THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

December 26, 1916.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am extremely sorry to learn from our mutual friend, Colonel House, that you do not feel physically able to undertake the work incident to membership in the Tariff Commission. He tells me how cordially you received the invitation to serve the country in this responsible capacity and how gladly you would make any possible or reasonable sacrifice to respond favorably. While your decision disappoints me greatly, I, nevertheless, realize that you ought not to be asked to do anything that would imperil your health or impose upon you greater burdens than you feel able to carry. The work will be exacting and perhaps trying because of its inherent difficulties, and I would not want any friend of mine to undertake it who might not be able to stand the strain.

Your work on the tariff, which I had the pleasure and privilege of reading some years ago, convinced me long before I knew you of your unusual ability, and I feel sure that the country would have been greatly benefitted if you had been able to accept membership in the Commission.

Believe me, dear Miss Tarbell, with warm regards and very best wishes for the New Year,

Cordially yours,



Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 East 19th Street,
New York, N. Y.

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