Probate Court of Cook County
Chambers of
Judge Henry Horner
Chicago

November
Tenth
1927

Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 East 90th Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I am just in receipt of a letter from Mr. A.K. Stern, Mr. Rosenwald's son-in-law, who is spending his vacation at Sante Fe, New Mexico. Mr. Stern, I am satisfied, has a personal desire that you be asked to undertake the work. However, his wife is one of five children of Mr. Rosenwald - all very interested in the prospective work - and with whom Mr. Stern feels it his duty to consult. The idea of having the biography written is the joint one of the children, and Mr. Stern feels that it is necessary to get the consent of all the children before proceeding with his negotiations with you. I am quoting the portions of his latest letter to me relating to the subject:

"* * As long as you suggest communicating with Miss Tarbell, I am going to take advantage of this offer and will try to answer some of the questions which have come up. In the first place, I am writing to the other children, quoting some parts of all correspondence which you sent to me and presenting the to them of whether Miss Tarbell would be acceptable. Lessing is on the water and William will not return until the latter part of this month, but I will write to them when they return. Of course, if the three families who are here should agree unanimously on Miss Tarbell, I believe it would be satisfactory to the others. * * * As regards the question of labor which Mr. Barrett states was militant against the success of her "Life of Judge Gary', to the best of my knowledge there have been no labor problems in Sears, Roebuck and Co.. In fact, the profit-sharing plan which was one of the first to be instituted in large corporations has worked with remarkable success.

I fully agree that it would be necessary to reimburse Miss Tarbell during the period that she would be writing this book for any losses which might be incurred through the cancellation of her journalistic work. As you may know, Mr. Rosenwald is planning to leave about the first of January for a cruise around the world for four months. It would be just as well if Miss Trabell would start the work in the spring. We could make available to her at any time the data which we have in the office. I am quite sure it would be agreeable the family that Miss Tarbell receive all of the royalties from this book. I believe this answers some of the questions which she brings out in her letter to you. Of course

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Miss Ida Tarbell-#2

we want as fair and interesting a presentation of Mr.Rosenwald's life as it is possible. Would there be any way of going over the manuscript before it is published to determine this?

I just now received the enclosed correspondence from my office, You know we have been in touch with Mr.Dodd for some time about this matter, in fact, he suggested Miss Tarbell to me at one time. I am writing him today stating that you are taking up the matter with her, so that she will be in correspondence with one person.

Of course, it will take some time for the children to pass on this question ,I believe tho that we could safely say that a decision could be reached by January 1st, if not before. In the meantime, you might determine further what she would feel would be a fair charge during the period she will spend on this work."

Mr.Stern also enclosed a copy of Professor Dodd's note to him and also a copy of your letter to Dodd. Mr.Stern gives prompt concern to his correspondence and I am sure that his letters stating his views, and also mine, to the other children, have already gone forward. Personally, I believe that they will all agree with Mr.Stern, although that may be because I am intensely partial to your style. I should say the only reason that Mr.Stern has not already corresponded with you directly is that when he does he wants to talk with full authority to agree upon all the details and the terms. I assume that this is what you also would want.

As soon as he hears from the other children, you can expect a direct communication from him. If you feel inclined to write me, I think that it would be helpful if you would express your views as to the time of starting the work. As to the terms upon which you are to undertake the work, those can be discussed when Mr.Stern feels he has full authority to act,but as to them, I think that you need have no doubt that your reasonable suggestions in that connection will be met by the Rosenwald family. They are all people of fine integrity- generous minded and I am sure that your dealing with them will be entirely satisfactory to you. I would like to communicate to Stern your views if you will express it to me, regarding the privilege of going over the manuscript before it is published. This would seem to be fair under the circumstances,knowing as I do, the fairness and reliability of the persons with whom you will deal.

When you talk definite terms, I think the family will want to have a time limit set in which the work should be completed. Of course, a reasonable time would be alloted so that you would not be hurried with the work, and at the same time be able to assure them that within a fixed period the work may be completed.

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Miss Ida Tarbell--#3

May I hear from you on that also?

Miss Tarbell, when you get into the work of studying the detail of Mr. Rosenwald's life, his motif and his accomplishments, I am sanguine it will be one of the most interesting experiences and work you ever have had, and I know that your life has been filled with great interest. In addition to the interest you will derive from the work, you will find the association with Mr. Rosenwald and his family, and his many activities, a most pleasant one to you.

If the other matters pressing upon you for an answer require a more immediate reply than the few weeks required to communicate with the other children of Mr. Rosenwald, please say so and I in turn will hurry Mr. Stern.

May I hear from you at your convenience? With best wishes, I am

Faithfully,

Henry Horner

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