

am 3/24/9
not to be published
Confidential

Rochester, N. Y. Mch 11, 1909

Dear Miss Tarbell:

This will be a carrying of coals to Newcastle, perhaps, but, owing to the excellence of your tariff article in the American, which I have been commenting upon in the editorial department of this newspaper, I would like to invite your attention to a phase of the tariff controversy which would bear investigation by an expert.

Apropos of nothing in particular, my son-in-law, who has a responsible position in the office of the thermometer trust here - which will explain the reserve under which I am writing - remarked last night that their sales of mechanical thermometers for use in beet sugar factories had fallen to almost nothing. Not so very long ago, he said, one concern in a city on the Great Lakes had bought from \$5,000 to \$10,000 worth a year. The reason, as was suggested to him, is that the factories are being abandoned because the farmers won't raise the beets at the price given by factories.

Now, this may suggest to you a far different line of argument; to me it seems characteristic of the tariff-mongers - that the purpose of the sugar trust was to artificially foster an industry in Northern farming com-

munities in order that it would possess a valuable & dependable leverage in defense of its tariff maintenance. It has been pointed out in the Journal of Commerce, I believe, that the trusts share of the tariff take-off is about \$65,000,000 a year. To perpetuate this it could very well afford to erect two or three factories for making beet sugar in this state, in Michigan, Illinois, Nebraska, Utah and California at an expense of \$1,000,000 each, run them a few years, & then abandon them because the farmers won't raise beets. What is \$6,000,000 worth of sugar factories that they should be considered when \$65,000,000 take-off is involved?

But, if it is true that the beet sugar industry is so soon declining - and you will find an intimation as to its truth in the first column of the first page of the Journal of Commerce of March 4 - it seems to me that a full consideration of the question, from the point of view of a truth-teller rather than a promoter, would make a mighty interesting article in the American, whether the tariff is abolished or reduced, meanwhile, or not.

Very truly yours,

H. S. Ruddy

Associate Ed. Herald