AIRMAIL

New York, New York
September 16, 1954

Miss Lillian Gish
8221 Sunset Boulevard
Hollywood, California

Dear Lillian:

Yours of September 8 greatly appreciated. I am sure you know that in putting the thought up regarding Mr. Laughton, it was partly in joke and under no circumstances whatever would I want anything whatever risked.

I am just back from three days at Baie Comeau where Colonel McCormick has a wonderful paper making plant, some remarkable woods operations and a delightful log house lodge overlooking the St. Lawrence River. We have been in touch with his Product Manager, Mr. Gralow, at Thorold, and he secured for me this invitation to visit the lodge and look at a deposit of silica on his property and also do some fishing.

While on a trip salmon fishing through that country twenty-eight years ago, I found out that he has this deposit of silica and I am working rather elaborately on the question of cooperating with his people on its utilization.

I went down with Mack Gander, a partner in the investment house of Dominick and Dominick, and we were royally treated, loved the crowd we met and got a good bunch of fish. The beauty of his lodge is surpassing and I was greatly impressed with the town of Baie Comeau, started seventeen years ago and built around his paper mill. The Mayor of the town showed us around and we saw a wonderful community house, together with a church, Sainte Amelie, which we were told was built and decorated in honor of his wife who had that name.

I propose to send a copy of "Mother and Child" to the library there as I feel I am on such terms that it can be done. I would like very much to be free to send a copy to Colonel McCormick, expressing my thanks for the hospitality we enjoyed there.

Our company has done some consulting work for another branch of his Canadian organization and the project that I am working on now may mean collaboration in the utilization of his raw material. As you probably know, he has an $80,000,000 investment there in Quebec and Ontario.

I heard delightful stories about his philanthropy and especially his interest in some of the people there who had helped him years ago,

notably the wife of one Indian who I think saved his life or helped to, in a log jam. I always hesitate about butting in on the great or near great. As you probably know, I have felt that his judgment was wrong on many things but was most interested in learning that when he was threatened with very material damage on account of expressing his opinions, he was willing to sacrifice everything rather than give up his responsibilities as a newspaperman. If it would seem all right, I should be glad to send him a copy of the great book and mention, incidentally, that you and Nell were long-time chums. What do you think? Tell Nannie to write yes or no on this sheet and send it back. I certainly appreciate what you are doing.

I very much have a feeling that Nell and I will come through your area in October.

The enclosed copy of a letter from Carl Sandburg will interest you.

Give our love to Nannie.

Yours,

John V. N. Dorr

Enclosure

JVND/est