Lakeville, Conn.
Apr 10/29

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I'm doing my half-hour abed after breakfast and have just finished "All in the Day's Work", and I don't want to wait until I can sit at my desk with proper paper and ink, to tell you how she loved it.

Margot got Henry Clapp Smith, at Duttons, to dig up an advance copy for my sixtieth birthday (Apr. 12) and send it to you for inscription, and it was here for my birthday, duly inscribed. Many thanks for writing in it affectionately, my long-time friend!

It is a fine book, a fine reflection of you, full of interest, generosity and good sense. I think I have never known anyone who could

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be more confidently relied upon to think right about things than you. It has been given to you to see things, or seem to see things, simply, and to express your thoughts with beautiful lucidity. You have thought of the things that have been to the fore in my time, and you and I have known many of the same people, and so I devoured your book with peculiar interest.

The years have made you generous in your expressions and withholdings. Steffens gets off more easily than he deserves, I think. You have always been a kind person. When young I was often unkind. Of late years, no.

I am interested in finding out things about your experiences that I hadn't known. I hadn't realized how widely you had traveled the U.S., and I find mention of

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corners of the northwest and southwest that I'm glad to find we both know. Think of your having been to Puyallup, for instance! I was there at the County Fair a few years ago and it was grand. And the Apache trail! Margot brought those regions into my life, and I thank God for them — and her.

I hadn't known before that you found Sid. What a Sid he was! We saw his widow in Tucson. She's badly crippled with arthritis, as you doubtless know, but has a spirit that is indomitable. Probably you are in touch with her.

Harry Reed, Jack's brother told me in California a few years ago, that my piece about Jack,

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in the "S. E. Post," seemed to the family the best that had been written of Jack, and he said there was evidence that Jack was disillusioned with the Russian experiment when he died. The evidence of this, Harry said, was in letters from Louise Bryant, which were turned over to the group that backed the Granville Hicks life of Jack, but Hicks makes no reference to Jack's disillusionment. The Hicks book struck me as the work of a man who was full of radical bias, but was probably honest in his intentions.

I find it exciting to check your judgments of people with mine, although sometimes you politely hold out on me — or so I fancy. I like too to find out about people I didn't know. I saw General Nuber, but didn't know

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him, and I had heard before that he was inordinately vain, as you show him to be. Buffalo Bill, whom I knew, had that sort of childish vanity.

Here's one old friend of yours and old acquaintance of mine I yearn to ask you about, just as a matter of interest. I admire much about Dr. John Finley, but I suspect him, with all his learning, of being somewhat a stuffed shirt — albeit stuffed with superior stuffings. If you tell me he's <u>not</u> I shall be inclined to bow to your superior wisdom. If you support my view I'll feel relieved, because I see eye to eye with you on so many things — and like to.

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I'm having a great struggle getting going again after a heart kick up. My health is <u>much</u> better. I feel pretty well but sometimes am terrified at my difficulties over work. It is becoming serious, and I have been as the grasshopper rather than the ant. You ought to have put down some of that economic good sense for me thirty-five or forty years ago!

I do hope we can have a fine quiet visit this summer, for I am one of your most faithful adorers. If your faithful adorers were all assembled we'd have to hire the convention hall at Atlantic City. I'm not concerned about

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the rest of them, but I do want to see you.

I've not been as far away as your place in almost a year, but I hope to get about a bit more this summer. Have you a car and somebody to drive you places? If so maybe you'll come here. We'd feel as if our house had been crowned.

Margot's immensely worth knowing, too. How fortunate I have been!

Affectionately

Julian Street

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