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TELEPHONE MAIN 6986

BOSTON, MASS. Oct. 7, 1910

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

Bethel, Conn.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

The letter you sent has been gone through carefully and is now enclosed with some comments thereon, as you desired, also some clippings which you may find of interest.

The information on the English factory laws we are looking for and will send it as soon as we find anything of value.

Yours very truly,

S. W. Dawner

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

A Wool Importer's Comments on Some of Miss Tarbell's Schedule K Strictures.—Herman Weil berg, president of The Forino Co., Inc., wool importers, Boston, has made some comments on Miss Ida Tarbell's Schedule K strictures, as published in the October issue of The American Magazine, in the following letter:

"Boston, Mass., Sept. 27, 1910.

"Editor DAILY TRADE RECORD: 9/29-10

"I desire to comment briefly on the article entitled 'The Mysteries and Cruelties of the Tariff,' which appears in the American Magazine, although ordinarily, when the tariff begins to get mysterious or cruel, I am not in it. I will, however, try to shed some light on the mysterious article by Miss Tarbell.

"The question of how poor or how rich we are should be taken into consideration in the right way. Surely the deposits in the savings banks in the United States should be studied, to find out how poor those workmen are, who are spoken of. There is more money in the United States savings banks than we owe as a nation.

"If we look to other countries we will find their per capita indebtedness to be much larger than ours. Little Portugal, if I remember rightly, with only 5½ million inhabitants, has a larger national indebtedness than we have in the United States.

"All European countries owe a good deal more money, as a whole, than we do, and they have to provide for all kinds of taxes and incomes to pay their immense interest charge. This places a heavy burden on the poor in foreign lands. It is necessary either to have a revenue and pay as we go along, or go in debt. My the last named method our credit would dwindle every time bonds were issued. Revenue must be obtained for every country whether from matches, as in Germany, or from windows, as in France, or from income taxes or land, as in England. In any event it must be paid by the people at large.

"With our protection and even with the the high tariff (and it must be here admitted, some of the items are too high) we are better off than any other nation in the world. With the tariff income we pay as we go along, and our indebtedness since the last Wilson bill was in effect has decreased.

"I have read a great deal about the mysteries of schedule K, but I have not found anyone so far who can tell us how to get the money to pay our expenses except by a tariff. Take Germany, for example. The workman who has an income of more than 900 marks ($225) has to pay taxes on his income. Will anybody dare to bring those conditions to America?

"It is easy to refute the article on the 'Mysteries and Cruelties of the Tariff' because it is a little on the gold brick line.

"If Miss Tarbell bought a garment for $1.25 in an east side shop, and got cotton instead of wool, that is a misrepresentation, and there are laws to prevent such fraud. Moreover, people should not rely too much on law. Let them look out for themselves when buying 'all wool' goods. Miss Tarbell should consider that our consumption of wool averages more than six pounds per capita per annum, for the United States, and that is a very good average.

"Why have not the writers on Schedule K taken into consideration the quantities of silk we import and compare it with what we imported ten and fifteen years ago. There is more silk worn today than ever in the history of America.

"Evidently the author of the 'Mysteries and Cruelties of the Tariff' wants to get shoddies into our clothing. We are struggling all we can to keep such stuff out of the country. Miss Tarbell quotes this from a letter which Mr. Nichclas Longworth received from a clothier: 'I never handled clothing of such inferior quality as I do now.' Such expressions deserve no consideration whatever. They put pepper and sand in the eyes of the people, and rob them right and left. We are able to produce good clothes and cheap clothes, and everybody can have clothes according to his pocketbook. Clothes which are man-