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Magazine

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AMERICAN RED CROSS

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Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Hotel Powhatan,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I lunched with Mr. Dunlap of "Industrial Engineering" yesterday. He had with him his son, a fine tall young man out of the service, who is going into business with him. It is my impression that he has a fairly good scheme in his hand book for women workers. Of course, it would depend entirely on how it is worked out as a practical, helpful book for workers and for employers. I told him I thought there was something a little incompatiable between the character of the book itself, as I see it, and his hope that employers would buy the bobk in quantities for their employees. The reason for this is that such a book would necessarily deal with labor conditions in various phases. It naturally would picture the proper, perhaps even ideal condition for women workers. A great many employers would find that they did not have or maintain such conditions. Such employers, it seems to me, would not likely purchase. However, these are suggestions made in advance,without knowledge of the proposed contents. If you and Mr. Dunlap work out an interesting, practical list of chapters, I have an idea that it's something worth doing. He is so optimistic about it that probably he would make a good advance.

He said that he wanted to enlist my interest in his publication. I made some suggestions, which if carried out, would undoubtedly save them anywhere from ten to fifteen thousand dollars a year, just on the physical manufacture. He got quite stirred up and said he was going to make me a proposal to act as counsel for them and all that.

If this thing doesn't go here, I certainly should be interested, because they need help to humanize their very excellent and successful magazine. It is a little too hard now, and seems too much of a technical and engineering proposition. The infusion of the human stuff and an occasional short piece of a broader kind, I am sure , would be interesting to their readers and I think help the magazine. I have a number of ideas that would, I think, be available. I don't know quite how to keep this thing warm until I can see how to turn around. If you want to perform a friendly service, you might drop a few words in writing to him. Just tell him that you think my editorial assistance on the book, for example, would be very useful and that indeed it might be useful in more ways than one. Use your own judgment as to what and how to say it. And in any case I know you will be very reserved and not go very far.

Your letter of yesterday that has just come in, is mighty interesting.

Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library

As to Endicott, of course we should state that none of these letters, that is the letters of Endicott or the two Johnson letters, were intended for publication, but that you had shown them to us and that our urgency had made the writers give us a rather reluctant permission to print them; that we did so because of their inherent interest and importance, and that our assurances on this point is what overcame the natural reluctance of the writers. We can surely get away with it.

I am glad of your statements about the conference. I do not fully understand it. I have an idea that Gompers is throwing too much overboard for the radical wolves and if he doesn't look out, they will get him yet. The letter of the President seemed to me fine, and I don't see how any person or persons could resist it. It was labor's chance, I think to show a broad spirit, and gain the pubbic approval. I am sorry they missed it.

I hear that Callaway isn't going back, and that a substitute has been appointed. It was in the papers the other day. I am afraid you will have to run down in one or your many leisure days. I am glad you will get something out of this thankless job, at least in the dramatic thrills there are in the performance.

Faithfully yours,

JSP

JSP:KW

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