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RYERSON LIBRARY BUILDING

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

September 12, 1928

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 E. 19th St
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I noticed in the Chicago Tribune the other day that you are to give a course of lectures at Knox College sometime in the near future, and I have been wondering whether it would not be possible for you to visit the Rancks in Grand Rapids, and give the talk at the Library, about which we had some correspondence two or three years ago. The subject which you then suggested and which would be very satisfactory to us now is "Woman's possible contribution to a better civilization". It occurs to me that you might arrange either on your way to or from Galesburg, to stop off in Grand Rapids. I am sure that we should have oodles of things to talk about, besides Al Smith and Herbert Hoover.

Under separate cover we are sending you a copy of the List of Books on Furniture which we printed last winter in connection with the 100th Furniture Market. Please accept it with our compliments. We are rather proud of that collection, and nothing we ever printed received so much favorable comment from all parts of the world. The printing of the list, however, has been the means of adding some of the most important works which we lacked. I recently cabled to London for $3600 worth of furniture books, and we got them all, some of them things which I have been on the lookout for for more than 20 years, including the elaborate works of the Adam Brothers,

Digital Image, 2009, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

magnificent specimens of copper engraving that make your mouth water just to look at them.

I had a most interesting vacation this summer in the wilderness north of Lake Superior, where we dropped out of the world for four weeks, living close to nature, with four Indians as guides, and traveling on foot and by canoe. One of the interesting experiences was the losing of all of our cooking and culinary apparatus by one of the canoe's going over a 50-foot falls, nearly taking the life of one of our Indians, by the way, and our living for nearly a week by the most primitive sort of cooking arrangements. It was all very interesting and most delightful. But this is only one of a thousand things I should like to tell you about.

How is your farm this year?

With kindest regards and all best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Samuel H. Ranck

LNJ

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