SAMUEL H. RANCK, LIBRARIAN
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS
ELIZABETH STERNBACH
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT
ANNIE A. PELLARD
ORDER DEPARTMENT
SADIE P. WYERS
CATALOGUE DEPARTMENT
ADAH C. CANFIELD
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
MAY G. QUIGLEY
CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT
MRS. FLORENCE L. BORN
BRANCH LIBRARIES

THE GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

OVER 200,000 BOUND AND PAMPHLET
OVER 1,000 CURRENT PERIODICALS
MAIN (RYERSON) LIBRARY AND 10 BRANCHES AND STATIONS

RYERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

November 1, 1921.

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

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Absence from the city and various meetingsin and out of the city have prevented my replying to your most interesting, but nevertheless, ~~unsatisfactory~~ disappointing note of October 19. We are extremely sorry that you cannot come to us in January to deliver the address on our 50th anniversary, and your note, therefore, was ~~unsatisfactory~~ disappointing to us inasmuch as you cannot come. However, I realize the great importance of the work you are to do in connection with the disarmament conference for the importance of it is such that it is likely to make its influence felt in the life of every person in the whole world, both now and in the future.

In this connection I am venturing to send you a copy of an address I gave at Chicago before the Council of the American Library Association last December, in which certain phases of the cost of war are discussed with reference to their bearing on ~~the~~ public support for education. I am also enclosing part of a report of a survey on the Hackley Library of Muskegon, in which I disclose some of my ideas of the service of a public library in a democracy.

About the second 50th anniversary of this Library I have good hopes of being present on that occasion: at all events, I come from a family with good heredity that will carry me almost up to that date, and perhaps with a little extra good care I might go across.

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

While in Detroit the other day at a meeting of the State Teachers Association one of the founders of that organisation, 68 years ago, spoke. He is now in his 99th year, and he spoke in a way so that he could be heard by nearly 5000 people. When I do take part in the second 50th anniversary I shall recall the fact that you were with us in spirit at least in the first 50th anniversary, and perhaps you might be present in body also then.

Of course the years are increasing, and I was reminded of that fact the day I received your letter which happened to be my birthday, and following the custom of childhood of a kiss for each year of my life Mrs. Ranck found she could no longer do it without taking an extra breath.

With all best wishes,

Very sincerely,

Samuel H. Ranck

LNJ

P.S.:

We are still living out at the farm part of the time, on the "fat of the land." S.H.R.

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