

UPTON SINCLAIR

STATION A  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

December 28, 1931.

My dear Emma Goldman:

I am sorry you did not receive my first letter, because in it I expressed the pleasure I got from the reading of your book. I send you a copy of this letter. You will note that I have called attention to some other misspelled names. I do not think it is justly called "pedantic" to note matters of this sort. If I were to refer to you as Emma Goldmann, you would have a right to assume that I was showing a lack of interest in your personality. I am quite sure of the spelling of Walter Lippmann, for I have known him since he was a college boy, and I have his books, even though I cannot read them. There is another, Samuel Lipman, in your book, and I do not know anything about him.

You say: "As I have not been in Russia since the new 'miracle' was begun I could not in good taste or veracity write about it." But if you will pardon me for pointing it out, it seems to me you did that in the one sentence which I refer to. You were not content to point out the disorganization and confusion which you saw in Russia in 1921; you made the statement that of course Communists were incapable of running industry. That was a general statement, and it applied to 1931 as well as to 1921, and my comment is that I do not see how you could make it in view of what has happened in the past ten years. I have just read of some German economic institute which has made a study of the world's production up to the spring of 1931, a report that Soviet Russia has taken third place in general production, behind only the United States and Germany. The "Economic Review of Soviet Russia" claims that as a result of later events this year, Russia has passed Germany. Whether we accept this claim or not, there is no disputing that Russia has passed Britain and France. And there isn't any use talking about "churches" and "the hand of God" in this connection. The essence of superstition, as I understand it, is a refusal to face facts, and if the Communists have solved the problem of production, and you refuse to admit it, you are the one who has a "church" and is relying upon "the hand of God."

Sincerely,

