

1914

EDITORIAL MEMORANDUM

Of course Miss Tarbell's letter beginning perhaps at the bottom of page 3 is an interesting and valuable general expression. I swear I don't know whether it would be a good thing to print this correspondence in the magazine. Somehow I just instinctively doubt it. I don't think that it would convince and I think that it suggests to a lot of people something to whine about that they haven't thought of before. In all events it suggests a sort of backward view toward that old muckraking controversy that is a little unpleasant and stale.

I confess that I have no definite idea about this - only a kind of a hunch that it won't do any good - that it sort of puts it into the controversy class without stirring any real interest that is valuable. God knows I believe in stirring things up when an advantage is to be gained but sometimes you stir up an old thing to no special advantage.

JOHN M. STODOLLA

P. S. I sort of hope that there is a new generation of readers coming along to whom Ida M. Tarbell does not necessarily suggest Johnny Rockefeller and the big muckraking stick. I would like to have them take her articles just as they are and draw their own conclusions. without a back-door chat about the past with Fitch or some other crank.

I certainly would wait a few weeks to see whether very many others set up a yelp.