

CLEVELAND E. DODGE
40 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

January 6, 1939.

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

My dear Miss Tarbell:

This will acknowledge your letter of December 29th in regard to New College. Unfortunately there has been a great deal of misinformation spread deliberately in regard to this situation. In spite of the fact that Dean Russell has spent several whole summers studying economic conditions and very seriously believes in what he states in his addresses, a number of people in the city are trying to make out that he is prejudiced for other reasons. It is a very intolerant attitude and most unfair to Dean Russell, as anybody who knows him well will appreciate.

New College was started originally against the better judgment of both the Dean and the Trustees, and the great mistake was in ever allowing it to go forward. We were persuaded by a very sincere and bright group of younger members of the Faculty, and there is no question but that there was a lot of merit in the experiment. Unfortunately the group had had very little experience, especially in financial matters. They believed that it would not be necessary for Teachers College to supplement the New College budget by more than a few thousand dollars a year.

Unfortunately since the start of the depression Teachers College has lost some very large grants made by some of the foundations, amounting to several hundred thousand dollars. Largely owing to this, we have been running deficits now for the last five or six years. For the next college year, that is, 1940-1941, we are faced with a deficit of around \$60,000, without assuming any appropriation for New College. It is now apparent to the Dean and his advisers on the Faculty that to properly carry on New

College it would require an appropriation of at least \$50,000 a year from the Teachers College budget. Unfortunately, under the circumstances, it is perfectly impossible for Teachers College to put up this money without very seriously crippling some of its other work.

As I said in the start of this letter, there was a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation in existence at the time that the first announcement was made about terminating New College. Since then I think that the members of the Faculty and others interested have received a much better understanding about the whole thing and in many cases have entirely changed their views. We are all anxious to try out experiments in progressive education and hope to be able to finance new experiments in the future.

Trusting that you will believe me when I assure you that the difficulty with our budget has been the controlling factor in the New College case,

Very sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Dodge