UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

FRANK CLARK
COMMISSIONER

July 21, 1929.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Through an inadvertence your letter of the 10th inst. was directed to Commissioner Clark, though it was an answer to a letter I had written you in praise of your splendid article in "Liberty", dealing with the prohibition issue in such a sane fashion that all intelligent people must have greatly admired

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ch. Mr. Clark wants you to know that he heartily shares your views, but he was unaware until your letter came that his secretary (myself) had initiated the correspondence. He was in Congress for 2 consecutive years from the state of Florida and Mr. Coolidge appointed him on the U.S. Tariff Commission where his influence has been, I think, wholly pro bono publico.

There are so many angles to this vexatious matter of the 18th amendment that one cannot even catalogue them in a letter of ordinary scope, but of one thing I am absolutely sure, viz: there will never be a cure and but little more pertinent information than our present stock from the deliberations of Mr. Hoover's Commission, even if he stays on the job

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for the next ten years. Equally certain is that conditions are getting worse all the time instead of better, and right at the present time the situation borders on anarchy while the great body of the public shuts its eyes to the facts, just as the people did over the slavery question in 1860. Poor old humanity locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen. How often has history given us the story.

Later in the summer I expect to be in New York for a few days, and would highly appreciate a talk with you, personally, if you can spare a little time in order to give you some collateral ideas that I wish tax your patience to write. It must have been fully 25 years ago (maybe longer) since I saw you at the Shoreham Hotel one night and asked you for an interview for the Washington Post. You would not talk to the reporter but treated the man with much courtesy.

Sincerely Yours,
Edwin B. Finch

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