Aero Club of America Bulletin

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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What are you going to do with me?

Miss Ida Tarbell,
381-4th Avenue,
C/o American Magazine,
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Agreed! as soon as the expert birdmen come east - they will do so at the beginning of the summer like their feathered competitors - I'll pick out a good airman who has a good motor - you know the motor is the heart of the aeroplane - and will arrange for the flight. There will be perfect secrecy. Only you and I will know it - until it is over. Afterward - well I believe that after you have felt the freedom of flight, you will think so little of such conventional things as apparent publicity and so much of your experience that you yourself will tell broadcast. This will not be for personal vanity - dear no! - but a desire to have others, the world at large share your experience - for the enlightment and spiritual revelation it brings.

It is a spiritual discovery to look down upon the earth, on the checkered, uneven carpet on which our ancestor crowled for millions of years and see human monuments - and such pillars of civilization as churches, schools and banks - looking like toys. It is an experience unlike any other. When I first contemplated going up I looked back at the experience of twenty years of youth passed in Italy, France and England and rather smiled at the idea of experiencing any special sensation or considering the thing as anything more than just an aerial ride. When I came down after the

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flight and collected my thoughts things looked much different, and I knew that my forefathers had never known anything like that.

Every succeeding flight taught me something new and, - well my dear Miss Tarbell, you'd better go up and find out for yourself! Meantime, if you find anybody who doesn't see anything in life or wastes life in some mechanical system of eat, sleep and make believe -just urge a flight. That will cure it.

Of course, we will feel highly honored if after you have made the flight you will write your impressions for the Bulletin. I am rather looking forward to the delicious experience of reading it and I hope it will deal with the philosophy of flight. That is the one side of the subject that has not yet been attempted. No one, for instance, has yet thought to say: Supposing that the aeroplane becomes a practical means of transportation, will it become a potent factor of progress - or what will it do?

Will it revolutionize warfare?

Will it revolutionize peace?

Will it revolutionize social relations?

Will it revolutionize transportation?

Will it revolutionize human knowledge?

Will it revolutionize human freedom?

Will it revolutionize beliefs, philosphies, - the established?

And to what extent will it revolutionize them?

I have been tempted to attempt the feat, but it would mean

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writing a book - and elaborate work at that - and I could not do it without giving up the missionary work of convincing the world that this is a flighty generation. I am hoping that after your flight you will consider this important enough for you to undertake. If you do - it will be a rare treat.

Very sincerely yours,

Henry Woodhouse.

HW/W

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