

# The American Magazine

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Editorial Rooms

May 6, 1931

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,  
120 East Nineteenth Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

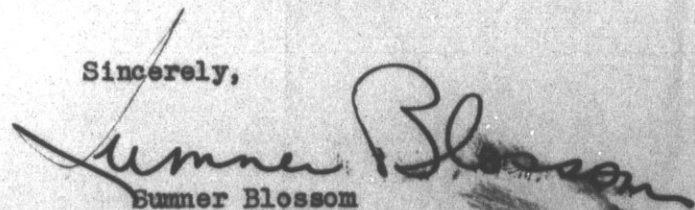
I'm sorry that a slight illness has thus long delayed a response to the first of the Young articles. The piece interested me a lot but I feel that I should talk with you about it at your convenience. The arrangement puzzles me a bit, prompting the thought that we might do better to use this article a little later in the series.

You see I understood that the first article was to set up Mr. Young and explain his place in American affairs. Perhaps it does this. Certainly his attitude toward politics is there, but somehow I kept feeling, as I read, that here we have the history of a business, rather than the story of a man. And I wonder if, despite the prestige of your name and that of Mr. Young's, readers would stay with it long enough to get over the business to the man.

"Here," I kept saying to myself, "is a man who was chairman of the committee on business cycles; a man who saw how things were trending. And here is a man who, like John the Baptist, cried in the wilderness. No one heeded his warnings for caution, his warning for preparedness against unemployment. This man believes we cannot separate ourselves from Europe and that every man has the right to earn a living. He believes that every individual should be given opportunity for an anchor to windward. Those are the things that give him his place in our life. Radio, international relations and reparations are important from an economic point of view, but it seems hard to believe that his part in these things has affected me much."

This is just a rather rough idea of how my mind is working. Won't you please roll the thing around in your mind and tell me when we can have a chat? I'm sure that we can get our ideas together.

Sincerely,

  
Sumner Blossom