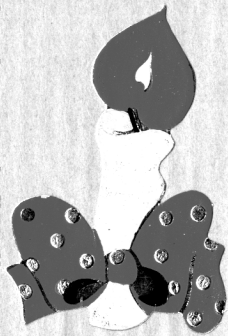


Lakeville, Conn.
Dec 20 1939



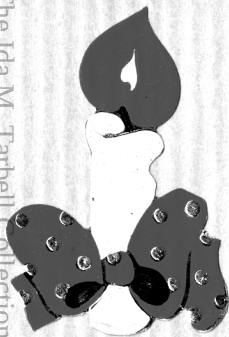
Dear Miss. Tarbell:

I have been re-
reading Steffens' Auto-
biography, studying it, reliving
certain ancient days, and
marveling at Steffens' conceit.
It is comical to read account
after account of how he was so

much smarter than the other fellow (Sometimes a President of the U.S.) and of how he set the other fellow right and fairly stupefied him.

Did I tell you that Harvey Reed, Jack's brother, told me in California several years ago that they'd had evidence, in a letter from Jack or Louise Bryant, written about the time of Jack's death, that Jack was disillusioned with the Russian experiment. According to Harry this material was turned over to Louise Bryant, who turned it over to a Harvard group of radicals, backers of Franklin D. Roosevelt's book on Jack. Harry said he and his mother had

been unable to get the material back. Hicks in his book on Jack makes no mention of any such material or of any indication that Jack was disillusioned. Bullitt writes that he has no first-hand information, but that Louise B. told him Jack said he wanted to



Quit all politics and
write poetry — this
he said to her shortly
before he died. Nick
says nothing of this.

The Communist brothers
are having a hard time
adjusting themselves to the
present performances of

Stalin et al, aren't they?

How Margaret and I
would love to see you,
Dear Miss Tarbell! You
are one of the noblest
works of God and every
time I think of you, and
of the privilege of knowing
you, I rejoice.

I feel a bit better now
of the time but have been
here a year & a half with-
out once going to N.Y.

working hard but not
very effectually. Better,
though. Our joint love to
you. Affectionately
Melian. [Street]