

LIVELY FIGHT ON TARIFF BILL

SPIRITED CONTEST IS PRESAGED BY PREPARATIONS ON PART OF BOTH SIDES.

FRIENDS AND FOES READY

Chairman Payne and Champ Clark Gather Forces and Hold Councils—Congress Begins This Week the Serious Consideration of Revision, the Purpose of the Special Session.

Washington, March 21.—That there will be a lively contest over the tariff bill is evidenced by the preparations that are being made by the sponsors for the bill and by those who oppose it.

Chairman Payne, supported by his chief lieutenant, Representative John D. Easton of Pennsylvania, and the other republican members of the house ways and means committee, together with Representative Broussard of Louisiana, the newly appointed democrat, will be armed with thousands of documents and communications for the defense of the Payne bill.

The committee's old room is on the house floor of the capitol, and yesterday "field headquarters" were established there by Mr. Payne.

Councils Held.

Directly beneath the headquarters of the Payne forces are the headquarters of the enemy, the democrats. Champ Clark has taken possession of John Sharp Williams' old room and was today occupied with the preparation of the report of the committee.

The committee members have held "councils of war" for the past few days in the Clark headquarters. They will make a strong fight against every protective duty in the Payne bill unless it is a revenue producer.

Individual Interests.

When an amendment is offered to increase the duty of \$1 per 1,000 feet provided for lumber by the Payne bill, Mr. Payne and Mr. Clark will stand together in opposition to the increased duty, and will find extensive numbers of his trusted aids have deserted him.

There is one point about the new bill on which little controversy is expected in the house, but which it is believed will be such a consideration in the senate.

Notable among the changes brought about by the suggestions which were based on the decisions of the courts and the board of general appraisers are the new paragraphs and the metal schedules, providing duties on steel, wood or steel shavings; diamond steel, grit, iron and similar articles; chrome metal and ferro manganese, ferro tungsten, ferro silicon and similar metals; alloys and other mixed metals not specifically provided for; and the general provision restricting the use of the terms iron plates, steel plates and plate iron and steel, to articles having flat surfaces and flat on parts of construction, but as tools or instruments in manufacturing.

Notable Changes.

Many changes in the phraseology of paragraphs imposing duties on articles which contain alcohol have been incorporated in the bill and are expected to increase the revenue considerably.

MOJESKA IMPROVES.

Los Angeles, March 21.—The physician attending Mme. Helena Mojeska reported tonight that his patient's general condition was considerably improved.

NO WORD IS RECEIVED OF BALLOON AMERICA

Pasadena, Cal., March 21.—No word has come today from the balloon "America," which went up at Tournament park at 3 o'clock yesterday with Captain Mueller as pilot and five prominent men of this city as passengers.

Congressional Forecast.

Washington, March 21.—The house representatives will this week begin the serious consideration of the business for which the extra session was called, the revision of the tariff.

PARIS STRIKE COLLAPSES SUDDENLY

COMMITTEE DECIDES TO CALL OFF EMPLOYEES AND SUES FOR PEACE.

MANY RETURN TO WORK

Minister of Public Works Barthou Receives Delegation in Conciliatory Spirit and Premier Clemenceau Later Confirms Statement in Regard to Government's Attitude.

Paris, March 21.—The great strike of the employes of the postoffice department, which practically isolated Paris and cut off France from communication with the outside world for the past week, collapsed today.

The Conditions.

This afternoon representatives of the linemen called on M. Barthou, minister of public works, ostensibly for the purpose of protesting against the charges that they had cut the wires, but during the course of the interview they communicated to the minister the terms on which the allied associations collectively would resume work.

M. Barthou received the deputation in a conciliatory spirit. He said the government could not discuss the resignation of an official except with parliament, but he met with the delegation with the satisfaction they demanded on other points, explaining to them, however, that the government had not yet exercised its right of dismissal.

