The Editor, American Magazine.

Dear Sir:

I trust you will open the columns of your magazine to just such silly rot as that which appears in the March number entitled — "Where every penny counts." Like all women she makes statements true or false, and deduces facts (?) from them, no matter how outlandish those deductions may be. She says there are 5,000,000 farmers in this country whose average income is only $350. per year. Is the woman dreaming? and this in the face of the fact that all the states having Agricultural departments have announced that

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the year 1908 has been the most prosperous
farming in its entire history. last
year the farmer received better prices
for his products, than he received
in any other year. and this during a
period of great business depression.
$350 a year!!! why the little school
children on the vacant lots in the
city of Philadelphia can do better
than that. I have a neighbor
whose back garden is only one
eighth of an acre. yet last year
in his spare time he managed to
to make over $150. on the Lima beans
cabbage. peas etc. and had plenty
for his family of five all Summer
and Fall. The farmer to-day like
the mechanic is better fed. better

housed and better clothed than
ever he was. there was a big fair
for in Berks County. this State.
some months ago and several farmers
drove in in autos. Oh God of Heaven
I wish the poor Irish peasant in his
mud cabin or the poor Scotch
Crofter in the Highlands of Scotland
or poor "Hodge" in the rural districts
of England could behold their
prosperous looking brothers in this
country. with their fine farm houses
substantial barns and every modern
convenience at hand. Ah the poor
farmers in Great Britain and
Ireland under absolute Free trade.
their lot is certainly a sorry one
compared to the lot of our farmers
under the "Robber Tariff". This woman.

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Ida Tarbell. takes the conditions that prevail in New York City with its teeming millions necessitating millions of tons of food yearly to be transported enormous distances over well equipped railroad systems whose employees receive in wages fully one third to one half more than do the employes of short railroads in free trade England. She takes these conditions in New York as representing conditions generally over the country. again I ask is she woman dreaming? Why did she not visit the thousands of large and small manufacturing towns with their comfortable homes, some of them almost luxurious compared

to former times. there are two towns here where I live. one on each side of a narrow river. the population of which combined is about 5.000 they have about twenty mills and foundries large and small the employes of which earn. those in the foundries from $3.00 to $7.00 per day and those in the four glass works from $6.00 to $9.00 per day. in the hosiery mills young women make on piece work as high as $9.00 to $10.00 per week. in these two towns of 5.000 there are no less than 200 pianos in the homes of the people. each house. even those of the ordinary laborer. are

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neatly and comfortably furnished. Such a state of things in Free Trade England is totally unknown, and all the large and small manufacturing towns throughout the country can present the same state of affairs. "The Tariff enables the manufacturer to extort from the consumer more than he is entitled to" and yet there is not in these two towns one manufacturer who lives in a better house or is better fed or clothed than many of his employees and when a panic occurs he fels it as acutely as any of the employees. he has to go out in market and sell his goods as cheaply as do his competitors. of course there are men like Rockefeller. Carnegie.

and others. and. at what period of the world were there not enormously rich people? some people will become rich no matter what the fiscal system of the country in which they live may be. but the great mistake of writers & speakers like Ida Tarbell is that they give the people to understand that the hundreds of thousands of small manufacturing concerns are like those controlled by Rockefeller Carnegie etc. if every vestige of the Tariff were to be swept away to-day we would still have Croesus with us. The following is an extract from "Metropolitan and Rural home". April 1909. "The farmers for several years have been earning from five billions

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to seven billions of dollars. and this year the figures will probably reach eight billions. They have money in bank. own autos. are the real aristocracy of the country. No longer is the farmer the long whiskered. top booted gawk of the cartoonist. He has a telephone in his house. His mail is delivered at his door every day. His daughters take music lessons. He sends yr to college. There are some laggards in every business. but the farmer who fails to make a living. a good living. in these days must live on some hardscrapple land or else have himself to blame for his poor

condition." This woman Ida Tarbell gives an instance of a young woman who is obliged to buy a pair of $2.00 shoes every month and complains that her wages will not allow her to make that expenditure unless she skimps herself in other ways. after reading such a statement I can scarcely contain myself. How can any employer afford to give the hundreds of his employees a rate of wages that will enable them to spend $24. per year on shoes alone. I work in a foundry, the work of which is most laborious and my expenses for shoes in the year is not more than one third of $24. again I ask is the woman crazy?

