

Bank of Harrisonville

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Harrisonville, Mo., March 6 " 1907

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Madam : I am sending you with today's mail some data which will aid you in arriving at a true estimate of the character and work of Dudley C. Haskell.

It appears from the family history that the Haskell and Chases of Vermont were old time Whigs. That about 1833, Dudley Haskell's grandfather and uncle became interested in a woolen factory. Circumstances seemed most favorable for abundant success. The Uncle Haskell was mechanical manager-~~what~~ which would now be called engineer. With the repeal of the tariff a little later ruin overtook the enterprise and the Haskell children were taught to hate free traders. It appears that the teaching was successful and the later generations despised the free trade doctrine in the true Puritan fashion.

From all accounts Mr. Haskell was a tireless student. He was educated at Yale, had some military experience, studied law history, politics, but was always particularly interested in industrial questions.

He was elected to the Kansas legislature when he was 29 years of age. Became speaker at 33, and was sent to Congress at 34.

His work in Congress is best told in the memorial volume comprising the speeches of his colleagues- especially those of Ryan of Kansas, Kelley of Penn. and Brown of Indiana.

"Savoyard" claims that Kelley taught Haskell how to view the tariff question. Although Haskell relatives dispute this contention, it is quite probable that Kelley wielded a considerable influence over him. Kelley was often at the Haskell home in Washington, in conference on the tariff. The ill health of Kelley compelled him to leave the floor work to a stronger man, and Kelley exchanged his seat with Haskell in order to give him a seat nearer the Speaker. Farwell of Chicago then sat next to Haskell, but he kindly relinquished his right to this desirable seat and arranged the matter so that Kelley and Haskell could sit side by side.

I will enclose some personal letters, newspaper clippings and some typewritten notes which may serve your purpose. Some are entirely eulogistic, and will only serve to show the estimation in which the writer held him.

As to his power on the stump I know of no better description than that of his old pastor in "Pioneer Days in Kansas" which volume I mail to you, marked.

In addition to his work on the tariff, Mr. Haskell rendered conspicuous service in legislation touching upon polygamy, and upon Indian affairs. Through his efforts an Indian school was established at Lawrence, Kansas, which bears his name.

I shall be glad to respond promptly to any further inquiries you may be disposed to make.

Yours Truly

