THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3 January, 1917

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Thank you with all my heart for your letter of December thirtieth. I knew that you had good reasons or that you would not have declined service on the Commission, and I honor you for facing the difficult task of assessing your own physical strength and doing the thing that seemed wisest in all the circumstances.

I think your suggestion is an excellent one that you can do no small service to the Tariff Commission by interpreting it and its task after it gets to work, or even before it begins.

I am very much obliged to you for having thought of me in connection with your book. I shall look forward with genuine pleasure to reading it. What you write always has solid facts and real human circumstances back of it and I always feel as if I were really getting something.

I am

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

I am happy to believe that your fear about your health does not mean that you do not now feel well and fit, but only that you have had to come to a definite conclusion as to the kind of work you ought to do.

With the most sincere and cordial good wishes for the New Year,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

Woodrow Wilson

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 East Nineteenth Street,
New York City.

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