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Last year I was over in Ireland and Scotland for seven weeks and the conditions of the working class there as compared to those in this country was simply appaling. In Harlds Cross. Dublin there are two or three cotton mills and I watched the girls and young women going to and from their work without a stitch of shoes or stockings on their feet. In Glasgow every morning I saw hundreds of Scotias fair daughters in the months of August and September going to work every morning many of whom had no shoes or stocking on they wore a coarse cotton petticoat no dress a cheap calico wrapper and

plaid shawl. when I compared these women with the army of well dressed girls and women. with their fancy open work shirt waists and merry widow hats that a person encounters on the streets of every American city and town. I thanked God that I lived in America. And all this I have described is in a free trade country where every thing is taxed except imports. The working man pays four pence (8¢.) per oz. for his tobacco. 3s 6d. (72¢) per lb tax. his tea is taxed. his coffee is taxed. his income over $500 pays 5 per cent tax to the government. all kinds of spices are taxed. Sugar is

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tized. every evening you will see thousands of workingmen lounging around in the parks wearing the same clothes that they worked in during the day. they save their good clothes for Sunday wear. here in this country after 6 o'c you can not distinguish the man of manual labor from his employer. Steel rails are free of duty. also the material that enters into the construction of locomotives and passenger cars yet the third class "carriages" that the masses of the people are compelled to travel in are cattle cars compared to the splended well lighted, well ventilated and well appointed ordinary passenger coaches here. the work-

ingman in this country can take his family and board an express train and it will not cost him one cent more than he would have to pay on an ordinary accomodation train. In fact in trade England if he wishes to travel on an express train he will have to pay double fare (2½ per mile) for second class transportation. and if he is not very well dressed he will be told to wait for the next train. They do not run third class "carriages" on express trains over there. all the "carriages" are divided into compartments. no drinking water. no toilet rooms. none of the many conveniences that are

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found on our splendid rail roads in America. all this and much more in Free trade England. There is a great amount of misery in the large cities in this country but much of it is due to the pure cussedness inherent in human nature. The cities are continually receiving an influx from the rural districts on the one hand and from the steamboats from Europe on the other. Consequently as the cities are totally unable to provide employment and decent quarters for this mob that is continually pouring in there is bound to be hardship and misery. but for Gods sake don't blame

the Tariff for this. Two years ago every State in the Union was crying out for help. how many of the denizens of the East side responded to that cry. Oh no. these people in their rags and misery are far more content than if they had ten acres to till and live on. Just try it Mr. Editor. take some of these families and put them out on the land give each of them ten acres and see how long they will stay. inside of two years they will be back again on the Bowery. with its electric lights and moving picture shows. But don't blame the Tariff. There are forty odd States in the

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Union each a nation in itself and all enjoying absolute Free trade among themselves. all of them collectively producing everything that a human being needs in this world and nevertheless we are a nation of infernal kickers. abuses spring up and continue but it is through the indifference of the masses of the people. for seven months in the year the nation goes base ball crazy. then just ab the season is over it is called upon to exercise the sacred functions of the ballot and not one of the thousands of rooters and fans has any idea of the questions they are about to vote on. but if anything goes wrong blame the

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Tariff. There are in England to-day. under absolute Free trade, millionaires and enormously rich manufacturers on the one hand and poorly paid underfed men and women on the other. and strange as it may seem the necessaries of life. clothing coal and house rent. are nothing cheaper than they are in America. I quote from the "Northern Whig" Belfast. Sept. 12th & 19th

Butter. firkin.	1. 2.		28¢
" print.	1. 4.		32
Potatoes per 14 lbs.	8		16
Chickens per pair.	5. 0.	$1.	25
Beef. ordinary	7		14
" better quality	10.		20
Steak " fancy	11/14.		22/28.

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Mutton.	7.& 10.	14¢.	20¢
Sausages	8	16	
Ham	1. 0	24	

The 2½d (tuppence haipenny) loaf is not much larger than our 5¢ one.

When boarding the Boat at Greenock I bought some papers to read on the way over. among them was the "Scotsman" the leading North British paper. and this is what it says in a long article on the condition of the unemployed.

Septr. 19. 08. a "It seems but yesterday that the country was rejoicing in a booming trade and abounding prosperity. and Free traders were appealing

to the steadily rising Board of Trade returns of exports and imports as positive proof that all was well under Free trade. 'The soundest fiscal system in the world.' Yet the country is suddenly struck with a most disastrous business depression." What have Free traders to say to this?

In conclusion I may say that we labor under many evils but hysterical. highly colored articles. containing false premises and false conclusions like the one you published from the pen of Ida Tarbell will never remedy them.

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