219 MADISON AVENUE.

December 27,1911.

Dear Ida:-

Do you know whether Mr. Kent, who is, as I understand it, a member of the "Committee on Reform in the Civil Service" is interested in the Hamill Bill which is being backed by the U.S.Civil Service Retirement Association, the organization which had the big meeting at the Hippodrome last month?

The Hamill Bill provides for the retirement and pensioning of employees in the Civil Service. You know something of the conditions which exist at present among the Postoffice employees, and the need for such provision. The fact that the highest salary the men can attain, after twenty years of service is $1,200 a year proves on the face of it that it is impossible for them to make the necessary savings for insurance during their life time, so that the contributory bills which are also up for consideration in the house, would be of very little use, unless they carried with them provision for a very complete raising of salaries.

The Committee is to have a hearing on January 17th, and of course it would make an enormous difference if Mr. Kent went into the matter personally, and was willing to take it up. Will you let me know what you think is the best way of approaching him.

Affectionately yours,

Miss Ida M.Tarbell
381 Fourth Avenue

enclosures

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THE HAMILL BILL

H. R. 9242

Hon. James A. Hamill, Congressman from the Tenth New Jersey District, introduced a bill (H. R. 9242) which has for its objects the retirement of superannuated and disabled employees of the Civil Service.

In H. R. 9242 a straight-out pension is provided for employees who have reached the age of 60 after 30 or more years of service; the pension shall be 50 per cent of the average annual pay received during the 5 years just before retirement. For employees who have reached the age of 62, after 25 to 30 years' service, a pension of 45 per cent of the average annual pay for the 5 years just before retirement is provided. For those who have reached the age of 65, after from 20 to 25 years of service, this bill gives a pension of 40 per cent of the average annual pay for the 5 years before retirement. No employee shall be kept on active service after reaching 70 years of age.

The bill also provides for total-disability pensions for those 5 years and more in the service upon the following basis: Service of 5 to 10 years, 30 per cent of the average annual pay for the 5 years previous to retirement; service of 10 to 20 years, 40 per cent of the average annual pay; service of 21 years and over, 50 per cent of the average annual pay.

The enactment into law of a measure embodying the principles involved in Mr. Hamill's

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Retirement
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Federal Service

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