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The Carded Woolen Manufacturers Association

OLD SOUTH BUILDING, ROOM 450

BOSTON March 2, 1911

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

Palp Alto, Calif.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

A few days ago we sent you Mr. Wm. Wood's speech at Philadelphia clipped from the Daily Trade Record and noted on the margin that the word "damnable should be damaging." This was said in private conversation, but as there has been no public disclaimer of the thing as reported in the Daily Trade Record we have concluded that the word used was "damnable" as reported. He probably does not want to deny it publicly on account of the great number of persons who were present at the dinner and heard it.

Now regarding the adulteration of goods. We have been waiting to get an estimate of the production of a worsted comb from a worsted comber before writing you in regard to it, but not hearing from him today we will not wait any longer but give you our idea of it. According to the census of 1905 there were 1440 combs in the United States, outside of carpet mills. It is not known how many are running now, but assuming the number to be 1500^{and} the average production of a comb is 400 pounds of top per day of ten hours, we have a daily production for the 1500 combs of 600,000 pounds of top, equal to 180,000,000 pounds of

I-M-T-2

top per year, if the 1500 combs run steadily for 300 days of ten hours each. Assuming the population of the country to be 90,000,000 of people, this is equal to 2 pounds of top for each person a year. In manufacturing worsted top into worsted cloth there is a shrinkage of approximately 25 per cent, so that the worsted combs of this country produce 24 ounces of pure worsted cloth per year for each inhabitant. This is the kind of cloth that Wood showed at the Washington meeting as proof of the high grade of American goods. Twenty-four ounces of cloth is an insignificant amount for clothing any human being, and necessarily the additional quantity of wool material must be made up by carded woolen goods, only 12 per cent of which were represented at the Washington meeting. We thought you would be interested in these figures which give new light on the inside character of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers.

Yours very truly,

Susan W. Dawson