FRANK B. COPLEY
[redacted]

Southlawn Avenue, Debbs Ferry, N. Y.,
October 16th, 1922

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

Dear Miss Tarbell:--

I presume that this letter, if it does not overtake you on your travels, will await you upon your return.

When I heard they were going to take advantage of your offer to look over the Taylor manuscript, I, of course, was glad; but at the same time, in another part of my being, I was profoundly sorry, knowing something of what you already had upon you and what you were suffering with your arm. You say you were not able to read it all. To me it speaks wonderfully for your goodness that you found the time to go into it to the extent you did.

I wonder if I can give you an adequate idea of what your comment has meant to me, especially your words about my "sustained reverence" for my subject and my "conscientious sort of passion to interpret truthfully." I cannot help but feel that these words are just, and after these years of toil and controversy, I am deeply moved by this recognition. I feel, indeed, that whatever may be the outcome of this project, my work has not been entirely in vain.

Undoubtedly you are right in thinking that this manuscript cannot appeal to the general reader, if he is to be <u>too</u> general, as it were. Certainly it was not designed to be a popular work; but my hope was that it would appeal to a wide audience among engineers, business executives, economists, social workers, and other students of industrial conditions. My faith, in fact, remains firms that if it could be properly published and pushed, <u>all</u> persons of this type would have to read it <u>eventually.</u>

I do not know whether Dr. Person has told you anything of Mrs. Taylor's recent course and latest outbreak. This, combined with the attitude of Sanford Thompson, makes the outlook seem very dark. Of one thing I am certain, and that is that I can no longer deal with a committee, most of whose members have no independent power of judgment, but seek here and there for criticism of the manuscript and general advice, and change their attitude from time to time in accordance with the particular influence they happen to be under. I have told Dr. Person that if I am to continue, I must have to deal with one person only; this to be a person of broad outlook who shall have full authority to make final decisions. I suggested to him that this person be either yourself or himself. The presumption is that it would be utterly impossible for you to assume this burden.

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Very well, then, I am sure I could get along all right with Mr. Person; and if the rest of them will put the whole project in his hands as their representative, then we may be able to get somewhere.

Mrs. Copley highly valued your kindly reference to her. Her arm is much better, but apparently it will take some time for it to be restored to normal. Both of us hope that your health will soon be fully recovered.

I should indeed consider it a privilege to see you upon your return from your trip, and shall endeavor to get in touch with you about that time. And this time I hope to induce you to have luncheon with me. Surely it is my turn to be the host.

With warm and hearty thanks to you for your fine letter,

Very sincerely yours,

Frank B. Copley

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