D. APPLETON & COMPANY
35 WEST 32ND STREET
NEW YORK

LONDON OFFICE 25 BEDFORD ST. COVENT GARDEN
CABLE ADDRESS HILANDERO

February 18, 1924.

Dear Ida:

Here is a copy of the letter just received from Sites. I also enclose carbon of my letter to Sites.

I feel that we are all needlessly precautious, and borrowing trouble especially as it is understood that the work will be abandoned if unsurmountable obstacles arise. Can you not decide to undertake the work provided you have this anchor to windward? Please say yes.

Yours faithfully,

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

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

(Copy)

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

71 Broadway Empire Bldg.

New York

Feb. 15, 1924.

Mr. Rutger Bleecker Jewett, Vice Pres.,
D. Appleton & Company,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Jewett:

I have before me your letter dated February 11th addressed to Judge Gary. He sailed, as was expected, on February 7th for South America, thinking that your arrangements with Miss Tarbell wer practically complete.

I am therefore disappointed to note, first, that final arrangements with Miss Tarbell have not been made and will be postponed until the end of March and, second, because during the next six weeks it would be possible for me to give considerable time to helping assemble material on hand and co-operate in collecting new material with or for Miss Tarbell if she were free during this period.

I would therefore be very glad to learn if, upon further communication with Miss Tarbell, a conclusion might be reached at an earlier date than suggested in your letter.

Very truly yours,

(signed) F. R. Bites

Secretary to Judge Gary.

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February 18, 1924.

Dear Mr. Bites:

Miss Tarbell and I had a long talk the day before she left on her lecture tour. I had hoped that she would make her decidion then but she claimed that she must have more time as there were many points to consider before she could commit herself definitely.

She has the highest opinion of Judge Gary and believes in him. I think what she is fearful of is that there may be certain complications due to the position taken by the United States Steel Corporation on public issues or an attitude on the part of the company which she cannot present in a favorable light. You know Miss Tarbell. She is the soul of honor and is moreover burdened with a New England conscience.

Judge Gary wrote me, as you know, demanding that if Miss Tarbell should write anything which did not meet with his approval, the work must be abandoned. This, however, is exactly the position taken by Miss Tarbell; that if she found herself faced with facts which she could not approve of honestly, she be allowed to abandon the work. Both Judge Gary and Miss Tarbell see the possibility of an honest difference of opinion connected with certain acts or business policies. Perhaps I minimise this danger, but I believe perhaps Judge Gary's own position was O. K. even in acts and policies on the part of the company which might seem wrong to Miss Tarbell. I believe she will undertake the work but she has not yet given me her definite answer although all financial matters have been arranged satisfactorily

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and she is thoroughly satisfied with the contract provided she undertakes the work.

By all means, assemble whatever material you have on hand. Miss Tarbell told me that she planned to get in touch with you as soon as she returned. Even if I am forced to face the bitter disappointment of having Miss Tarbell decline to undertake the work, your material is necessary for another biography so your time and work will not be wasted. I am sending Miss Tarbell a copy of your letter and perhaps she will be able to give me her decision before her return to New York.

Here's hoping!

Yours very sincerely,

Rutger Bleecker Jewett,
Vice President and Editor in Chief

F. R. Sites, Esq.,
United States Steel Corporation,
71 Broadway,
New York City.

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