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

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INCO[illegible]D
NINTH AND [illegible] STREETS
PHILADE[illegible] PENNA
FOUNDED IN 1910

June 26, 1923.

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

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have written you three pages and come to a suddan stop. You impressed me as a business woman who values time. I am going to write you a short letter-and enclose the long one for your waste basket.

I want you to write a life of Washington to start a publication of a series for LEFAXERS. I would like to know what royalty you would demand. The authors of our Radio hand book have drawn about $20,000. in royalties within a year. We have sold 40,000. and have secured 26,000. subscribers to our RADIOFAX monthly

The idea has come to me to found an organization that will be different from anything in the past. It is said that the pen is mightier than the sword. With proper organization and leadership I think it can be made so.

William the Conqueror showed why the League's of Nations always fail. When William found that the four great Earls were keeping the Kingdom in a turmoil by their jealousies, he broke up their earldoms into the modern counties or shires. He showed by this that there may be harm in bigness.

Mr. Gary has returned from his visit to Mussolini and has sung his swan song of failure to solve the labor problem and steady business. He has asked us to turn to Religion. We are facing an era of hard times ahead because of the failure of our business and religious leaders to solve the problems that our world is facing today.

Mr. Rockefeller can not lift society with its bootstraps. His philanthropy amounts to nothing because whatever he gives he has to get from the people. The Steel Trust must have customers outside of itself-it is not a complete self supporting institution. When the people get out of work and buying slows down the Trust has to lay off more help. It thus adds to the trouble.

You have power in your pen. You have shown your independence. Why not join in a movement for co-operative authorship that will naturally be better than any one author could do alone? Why not add a constructive purpose-definite aims and a vital object to your writings! The short letter came last-I think you will say it is best of all. Faithfully yours [illegible]