THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN
JOSEPH SCHAFER Superintendent
(TRUSTEE OF THE STATE)
MADISON

August 17, 1939

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 E. 19th Street
New York, New York

My dear Miss Tarbell:

It may perhaps surprise you to learn that the State Historical Society of Wisconsin is acknowledged to have the best manuscript and newspaper collections relative to labor history to be found in any American institution. This is due principally to two facts: First, the interest which the late Henry Demarest Lloyd took in this institution, making it the depository for his great collection of manuscripts, which collection has attracted many less prominent collections; second, to the fact that Professor John R. Commons in writing his history of American industrial society assembled thousands of newspapers which the society caused to be bound and filed for permanent use.

It has occurred to me that your work has been so largely along the lines represented by Lloyd and Commons that the great collection of manuscript material you necessarily have assembled, in the course of your significant research activities, would doubtless fit into this society's holdings in a peculiarly happy manner.

This is of course merely a suggestion. But if you have not arranged for the disposition of your papers it would certainly be gratifying to this society if you would consider the question of making this library their permanent depository.

Very respectfully yours,

Joseph Schafer

Superintendent

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Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library