duties to serve the public honestly and zealously; and that is why I like Melvin Traylor, - because he was always finding ways in which his business could widen its usefulness to the community and the nation. I never did like a man whose heart was cold to the needs of his community and his fellow men; and that is why I like Melvin Traylor.

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

"And, finally, I never did like an American who went to Europe apologetically, nor one who felt that he could best serve his country by ignoring the problems of others. Melvin Traylor went to Europe to tackle a difficult job, determined to succeed, in the interest of all. He did. And so I have great pleasure in presenting him to you tonight."

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