Copy of letter from

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Civic Opera Bldg.~20 N. Wacker Drive

Chicago

THE EAGLE PICHER LEAD COMPANY
PICHER OKLAHOMA.

March 7, 1930.

Mr. W. H. Cameron, Managing Director
National Safety Council,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge your letter relative to the series of articles to be written by Miss Ida M. Tarbell. Delay in answering and offering my hearty co-operation is due to the fact that when I read your letter I at once realized that the method of making workers safety-conscious was based upon a theory much too profound for me to comment upon adequately. My ability for self-expression is limited, and I desired assistance.

There can be no questioning the fact that there exists in that realm of the spiritual in each individual, no matter how poorly endowed with what we may erroneously conceive to be the higher attributes, a submerged alter ego, which, if stimulated to unfoldment and rightly directed has unlimited possibilities. If the development of this inner man, as it were, the true soul of the individual, can be had along the lines proposed in your letter I believe, and I think rightly, that it would be productive of marvelous, almost miraculous results.

With this feeling uppermost, I took your letter to one of our Superintendents, to my mind one of our most intelligent Superintendents but one by no means an intellectual prodigy. Carefully we read over your letter, more than once, in order to miss nothing in it. Particularly I wanted to impress him with the import of the theory elucidated; I assured myself that he did not miss the application of your illustration to the theory. But I was astonished, pained, and confounded by his reaction. His comment, his whole analysis, was summed up in the ribald and somewhat fertile expletive-- BULL! I could hardly realize that he failed to comprehend the beauty as well as the practicability of the doctrine. But, then, I concluded that his mental attitude was warped, not to say biased, by his long and arduous, soul-stultifying labors in the mundane, really plebian, job of producing ore from his mine at the lowest possible rock-ton cost.

Somewhat abashed with the result of my efforts, I approached our claim adjuster, really a most estimable young man, in his way. I expected, and received, a much more reasonable reception on his part, as I knew that in his multitudinous (I almost said multifarious) dealings with the badly injured, slightly injured, and near-injured claimants in order to effectuate a settlement it was necessary for him to achieve a mental status en raporte with that of the claimant. We considered thoroughly your plan and the many ramifications possible and the ultimate good to be realized from a thorough and painstaking application.

But, after giving the matter a great deal of thought, and considering the possibility of putting it into effect with our workmen in this District, basing my statement on observation, unscientific tho I admit it to be, during the past 20 years' experience in inspecting mines, I do not believe the vibration periods to which their psychic entities are attuned would at all assure their subconscious minds being actuated by the astral emanations connected with a forewarning of impending danger.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) O. N. Wampler,
Safety Director.

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