Bunter-file
W.

Talk with Arthur Williams

A. W. tells me that he talked with Coffin about O.D.Y's coming to the General Electric. Has dates wrong I think. Says that Coffin told him Young said he would have to go away and think about it, which is not Young's story. He decided, according to him, at once. Coffin told A. W. when he asked him why he left Tyler, that he was not happy there. An incident which convinced him that he could not keep on with Tyler was that he, Tyler, visiting Southern California wanted to buy the bells of a mission. These bells are considered sacred and no padre would think of letting them go, that Tyler waited until the padre was gone and hired a man to steal the bells and took them to his New England estate. An extraordinary story which has to be verified, and getting away from ~~in teaching with~~ Tyler's character as I glimpse it, also with Young's character as I understand it.

Talk of Gary. He tells me that Baker and Morgan asked that Myron Taylor be put on the Board - says that Gary told them that if that was done he wanted to choose a man himself. Told Miller. Thinks this was a mistake, that it gave to Baker and Morgan the idea that Gary did not entirely trust them. I told him that I thought

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that that was true, that Gary had told me himself that they had not the forward look that he thought his men must have to carry on industry. I tell him of Gary's doubt of the banks and that the next upheaval would be the cleaning up of bankers. He says that they used trust funds to support stocks in which they had become interested, or to which they had lent money.

Says that Judge Gary, in the distribution of his estate, in his judgment is a serious mistake. He left to Mrs. G. and to each of his two daughters four million dollars in trust - the New York Trust Company, I take it. They were to do all the investing. He says that they invested all but $200,000 of Mrs. G. money in common stock at high prices that the four million has shrunk now to fully two and a half million.
I do not ask him about her income. Says in the case of the two girls they were more conservative.

Williams is excited about unemployment and is charging it largely to the machine - the turning off of men in all ranks. Tells the story of a man - a gardner - who now in summer is a worker in a needle factory - tells his employer that four men are displaced by a new machine which a girl runs for sharpening these needles. Possibly worth looking into.

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Speaks of changes in lithograph processes. I tell him I think there has got to be a break on the introduction of the new machine and new processes. They are both legitimate but there should be an absorption of men before the new process goes into effect, that is it ought not to be something that throws a man out abruptly. And I believe that is the way it is working. He still thinks that some change must be made in hours, shorter days, two crews of men, if the machine is to be kept busy for say ten or twelve hours a day. Men should be automatically retired, say at sixty, and that there should be forms of saving and insurance - old age pensions, etc., to take care of them for the rest of their years.

A. W. talks of Insull. Says that he was always strong for all of the humanizing measures that he, Williams, stood for in the electric business. Says that they quarrelled about other matters but never about that. Is much impressed by the tragic downfall of Insull reported in today's papers. Says that he, himself, has lost fully a hundred thousand dollars by the frequency of these companies.

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