Post-Office.
Mound City. Kansas.
March.3rd. 1907.

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

My Dear Miss Tarbell.

For a month your appreciated favor concerning Mr Dudley C Haskell.and his work in the Congress of 1883.has been lying on my desk patiently awaiting some sort of recognition.

I presume that I might satisfy myself with some sundry excuses for this apparent negligence of one.whose writings I have the greatest admiration. But I will add one excuse-that I really feel.that I cannot do the subject that you set before me,that justice that it so richly merits.

However-coming directly to the matter before us.will preface by stating,that I was chosen without expectation or solicitation on my part,by Mr Haskell,as in a way his Secretary,but more particularly.as Clerk of The Committee on Indian Affairs.of which Mr Haskell was made Chairman by Speaker,Hon.Warren Keifer.of Ohio.

Mr Haskell,at that session of Congress,was also a member of The Ways and Means Com of the House.then under the chairmanship of Hon.William.D Kelly of Penn. Associated with him.was that distinguished Statesman William McKinley.and between whom -the three of them-Kelley.Haskell and McKinley.the closest personal as well as political friendship subsisted.

At the meeting of this Ways and Means Committee.it was resolved on the part of the Republican membership.that there should be brought before the House a Tarif Bill.

After much waiting and at the end of the most vigorous research,the bill was brought into the House. Thereupon a caucus of the Republican supporters of the protective policy was held. At this caucus Mr Kelly announced that I as now call to mind - that he was now an old man -in failing health and not possessed of the physical ability to more than assume nominal leadership of the strenous discussion that the provisions of the bill would necessarially engender. That inasmuch as the caucus had named as his associates on the committee in charge of the bill,Mr Haskell of Kansas.and Mr McKinley of Ohio,he asked that the real leadership of the controversy be left to "these boys of mine"-as he pleasantly termed them.

Upon the part of the Democrats ,the caucus selected Mr Carlisle of Ky.Mr John Randolph of Va.and Mr Morrison of Ill,better known afterwards as "Horrisontal Bill".

The debate on this bill was long and often acrimonious. The Democrats were ably led by that really great leader John.G Carlisle who assumed-practically-the entire

Digital Image, 2009, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

control of the Democratic [redacted] of the controversy. Especially pitted against him was Mr Haskell . I distinctly remember as a relieving incident in this discussion - that at one time, when the verbal mercury was =so speak6"up in G", a member from some Dist in Ill-one Townshend, made a violent assault upon some[illegible] fact asserted by Mr Haskell, in reply to which Mr Haskell, in the heat of the moment, denounced as an unqualified, absolute, intentional falshood. There was much confusion at the moment. Haskell stood in his place near the center of the Republican side of the House, tall, square shouldered, white as the shirtfront he wore and by his appearance gave all to underst and that he was in deadly earnest in his declaration.

The next morning Mr Morrison called on Mr Haskell at his office rooms in the basement of a boarding house on eight street, N.W as the next friend of his colleague Mr Townshend, with the pre-emptory demand that Mr Haskell make public retraction of his offensive utterance of the previous day, otherwise he Mr Morrison, would feel obliged to request Mr Haskell to name some gentleman that could confer with him concerning further remedies for reparation of wounded honor. Mr Haskell heartily laughed at the proposition of prospective settlement on the near-by field at Bladensburg, but with all seriousness notified Mr Morrison to assure his warlike principal, that so long as his statement stood of record, that his assertion as to its falsehood would stand against it. Mr Morrison called on Mr Haskell once or possibly twice after this in relation to the matter, but like other storms of similar character, it passed away without the shedding of blood.

Mr Haskell was a brave man without the least semblance of bluster or bravado. He was a fearless actor in the often bloody scenes in the early settlement of eastern Kansas and an expert with all the weapons of war familiar alike to all western men of that early time.