Premier Clemenceau later met the deputation and confirmed M. Barthou's statement with regard to the attitude of the government. At the conclusion of these private interviews with the minister the strike committee met and decided upon the resumption of work tomorrow.

An official statement which was issued this evening reports that more than a third of the strikers resumed work in Paris today.

Early in the afternoon several thousand strikers, inspired by the Union of Commerce and Industry, united in a demonstration against Secretary Simyan in front of the central post office, but a large force of police stationed there found no difficulty in holding the strikers in check.

Demonstration Checked.

The publication in today's official journal of a lengthy circular addressed to M. Simyan and the postal chiefs, minutely applying the promotion system recently inaugurated, is evidence of the fact that the government has no intention of abolishing the system, which was repugnant to the men.

HARD ON PRISONERS.

Peshawar, British India, March 21.—It is reported that 1,200 arrests have been made at Jallalabad, Afghanistan, in connection with the plot recently discovered to murder the ameer, the heir apparent and the other members of the royal family.

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WELCOME TO OUR CITY



CALL FOR MEETING IS OFFICIALLY ISSUED

SECRETARY FRANCIS OF TRANSMISSISSIPPI COMMERCIAL CONGRESS ACTS.

Denver, March 21.—Secretary Arthur F. Francis of the transmississippi commercial congress today issued the official call for the twentieth annual session of that association, to be held in Denver August 16 to 21, inclusive, of this year.

Reside the question of close relations with the southern republics, with especial reference to the early completion of the Panama canal and the consequent stimulating commercial development in the transmississippi states, the following questions will come under discussion:

National defense with especial reference to the needs of the Pacific coast and Hawaii.

An adequate merchant marine and the need of government aid in its upbuilding and maintenance.

Conservation of natural resources. This promises to be one of the leading questions to come before the congress.

Waterway improvements, Drainage of submerged lands, Scientific dry farming, Alaska, Separate statehood for New Mexico and Arizona.

Postal savings banks, Insurance, Trade relations with Mexico, Central and South America, Gulf ports and the railroads, Panama canal, Hawaii, The Philippines, Department of mines, Immigration, Good roads, Sugar beet and cane industry, Barataria and Lafourche, National finance, Consular service.

Delegates.

The governor of each state and territory may appoint 10 delegates and not more than 20. The mayor of each city may appoint one delegate and one additional delegate for every 5,000 people, not, however, to exceed 10 delegates.

Governors of states and territories, members of congress and former presidents of the transmississippi congress are ex officio members.

RACE MEET ANNOUNCED.

Lawton, Okla., March 21.—Official announcement was made here today of a track and race meet to be held here April 17 to 27 inclusive, at which it is expected there will be started about 300 or 400 of the best racing horses on the western turf, as well as some of the most prominent jockeys in the country.

GAMES POSTPONED.

San Francisco, March 21.—The baseball games between Chicago White Sox and Pacific Coast league teams were postponed today on account of rain.

PRINCIPLES ADOPTED FOR MARITIME WAR

DECLARATION AGREED UPON BY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED BY STATE DEPARTMENT.

Washington, March 21.—The declaration of principles regarding the law of maritime war agreed upon by the conference of 10 of the principal maritime nations of the world, held in London during the past winter, and known as the maritime conference, was made public at the state department today.

The American delegates are satisfied the code contains much that will prove of great advantage in time of war. This is especially the case with the articles treating of contraband, the estimate being made that under the head of conditional contraband exports approximating at this time \$900,000,000 a year would be affected in the event of war, and under the head of free contraband exports approximating \$400,000,000.

The essence of the declaration on blockade is that it must be confined to the ports and coasts belonging to or occupied by the enemy, and that the blockade to be binding must be effective.

Specifications.

On the question of contraband the conference adopted these specifications, viz.: Absolute, conditional and not contraband. Absolute contraband includes generally articles and implements of war and that may be used in war.

