The National
Arts Club
New York

Gramercy Park
Manhattan

L'affaire d'heure

July 16th, 1918.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
152 East 19th St.,
Manhattan.

Dear Madam:

May I again call your attention to the account of one of your guests, Miss Edwina Spencer, which still remains unpaid. Since your last communication with Mr. Edward D. Page, whom, by the way is now on his vacation, we have received a letter from Miss Spencer, disowning any responsibility for the debt. I enclose herewith, a copy of her letter.

May I ask your advise as to any further steps we may take to bring about the collection of this account.

Again we extend to you our most sincere sympathy in the situation.

Very truly yours,

Charles S. Leahy
Asst. Treasurer

Digital Image, 2009, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

copy

June 28th, 1915.

Dear Mr. Page:

In April, my Mother and I were the guests of Miss Ida Tarbell at the National Arts Club for a day or two more than two weeks, leaving for Greenwich on April 24th.

Knowing that we had met with some severe reverses, Miss Tarbell insisted on paying the bill when it should be rendered and our repaying her later when our losses were recouped. She left instructions (with whom, I, of course, do not know), that the bill be sent to her; and explained to me that this had been done and that it would not come to us at all.

When a bill, or rather notice, came to me a short time since, I thought it had been sent by some mistake; but I have just had a card signed with your name, saying that my name has been posted since June 21st for non-payment of my bill.

I am naturally chagrined at the thought of being posted for a debt which I believed to be paid. And I know Miss Tarbell would be greatly annoyed.

Instead of forwarding to her at once the notices I have received, I am writing to ask what you would prefer my doing. I regret that I am not prepared for such a demand at this time, and cannot send you herewith, my check for the amount. (And, by-the-way, I have never had a bill, only the notices to which I have referred). I am at a loss to understand the whole matter; nut it would seem to me that the bill should be sent immeditely to Miss Tarbell, as she directed, and also that my name should be removed from

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

the posted list; from the fact that I have never had the slightest desire to evade meeting any obligation to the Club, but have simply been doing as my hostess requested me to.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Edwina Spencer

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.