

Rutland Courts,
17th & Riggs Sts.,
Washington, D.C.

May 23, 1917.

My dear Mrs. Laws:-

Your letter of May 17th has been forwarded to me here in Washington, where I have been called to the Woman's Committee of the National Counsel of Defense. Thank you for having taken the trouble to write me. I do not know when I have had a bit of appreciation which has so pleased me. I do not know, however, that I can give you what you want. It is true I have had more or less publicity, but could not put my hands on anything that could be particularly interesting to you I think. The facts of my life will be found in "Whose Who". As to how I came to have an interest in business it would be a little hard perhaps to tell in a letter. I never analyzed the growth of my interest myself. I think it is rather an interest in the human problems which business, as I have seen it, brings than one in the thing itself. A number of years ago I became very much interested in the first question, and in order to present it concretely I wrote a history of the Standard Oil Company. That work gave me considerable insight into modern business procedure. It intensified the feeling I had when I began, that monopoly in this country was the result of securing some kind of a special privilege. Before I finished that book I had a grandiose scheme in my mind to tackle each of the privileges which I

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felt were bound to create in this country monopolies quite as powerful as the Standard. I never carried out the idea, though I did try to do something on the High Protective Tariff. As I believe I said in the preface to my "New Ideal In Business", the human relations in all this touched me very strongly. - indeed I have always had an interest in that kind of thing. - so began picking up things. I became convinced something very fine was going on and the book is the result. It isn't as good a book as it ought to be, my dear Mrs. Laws, from the material, but if it will awaken in a woman like yourself so fine an appreciation I shall think better of it.

If you should be coming to New York at any time I should be glad to see you. When I am there you can get me by phoning Gramercy 5479.

Thanking you again for your letter, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. E. Laws,
Bedford, Mass.