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The Carded Woolen Manufacturers Association

OLD SOUTH BUILDING, ROOM 450

BOSTON April 28, 1911

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Yours of the 27th is at hand. I had already read the Evening Post article by Mr. Townsend. It is a mixture of truth and error and bears many marks showing the narrowmindedness of the specialist, that is, a man who has devoted fifty years to one branch of the industry and who exaggerates the importance of the details with which he has been engaged.

Now regarding the effects of the Wilson bill. As I have already told you the statistics of sheep and wool in the United States are practically worthless. We make a practice of avoiding them as far as possible. You will find great difficulty in getting evidence as to whether the sheep men suffered or were benefited by free wool and protection on wool. One thing is certain: the Wilson bill was not in force long enough for the trade and the manufacturers to become adjusted and accustomed to the new conditions.

I am sorry I cannot help you on this, but it is better to avoid erroneous statistics than to use them.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

I-M-T-2

In the heading for your last article the printer, or some else, dropped the word "downward" from the quotation from Senator Dolliver's speech and this impairs the value of the comparison he made between Senator Aldrich and Dr. Cook. Another omission was in connection with the capital stock of the American Woolen Company. In the proof we read you had said that the production should be double the capital stock of a mill conservatively organized. This was omitted which weakened greatly the showing. Possibly you could work it in to your book. We have made many inquiries recently and find that the annual production of a woolen or worsted mill should be three or four times the value of the plant. The American Woolen Company appraise their mill plants at fifty million dollars, which would mean a production of at least One hundred and fifty million, whereas the actual production in a boom year was only forty-eight million, and last year it was so low that the company omitted to give the figures in their annual statement.

Read the editorial from the Wall Street Journal in the Daily Trade Record of April 28, on Secretary Marvin, and also the correspondence in the issue of the 17th between Mr. Dale and Director of the Census Durand.

Yours very truly,

Susan W. Vanner

Dictated

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