1.

The definition of news accepted in this school of J. is unknown to me. For the purposes of this paper I must make my own - & it is I & do not ask you to accept for a longer time than the hour in which I am to talk. The news ~~[illegible]~~ for this hour I shall ask you to consider as that portion of the ~~[illegible]~~ daily exhibit ~~for [illegible]~~ action of human life in which the public ~~by~~ that is the newspaper reading public is or can be interested.

Everything that happens to men & women in their daily life is material for news but practically never ~~is this~~ all that is happening ~~does the~~ is public interested in to ~~[illegible]~~.

2. One time or another is news (and at It selects & rejects. Today it is absorbed in a scientific discovery, to-morrow in a divorce case today in ~~the trial of~~ a war to-morrow in international games. Today ~~it~~ is a seemingly trivial ~~[illegible]~~ crowds out a " vital one - i.e. what is news one day is not news at all another day.

Let me give a personal illustration.

Base Ball - Roosevelt. Becker

More recent

Carnegie - Heaping up - encouraging -

N.Y. N.H. & H. straws that broke the camels back

~~Kill them~~ [illegible]

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

Why news judgment is not our subject - that we are to consider is the problem of handling willfully & erratic or irresponsible people. Intentionally people regard this as no problem at all. If newspapers do not get written it is because they are not printed in the mail. They are wrong. There is difficulty in

finding the exact truth about anything. Truth happens in this world, it is a difficulty while in my judgment must primarily be determined. I. I. M rarely [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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

What is necessary to get Dali - Dali must
The replies are the whole problem to Dali
for the Dali But it Dali me
must be observer — must know how to
see with his eyes. It is not an in-born
skill - and a decided dreamy over
wily with practice - We are not fully con
trolled art form-bound - number-bound -
Take one of the common experiences -
of the young reporter a fire - A hanged
he is not of his full-grown body - He must
be in at a Building Burning - He must
learn an eye which will detect it - all in
[illegible]
essentials - [illegible]
in air & color & form - in alignments
the lack of the shapes & volumes flame
& dead matter & he relevant men &
value & fire - an eye that will calculate
both the physical & the physical tensions
aspects - the beauty, pulsing grimness terror
of it - Taking like that of the Pentagon -
So much of Dali - [illegible] -
[illegible] Dali Woods
to the full must be a Burning Curiosity.
about Dali -
Dali about the room - Robert in dark

Curiosity about the thing - Continue illustration of Fire - Its causes & effects - An Irish curiosity that is not satisfied until it has found out all about the thing - Fire that caused it - Can't sleep until he knows - What going to be effect - the loss in property in human comfort - the suffering - the anxiety or tragedy in it - For the time being that fire must be the most important thing in the world - the all absorbing thing.

~~Only possible when one has~~

~~learned the great truth essential to all forms of literary work that everything in the world is interesting & significant & related to the whole. Reporter above all needs to be convinced of this truth. -~~

He can eyes & can see - He is common consumed with curiosity.

III Must know how to work - to connect - What he finds logically - Construction is one of the great parts of truth-telling ~~is~~ things found out must be put together logically

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

as ~~useful~~ important - that a report know how to construct his story as a builder a house - facts put together in illogical fashion give no true impression - Build up a story - ~~with~~ Our training weak here.

A good training often made ineffective by lack of knowledge of general ~~matters~~ facts bearing on subject - ~~Our~~ Take reporter turned loose in N. Y. City - few of them have any knowledge of the city - its resources

10

government - people - history - ~~[illegible]~~ Poverty - of reporting news of a town - quite general. If a man reports fires - he might to know all about fires - ~~[illegible]~~ Prepare yourself for the subject however simple it may be - ~~In American reporting this~~

a form of reporting which is often almost a force with us because of the reporter's lack of knowledge is interesting. It has become a terror to public men because it - so often makes them ridiculous or makes them say things they do not believe. Men sent to interview who do not know the rounds of persons - not able to ask intelligent questions ~~[illegible]~~ Squirms until the kindly hearted take matter in hand & write interview

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

11

~~May~~

~~10~~ 11

A serious interference with matter ~~truthfully~~ news is the propensity of reporters, editors & newspapers proprietors to twist ~~the~~ facts to support a theory or a cause.

~~10~~ 12

~~[illegible]~~ - A lively-minded reporter has a theory about a burglary or a murder. Pride in this - makes him overlook facts - confuse the authorities & public - This tendency to ~~[illegible]~~ twist facts to serve your cause or theory one of the chief difficulties in the way of our getting the truth in important public matters in political campaigns - great controversies great trials like recent Becker trial - not confined to our times. ~~[illegible]~~ not confined to newspapers. Documents in a case almost always colored. Every historical student knows

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

lion necessary to consider point of view - 2 ~~[illegible]~~ the ~~[illegible]~~ judicial or biased temperament of a source be consulted. Camp de Mars riot - in July 1791. Radicals: "hundreds killed" - govt - a dozen - with various intermediate reports according to attitude - Each bent on making reader believe what he wished them to believe.

