120 BROADWAY NEW YORK
ROOM 2555

March 15, 1932.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Thanks very much for your note of the 15th. Although you do not specifically say so in your foreword - and I confess I wish you did - Mr. Young has never seen any part of the manuscript of the book, always insisting that he does not want to have the fun of reading the book spoiled by knowing in advance what the book is going to say. I am perfectly sure, therefore, that when he answered your letter about voting for Mr. Bryan in 1896 he was entirely willing that you should use the answer at your discretion. It is just another reflection of his position that he does not want an "authorized biography" because they usually have only what the subject wishes to have said and so are of slight value; but that on the other hand he is honored to have you as his "authorized biographer".

At the risk of appearing presumptuous I do wish something very like this phrase could find its way into the foreword. I wish it for two reasons. First, it does define very clearly the nature of this book and free it of the suspicion that it is merely an "authorized biography"; second, the fact that Mr. Young refused to read the manuscript does seem to me to throw an interesting sidelight on the man. I should suppose that most people insisted on seeing what was written about them and that Mr. Young's position was almost unique. That is why I feel the way I do.

Faithfully yours,

Ernest Case

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

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