December 22, 1932

Dear Richard Lloyd-Jones:

What a fine thing it was for you to write me as you did about the articles I have undertaken for the Cosmopolitan. I really need encouragement. The faith I have within me is unshaken, that is I do believe we can work it out, this American Plan of ours if each of us does his job with an eye to its integrity and an eye to its profits. I don't think we need mind so much about what has happened to our efforts. A sound thing like this Naumkeag experiment will make its way, integrate itself with some other sound thing, and slowly it will spread.

I have no desire to see democracy become a technocracy. I believe a good deal more in the demos than I do in the technocrats. Lord preserve us from being ruled by them!

But there is a sound seed in all their thinking - the control of the machine - its use for men, all men, not a few. Not easy to work out but an exciting problem to solve.

I do appreciate what you have written. I know you will not deel that you must agree. What we need now is patient, careful analyses. Remember what Lincoln said to Greeley? "The things I deal with are too big for malice." This is a day when things are too big for irritation, excitement, partisanship.

You speak of the organization of the Oil Industry. Have you written anything showing just how you see that organization in the Southwest? If so I wish you would let me have it. I am constantly tucking away things in my oil drawer, hoping someday to get a the problem - do a third volume for my Standard Oil History. So if you have anything that seems to you sound do pass it on. And in the meantime, believe me with all the best wishes in the world,

Faithfully yours Ida Tarbell

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