

ROCHESTER



THREAD CO.

Linen and Cotton Threads

108 MILL STREET

ROCHESTER, N. Y., July 6th, 1909.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Your letter of June 8th was forwarded to me to Canada and by some mischance missed me there entirely. It was returned herethis morning, which will explain my delay in answering.

I return you herewith the anonymous letter you sent me and might say that from the general tone of it I do not think it worthy of much attention. The writer is in the main correct in what he says about the acquisition of the net and twine people by the Linen Thread combination and it is possible this part of it might be used by you to advantage, but it would be necessary to confirm the writer's statements before publication.

"The very Arbitrary Instance" the writer cites about the Linen Thread Co. refusing to sell the fisherwoman in New Brunswick, unless she paid a balance of \$.53, and "The nine mile drive, with the mud up to the hubs" sounds more like Nick Carter's methods than a good argument against The Linen Thread Co's. methods of collecting their bills. Their book-keeping department is entirely separate and distinct from the selling end and it is quite possible that some bookkeeper might be tempted to adopt

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rather stern methods occasionally; but on the whole we think this end of the business ought to be left alone.

As for Mr. W. A. Auger of 33 Fulton St. to whom the writer refers you, I hardly think you could expect much information. I have known Mr. Auger for a good many years and he is going along in a small way in the twine business, but as far as having inside knowledge of the Linen Thread Co's. business, I think you will find he knows next to nothing.

The fishermen insist on having Knox's thread in their nets and as W. & J. Knox of Kilbirne, Scot. are part of the linen thread combination, the Linen Thread Co. use them as a lever to compel reluctant and unwilling net manufacturers to join the combination. I do not know whether this is legal or illegal but it is a perfectly natural move on their part and it has been highly successful for they have succeeded in corraling and rounding up all the net manufacturers that amount to anything. The R. J. Ederer & Co., of Chicago, are, as he says, a strictly independent net manufacturing concern and it is possible your Chicago representative might learn something of value from them. The concern is owned and run by a Jew, Mr. Loeffler I think his name is.

My sympathies are with you. I can see that it is no easy task to separate the wheat from the chaff in the mass of material that must be handed up to you.

Yours very truly,
Robert Crothers