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# Letter: Cale Young Rice to Ida M. Tarbell, January 14, 1907

Rice, Cale Young

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33 St. James Court

Louisville, Ky.

Jan. 14. 1907.

My dear Julie:

The article was fluor-spar, but that cousin of ours talks too much and not always wisely--or, I fear, reliably. In the first place he has no mine, but only some stock in one owned by a dozen business folk here in Louisville. In the second place the talk about getting a tariff on the commodity has been more or less general in Kentucky and southern Illinois--since the discovery and opening of rather large fields several years ago; the reason for it being twofold, because, of course, the spar is imported, and because we have had difficulty in getting the railroads to freight it to the manufacturers on time.

It is claimed, though I cannot vouch for it, that the manufacturers would put in new (smelting) machinery and use the spar altogether, if they could depend upon getting it in regular quantities. But I am not at all sure that even a small tariff would be advisable, though for my own sake I should like to have it, and though it might lead to the discovery and opening of lead and zinc mines--as has occurred with out a tariff in our case. Many of the fluor-spar claims are not being worked because of the difficulties I have mentioned.

I'm re-enjoying "Madame Roland". Come back to us in the Spring.

Devotedly your friend,

Cale Young Rice

Cal

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*Handwritten note:*  
The fluor-spar is not the same as the spar that we have been talking about. It is a different kind of spar and is not so common. It is a very valuable mineral and is used in the manufacture of glass and other articles. It is also used in the manufacture of fluorine and other chemicals. It is a very important mineral and is one of the most valuable minerals in the world.