CHAMP CLARK, M.C.,
9TH MO. DISTRICT.

WALLACE D. BASSFORD, CLERK.
ROBERT BOWMAN, JR., ASST. CLERK.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U.S.,
MINORITY CONFERENCE ROOM.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 17, 1911.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
C/o. American Magazine,
31 East 17th. St.,
New York.

My Dear Miss Tarbell:

I received your very kind letter for which I thank you. I remember very well your calling at my office in the Capitol.

If what I told you about Delfelder's evidence is not in the hearings it was revised out. I have never seen it since it was printed, but I do know that there were changes made in some of the evidence and it was printed differently from the way it was given before the Committee. When I dragged out of him the very large profits -- $100,000 -- he had made in fourteen years off an investment of $6,000 or $8,000, he started in to tell me how dangerous it was to raise sheep out in that Western country. Whereupon I asked him where he lived prior to going there and he said Western Kansas. Then I requested him to tell the Committee wherein it was any more dangerous to raise sheep in the Rocky Mountain country than it was to drive four mules to a gang plow in Kansas and he said it was not and more to that effect.

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It seems that we are making some headway here.

Your friend,

Champ Clark.

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SCHEDULE K - WOOL, AND MANUFACTURES OF WOOL - J. A. DELFELDER.

Mr. Clark. I want to ask you two or three questions - and it seems like prying into your business, but we want the facts. You went into the sheep-farming business in 1894?

Mr. Delfelder. Yes, sir.

Mr. Clark. How much money did you have then, and how much were you worth in property when you went into the sheep business in 1894?

Mr. Delfelder. Nine hundred and sixty dollars.

Mr. Clark. How much are you worth now.

Mr. Delfelder. That would depend entirely on conditions.

Mr. Clark. Well, counting the thing as it stands, of course I do not expect you to know exactly, but how much do you estimate yourself to be worth now?

Mr. Delfelder. Well it would be quite a bit more than that, I presume.

Mr. Clark. You are wirth over $100,000, are you not?

Mr. Delfelder. Yes, sir; I think that would be a safe estimate.

Mr. Clark. Now, you have made the difference between $950 and what you are worth now - upon which I congratulate you - of over $100,000 in fourteen years - that is, assuming you are worth $100,000 now, you have made $99,050 in fourteen years out of an investment of $950. Is that it?

Mr. Delfelder. That is one way of putting it, but then there are a great many other things to be taken into consideration. The $900 would probably pale into utter insignificance if other things were taken into consideration.

Mr. Clark. What other things could reflect any light on that?

Mr. Delfleder. It is the trials that you have and the hardships that you have to contend with to carry on this business.

Mr. Clark. But we all have to contend with hardships.

Mr. Delfelder. But you take into consideration that we took these sheep from above the timber line, where you might say domestic stock had never been grazed, and graze them on forage that had gone to waste for ages and given that a commercial value.

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Mr. Clark. I know; I am not quarreling with western men. I am one myself, though not as far west as you are, and I think the cream of the country goes out there, if you want me to tell the truth about it - but what I was trying to get at is an honest statement of whether you have made practically $100,000 off of a $960 investment in fourteen years.

Mr. Delfelder. It would appear that way, in one sense of the word.

Mr. Clark. Of course you underwent hardships; adventurous, courageous, and ambitious people go out there, and you went along and took potluck with them, and you are now in a situation to rank up with rich people out West, and you made it all off of an investment of $960 in fourteen years. That is what I was trying to get at. Now, I want to ask you this question, in conclusion: Suppose we scaled down this tariff to, say, 5 or 6 cents a pound - suppose we split it in the middle - do you not think you would go on and make a pretty good living out of it?

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Mr. Delfelder. I do not know whether I would or not, but there is one thing, I do not think I would start in with the business again as I did, for the good and sufficient reason that I would not have the credit back of me that I have under the present conditions.

Mr. Clark. You started in the worst year, according to all the testimony here, that has struck the country.

Mr. Delfelder. Yes; I acknowledge that.

Mr. Clark. If you had nerve enough now, as you evidently did, to embark in the sheep business in 1894 # the worst sheep year, according to all these sheepmen who have been here, and sheep women, too, that has struck the country in the memory of the oldest inhabitants # then do you not think you have nerve enough left with this $100,000 that you have accumulated to go on in the sheep business?

Mr. Delfelder. Well, it would depend entirely upon circumstances. If I wanted to keep on doing something for nothing, yes, sir: but if I wanted to go into a profitable business I think I would seek something else.

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