

HARD TIMES TAUNTS RASP CHAMP CLARK

He Delivers a Defence of the New Tariff to Soothe House Democrats.

WINCES AT MANN'S IRONY

Republicans Howl at Speaker When He Makes Slip in Quoting Customs Receipts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Stung by promises of Republicans that prosperity is rapidly taking wing, the Democrats of the House indicted Speaker Clark to reply to-day. Mr. Clark thus appeared in a new role, for in the days of Republican ascendancy he was the loudest calamity howler of them all.

Forced by political expediency to sing a sweet song of prosperity, Mr. Clark did not appear to advantage in quoting statistics concerning Treasury conditions he seemed to forget for a time that he was defending and not attacking the new tariff law.

Representative Mann of Illinois, the Republican leader, started the debate by telling about a great army of unemployed new loaves in the country. He declared that "soup houses" were popular resorts when the Democrats were in control before and that they are about to open again at the same old stand.

As Mr. Mann has indulged in this line of talk frequently of late and other Republicans have made statements of similar import, the Democrats came to the conclusion that the time had arrived when one of their number should reply. Speaker Clark was selected as the victim.

In beginning his speech Mr. Mann called attention to the fact that Chairman Packer, who presided over the committee on Columbia appropriation bill, had taken exception to criticism of the terms of the bill by the citizens' committee of Washington.

"Mr. Mann is ironical," "I take it," said Mr. Mann ironically, "that in view of the attitude of the President in regard to the tariff, you will soon be reduced to the point where no man can either criticize or smile without asking the consent of the Administration authorities first."

The new District Commissioners, backed by the President, have designed a new municipal building house. There is nothing in the District bill concerning such a house, but it is expected that the new Municipal Building houses will be soon in demand all over the country.

"The President of the United States could today do much toward reviving confidence if he would. The Democrats could do much toward reviving confidence if they could, but they are pursuing the policy which they have talked about on the stump for so many years regardless of its effect upon the body politic of the people of the country."

"I hope you find that the present discouraging conditions may change, but I think it is fair to the country that we should call attention to these matters. I attribute the present attitude partly to the tariff bill in part to the talk about the political control of banking and currency, in part other things and finally to the general lack of confidence on the part of the Democratic party to govern the country."

Speaker Clark Replies. Replying to Mr. Mann's charge that "hard times" were upon the people in consequence of their error in turning the Government over to the Democrats, Mr. Clark said he regretted to say that Mr. Mann was indeed very logical. He expressed the belief that the Democrats had conspired to place the Democratic administration and Congress in a bad light before the country.

"Now the shadow does not make a summer," said Mr. Clark. "When you remember that an eminent Senator from New York, Mr. Root, and the eminent speaker of Illinois, Mr. Cannon, and the eminent ex-Governor of Missouri, Mr. Hadley, and the eminent chairman of the Republican National Committee, Mr. Hill, and the eminent gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Mann, have all made the same kind of statements on the same identical lines, I do not believe that I exceeded the bounds of propriety when I stated that it seems to me that the Republicans conspired against the prosperity of the country."

"This statement was uproariously applauded by the Democrats. Mr. Mann, while howling calamity, disclaimed that he is a calamity howler, resumed the speaker. "It seems strange that nobody has heard of these remarkable things that I have said about. There isn't a big city in the country that has not heard of it. There have been a few who have not heard of it. Mr. Clark then asked the drought that devastated sections of the middle West the past summer."

"Now what is the result of such a visitation?" continued the speaker. "It reduces the richness of the products in the cities of Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and in the great centres of trade that furnish the stuff."

"The main proposition that runs through Mr. Mann's speech and all the others of the same kind is that when the Democrats are in you have hard times and that when the Republicans are in you have good times."

