Pelletier

UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

FRANK CLARK
COMMISSIONER

Sept. 4, 1929.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Under separate cover I am sending you the completed speech of Gov. Ritchie, which in my opinion is a masterly discussion of the perennial question, and I say that in spite of the fact that in a personal way I dislike

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Ritchie greatly. He is no man to lead in a high cause. It is curious how often in life we are in (theoretic) affiliation with those for whom we have slight regard.

It seems to me that you, with your logical and penetrating mind, might well answer the rather foolish utterances of Henry Ford, in re his statement about closing his plants shows "Love Come back." Bless old Henry's heart, has it not dawned on him that Love has never gone away? If ever there

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was an "innocent abroad" it is this same H. Ford – so innocent that on the witness stand he admitted lack of knowledge that such a man as Benedict Arnold lived; also in another case did not know that his own paper the Dearborn Independent had been conducting an anti-Jewish crusade for a number of years. I have no animus against him; he is an extraordinary man in some ways and has done no little good in the world but in things outside his own line is a bungling dunce. Furthermore, if he is so determined in his war on the rum demon why does he

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Operate automobile plants in various European Countries where liquor never was and probably never will be Contraband? If he were not a modern Croesus he would be an object of general derision — it is literally a case where money talks.

I don't suppose Miss Tarbell, you ever saw a whisky still in action. A few days ago I had that high privilege and where do you suppose was the scene of its

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Operation? Only four miles from the portals of Mt. Vernon. A friend of the moonshining owner vouched that I was no snooper and he obligingly showed us to the spot, a wooded glen, traversed, no doubt, many a time by the immortal Washington. The fellow has been distilling corn there in undisturbed security for seven years; he boasts of the quality of his stuff from which he has made a small fortune by sales in Washington and Alexandria. Now, I ask you if such raw work can be executed in such proximity to Mrs. Willebrandt for that long a period how in the name of Common sense can any save fanatics think

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the business can be extirpated?
Do you think Mr. Hoover is
optimistic as to that? What will
his illustrious Commission tell the
American people after wandering
on the problem so long that
most folks will have for-
gotten that the Commission
is in existence? You will recall
that Mr. Hoover spent over 2
years in the one country where
everyone drinks more or less
and where the leading products
of fine malt goods are given
given titles of distinction.

As I wrote you
previously I am in advance
of you, having grown up in the

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7/ South, and, in the plastic days of Youth, even sympathizing with the abominable institution of slavery. That curse only endured by reason of the dirty money it brought a few, furnishing in that respect a close parallel to prohibition. Yet the best people flouted the fugitive slave statutes, just as to-day millions violate the Volstead act.

Men, en masse, never see a thing of this sort until they come in violent contact with it. You have the prescience to look to a day when citizens with guns in hand will be arrayed against each other in fratricidal strife. Wars have come from less sources of trouble. I beg your pardon for this long epistle. As writing has been for the best part of my life, my profession, letter writing is something quite out of my line but you will believe me sincere in saying it is a pleasure to send this to one whose opinion I profoundly respect. Yours, E. B. Smith

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