443 - 43rd Avenue,
Milwaukee, Wis.
February 12, 1927.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I hope you will pardon me for troubling you with my personal affairs, but I have reached the age (86 years) when most people, especially those of my own sex, have no patience with me in my effort to keep going. I know that I am both physically and mentally at my best, and am planning to take up and carry to a conclusion one particular conception that will benefit this and succeeding generations in a material sense beyond any other one thing that has ever yet been suggested.

I have invented a device for covering gardens, orchards and fields, regardless of area, with a movable roof.

The design is to prevent the distruction of all growing crops of every sort by early frosts and moderate freezing weather.

I was born and reared on a farm and have from my boyhood been intensely interested in the cultivation of the soil, and I take particular notice each year of the enormous losses to soil cultivators in large areas, in this and all other countries, losses that run into billions of dollars annually; all of which should be and can be avoided.

At present my only income consists of my army pension, $65.00 a month, and as I live outside of the Homes provided by the Government, where soldiers are sheltered, fed and clothed by the state or National Governments, I have but a few dollars left after paying my living expenses.

I am certain that Henry Ford, Gov. Lowden of Illinois or scores of other wealthy men who are interested in agriculture, would take up my project, patent the device, I have invented and bring my method into universal use, if submitted to them. But it is only fair to suppose that they would demand in full the enormous profits to be derived from the sale of the right to use the device.

Women are not nearly as selfish as men, so I now feel that my only safety is in finding a woman who has the

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means, and the disposition to aid me in the first instance in having constructed a complete working model of my invention, and who would pay the additional expense of procurring a patent on the device in this and all other civilized countries.

I have a very crude and incomplete model that a blacksmith and I put together, but I need a perfect one. Can you not put me in touch with a woman of moderate means who will consider my proposition on a 50-50 basis.

It will beat Henry Ford's automobile industry for profits 100 per cent.

May I hope for a word of encouragement from you in this important matter.

Am enclosing copy of an address I delivered on U.S. Grant that may interest you as a historian, also a copy of the Lincoln address that you wrote me about a few days ago.

By-the-way, I bought a complete set of your wonderful biography of Abraham Lincoln, and paid for it on the installment plan, last year, while a member of the National Soldiers' Home here. But some dishonest cuss stole the 2nd volume. Can I have it replaced without purchasing an entire set?

Hope to hear from you at your pleasure.

Earnestly and respectfully,

R.M. Springer

R.M.Springer.

RMS/W

P.S.

This is the anniversary of the birth of the greatest mortal since Christ. If Christ was immortal, so was Lincoln.

R.M.S.

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