Clark Refers to Panics. Mr. Clark asserted that the panics of 1857 and 1893 were caused by the Democrats but got under a full head of steam. "We have had prosperity in this country under the Wilson bill and the Dingley bill, and we have had a panic under the Dingley bill," concluded the speaker. "Senator Aldrich is a pretty good authority on Republican laws. He said that the panic of 1893, which came under the Dingley bill, was caused by the fact that ever struck this country. If anybody doubts that statement let him see the record. You could not get your own money out of circulation with a Jimmie."

Mr. Clark told about an experience he had in 1907. He went to Toledo to deliver a lecture in company with Gen. Charles H. Grosvenor. "We called those lectures because we got money out of them," exclaimed the speaker and laughter. "We delivered our lectures and were to be paid \$150 apiece for our services. We wanted to leave town that night and gave the lecture manager notice to that effect early in the morning."

"Counting up our resources we found that we had less than \$11 between us. That night the lecture manager showed up and gave each of us \$75 in currency and \$25 in checks, totaling for each of us \$100 in currency in Toledo. That happened under Republican rule. You can't charge that panic on us."

Mr. Clark then proceeded to read the Treasury statement showing the business in customs in November, 1913, as compared to the figures for the corresponding month a year ago. The Republicans checked as Mr. Clark proceeded, and the Democrats did not look happy. According to the Speaker's figures customs receipts in November, 1912, were \$25,000,000 and this year under the new tariff about \$21,000,000.

"In 1907 I made a speech something like that delivered today by Mr. Mann," said the speaker. "I talked about Republican soup houses."

"What is that?" asked Mr. Mann. "It was," replied the speaker. "We had a municipal soup house in Washington in 1893, and since taken over by the Federal Government," continued the speaker.

"That's so," suggested Representative Fitzgerald of New York, a Democrat. "One of the last acts of the Republican Administration was to take over this soup house for the Federal Government."

"We saw what was coming," shouted Mr. Mann. Mr. Clark insisted that if there was anything the matter with business the blame could not be laid on the tariff. "The people are satisfied with the tariff bill," said Mr. Clark, who predicted that with the passage of the currency bill the country would "blossom like a rose." He quoted James J. Hill as saying that there is no danger of a panic at this time.

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DECISION ON ART IMPORTS.

Malone Gets Hamilton's Rulings Under the New Law. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Interpretations of the provisions of the Underwood-Simmons law regarding the importation of works of art have been decided by Collector Dudley Field Malone by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton. Interpretations were drawn as a result of a letter written by the collector seeking them.

Mr. Hamilton said that the free entry of paintings, pastels, drawings and sketches is limited to one article which must be the original, that artists' proof etchings unbound and engravings and wood cuts unbound are free of duty without regard to the number when consisting of proof of the artist, and that the free entry of sculptures or statuary is limited to two originals and to two replicas thereof.

Free entry is accorded also to all paintings, water colors, drawings, etc., which are partly produced by stencilling or other mechanical process; all copies of paintings, water colors, drawings, etc., all statuary and sculptures not the work of a professional sculptor, or which are produced wholly or in part by mechanical process; all replicas or reproductions of original statuary; the exception of two replicas or reproductions, all etchings, engravings and wood cuts not artists' proofs, proofs printed from plates or blocks, etched or engraved with hand tools, and all etchings, engravings and woodcuts not printed from plates or blocks etched or engraved with hand tools.

WILSON LEAVES WHITE HOUSE.

Takes Automobile Ride for First Time Since Illness. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—President Wilson left the White House today for the first time since he was taken ill with a cold ten days ago. He rode for an hour in a limousine with his daughter, Miss Margaret Wilson, and Dr. Cary T. Grayson, his physician.

His presence, which was the natural result of his stay within doors, was noticed by the press. Mr. Wilson, who was returned to bed given place to a healthy glow.

It is the President's expectation now that he will be able to leave Washington on Monday or Tuesday of next week for some point in the South, where he will spend his vacation. He will leave as soon as possible after the signing of the currency bill. No arrangement will be made of the resort chosen until the currency bill is signed. The President has a number of places under consideration, and will take a vacation of three weeks, regarding which whether or not he will adjourn for that period. He desires to strengthen himself as thoroughly as possible for the labor of the spring term.

