

New York City, April 6, 1925

To the Editor of
The New York World:

Dear Sir:

We writers are touchy people, when it comes to comments on ourselves, so please let me say in some corner of The World that I don't like the last paragraph in the article you published this morning, calling attention to the fact that I am preparing for publication a life of Judge Elbert H. Gary, head of the United States Steel Corporation. I don't like it because it says so many things about me that are not true.

For instance, I "dislike jazz." But I do not. Given the time and place - and mood - I like jazz - but never at symphony concerts!

And you say I "dislike votes for women," - but I always vote. I even take a whack now and then in a campaign. True, I see no salvation through votes, and I would prefer my half of the population devoted itself to education without political entanglements. Still, I must admit there is education in suffrage - chiefly the education of disillusionment!

And then that I was "born wealthy." Well, my father saw me through a good old Western college, Allegheny, but, modest as the expense was, I fear it cramped him sometimes, and from the day I left I have earned my own living. It took me eight years to get enough money to go abroad to study, and the three years that I lived overseas I supported myself, averaging about fifty dollars a month! Now, you would not call that "wealthy" would you? Not in money, but in experience it was - I never had a happier or more profitable three years.

One other thing, though what it has to do with writing a life of Judge Gary I confess I do not see. "She"- i.e. I - "is among those that insists that Germany shall be made to pay in full." This is just about as true as that I dislike jazz. But, since international affairs have been dragged in, let me seize the opportunity to say - though it does seem to be going very much out of the way - that I do believe we should go at once into the World Court; also that I think the reasons for not doing so, recently given by that doughty, humorless yet beloved champion of human rights, Senator Borah of Idaho, are so flimsy that they are funny.

So much for the paragraph that stirred me to writing this letter. As for the article's intimation that I am setting out to "boost" the Steel Corporation" as I once did to "bust the Standard Oil Company," - your language, dear World, not mine - I must insist that I have no such ambition. I am undertaking in the case of the Steel Corporation as in the case of the Standard Oil Company, to set down what the documents tell. These corporations have made their own history; and the Government has taken good care in both cases to keep track of what they were making. The records are so voluminous that I assure you they make my head ache even to look at them. The only question is whether I can digest and report them fairly. The "busting" and "boosting" are not my affair - the courts - in time - attend to that.