TARIFF COMMITTEE
H. E. MILES, CHAIRMAN, RACINE-SATTLEY COMPANY, RACINE, WIS.
J. G. BATTELLE, COLUMBUS IRON & STEEL CO., COLUMBUS, OHIO
JOHN KIRBY, JR., DAYTON MANUFACTURING CO., DAYTON, OHIO
J. E. McINTOSH, McINTOSH, SEYMOUR & CO., AUBURN, N. Y.
D. M. PARRY, PARRY MANUFACTURING CO., INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
DANIEL C. RIPLEY, UNITED STATES GLASS CO., PITTSBURG, PA.
D. A. TOMPKINS, D. A. TOMPKINS CO., CHARLOTTE, N. C.

National Association of Manufacturers
New York, N.Y.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
RACINE, WIS.,

Mar. 10, 1909

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
American Magazine,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell,-

I am going to ask you in advance to pardon me if I seem to write you the same thing twice, or if I send you some disjointed information. In the latter case, I would be glad to clarify upon receipt of questions from you.

I enclose herewith what seems to me a very remarkable typewritten exhibit of the Tariff on wool. I wish it might be much impressed upon the people that Congress is very wrong in referring, as the members of the Ways and Means Committee do constantly, to the Customs House records of duties paid, as evidencing the Tariff percentage. It is perfectly illustrated in the enclosed exhibit. Everybody things that the Tariff on wool is about 40%, and it does average this on importations, but the prohibitive rates are entirely unconsidered in such statements. The heavy, coarse wool- warm and strong- which European peasants and poor people wear, is prohibitive to our people. As you have noticed, a European peasant buys a suit of clothes and it seems to last forever. In fact, as you go through the country, you scarce ever see a suit that looks less than two to five years old. It is because it is made of this good, but inexpensive, wool, as I suppose; that material being prohibited by rates as shown herewith, running from 250 to 750%. Our poor man's packet can only be made by giving him cloth that runs say 30% cotton, 40% shoddy (that is, old rags), and the balance " reasonably defective wool".

In this last connection, please get from the Ways and Means Committee print #50 Wednesday, February 10th, 1909- Tariff Hearings, page 7391, where these percentages are given by Mr. Edw. Moir of Marcellus, N.Y. I suggest that you write Mr. Moir for such information as he can give you. He represents about 800 woolen manufacturers, who, in the language of Mr. Blaine, as quoted by you, are being "protected into retirement". All of Mr. Moir's testimony is wonderfully interesting: For instance, Mr. Fordney of the Ways and Means Committee page 7398 says: "You can see that I am like corn that is in roasting-ear time,-pretty green on the business"- Tariff-Making. When the Ways and Means Committee is supposed to have worked for many months on the woolen schedule and under the hypnotic influence of Mr. Whitman (of whom I believe I spoke to you) of Boston were rigging up an old-fashioned schedule that would wrong everybody, Mr. Moir's crowd and all others were inclined

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

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

to stand pat, as they have under previous Tariffs, praising the Tariff as the foundation of all good; but somehow they have seemed to wake up and split to the great good of the country.

I enclose a reprint from the Textile World Record, also very interesting, and covering the clothing situation. Mr. S. S. Dale, Editor of that paper (Boston) is splendid on textiles and you should be in touch with him.

I hope to send you other information soon. Am just off the cars and can only wedge this in hastily.

You will be glad to know that the big movement which the National Association of Manufacturers has been forwarding under my direction and upon my initiative, has developed into another and larger movement under a "Committee of One Hundred for a Tariff Commission" with two very strong men from each state,- Ex-Governor Guild, for instance, being one of the representatives from Massachusetts, and the work will go on with tremendous push from all the large centers like Boston, New York, Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City.

We must have a Tariff Commission or some sort of Board of Experts whatever our views about the Tariff as an abstract question. We must have the underlying facts developed by high-minded and competent men.

The idea of prohibitive rates mentioned above is illustrated by my "trust table" which I enclose, of which I think I have previously given you a copy. I have not yet received answer to my inquiry on the Farm Tool trust.

Very truly yours,

Chairman Tariff Committee.

HEM-DB

ENC.

DICTATED BUT NOT READ
BY H. E. MILES

P.S. I find that I am entirely out of the reprints from the Textile World, mentioned above, but enclose an article by Mr. Moir on woolens.