

**WALLIN LEATHER CO.**

**TANNERIES**

GRAND RAPIDS AND COMSTOCK PARK, MICH.

STORE, 195-197 LAKE ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. U. S. A. Mar. 29, 1909.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

% American Magazine,

341 5th Ave., N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Your letter of the 24th has followed me to my home in Grand Rapids.

I wish I might see you soon to try to enlist your further efforts in the way of Free Hides, but I shall not be in New York again soon.

I would especially like to talk with you about the "Leather Trust" by which I suppose you refer to the Central Leather Co. which, as I suppose you know, is separate from the American Hide and Leather Co. and which tans only sole, harness and belting. I am one of the Directors of the Central Leather Co., The Wallin Leather Co. of which I am President, selling out to the Central Leather Co. less than four years ago. There is quite a long story in this connection which also relates to the effort of the packers to get control of the leather business.

The packers are established in Washington and making a strong fight against Free Hides through legitimate and illegitimate Cattlemen's Associations and, generally speaking, the western Senator is against us. The packers have claimed that they were not in the leather business and had no expectations of engaging in the leather business, but we have a list of over thirty large tanneries which are now owned, controlled or operated by the packers, including the largest tanneries in the world, and know that it is the purpose of the packers to control the leather industry of the land as thoroughly as they now control the meat industry.

We have made good use of your article as it relates to the hide tariff and much appreciate the help you have given us.

Yours truly,



Dict. VAW-V.