Articles which cannot be declared contraband of war include raw cotton, raw wool and other raw materials of textile industries, natural and artificial fertilizers, comprising nitrates and phosphates susceptible of use in agriculture, ores, chinaware and glassware, paper, agricultural machinery, machinery used in mines, textile industries and printing.

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PRINCE HILKOFF DIES IN RUSSIA

St. Petersburg, March 21.—Prince Michael Hilkofov, member of the council of the empire, and formerly minister of communication, died suddenly today. Prince Hilkofov was well known in the United States, where he secured his railway training. To him belongs the credit of getting the maximum amount of work out of the Siberian railroad during the war in Manchuria.

Prince Hilkofov, who belonged to an old but comparatively poor family, emigrated to the United States when a young man, renouncing the title to which he was subsequently restored. In the United States he worked at a bolt machine at a wage of \$7.50 per week. Later he was employed in many minor capacities on American railways, beginning as an assistant stoker.

Prince Hilkofov took a prominent part in putting down the railroad strike in 1905, but resigned his office because the government failed to meet the promises made to the railroad employees, his resignation being accepted on November 8. He was then appointed a member of the council of the empire.

REBELS EXPLAIN WHY THEY DON'T LIKE CHAMP

REPRESENTATIVES KELIHER, PETERS AND BURTON ISSUE STATEMENT.

Washington, March 21.—Another explanation was forthcoming today as to the course of certain democrats in opposing Minority Leader Clark last Monday by voting for the Fitzgerald amendments to the house rules.

The Fitzgerald amendments are defended as being very effective in the curbing of the power of the speaker. For six months Mr. Fitzgerald, acknowledged as the best parliamentarian on the democratic side, has been preparing the amendments, it is said, but no opportunity was offered to bring them before the democratic caucus for consideration.

"He was unable to do so because of the high-handed manner adopted by a few ill-advised friends of Mr. Clark."

Referring to the fight in the house, the three members say that when Mr. Clark offered his resolution, he refused any democrat a chance to speak. And then he did the very thing the members have been deprecating and fighting against for years, he moved the previous question, they state.

"It is had enough to be gagged by our opponents, but when the muzzie was clapped upon us by our friends we protested, and successfully."

The Clark resolution is attacked because of the six democratic members proposed by Mr. Clark for the committee of 15. Not one came from Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Ohio or Pennsylvania with nearly one-third of the total democratic membership in the present house.

"No encouragement to the democracy of the great states of Ohio and Indiana in the magnificent battles they are fighting," the statement concludes, "no voice to New York or the great middle west, and yet we are censured for not slyly submitting to such action."

Vienna, March 21.—The Austro-Hungarian government has decided to postpone sending its note in reply to Serbia in order to enable the powers to intervene at Belgrade. Baron von Aehrenthal, the foreign minister, according to the Neues Wiener Tageblatt, has expressed the belief that war will be averted.

SKATERS START LONG GRIND IN COPPER CITY

Butte, March 21.—The team of Schatz and Hardy, with the former skating, was six inches in the lead tonight at the end of the first night's contest in the six-day roller skating race. Schatz's work was marvelous, his distance for the hour's skating being 19 miles. The Salt Lake team was followed by Reynolds and Bradford of Butte, with Bell and Rickard, the Seattle-St. Paul team, one and three-quarters laps behind, and Doble and McBride of Butte three-quarters of a mile behind the winners.

Schatz is the fastest ever seen in this city. The teams will skate an hour each evening for six nights, the members of the teams being permitted to relay each other as they see fit.

POLICE SPOIL KIDNAPERS' PLANS

OFFICERS WATCH WHITLA DEPOSIT MONEY IN PARK AND ABDUCTORS FLEE.

SEARCH IS UNAVAILING

No Trace of Stolen Boy Is Found and Father Returns to Home at Sharon—Mother Is Threatened With Break-down and Is Denied to Visitors—Full Story Is Finally Told.

