

AMERICAN OFFICE
1410 H STREET

CABLE ADDRESS LONTIMES
TELEPHONE MAIN 2817



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 14, 1907

Dear Miss Tarbell,

I received your letter, and also one from Mr Siddall asking about a photograph of the Commission. I have answered Mr Siddall and told him that I have an album of the photographs of the Commission in Oxford. Please let me know when you are likely to reach the Commission period. I was in New York Saturday and returned Saturday evening, and I may be in New York next week but this is uncertain. One of the most important and useful things about the Commission would be a scrap book which I kept of all the comments on the Tariff Commission, some of them giving us delightful roasts and some praising us up to the skies. It was an especially interesting Commission, as we travelled something like 30,000 miles and took testimony in all the large cities of the country. It is useless attempting to write to you about it, so that I shall await the pleasure of seeing you personally.

We shall probably be in Washington early in February, although I am trying to arrange matters to return to England the first week in March. In that event I must be visiting the West some time in February. I hope you will not hurry your articles, as there is a great amount of really interesting matter, some of which I have no doubt you have, but some of which I think is not available elsewhere, specially in relation to the organising of the American

Protective Tariff League, which was the work I had a great deal to do with and of which I was honorary secretary. I was also very close to Judge William D. Kelly, and in fact it was Judge Kelly who first explained to me the benefits of Protection. I have always firmly believed that Judge Kelly, like President McKinley believed in Protection because it increased the wages of labor and developed the industries of the country. I think both of them in their hearts ^{cordially} hated the greedy lot who ^{would} come to Washington here to advocate their own specific interests. *And Judge Kelly used to tell them to fight to their price.*

You may also recall that I started the New York Press, which was a popular advocate of the Tariff, and my advocacy effort was entirely along these lines. So long as industries could be built up I was in favor of Protection, but when Protection created enormous concerns and strengthened Trusts, the reason for the Tariff as a measure for the benefit of the people of the country ceased to exist. The famous parrot campaign in New York which ended in the election of President Harrison, and in which we created an imaginary bird whose refrain was "The Tariff is a Tax" is something which would enliven your pages, if you look over the files of the New York Press of that time. But all this when I have the pleasure of seeing you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Porter

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
The American Magazine,
141-147, Fifth Avenue,
New York.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library