

December 8, 1933

Dear Mr. Stebbins:

Please do not think because I have not more promptly answered your recent note that I do not appreciate your kindness in writing it. Particularly does it please me to have errors corrected. I do try for accuracy, but I never yet have published a volume which did not bring to my attention slips of which I was heartily ashamed. Certainly Van Depoele's^o is^d perfectly well known name, or as you say a great inventor. Van Poole can only be explained by a temporary blind spot. The wrong date for the graduation from the M. I. T. of Stone & Webster was sheer carelessness, of course.

Now as to Mr. Coffin being a shoemaker. Certainly he was not ever so far as I know a worker at the bench, but as the word shoemaker covers those who have anything to do with the making of shoes it seems to me to cover Mr. Coffin. At all events the group in and about Lynn which financed the Houston-Thompson concern in 1883 was slurringly referred to as a "lot of shoemakers," all of them, being, of course, manufacturers. As to the Attorney whom Owen Young outwitted in a Texas suit - you raise the question whether or no he was on the G. E. payroll - that I doubt whether anybody could say today, the Texas situation is and always has been so complicated that I would not dare to speak of it except in general terms. To clear it up would take a life time of labor and a dozen volumes of records and interpretations. At least, my dear Mr. Stebbins, that is my impression after looking pretty carefully into all of the printed records I could get my hands on and talking with several persons who had been through the struggle. I think it probable that the lawyer was on the payroll of the Bond & Share which was ~~subsequently~~ ~~absorbed~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~General~~ ~~Electric.~~ I take it that there was little went on in any undertaking which concerned the General Electric that Mr. Coffin did not have his eye on.

If there should ever be another printing of Owen D. Young I shall see to it that the errors to which you call my attention are corrected. Thank you for the trouble you have taken in writing.

Yours very sincerely

Mr. Theodore Stebbins
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