

October 17, 1939

Dear Mr. Ranck:

You say you enjoyed reading "All in the Day's Work", but I don't believe you got as much fun out of it as I did out of your letter which is almost a book in itself. Why don't you fall to now and write your autobiography? You know a lot of inside things which I never touched - all that work in Lancaster County and down in Maryland with those kings of corruption - Quay and Gorman. You ought to tell about the gentlemen and what you know of them.

I was greatly amused with what you say of Charles Boneparte. I never was thoroughly convinced by the gentleman. He was really a little too afraid to let loose; he had ~~writer's~~ instincts but he somehow exercised them in an aristocratic manner. *liberal*

What you say about Theodore Roosevelt makes me wish that I had drawn more fully on my recollections of him; and I think perhaps I should have written more of Wilson - I am sure I should. I had a remarkable interview with him in his last days, but I was so tired when I was doing that part of the book, so anxious to get it off my hands and so doubtful about the whole business, that there were a lot of things that would have strengthened the narrative.

I was particularly interested in what you had to say about your work in France. I remember you coming into my office soon after I got there when I was feeling very helpless about doing anything that was in the least useful. I didn't want to be classed with that big crowd of women who rushed in because they wanted an experience. Have you ever written the story of your library work? It seems to me that you should do that. *I left out*

I was talking to John Finley about it last night and I am taking the liberty of having the paragraphs in your letter copied. I hope you do not mind.

But I shall write a letter as long as yours if I don't take care. The fact is that I am terribly behind in my correspondence having had a few weeks of idleness forced on me this summer in which everything was neglected. Much as I am tempted I must not write any more.

And do believe that I am greatly interested in your letter.

Very sincerely

Mr. Samuel H. Ranck
Grand Rapids Public Library
Grand Rapids, Michigan