Mr. Wilson has not yet decided whether to return to the White House or to a farm in August, which was blown down in a storm last August.

NO STATEMENT FROM BURKE.

Canal Commission to Wait Until Investigations End. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The relations between John T. Burke, manager of the Panama Canal, and the Panama Canal Commission, and certain concerns furnishing work on the canal, are the subject of an investigation by officers of the Isthmian Canal Commission.

The commission has not received any statement from Burke, and it was said that if the investigation is not completed until the investigations are completed, agents of the commission who were sent to Europe are yet to be heard from.

Secretary-General McReynolds has not given Secretaries of War and Navy an opinion as to whether or not Burke is an employee of the United States Government.

CONGRESS TO ADJOURN DEC. 24.

Will Take a Recess Until Jan. 12, According to Indications. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Present indications are that Congress will take a recess from December 24 to January 12. It all depends on the action of the Senate on the banking bill. If that bill is out of the way by the end of the month, the Senate is willing to lay off until January 12.

Majority Leader Underwood brought up the subject in the House today. He said he expected speedy action on the banking bill in the conference committee. If things go as he expects the conference report will be adopted by Tuesday or by Wednesday at the latest.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS DEBATED.

Charity Board Official Says State Aid is Best for Children. The question of widowed mothers' pensions was debated before the Woman's Municipal League yesterday morning by Mrs. John H. Glen of the Charity Organization Society, and R. W. Hubbard, secretary of the State Board of Charities. Mrs. Glen said that no public regime could have the effect of relieving the administration, that private relief was much harder to give than support in State institutions.

Mr. Hubbard said that expecting private charity to deal with a permanent problem like that of the widowed mothers was like setting a team of horses to haul the Empire State Express. Private relief was always inadequate, he said, owing to lack of funds. The mother has to work, eventually breaks down, and the children had to be supported in institutions. Or if they were kept together up to working age, he said, they lacked strength to care for themselves and become invalids or criminals, and in the end the State had to support them, as it should have done in the beginning.

DOGS TRAIL WRECK SUSPECTS.

Two Men Are Accused of Derailing New England Flier. CLEVELAND, Dec. 18.—Two men who beat a Big Four railroad detective last night and were caught today by the use of bloodhounds are suspected of causing the wreck of the New England flier at Wickliffe, the train which killed A. H. Smith of the New York Central Lines was a passenger.

"I am sure we have found the men who did it," said the Big Four detective, "and the bloodhounds," said Capt. Hillington of the Big Four police.

BARNES SAYS G. O. P. LOST GREAT CHANCE

Convention, He Thinks, Could Have Turned Light on Democrats' Errors.

FEARED SPLIT, SAYS MARSH

Too Much Bitterness at Gathering Real Reason for the Decision. William Barnes, who represented New York as national committeeman at the Republican conference at Washington, got back last night. He said he was sorry the committee had gone against the plan for a national convention.

An hour after the Republicans got back Robert McC. Marsh, who represented the Young Republican Club at the meeting of the National Committee, told the Republican county committee, in session at the Murray Hill Lyceum, that one reason why the Republicans had decided against a national convention was that they feared another split.

"Personally," said Mr. Barnes, "I regretted that the National Committee did not call a national convention. The Democratic Administration at Washington has entered upon a fiscal policy which is inherently destructive to the material welfare of the country and that, by those who have the ability to speak, that fact could have been clearly set forth in such a convention."

"I had no fear of the controversy there between the scattered different elements of the party. These differences are largely a matter of the imagination, or are the result of personal ambitions. If we had a convention, I thought otherwise, and the committee did the best thing it could do in regard to representation, which will, I have no doubt, be accepted by the party."

There was practically no discussion in the committee itself, and every man was full of hope and confidence.

