

UNITED STATES SENATE.
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

Dubuque, Iowa, April 12, 1907.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
C/o American Magazine,
New York,

Dear Miss Tarbell:

In looking over some postponed letters this morning, I find one from you relating to Mr. George C. Tichnor, a tariff expert, appointed as Special Agent by Hon. John Sherman in 1878. Mr. Tichnor soon developed into a very valuable expert as respects all revenue matters, and was sent abroad several times to make investigations as respects tariff matters. He was continued in the service during President Arthur's administration, and also by Secretary Manning during Mr. Cleveland's first term, and had the confidence of the Secretary and the President. He was detailed in the Department during the whole of Mr. Cleveland's term though a Republican and a moderate protectionist, and was also continued in the same work under President Harrison because of his expert knowledge. He rendered the Committee on Finance of the Senate valuable service in 1888 and also in 1890, when the McKinley bill was considered. He was also valuable to the Committee in its consideration of the bill for the improvement of the administrative features of the tariff, twice passed by the Senate, first in 1887 and again in 1888, and embodied without practical change afterwards in 1890, as a separate measure

Miss I.M.T.-2.

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pending the McKinley tariff bill in the House; and was appointed by President Harrison Chairman of the Board of General Appraisers because of his great knowledge and established integrity of purpose, and because of his especial training for the work, and he continued as such Chairman until he resigned because of long-continued illness.

The Committee did not always take his advice as to rates; he considered a good many of the rates finally recommended by the Committee as higher than was necessary for protection of American manufactures.

I have, perhaps, stated in too much detail Mr. Tichnor's service, but his service cannot be fully gathered from the printed documents of the period as his statements were often in the form of tables and memoranda and comparisons with former rates and were not preserved in the documents now on the files of the Senate Committee.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. R. Allison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".