The facts of a press devoted to supporting a ~~thing~~ cause - often ministerially ~~[illegible]~~ invited. Impossible to read a stand pat ~~paper~~ high tariff paper for facts - impossible to read a socialistic paper.

Impression common that - no cause gets a truthful show - tell nothing from newspapers. This statement needs qualification - ~~[illegible]~~ ~~Rests with~~ The thing which interests the country is 2 must be reported. May be maliciously 2 or falsely reported may be reported as popay on them and so equally falsely - reader must distinguish. On the whole it is fair - It is not universally true that a man to whom a newspaper is opposed ~~[illegible]~~ necessarily gets an unfair reporting -

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

#15

in news column. Remarkable example to contrary in last campaign. Editorially almost entire press of N.Y. was opposed to Col. Roosevelt - but no newspaper rule in the whole country did so much for him on my judgment as the news col. of one big N.Y. paper which ~~[illegible]~~ ~~editorially~~ editorially was pounding him in every issue ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ The policy of this paper is to separate entirely news & editorial cols. Its news must be [illegible] it must be as nearly the matter [illegible] can

[illegible] as the ablest reporters [illegible] gin. When Col R. returned from A. Maj. editor to Russell - don't let fact etc see letter.

I do not ~~believe myself~~ [illegible]

In my own case no speech of anything no article or letter did so much to impress me with the meaning in the Progressive movement - to which I should say perhaps I was sympathetic as a movement - as the report this newspaper published of the Bull Moose Convention. It was a wonderful picture. ~~If~~ & [illegible]

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1899-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

not yet away from a conviction that it was
true — that the man who wrote was
reporting the ~~an~~ actual feelings & aspirations
of a body of living men & women. I
have heard at least a dozen men & women
says that these first sessions inherited
in the Prog. party dated from a reading
of that report. So serious an impression
did it make — so great was the
surprise of many people who believe
that the reporter ~~[illegible]~~ must must make

[illegible]

this news fit the editor opinion that
a story went abroad & was given
evidence that the man who wrote this
was sent to make an adverse report &
was so carried away that he could
not do it — ~~[illegible]~~ that he sent his story
in he sent his resignation with it
reporting that the report would not
be published & that he would be discharged
I am glad to say authenticity on demand of this
that this is not true man himself

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

18 1/2

~~For~~ I am accustomed to follow up with-
sense can the report of interference with
~~editorial &~~ free expression. In this case
I consulted a reporter in the paper by
who I know would be the last man
to ~~[illegible]~~ ~~himself~~ ~~to~~ to give a false
report of anything. I supposed this man
to have written the story. Here is what
he writes me

20.

A grave problem in connection with news
is — If we have it — should we tell it.

Mr Damra — Anything Almighty — allowed to
happen he was writing to print. ~~[illegible]~~
May be a question — Great care that Almighty has allowed
1. ~~Important~~ Diastrin which will actually
their public into panic. Egerness to be first.
a scoop — not care enough in scrutinizing.
1. Bull Run — first battle.

2 Titanic

Now [illegible]

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

20 1/2 Titanic - possibility of that it was not true - seems clear that those on vessel did not believe she could sink. ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ How much more those in land are to be excused for this feeling. Suppression of news for verification [illegible] may be ~~[illegible]~~ wise -

Scandal - Effect on young.

21

In our time much discussion about ~~that~~ the justification of what is called exposure journalism or popularly much-raking. Much-raking consists in laying bare practices conditions ~~[illegible]~~ and policies in an industry or an institution ~~[illegible]~~ ~~or a group of men~~ ~~the policies~~ & which are contrary to the social good - ~~[illegible]~~ generally speaking these practices conditions & policies are very ~~good~~ profitable to a few men.

