No signature

Danville, Ill.,
February 26, 1907.—

Editor American Magazine,
141-147 Fifth Ave. New York,
Sir:

In your March number, Ida Tarbell refers to removal of duty on tea & coffee by act of 1873. It may interest her to know that the removal followed only after the foreign & domestic syndicate had secured the crops of the two years subsequent thereto, and further that said seeming reduction did not lower the price of tea & coffee to the consumer. It was intended as a sop to the tariff reform clamor, and undoubtedly was the joint production of the congressional and outside joints in protecting their interests.

About the same time the duty on matches was removed and great orders were forwarded to Sweden for supplies in competition with home trust; this removal was circumvented by John Sherman at the instigation of Senator Goldthwaite, of Ala., and the Akron branch of the trust. Sherman decided that while the matches were free the boxes containing them were subject to a duty.

I send these items thinking they may be suggestive & that Miss Tarbell may see in them some incentive to greater use of her investigating powers, which are simply wonderful.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1894-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library.