Bennington, Vt.
Dec. 9th, 1920.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th St.,
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Thank you very cordially for your good letter. I am very glad that you are willing to join in this protest against the anti-Semitic campaign, which, as you very well say, is especially dangerous at this time. The world needs infinite compassion and healing tenderness now, above all things else, and surely not the frightful irritant of racial or religious prejudice and bigotry.

Thank you for your kind words concerning my article in the New York Times. I was myself, a little bit uncertain of its worthwhileness, on account of the conditions under which it was prepared. Sandwiched in between a lot of other things, in a hectic life, it had to be prepared away from my notes and files and bears the evidence of the haste attending its writing. If the Times does not cut my next Sunday article, which concludes the space allotted to me, I believe it will be agreed that I have presented the question of the recognition of the Bolsheviki in the light in which it must be finally faced. Possibly it might have been better, and have avoided some misunderstanding, if I had qualified somewhat the passage in my article, to which you refer. Not, however, because it is essentially incorrect, for it is not; but it might have avoided raising in the minds of a good many people the question it raised in your own. As a matter of fact when Lenin was still in Switzerland, before he left for Russia, by arrangement with the German Government, in the summer of 1917, he wrote a rather elaborate argument to show why Socialism could not be established in Russia for a long time to come. This is only one of several instances of a recognition of this fact by Lenin. You might be interested in comparing the statement "Socialism cannot now prevail in Russia" which he made just as he was leaving Switzerland, with the statement made to Raymond Robbins, and reported by the latter to the U. S. Senate Committee, "The Russian Revolution will probably fail. We have not developed far enough in the capitalist stage, We are too primitive to realize the Socialist State". Not once only, but many times, Lenin has declared that of course Socialism in Russia is an impossibility as yet, but that world revolution was the aim.

With many thanks for your kind words I am,

Very cordially yours,

John Spargo

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