

66 East 96th St.
New York.



Dear Mr. Tarbell:

Your note is
blessedly like you. Of course
such paragraphs as seem to you
appropriate may be used in the
Writers' Section.

Also, not for publication, but
for such use as you may see fit
to make of it if you find either
any need to clear the record of my
club activities, or if the facts
might help to encourage that
selflessness which promotes
club harmony and growth,
I want to point out several
things.

(1) By deliberate policy, so long as I was head of the Writer's Section, I never attached my name to any notice of meetings. It never appeared on the cards. This is no criticism of the policy of any successor. God knows that the acknowledgment of service ^{name and} implied by the use of the title is very proper, and such publicity as may attach is a small and just reward of hard work. When I was chairman, no program committee had ever been named, so that the chairman had only volunteer help.

(2) As Vice-President, I placed before the club's general meeting the constitutional amendment by which the club's membership was

enlarged. The subsequent enrollment of new members was a factor in bringing in sufficient revenues to make it possible to undertake the Club house. (You may recall that Tempy Reid fought, declaring that such enlargement of membership would take place over her dead body!)

(3) Club-house. When proposed, I so feared that properly considerations might influence the Club's inner spirit, and that our commitments might sooner or later prove embarrassing, that I voted against undertaking the scheme. Probably I was mistaken. But I was no longer on the Board and could not even discuss the point without seeming to oppose the whole Board. It was, I know, held against me; therefore, I want to state that (1) I had seen

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My parents lost \$200,000 on the fluctuation of real estate values;
(2) that I had seen clubs go stodgey when mortgages became a burden. I dreaded the risk for the Club.

(4) As the P. & B. refrained, for reasons of economy, from publishing an annual year book it's my impression that younger members would have to search the minutes of Board meetings to establish that I had ever been more than a 2nd h. P. of the Club (about 5 or 6 years ago I held that office, you know.) That's one reason why the present action of the Club hit my animosities. I saw no reason why I should ever be even remembered.

You are responsible in all reality for the Club's lasting service, I know what you evade saying, that you've worked like a dog at it. You've bestowed greater

brams and greater gifts than anyone else had; there's no posing whatever in your role of boss." Great. Spirited always, you are the best president any organization could have. In this, as in what you have done for the writing craft as a whole, you've held a torch for the rest of us. His beams shed light in dark places. That, too, is straight goods. If, in a small way, I have been successful in saying anything which promotes the ideals you stand for, I am only making a modest return for what you have always done for me.

Devotedly, Gertrude Shelly.
Feb. 17, 1933