Robert McC. Marsh told the members of the committee that the details of the new scheme of representation seemed to regard the Republican party as a coalition of the old and new parties of a serious operation," he said. "They felt that too much fresh air or active energy might be too much for it. A national convention would have been a disaster. They feared that if the convention met a new split might develop which would be very bad for the party."

"By the way," said Mr. Marsh, "the conference as it stands when the feeling simmers down—and there was a good deal of bitterness at times—no doubt all members of the party will feel that great good has been accomplished."

Progressives who discussed the work of the Republican National Committee yesterday said that the action, in so far as it touched matters in dispute in 1912, seemed rather than narrowed the breach.

OKLAHOMA IS FIRST TO ACT.

Republicans Arrange to Vote on New Delegate Plan. OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Dec. 18.—A meeting of the Oklahoma State Central Committee has been called and a State convention will be named by the body.

Okahoma will be the first State to take action on the plan of the Republican National Committee to reduce the number of delegates to national conventions.

At a meeting of the Oklahoma State Central Committee held yesterday at the home of Mrs. J. H. Adams, the Mayor's Memorial Association met yesterday at the home of Mrs. J. H. Adams.

GAYNOR MEMORIAL ON BRIDGE.

Arches at Ends of Mayor's Favorite Walk Are Proposed. Brooklyn Bridge was visited yesterday by the first party for the memorial which friends of Mayor Gaynor will erect in his memory. The bridge was the place of the Mayor's almost daily walk in his three years and eight months of service at the head of the city government. Morning and evening in good weather and had the Mayor used to walk across Brooklyn Bridge between the City Hall and his home, 120th street.

The selection of the bridge was on the suggestion of Robert Adams, the Mayor's secretary. Members of the Gaynor Memorial Association met yesterday at the home of Mrs. J. H. Adams.

The cost of the change would be slight, he said. Members of the committee talked for an hour and a half, and the committee found that they were generally in accord with the scheme.

About \$7,000 for the memorial has come in already. The memorial project has been made for funds. Whether the memorial will take the form of arches or monuments at each entrance to the bridge will be decided by the size of the subscription when the books are closed. It is the idea of the committee that the monument or arch at the Brooklyn approach shall be dedicated to Gaynor the day after the one at the Manhattan end to Gaynor the Mayor.

ELEVEN HELD IN COCAINE RAID.

Five Women in Pajamas and Six Men Taken in Brownstone House. Five women in pajamas and six men were arrested last night by Deputy Commissioner Newburger's detectives in a flat in West Forty-third street, which the police say was a cocaine joint. Mrs. Rose Sherry was charged with keeping a public nuisance; the others with "having narcotics in their possession." All were taken to the police station.

The building in which they were arrested is a brownstone dwelling house between Sixth avenue and Broadway, not far from Times Square. They were on the ground floor.

BELLS PLAY IN COURT.

Author of Yiddish Version Accused Fox and Others. A copyright injunction suit was begun in the United States District Court yesterday to enjoin William Fox and other theatrical interests from producing a play, "Mendel Belles," around the Russian ritual murder case.

The plaintiffs are Anshel Schorr and the Eagle Operating Company of this city, who are suing the defendants, including a plagiarism of his "Mendel Belles" in Yiddish. The exclusive rights to produce the play in Yiddish were given to the Eagle company, which first staged it at the Devey Theatre in Philadelphia and the Arch Street Theatre in Philadelphia.

WHY NOT SPEND THE HOLIDAYS AT Hotel Nassau

LONG BEACH, L. I., N. Y. FORTY MINUTES FROM PENNA. TERMINAL Ideal for Christmas House Parties Christmas Tree for All New Year's Eve Ball and Supper De Luxe. Special Low Rates. One person \$1.50 per day and up. Two persons \$2.00 per day and up.

Try New York's Most Popular Summer Resort in Winter. Grill Room Open. Garage. BARNETT & BARNES CORP., Proprietors.

BELMONT'S GARAGE AT HEMPSTEAD BURNED

Several Autos Destroyed in Fire This Morning at His Estate. HEMPSTEAD, L. I. (Friday), Dec. 18.—The stone garage on August Belmont's country estate on Fulton avenue, Hempstead, was burned out early this morning. Two or three limousine automobiles were destroyed.

