Detroit, Mich. Aug. 22, '10.

Miss Ida Tarbell;

And you are at it again, trying to make the people feel miserable over the "exactions and iniquities" of the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Bill! I am wondering where you get the information as to prices and conditions of trade.

Why, in my housekeeping experience of over fifty years, I have never known such low prices on everything that I have to buy for family use, except ~~as to~~ provisions, as now.

Clothing is selling by our large department stores at astonishingly low prices, blankets do., underwear neve cheaper, hosiery do., gloves also. Lonsdale and Fruit of the Loom muslins, advs. at eight to nine cts a yard. I bought gloves that are duitable at $4,00 per doz"., at 33 1/3 cts. a pair, the exact amount of the duty upon them. Who paid the tariff on these gloves is puzzling me. Why, I have a flat building; most of my tenants are women, and it is astonishing the amount of stockings they through into the "discard", monthly, which I have to destroy or, put into the rag back for the peripatetic waste seeker. Why, hosiery is so cheap that these women will not take the time to "darn 'em" preferring to buy new ones instead.

The garments they throwawy, waists, half worn, dresses, partly worn. shoes which ~~half~~ half soleing or a mending would do for month or two longer, why, times are so prosperous that they won't economise in any way.

I commenced housekeeping in '59, under that blessed Walker Tariff, lauded today by those in favor of "tariff for revenue", only, British free trade, and then eight yds., of calico was thought suficient for a woman's dress. No sewing machines then. I bought eggs at five cts. a doz. farmer's wives would bring in their eggs to the mer chants and trade twenty doz. to get that eight yds. of calico. I bought flour at $1,50 per hundred weight, beef, hind quarter, for two and 1/2 cts. per lb.

Clothing, imported goods, rotten stuff, mostly, cost me more thn tha now; hardware, nails, tools, I was a mechanic, double what I could buy the same tools now. And wages/ well, $1,00 to 1,50 was good wages.

Today, I can buy a set of imported table ware, 100 pieces, nicely decorated, right here in Detroit, for from $4,00 to $10,00 such as used to cost me under that "benificent tariff", double. Wanting a lock for a door a short time ago I went into a retail hardware store and got one, pocelain knobs, escutcheon, screws, trimmings for 25 cts. A carpenter friend told me he could have gotten it for me for 15 cts! 45 1/2 tariff on it at that. Give it to me with a premium had it not been for that "iniquitous" tariff! Same way with the gloves. That 4,00 per doz. tariff taken off no doubt the merchant would have given me an extra pair for nothing! There nevr has been a time when the average working man could buy the needed articles for his family for less price than now and have more money to buy them with.

Provisions ARE high. It takes four years to prepare a steer for

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Provisions ARE high. It takes four years to prepare a steer for market. In that time there are some million more mouths to eat it. A hog takes about a year to ripen for market. A million more eaters are waiting to eat him. There are milions less of cattle, hogs, sheep, and food producing annimals in the country now than ten years ago with added millions according to the late census to eat 'em.

Come to Detroit, look over the stocks here; buy fo. samples. Guess you do not do your own buying but let some one else d' it for you and add on to the price. I do wish that those who want lower tarif or tariff for revenue only," could get it and not hurt those wh do not want it. Take the tariff off one thing, it has to be put on another to get revenue. Take it off sugar, put it on tea and coffee. What would ya you do for money to run the Govt.? Reduce tariff on shoes, put it on ha hat. I think that the five and ten year olds tha t were not voters seventeen years ago want to "have a change." I think they will get it.

Looks to me as if we would have a democratic House next fall. Like as not

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and a democratic adns. in ''12. If we do, then history will repeat itself. The Coxey annies will parade the streets: manufacturers will commence, as soon as it is known, to revise their business, cut down output, reduce their forces as a flood of foreign goods will rush in as in the past and our workers will be on the ramp as always has been the case when our democratic friends were in power.

Harpers' always wanted free trade and they came pretty near getting it when Clevelnad was in. They were under in it and Morgan came to their help and gave them another lease of life. They are not satisfied yet. They are at it again and a lot of magazines are helping them and like the baby on the car when it wanted to catch the wasp, it got it.

Well I am an old man, now, 76 last March and I may not live to see the distress that will come when you and the like who want low or revenue tariff get it. But remember what an old man tells you, you'll see business stagnation, want, idle thousands, and distress generally with a falling off advs. and subs. to muck/raking, free trade magazines and a corresponding cut on their writers.

Another item. Potatoes were selling a short time ago at Traverse City, Mich. at 12 1/2 cts. a bushel with a tariff of 25 cts. on them. Queer, Queer, was'nt it. Come to Detroi, our standing motto is, "In Detroit, Life is Worth Living."

When my subs. expires with the American, (falsely named), it ought to Be British, "I shall not renew. No free trade, muckraking magazine for me.

H. Parker, 512, 4th. Detroit, Mich.

P. S. While Aldrich, Payne, et all are and have long been engaged in promoting and operating in mills and factories, giving employment to thousands, the Bristows, La'follettes, Cummingses, Beveridges, and others all lawyears, are doing nothing practically to give the working men help help, making long winded speeces in Senate and House, playing to the galleries, and finding fault with every body who does not see as they do. Did you notice that these Senators got the duty on barley increased from 20 cts a bushel to 30, to protect THEIR constituents from the heaper raised barley of Canad? Then, satisfied that the bill would go through without their help, voted against it! Patriots, they. Got what they wanted and kicked because others got what they wanted. Gnsenlfish patriots! Excuse "Brevity" in an old man.

Ps. # 2. I call your attention to the closeing of cotton mills all over the country and thousands of operatives thrown out of employment. Last year we imported over $70,000,000 of manf, cotton goods. This year they are importing more. Cotton bought in the South, transported to England, there manf., shipped back, duty paid and underselling the people/merchants in the very cities where the cotton was bought! Money going abrod to keep foreign workers busy and our own idle! Nice, ain't it? Good by

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