THE WORLD'S WORK · THE NATURE LIBRARY · DOUBLEDAY PAGE & CO. 133-137 EAST 16TH STREET, NEW YORK · COUNTRY LIFE IN AMERICA · THE GARDEN MAGAZINE

October 28, 1909.

Dear Mr. Bacon:

I have yours of the 27th -- which I am sure must have been written without a full recollection of the course of events or a complete appreciation of the difficulties of our position.

From the very start, we have, of course, had to deal with a three-cornered situation, doing nothing with anybody without the consent of the third party. On June 22nd, when we had come to an agreement with Mr. Yard, we wrote Moffat, Yard & Company that we were willing to turn over the books to them for the price arranged, provided "we are notified by Miss Tarbell's lawyer that this is satisfactory to her." You may remember that it was impossible for us to get any confirmation of this for a long while; even when I came back from a month's vacation in August, we had not yet secured this (though we wrote on July 24th, during my absence, reminding you that the whole matter was waiting such confirmation). Then, on September 27th, we received a quit claim deed to execute. We at once took this up with the people who had to sign it. There was considerable delay in getting these signatures, and in the course of securing them, we were confronted by the situation with the McClure Company regarding the subscription editions of two of the books. We had nothing to do with this arrangement, which we understood was made with Miss Tarbell's sanction long before we took over the books, and we had supplied books to them under this agreement at no profit whatever during the time that we had them on our list; therefore, we were

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

THE WORLD'S WORK · THE NATURE LIBRARY · DOUBLEDAY PAGE & CO. 133-135-137 EAST 16TH STREET, NEW YORK · COUNTRY LIFE IN AMERICA · THE GARDEN MAGAZINE

(2.-- S. B., Esq.)

simply endeavoring to pass on an understanding which they claimed to have, under which we had acted -- and which they considered should be cleared up before signing the deed you asked for.

Surely, under these circumstances, it isn't quite fair for you to say that you are surprised at such a request coming from our office after Miss Tarbell had paid us "an exorbitant figure for the transfer of her books."

The whole matter of those rights is, of course, one that hasn't the slightest interest for Doubleday, Page & Company, except that, having taken over the book from McClure's with this understood obligation, it would hardly be fair dealing for us to ignore it when they insist upon its being transferred to whoever does get the books.

I shall be very glad to discuss the matter with you at any time, for I confess I feel rather upset by your letter, which seems to me to carry an implication absolutely unjustified by the facts.

Very sincerely yours,

Hy W. Laine

Selden Bacon, Esq.,
60 Wall Street,
New York, N. Y.

HWL/LAC

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