

3 Nov 1910 I.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell

Dear Madam

The M'd. tariff is a big subject. Those who concocted it were noted for cunning and greed it is a marvel of deception and double dealing.

R. F. Downing & Co 24 State Street
publish the tariff in convenient shape for reference

I sometimes write to the Evening Post on this subject and I enclose two slips from which information may be of use

If I were working on this subject I would take each schedule and get in communication with dealers in the various lines of goods. on the confidential plan I think information could easily be obtained from reputable business men

The cumulative effect of the tariff should not be overlooked. There are usually 2 or three profits between the importer and the consumer.

I have written to Washington for information which may be of use in your investigations.

The enclosed slips when done with I would like to have returned as I have no duplicates.

Yours respectfully

Thomas Field

1216 Arch St

Philadelphia

High Prices.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:

SIR: A clergyman remarked to me, "My salary is the same as it was ten years ago. The cost of living is 40 per cent. higher."

The tariff is the most prominent cause of this condition, but not the only one. The writer, who is daily brought in contact with the custom house, often wonders that any dutiable merchandise can be imported and marketed.

You have here a few illustrations:

An invoice, foreign, \$1,500 value cotton goods, duty paid, \$1,214.

An invoice, foreign, \$6,000 value, cotton goods, duty paid, \$4,200.

An invoice, foreign, \$412, kid gloves, \$212.

If Mr. Payne's friend, Littauer, had his way, the latter item would have been \$340.

The goods in question are of such a class that the plain people are the victims. Wealthy people would not use them.

One great cause of high prices is the enormous over-issue of paper currency, a large part of which is under a latent state of suspension of gold payments. Whenever there is a monetary stringency, gold can only be had at a premium. Every one is his own banker. Inflation is increased by the flotation of bank checks practically uncurrent taking five to thirty days to collect.

The legal tender act should be repealed; that would be the first step in real currency reform. If the Briton is wise, he will stick to free trade. A small duty is the thin end of the wedge.

ULTIMATE CONSUMER.

• Brooklyn, January 14.

TARIFF AND COST OF LIVING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:

SIR: Why not compare prices in Great Britain with American prices? Prices in the former country are normal, or as nearly so as possible. The writer quotes a few for illustration:

	London.		Duty.		N. Y.	
	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.
200-yard spools sewing cotton	.03	.01				.05
One pair men's socks.....	.18		.08 1/2			.35
One pair women's hose.....	.18		.08 1/2			.35
One pair men's kid gloves... .	.85	.33	1-3			2.25
One pair women's real kid gloves.....	.72	.33	1-3			1.50
One suit men's wool clothing.	17.00		11.00			35.00
One raincoat	11.00		9.00			25.00

The cost of living is made up of innumerable little items, few of which escape the Payne-Aldrich tariff exactions. Five dollars' worth of flour will make enough bread to supply an ordinary appetite for a year.

Commissions to examine costs and prices are useless. Wages constantly vary, are never the same for any great length of time, and are in no two countries the same. Wages and hours of labor vary in this country; Maine and Georgia cotton factories will have different rates and different hours of labor. Automatic machinery is continually reducing the cost of production.

The \$250,000 which the President would like to have to spend on a tariff commission might as well be saved. It looks as though the protectionists are anxious for delay. One is reminded of the lines:

"Promise, pause, prepare, postpone
And end by leaving things alone."

THOMAS FIELD.

Brooklyn, May 25.