Sharon, Pa., March 21.—J. P. Whitla, father of Willie Whitla, the kidnaped boy, returned today from a fruitless trip to Cleveland.

"We know no more now," said Mr. Whitla, "than we did before."

It is the general belief here that the abductors, realizing to what an extent the public is aroused over the kidnaping, will not dare to open up correspondence with Mr. Whitla until public interest has abated.

The terrible anxiety and uncertainty as to their little son's fate has had its effects on both the parents of the boy. The father refuses to sleep at all, and keeps up through sheer will power. The mother, who will not allow her daughter, Salina, out of her sight, is showing the effects of the worry and today physicians gave orders that she be not allowed to see any visitors.

Hundreds of letters from all over the country continue to pour in from friends and strangers alike, tendering sympathy.

Story Becomes Known.

Cleveland, O., March 21.—The full story of the frustrated attempt to pay over \$10,000 in ransom for the return of Willie Whitla became known today. J. P. Whitla, father of the boy, was instructed in a letter from the kidnapers to leave the money in Flatiron park Saturday night. If no detectives were about the kidnapers promised they would secure the money and deliver the boy safely to the father in a hotel at Ashtabula at 3 o'clock this morning.

As soon as he had safely recovered the money as requested, the Ashtabula police learned of the plans to pay the ransom and went to the park. The kidnapers are supposed to have seen them, for at 6 o'clock the money was intact and not a man had approached the spot at which it had been left.

Whitla had a score of detectives and 23 members of the Pennsylvania constabulary in readiness in this city to start a search for the kidnapers as soon as he had safely recovered the money. Whitla believes that the failure to effect a settlement last night will frighten the kidnapers and the kidnapers will not communicate with him again.

The Instructions.

The letter from the captors of Willie came to the boy's parents in Sharon, Pa., Friday afternoon. Instructions were given him to go alone to Ashtabula on Saturday night, place the \$10,000 under a rock at the base of a gorge in the park at 10 o'clock. At 3 o'clock on the following morning if the money was obtained by the kidnapers they promised that the stolen boy would be sent to the Smith hotel in Ashtabula, unharmed. Whitla was instructed specifically that he was to be accompanied by no one when he went to deposit the money.

Immediately upon receipt of the letter Whitla called in private detectives in his employ. They wanted to place a decoy package of bills at the designated spot, but Whitla would not permit this. He finally consented to agree to the detectives to accompany him to this city and await his summons to start a search for the kidnapers.

At 8 o'clock Whitla left Cleveland for Ashtabula. He was accompanied by Detective McCabe. The latter was to act as his bodyguard, but was not to go with Whitla to the park.

A few minutes after 9 o'clock the kidnapers, in keeping with their promise in their first letter, sent a second letter addressed to C. A. Whitla, the Smith hotel in Ashtabula.

Half an hour later when no one called for the missive, the clerk became curious and opened the envelope and Mayor Cook and Chief Laskey were apprised of its contents. The mayor ordered all of his police to institute a search for the captors.

Promptly at 10 o'clock Whitla left the package of bills in the park. He went to the designated spot alone, feeling certain that his compliance with the request of the kidnapers would prove the means of delivering his boy back to him.

Three policemen who had been sent out from the Ashtabula central station saw Whitla leave the money in the park. They told Chief Laskey of their discovery and received instructions to remain on guard at the park and capture the kidnapers should they appear.

In the meantime Whitla returned to the city and established communication with his detectives in Cleveland. They advised him to go to the hotel for his boy exactly at the time set. He promised to observe orders.

Five hours later Whitla returned after his boy. On the way a policeman informed him that three officers had been on guard at the park and no one had called for the money.

Whitla was overcome at this news. He went to the park and found his package of money undisturbed. During the remainder of the night and all day today the officers searched in vain the country around Ashtabula.

Whitla came to Cleveland and later returned to Sharon.

