House of Representatives U.S.
Washington, D.C.

June 30, 1911.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
381 Fourth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Your favor of the 27th instant, in reference to the Sugar Schedule, reached me on my return to Washington this morning after a few days absence.

The Ways and Means Committee has as yet given no definite consideration to the Sugar Schedule or as to what should be done with it. The real difficulty confronting us is that this schedule produces fifty-two millions of dollars of revenue and with a deficit in the public treasury it can not be dispensed with until some thing else is put in its place. The differential on refined sugar that protects the American sugar refiner could probably be dispensed with without any material loss of revenue, and if the only thing intended was a tax on the refiner of sugar the purpose could probably be accomplished in this way, but I take it that the real reform aimed at by the American people is to grant relief to the consumer. The tax on sugar is a per capita tax and falls as heavy on the poor man as it does on the rich man; it is not distributed in any way in accordance with the wealth of the country. It has always been my judgment that to tax food products is the worst form of taxation. I can not tell you what will be done with this schedule

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as we have reached no definite conclusion as to how to handle the subject, but I believe and hope that before this Congress is over we will have reached a solution of the question that will prove satisfactory to the American people.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

O W Underwood

[Oscar] W. Underwood

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