March 8, 1939

Dear Mr. Price:

Miss Tarbell arrives at Allegheny about the 14th of April and begins teaching Monday, April 17th. She will be here until the 14th of May. Her course is announced in the catalogue as English 18 under the title "The Writing of Biography." It will consist of instruction and method in biographical research and writing, with attention given to sources, interpretation, and the assembling of materials. The Lincoln Collection which Miss Tarbell is giving to Allegheny will be utilized by students who are interested in public figures of Lincoln's day.

Miss Tarbell plans to meet her class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week at eleven o'clock. She will have individual conferences with students before the eleven o'clock hour and on Friday afternoons. The course will carry one hour's credit. It is open to students of all classes. Naturally, the students are very much excited about her coming and it has proved something of a problem to limit enrollment in the course to a group small enough for effective teaching.

There will be an interesting story in connection with the Lincoln Collection as well as the course in the writing of Biography. Ever since Miss Tarbell was assigned by McClure's Magazine to prepare a series of articles on the early life of Abraham Lincoln she has been acquiring books, articles, letters, newspaper clippings, and anything else bearing on the life of Lincoln. Her collection is a very unusual one and we expect to house it in a special library room. On the walls of the Lincoln Room our Art Department proposes to paint murals depicting the migrations of the Lincoln Family from the time of Samuel Lincoln's settlement in Hingham, Massachusetts in 16[illegible] to the birth of Abraham Lincoln in Hogdensville, Kentucky in 1809.

It will be an unusual privilege for our students to use the Lincoln materials under Miss Tarbell's personal direction.

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

While the gift of the collection has been announced, the materials are not being shipped until a week or two before Miss Tarbell's arrival here in April.

Several of our students have asked if they might try their hand at writing a biography of Miss Tarbell and one such biography is already well under way as a senior project. It may be too poorly done to warrant publication, but it indicates the interest of the students in Miss Tarbell's coming.

In your letter you inquired about the possibility of Miss Tarbell's visiting Titusville. The City of Titusville gave a dinner in her honor on January 25th. It was attended by close to five hundred of her friends. Following the dinner she spent a week here outlining plans for the course and the Lincoln Room.

If feel sure that if you can send your photographer we can help him get some interesting pictures.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Wesley Price
Photographic Editor
The American Magazine
250 Park Avenue
New York City

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