Mr Haskell was a tireless worker in his preparation for the defense of the measure that was delegated to his watchful care. He sought information from the working man of the shops. He had brought to his office rooms representatives of the organizations of labor. He asked for the methods of production of the various manufactures of the country. He delved into the uses for this and that specialty. He found the cost of the raw material, from whence it came, and cost of labor in producing. He sought the difference in wage for like labor here, and in foreign country that sought competition with American industry. He consulted with the capitalist and with his foreman alike. He gave his nights for weeks long into the small hours, seeking fortification in defense of this or that specially assailed item by the alert and eloquent leader of the minority. Many of the wide-margined copies of that lengthy bill was festooned with his memoranda of information derived direct from the hand that patterned the item, and who knew of its cost and worth. Thus Mr Haskell

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

in daily consultation with Mr Kelly, and often and again Mr McKinley met Mr Haskell at his office rooms, and both of them entered into discussion with laborers and manufasturers, into the minute details of their various business, and so became complete masters of debate.

As I have stated, Mr Haskell was tall, two inches above six feet in stature, of fine feature, of impassioned and eloquent speech, ever on the alert for, and most ready in reply to the sophistry of the free-trade theory with which Democracy has for so long been so greviously afflicted, and in support of which it had a most able and eloquent advocate in that amiable gentleman from the "blue-grass" of Kentucky.

At last, after roll call and division, time after time, on this attempt at amendment, erasure or interlineation, the hour came when the Congress had to adjourn. It was Sunday March 4th. The bill was on for final action. Haskell denied all attempts to side track it in order to allow this or that measure a moments time. He stood in place, and notified all that nothing could or should be done, until that House should pass or kill the bill. The bill passed. The Congress adjourned.

He came back to his constituency worn out with his strenous labors of the session. The campaign for his return to the succeeding Congress was on early. Into this he entered with the enthusiasm of his impassioned nature. He was returned by his constituency, and dragged his wornout body to his rooms in the Grant Place in Washinton from which his body was removed with reverential tenderness, on the 18th day of December, to the train that bore it to his home place in Lawrence, Kansas, where it was laid to its final rest.

While he had not taken the oath as a member of that Congress (whose number I do not now call to mind) Yet that Congress had convened and Mr Carlisle had succeeded Mr Kiefer, as Speaker of the House, and who upon learning of the death of his esteemed antagonist, called and expressed his great sorrow at the loss sustained by his family, and near personal friends, as well as by the country at large. Mr Carlisle was largely instrumental in secureing the appropriation of a years salary to his widow, who was left without, at the time, of the means to meet daily expenditure.

Such was the purity of the personal character of this truly great man, that he had not a dollar at the hour of his death that he could call his own.

One further scene in this sad hour, and I will close, trusting that you will look with some degree of patience on my length of writing.

On the morningof the 18th. December, I went to the rooms of Mr Kelly who lived nearby and called upon him with the notice of the death of Mr Haskell. The dear old man sunk into his chair, and with his arms upon the desk before him, with his venerable head bowed down, burried in his arms, he broke forth in sobs. A moment later he recovered somewhat his composure, and said "Mr Smith, Pardon my emotion. I loved that man as though he were my own son"

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

"The death of this man is not alone a loss to his family and his near friends, nor alone to his state, and his constituency. It is more than that . It is a national los s. For I assure you I know of no one of his age, with so bright a hope, and so fair a promise before him, as had he." With bowed head and a kindly assurence of his sym pathy for his wife and children, he shook my hand bade me good bye. And he too has joined "the inuumerable caravan" that we poor mortals would fain poeple a better world than ours.

Now. My Dear Lady. I feel that you have done me great honor in calling on me to write you about the subject of this letter, and let me further assure you that if you take the time to read what I have put on paper here to night. that you are entitled to the medal for patience.

With hopes for your health and welfare
I have the honor to remain
Sincerely your admiring friend.

Possibly you can glean something from the foregoing that will merit a reply acknowledging its reciept.

Edwin. R Smith

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.