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THE NORTH AMERICAN
Pennsylvania Packet, 1771: Daily Advertiser, 1784
United States Gazette, 1789: The oldest Daily
Newspaper in America *Philadelphia*

Tuckerton, N. J., May 17, 1907.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

New York, N. Y.,

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Your note of the 15th instant is at hand, and I hasten to reply. Yes, I contributed a three page article to the North American of July 3, 1904--shortly after the Senator's death--entitled: "Twenty Years with Quay". A few weeks thereafter I began a series of weekly articles, of one page each, bearing the same title, about 40 in all, covering the issues of that number of Sundays.

These articles relate more particularly to the politics of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, rather than to National politics---though the latter ground was covered to some extent, also. But I fear they will not help you greatly. I never pretended to know much about the tariff; never wanted to, in fact.

I was private Secretary to Senator Quay when he first went to Washington, in December, 1887; and was associated with him more or less intimately, officially and otherwise, until his death; but I never wrote anything upon the tariff except a single pamphlet, of an historical character, in the Harrison campaign of 1888.



Published in . . . A Twenty-Story Building on the Main Street in the Heart of the City" —*Extract from the Message of Governor Pennypacker to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, January 3d, 1905.*

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I enclose a copy of the section of the North American of July 3, 1904, which cohtains my first article on "Twenty Years with Quay"; though I feel persuaded it will enlighten you not all. I also enclose a pamphlet which I prepared during the Senator's campaign for re-election, in 1898. It makes some reference to the subject you have in hand. Likewise I enclose copy of an editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer the day after his death, which refers incidentally to the same subject.

In a general way I can state that Senator Quay was a forceful factor in the development and passage of the McKinley tariff bill in 1890, and the Wilson tariff bill in 1894.

I was his Secretary in 1890, and well recall being shut up in Washington all that hot, miserable Summer, working over the various schedules of the McKinley bill. The Senator was very anxious to get away, as we had a hot political fight on our hands in Pennsylvania; and the Lord knows I was anxious to get out of that malarious town. The McKinley bill was on the Calendar finally, but ahead of it was the Lodge "Force bill", so-called, having for its object the establishment of more radical machinery to govern Federal elections in the South. The Southern Senators were, it is needless to say, bitterly hostile to the measure, and, though lacking the necessary votes to defeat it by ordinary



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legislative methods, were effectually talking it to death.

Senator Quay was anxious to get down to the tariff bill, which was behind the "Force" bill on the calendar. Finally he effected a deal with the Democratic leaders and a section of the Republican Senators, to which all the Republican leaders ultimately agreed, whereby action on the last-mentioned bill was postponed until Congress should re-assemble in December. Parenthetically it may be added that the Lodge bill never did pass.

Quay was bitterly denounced for this move by the rabid radicals of the North, who were committed to Lodge's monstrosity; but the results justified his action. The way was made clear for the McKinley bill, which was passed in due season, and Congress adjourned.

But the McKinley bill was passed too late--or too early, whichever way you choose to look at it. Before it was really in force, and long before business could be, by the natural laws of trade, at all affected by its operations, the shop-keepers throughout the country put up the prices of all commodities, in every cross-roads store in the land. Coming as it did a few weeks before the November election, the Republican party in many states was beaten--including Pennsylvania, where a Democratic Governor was chosen: though, to a certain extent, local causes were responsible for that disaster. Yet, except for the McKinley



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act, I feel sure we, in Pennsylvania, would have won that election.

The after-effects of the McKinley act were beneficent. But the avarice of the little shop-keepers defeated us in 1890.

I was not in Washington when the Wilson bill was under consideration, and can give you no details of that great contest. But, in a general way, I can say that by Quay's twelve days' speech--with unlimited verbiage in futuro--supplemented by his negotiations with Senator Gorman, who dominated the Democratic end of the situation, the interests of the Pennsylvania manufacturers were fully conserved.

I will thank you to return the papers enclosed, except the section of The North American containing my "Twenty Years with Quay".

Regretting that I cannot aid you more effectively, I am,

Very respectfully, yours,

Frank Willing Leach.



"A Daily Newspaper of Wide Circulation, Published in * * * A Twenty-Story Building on the Main Street in the Heart of the City"—*Extract from the Message of Governor Pennypacker to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, January 3d, 1905.*