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THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB

15 GRAMERCY PARK

New York

N. Y.

May 14, '31.

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

I have received a communication from Mr. W.A. White concerning the award of the Agar prize. He does not approve of "The Biography of an American" as first choice for the prize. To use his own words, he is delighted with the manuscript itself, but he feels quite strongly that the book in no way fulfills the requirements of the contest. He bases his opinion on the fact that the book is not related to modern industrial America and her problems. He feels that the book is as out of key with to-day's America as the Bigelow Papers. Furthermore, he requests in case the book is accepted by the other judges, that he be allowed to state in the award that he protests, and he wishes to give his reason for doing so.

He likes "In Defense of To-morrow." (He miscalls it--"The Challenge of To-morrow.") He feels that it is a straight away answer, an intelligent attempt to state the case for America optimistically. In his opinion, the manuscript satisfies all the requirements of the Arts Club offer. And he requests that each judge read the manuscript with the view of considering it for the award.

Under the circumstances, I should like you to read, if you will, the two manuscripts. While there are several other essays which are quite good, I believe that "In Defense of To-morrow" is less academic than the others, and as we are so pressed for time, I am sure that you will not want to read any more than the necessary "high-lights." Just as soon as I receive the manuscripts from Mr. White, I shall get in touch with you. I shall also be glad to forward any communication of yours to the other judges, or to assist you in anything that will save you time and trouble.

Sincerely,



Jane Scales