

ELLWOOD B. CHAPMAN
406 COLLINGDALE AVE., COLLINGDALE, PA

Dec 26. 1908.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Dear Madam:-

Knowing the work
you have accomplished in giving
to the public an inside view
of the workings of the Standard
oil Co., the writer is taking the
liberty of addressing you in
regard to a kindred subject, the
Coal Trust, to inquire if it may
be of interest to you.

To explain matters as briefly
as possible, my father was engaged
in the retail coal business for
nearly forty years, having success

his father-in-law, I saw K. Wright, the pioneer of the business in Philadelphia. With his brother-in-law, he carried on a successful enterprise for many years, until the "Reading" came into the field and ruined them. They were situated on the North Penn R.R., and handled only the choicest output of a few select collieries, enjoying the best class of trade in their city. Until with the leasing of the latter road by the Reading, their former sources of supply were cut off and the Reading's own coal forced upon them to their great detriment.

As secretary of the Phila. Coal Exchange, and as a member of its committees, my father gained much valuable information, and, seeing the gradual trend of affairs, he kept clippings from the daily newspapers, showing the events that were taking place year after year, with the idea at some time of writing about the subject, in a measure, as you have done in regard to the "Standard".

Within the last year he has been hopelessly paralyzed, and all possibility of pursuing his plans has been prevented: he has asked me to endeavor to put his clippings, covering a period of nearly forty years to some use, and I have undertaken

if you would be willing to look into
the subject with a view of taking it
up.

If so, I shall appreciate greatly
the favor of a reply, or if not,
any suggestion you might have
to make will be gratefully
received.

Trusting you will pardon
the liberty I have taken, I
remain

Respectfully,

Ellwood B. Chapman.