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National Association of Manufacturers
New York, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

RACINE, WIS., 12-26-08

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

341 5th Ave., N. Y.

Dear Madam:-

Answering yours of the 22nd, the duty on machinery upon which textiles are made is 45%. As a rule the makers of machinery in this county feel if the rest of the tariff were made honest and fair, steel especially, the duty upon machinery could be very greatly reduced, if not entirely eliminated.

As a matter of fact a committee of eight or nine machinery makers who were in Washington a couple of weeks ago said they could stand free trade if the rest of the tariff were made fair. I think, however, this would be hard on them, for as a matter of fact our tariff, by preventing importations, has enabled our machinery makers to be careless and if Germany should ship a little machinery in here it would be found enough better made and better wearing (more like a \$100.00 watch) than the American. Certain it is that great reductions in duty could be made and the incentive given our people to be more careful in manufacture would be healthy.

I recommend that you write W. A. Graham Clark, Expert, Bureau of Manufacturers, Washington, D. C. if you wish to make inquiries on woolen goods and their manufacture. He has studied this proposition in the U. S/ and abroad and his Hearing, in part at least, before the Ways & Means Committee December 11th immediately following mine, will be found interesting, I think. I do not like to say this as coming from Mr. Clark, but as coming from good authority I say that some of the machinery used in textile manufacture in this country costs the price of foreign machines plus substantially the entire duty, the high price being to a great extent unnecessary and unreasonable burden upon the manufacturer and ultimately upon the consumer. You can make this statement without fear of question. Some one may object that certain machines do not come under the statement, but that will be immaterial, though true.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell--

On the articles you name along the left hand margin of your sheet I would name off-hand the following duties. Cloth for the poor man about 130%. A \$10.00 coat which you name would contain the maximum of shoddy and of cotton and the minimum of good wool. The duty on that, like as not, would run 175%. The good wool in it would bear duty of 11%, steel so far as it was embodied in the machinery 45%.

It is a curious feature that the duty on ready-made clothing coming into this country is about 95% and the duty on the woolen cloth from which the clothes are made would run, as stated on the poor man's coat 130% to 160% indicating that the woolen manufacturers were on guard and got their graft, while the clothing importers were less efficiently organized and got a great deal less and yet prosper with the less duty.

Yours very truly,



HEM-BA

DICTATED BUT NOT READ
By M. E. MILES