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

Russell interview in Post 8. 22

Great deal of nonsense been talked about this kind of journalism - treated as if it was a new development - Muck-raking in the sense I have defined as old a premiah - The prophets were all muck rakers - so was

So was Martin Luther. Voltaire in

Great definition in Candide of the opposite school. all for best in best possible of worlds - then last century also with them -

23

As long as men combine to do evil secretly the muck-raker will be necessary He has an ungracious task but to think it because it is ~~unpopular~~ disagreeable is to lose his own peace of mind above the public good of which journalism is one of the guardians. But for no form of journalism are there ~~greater~~ more pitfalls

1. It ~~is easily discredited because indeed~~ it is generally suspected by the conservative of being an effort to build up circulation by creating a sensation - that it is used for this pur-

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

purpose often. There is no doubt. Much-raking has been used willfully & skillfully for private benefit & ~~it has~~ is ~~being used to to support~~ & build up support for ~~a~~ causes & doctrines. ~~Thus~~ Where it has an ulterior purpose of this sort it is usually handled recklessly that is without that strict regard for the truth which must be its foundation if it is to stand. But because there is a portion of this kind of journalism which is irresponsible & for selfish purposes.

it does not follow that all exposure of evil is bad. I have now an interesting pamphlet on my desk from the home of a gentleman ~~who~~ claiming that all much-raking is a abomination because he found one much raker who did not give the facts he himself had turned over to him. If this rule were applied to the gentleman's own profession - that of banking it would wipe it out of existence - at least a half dozen bankers now serving terms for robbing the public. No much raker yet in jail.

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

10 (24)

no form of journalism more responsible and serious - none to which more strings & care should be given than that which deals with facts which reflect on the integrity of a business, an institution, and also all on a man or woman. Here is an solemn duty to know that what you say is true & before you say it & then to say less rather than more of the truth you know -

~~To publish a falsehood about which~~ 27
~~any injury is~~

For while it is often a ~~solemnity~~ to crime against the public to withheld facts, it is equally a crime to put out false or distorted facts. The responsibility is the greater because people so generally believe what they read.

I may say that they have to discriminate & to take own grains & dis

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

but the great characteristic of the reading mass is its credulity - not its suspicion. Take ~~for instance~~ the printed word carries conviction - Take the success of fraudulent mining concerns - It is a wonder that you can sell anything you advertise. This is so true that all of our better class periodicals scrutinize their ads rigorously - even support bureau to advise readers about purchases -

29 ~~that~~ Every editor knows how ~~the~~ difficult it is to publish a salon an extravaganza - a symbolic tale I get it over - that is how the time I not the literal money -

Only two months ago - the magazine with which I am connected published what I considered a perverse anti-war fiction tale - In this tale a supposed President of the U.S. by an unusual & purely idealistic course prevented a war between the U.S. & Germany. Now since the publication

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

29½

"Everyone with whom I speak claims that there never was a President by that name."

"I have been a constant reader of magazines, books, newspapers, etc. and this is the first time that I have ever seen in type, or heard spoken of that we had as one of our presidents such a man as David Israel. I am sure the story that I have read is not intended for "fiction" hence I can hardly understand why I have not come across some knowledge regarding Pres. Israels before now. I will ask you to give me an explanation of this; also in what period was he president? Where can I buy a complete Biography of him and all other information that you may be kind enough to give me."

"When was he president of the United States? We have the most extensive library in this community and I cannot find a reference to this matter. In our histories his name is not given with the presidents of the U.S . I don't want to be fooled in my old age, so please come to the rescue.

~~12~~ 30

Mr Cleon letters —

See letter —

~~No ignorance~~ Not an intelligent people —

Nordly Viseman — Dunne-Dorley —

~~Mammoth — See Mr Clemens~~ —

These are amusing illustrations of a terribly serious matter — the easy will which the public because of its ignorance, lack of humor, lack of experience & perhaps not a little because of a certain satisfaction it gets in believing evil — a fillip, it

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

31 pride in educational statements.

There is a side of this matter which seems to me unpleasant for young journalists to dwell upon - Fear is this - How one can [illegible] as a calling a paralysis to will. Journalism is a art to be the great school for writing - art - but where writing newspaper writing is done [illegible] a constant care for [illegible]. it ruins instead of making

432

[illegible] any other. What is education, [illegible] - a spiritual illumined by [illegible] by magnanimity of the soul - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I hold the man who gives a plain wall of fact higher in esteem than one who is constantly shuffling the clouds and dealing with airy, delicate sentimentalities, headless and tailless imaginingings, despising our good, plain strength.

Does not all science (the mammoth balloon, to wit) tell us that when we forsake earth, we reach up to a frosty, inimical Inane? For my part I love and cling to earth, as the one piece of God's handiwork which we possess. I admit that we can refashion; but of earth must be the material.

~~There is real promise in your work: but~~ remember that the best fiction is fruit of a well-trained mind. If hard study should kill your creative effort, it will be no loss to the world or to you. And if, on the contrary, the genius you po[illegible], it will be enriched and worthy of a good rank.

What does this mean for the journalist if it is not that the man who is handling the news is handling the raw materials of life & so of literature that if he is ever to make great literature it will be because he has respected every ~~[illegible]~~ assignment that came to his hands ~~& that because he saw in it a bit of human life he~~ that he does not ~~[illegible]~~ treat it often than wilfully

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