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Tariff Commission League

OBJECT—To carry forward a nation-wide campaign of education which will demand of Congress the creation and permanent maintenance of a non-partisan Tariff Commission of the highest personnel, which shall be given the broadest powers possible under the Constitution, to the end that tariff enactments shall be based upon sustained facts and be for the interests of all the people rather than for political expediency.

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NEW ENGLAND DEPARTMENT

FLORENCE J. LEWIS
30 NEMENWAY ST., BOSTON, MASS.

Ida Tarbell B. A. New York.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Adam Smith once said: "The wages of labor are the encouragement of industry, which, like every other human quality, improves in proportion to the encouragement it receives". Had Adam Smith written for an American Democracy he might well have added, that in a democracy, industry improves in so far as the laws which control its growth are made by unbiased experts, and not for political expediency.

In this vitally significant historical epoch, when intelligent men question the strength of human brotherhood, and at a time when our public press and forum ask whether we have the power to maintain our present peace, you, as director of the future executive intelligence in this country, hold a uniquely important position. Your knowledge of past institutions teaches your youth the significance of reason, unbiased, impartial, in the welding of the firmest human structures. Your wisdom and foresight serve to prepare your youth sanely for the morrow of America. WHAT OF OUR PREPAREDNESS FOR THE MORROW?

Great industrial changes must follow this great European war. When the millions of men now on the battlefield are turned

like a tide from consumers into producers, in order to make good the present enormous waste, we in America will be called upon to adjust ourselves to an industrial situation such as has not confronted us since the Civil War. All the European nations will throw themselves with their greatest energy to the rebuilding of their now crippled industries. They will do all that is humanly possible to sell their goods in our market, for any profit, so long as that profit means our gold. They will beat us in every field unless we are prepared to meet them with every modern appliance; most of all, with every form of industrial protection. Then will be no time for political manoeuvring. If preparedness will win this war, preparedness now will assure our future industrial peace. That should be our real battle-cry: Is our present industrial structure strong enough to stand the fearful strain that shall inevitably be made upon it?

It sometimes takes us too long to learn our lessons. It took years of waste and suffering before we learned an adequate system of banking. Only very recently have our financial men accepted the science and rules for an American system--a method which the other great nations had employed for years. There was belated preparation.

Look to our TARIFF regulation. The history of tariff legislation throughout our economic life reads like the account of a foot-ball game; the industrial football tossed from one political machine to another, never determined, never satisfying, always a grave danger to some part of our industries, to some part of our people.

Once for all, a body of men representing varied geographical situation, patriotic enough to cut away here from determined

political affiliations, of various industries and professions, and representing agriculture and labor (two unrepresented interests thus far in all tariff enactments), have formed an organization, to put TARIFF MAKING upon a scientific and properly economic basis.

This nation-wide campaign purposes to demand of Congress the creation and permanent maintainence of a non-partisan tariff commission of the highest personnel, which shall be given the broadest powers possible under the Constitution, to the end that Tariff enactments shall be based upon ascertained facts, and be for the interests of all the people, rather than for political expediency. Into this campaign have already come patriots of the farthest vision, the minute-men of peace. Our questionnaires to business organizations brought 96 percent of those who replied, as supporting the work of the League. Of newspapers, 92 percent stand with the League. The United States Chamber of Commerce has recently joined with us.

Among University teachers and University executives the work of the League has received unusual sympathy, promises of co-operation, and frank expressions of hearty good-will. Here are a few extracts from letters recently received out of college presidents.....

If you get the Tariff out of politics you deserve the blessings of mankind.

Benj. I. Wheeler. Univ. of Calif.

I think a permanent non-partisan commission is the most fitting method for getting at this great national and international concern.

Chas. J. Thwing. Western Reserve Univ.

I congratulate you upon taking up this very important subject. It would be hard to over-estimate, in my opinion, the advantages to this country of having

our tariff policy handled on a scientific business and apart from politics.

R. A. Pearson. Iowa State College of Agri. and Economic Arts.

I have always been in sympathy with the idea of a permanent tariff commission.

Frank J. Goodnow. Johns Hopkins Univ.

An organization which would advance the idea in a nonpartisan way would, I believe, be serving a very useful educational purpose as well as promoting a sound industrial and financial policy for the country as a whole.

A. W. Harris. Northwestern Univ.

I certainly believe in an effective permanent commission and along the lines you suggest. It would seem to me to be a very great gain over anything the country has ever had.

Henry C. King. Oberlin College, Ohio.

I should be very much pleased if we could in any way get the whole question of the tariff and its relation to the industries of the country brought under some sort of intelligent supervision....I am ready to do anything I can to effect this result.

T.H. MacBride. State Univ. Iowa

I am wholly in sympathy with the purpose of your movement as to the present tariff. There is no other way out of the present muddle.

David Starr Jordan. Leland Stanford Jr. Univ.

We respectfully commend to your attention the accompanying pamphlet, which contains a copy of the bill the TARIFF LEAGUE proposes to submit to Congress. We shall be glad to receive from you any criticisms or suggestions concerning this measure. Most of all, do we expect that this letter and the information it brings you, may make you an ardent supporter of our work, ardently conscious of a crying industrial need, a need in preparedness--preparedness that comes by way of intelligent power.

Will you affirm by writing an acknowledgment to this letter, your interest in this patriotic campaign? Will you lend us active support?

Very truly yours

THE TARIFF COMMISSION LEAGUE.