THE COMMONWEALTH SHOE & LEATHER CO.

BOSTON

July 9, 1910.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

R.F.D. #2,

Bethel, Conn.

Dear Madam:--

Yours of the 8th was duly received. Please excuse my delay in forwarding the copy of the letter of Sen. Hale. This, you will find enclosed. This was written to one of his constituents, Mr. R. P. Hazzard, of Gardiner, Maine, who headed a delegation from Maine, that visited Sen. Hale in Washington, and obtained his promise of support. He wrote Mr. Hazzard a letter, early in May, that was so obscure in some of its expressions, that we did not quite understand whether he meant to go back on his promise to support Free Hides, or not. I, therefore, dictated a letter which Mr. Hazzard signed, under date of May 15th, which drew forth the answer dated May 31st, copy of which I send you. As long as he had gone back on us, we felt obliged to make him state it as explicitly as possible. You know these old-fashioned politicians are pretty careful how they put themselves on record on paper, but this letter is sufficiently explicit, I think, to be understood by every one.

The simple fact was, as hinted at in one of these paragraphs, Mr. Hale was unable to see a majority for some of the schedules he was especially interested in, without

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the votes of the Senators from the Northwest; and they would not vote for his schedules, without he would agree to support a duty on hides. Consequently, he threw over the Shoe and Leather industry of Maine, and made the best explanation to his constituents that he could.

I hope this letter will be of service to you. In regard to Shoe Machinery, the situation is changing very rapidly. A newspaper contest has started between Mr. Plant and the United Shoe Machinery Company, and so far Mr. Plant has got the best of it. The publication of his statement, containing the opinions of many lawyers, that their leases were of no value, and unenforceable, caused a collapse of their Common stock in the market yesterday, and I understand further developments along the same line may be expected. I presume you will get these particulars from the daily papers.

Very truly yours,

Chas. H. Jones

Enc.

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