AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS

July 27, 1925

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Of course this story is a stupid absurdity. It seems that these Wall Street men can think only of accusing those they hate with their own sort of wickedness. Wilson had limitations and made mistakes, but this kind of thing was as far from him as from Lincoln. If these calumniators had any imagination by which they could grasp the kind of man Wilson was, they could make up far more convincing lies about him! Because they see everyone around them obsessed by money, they think Wilson must have been. They cannot understand a man obsessed by ideas and ideals, nor see what it will make him do.

These are likewise old stories of McAdoo and Baruch, who are also intensely disliked by Wall Street, but they are equally, I believe, fabrications. I have seen, though not yet carefully studied, the immense correspondence of McAdoo, and I have had a lot of chance to know Baruch on the inside. Baruch certainly has played the game of speculation to the limit, but not this one.

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I suppose they won't stop lying about Wilson even now that he is dead!

When I was in New York the week before last, I called twice on your phone, hoping that I could find you in, but made up my mind that you had gone to your farm. I have been looking forward to a talk with you. I have any number of questions I would like to ask you. They relate not merely to Mr. Wilson, but also to the task itself, that of writing of a great public character. The task grows upon me. Although I am sometimes overwhelmed by the extent of it, I am finding it enormously interesting. It is like a voyage of discovery, rewarded by a new mountain peak every day.

I hope you are not having to spend the whole summer in the city. I think I have never enjoyed the country more than I have this year, and it was surely never so beautiful.

Cordially yours,

Ray Stannard Baker

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East Nineteenth Street
New York City

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