Thank you for calling Miss Tarbell's article to my attention. I am glad to express my opinion on a subject of such vital interest as the support of American Industries. Miss Tarbell's article is powerful, an appeal arresting serious attention.

The war in Europe has dealt a staggering blow to the commercial interests of the world. The serious result to ourselves is largely due to absolute disorganization, naturally caused by the divergence from its accustomed channel of almost every commodity imported or exported by America. However, this effect cannot be of long duration. Given time to bring order out of chaos, and establish confidence, the tide of business will rise stronger than ever; readjusted perhaps along other lines; but surely for "something taken away something will be given".

This war turns us back upon ourselves. We must "take stock" of our resources, what we have or have not, and what we can best supply that our neighbors need. But let us know what is being done before turning our attention to new undertakings. Miss Tarbell asks: "Are American manufacturers and designers incapable of this (foreign) superior craftsmanship and art? The truth is that American women have never given them a fair opportunity to prove what they can do." Perhaps we do not know their capabilities, it is true; but the fault must not altogether be attributed to the American woman's lack of patriotic interest in the products of her own country. In the first instance our manufacture of beautiful things is of very recent origin compared with the experience of our foreign competitors. Then the American woman has a deep rooted desire for the best. For a long time she has been taught to believe that the foreign label meant exactly that. Convince her that the article marked "Home made" meant
as beautiful silk, as durable linen, as good quality in anything, and she will not seek the foreign product. Are not the manufacturers perhaps somewhat to blame, when they, as they do in many instances, affix a foreign label to home made goods?

Is this altogether because American women demand the foreign stamp, or partly because they wish to add to the price tag the impressive 40 or 60% duty?

As an example of the patriotism Miss Tarbell calls upon us to express, there is a beautiful house in New York State, the result of the owner's most original desire to have an entirely American made house, and everything from the stone foundations to the china, tapestry, pictures, furnishings, the house contains, were produced in this country! In several instances an art or industry had to be very materially helped, if not established, to secure the complete result.

It is true the present situation opens to Americans an opportunity for patriotic service not equalled, at least in this generation. But let us know what we have to offer that competes favorably with the best. Let us know what we have that with a little help and encouragement may rank among the best, and we will put our shoulders to the wheel to foster and promote these American industries.

Eleanor Robson Belmont.