FRANCE PLANS TO REVISE TARIFF

ATTENTION OF YANKEE MANUFACTURERS WILL BE FOCUSED ON REPUBLIC.

WOULD INJURE AMERICA

Contrary to Usual Custom, Measure Has Origin in Committee of Chamber of Deputies, and Government's Attitude Has Not Yet Been Formally Defined—New Custom Rates.

Washington, March 21.—The attention of American manufacturers will not for the next few months be entirely focused upon the proposed tariff revision in this country. France proposes to revise its tariff and in the changes to be made the United States is vitally interested. If the proposed French tariff bill should be enacted into law in its present shape, American trade would be injuriously affected.

Contrary to the usual custom, the measure had its origin in the tariff committee of the French chamber of deputies and the attitude of the government toward it, therefore, has not formally been defined in parliament. The probabilities are, however, that the bill will undergo a number of changes before it finally is enacted into law, which, it is expected, will be about the first part of next year.

Interesting Facts.

Some interesting facts in regard to the new measure are gleaned from a compilation entitled "Proposed New Customs Tariff of France," prepared by N. I. Stone, tariff expert of the department of commerce and labor, the object of which is to indicate the proposed changes of tariff rates on goods which the United States either exports to France or could export under favorable conditions.

Taking up the articles covered by the existing Franco-American agreement it is found that the following are affected by the proposed changes: Canned meats—it is proposed to advance the general rate of 20 francs per 100 kilos to 30 francs, an increase of 50 per cent, while leaving the minimum rate of 15 francs unchanged. While the agreement remains in force, the proposed change would, therefore, not affect American canned meats.

Apples and Pears.

Fresh apples and pears—Under the existing agreement these fruits are admitted at the rate of 2 francs per 100 kilos. It is proposed to advance the minimum rate to 5 francs, an increase of 150 per cent, and to increase the general rate from 5 to 8 francs. Should the increase of these and the other minimum rates covered by the existing agreement lead to its abrogation, it would result in an increase from the present minimum rate of 3 francs to the new general rate of 8 francs, which would raise the duty fourfold. It is proposed to increase the minimum rate on hops from 30 to 40 francs and the general from 45 to 60 francs per 100 kilos.

Far more numerous are the tariff changes on articles which are not affected by the commercial agreement at present in force between France and this country. In proposing the many changes the French commission was guided by the object of making the difference between the general and the minimum rates about 50 per cent on the average, being considerably higher than the difference in the present tariff, the purpose being to make it worth while for foreign countries to negotiate reciprocity treaties for the application of the minimum rates.

Would Affect United States.

As all the important commercial countries except the United States enjoy the benefit of the entire minimum tariff in France, the changes already mentioned would affect injuriously imports from the United States only, and would still further aggravate the disadvantages under which American products must compete with products from other countries in the French market. Among the more important of these changes the following may be mentioned, the rate being given in francs per 100 kilos. Meat extracts, general rate increased from 40 to 45 francs; cotton seed, now admitted free, to be subject to a duty of 150 francs; peanuts, now admitted free, to be subject to a duty of 250 francs, and preserved vegetables, duty increased from 20 to 24 francs.

Even more disadvantageous to American trade are the proposed changes when, while increasing the general rates to which American goods are subject, contemplate a reduction of the minimum rates which are applicable to imports from favored countries. As instances of such changes the following may be mentioned: Heavy agricultural machinery weighing over 400 kilos, for which it is proposed to increase the general rate from 15 to 16 francs per 100 kilos, while reducing the minimum from 9 to 8; detached parts of copper and brass, weighing 1 to 10 kilos apiece, for which it is proposed to raise the present general rate of 50 francs to 52.50, while reducing the minimum rate of 40 to 35.

Reduce General Rates.

It is proposed, however, in a large number of cases to reduce the general rates, while leaving the minimum unchanged. The effect of this would be to lessen to some extent the disadvantageous effect of the proposed changes.

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