

December 21, 1936

My dear Everett Case:

I have been having a rather crowded time or you would have had an answer more promptly to the fine letter you wrote me in November. It pleased me greatly. I was surprised, as well as gratified, that you should have given time to so careful a reading of that book of mine and done it so promptly, and then written me so fully about what you found in it. You are, I am sure, too kind to the book. I know it does not bring out as fully and as clearly the points that I wanted to make as it ought. You put down the things that I did feel should be emphasized and it gratifies me.

I have had my doubts about the plan. From the start the books have seemed to me too *ephemeral*. I am not sure it could be otherwise. I tried to keep the thread of arguments through mine but I think it is pretty thin at times - never too strong. However, I am gratified that Dr. Schlesinger and Dr. Fox think it fits into the scheme.

Of course, this fitting in is due to no small degree to the editing that the book had. Dr. Schlesinger is an admirable editor and he went through my original manuscript intelligently and unsparingly. I think he must have cut away about a third of my efforts and while at times I winced a little at what was done I know on the whole that the book is better, particularly for its purpose, than it would have been if put out as I wrote it.

It is kind of you to call my attention to the slips you observed - those bank failures Page 96. I am going to get hold of a copy of Wright's report as soon as I can get to the library and I will let you know what I find.

As to the contradiction between I M T in the "Owen D. Young" and I M T in the "Nationalization of Business" in this important matter of Mr. Young in the

campaign of 1896 I am heartily ashamed of myself. I knew better and why I did not do better I cannot tell. Perhaps you remember that Oliver Wendell Holmes used to attribute errors to what he called "an idiotic area of the brain." I have a big area of that kind and the statement that Mr. Young voted for Bryan in that memorable campaign landed on that barren spot. I suppose there never will be a second edition of the book, but if there is this will of course be corrected. I am passing it on to Dr. Schlesinger.

I think you are right that more space should have been given to the monetary question but I must say that I only began to sense that towards the end of the book. I was not particularly interested in the monetary question which I fear sounds like an admission of stupidity, particularly to you. I am waiting for your book to set me straight in that matter.

I hope it is coming on and that you are enjoying the doing of it. Certainly one could not have a more delightful setting for a piece of hard work and study than you have at Van Hornesville. Not only is it a grand thing for you and for the children but I knew from Josephine's Atlantic verse that she is getting something she never would have found in the city.

You are good enough to suggest that I go up to Van Hornesville sometime. How much I should love to do it and I promise you that if an opening comes I'll wire and ask if it is convenient. But there do not seem to be very many openings. I have a considerable family myself, for which thank God, and all of the unexpected things that happen in families come up to interfere with plans. However, I am going to hope.

And in the meantime give my most genuine love to Josephine and to both of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Affectionately yours

Mr. Everett Case
Van Hornesville, New York