The fire started at 12:15 o'clock. The Hempstead fire department responded to a call sent by servants at the Belmont home. The firemen found that they didn't have enough hose to fight the blaze properly, and sent to the village for more.

The garage is about 100 feet north of the house. At 1 o'clock this morning the blaze was under control and the fireman had the water on the roof of the Belmont stables or to the mansion.

Mr. Belmont and his family come from New York and reside frequently in the course of the winter, but only servants were at their country home tonight. On one of his winter visits two or three years ago Mr. Belmont, who came to Hempstead to get his racing outfit, found his house afire, but it was easily saved.

WILSON AIDS CANAL WORKERS.

May Go Into Classified Service Without Examination. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—In an effort to care for as many as possible of the men employed on Panama Canal work, the President issued this order today: "All citizens, citizens of the United States, who are now or may hereafter be in the service of the Isthmian Canal Commission, and who have rendered satisfactory service on the Isthmus of Panama, and who may be recommended upon discharge for transfer, may be returned to their homes, and assigned to other positions in the classified service under the several executive department and independent Government establishments, subject to the other provisions of the civil service rules."

It has been a considerable problem for the Government officials to decide what to do with the employees on the canal now that it is nearing completion. Today's action was taken on the recommendation of Col. Goethals and the Canal Commission.

In the cases of laborers, most of whom are negroes from Jamaica and other West Indian islands, they probably will be returned to their homes, but many of them undoubtedly will settle on the Isthmus.

DENOUNCES FITZGERALD'S JOB.

Engineer Says Great Meadow Contract Plans Were Ignored. GREENS PARS, N. Y., Dec. 18.—Thomas Haley of Greenville, a civil engineer, today denounced the contract awarded to Fitz Gerald Superintendent C. V. Collins and Michael Fitzgerald, charged with great bribery in connection with the Great Meadow power water system construction, the work done by the contractor and the money received by the contractor.

Haley asserted Fitzgerald paid little of the pipe four feet under ground, as required by the contract, and excavated in the sand, and the contractor had to excavate a yard of earth, while the contract called for an excavation of 3,500 yards of rock and 7,500 yards of earth.

On cross-examination Haley said that \$2,750,000 to 20 per cent profit would be a fair price for the work if done as it should be done.

The only other bidders on the work were Fitzgerald, who was the Kingsbury, and the other bidders were \$157,540, and McArthur \$154,540.

TRACING FIREMEN'S DOUGHBAAG.

Grand Jury Questions Financial Secretary and Gets Books. Lawrence Ryan, financial secretary of the Firemen's Benevolent Protective Association, was before the grand jury for the first time in his capacity as a witness in an investigation of the association. A complaint had been made by Fire Commissioner Johnson that he had reason to believe that money collected by the association had been improperly used to influence two platoon legislations. Assistant District Attorney Leo Ford had Ryan sign a waiver of immunity before being sworn.

The books of the organization were surrendered by Ryan, and accountants will trace the expenditures made by him. James B. Clifford, president of the association, appeared before the grand jury and received \$784 and the following month \$574. Another item showed that \$1,090 had been paid to Clifford for ticket money and other expenses.

DANIELS AND GARRISON MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO OFFICERS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Secretary Daniels and Secretary Garrison completed their investigation today into the doings of the military officers at the annual dinner of the Military Order of the Carabao held here last week, which was the occasion of songs and jokes which were pronounced offensive by President Wilson. The two Cabinet officers prepared a report to the President, including recommendations for action. This report Secretary Garrison sent to the White House and later it was the subject of a conference between him and the President.

At the White House there was no indication of what the President would do to consider the report. The general impression is that there will be reprimands at least for some officers. In neither the War nor Navy department is it considered a crime that any court-martial will be ordered.

BRYAN SIGNS DUTCH TREATY.

Provisions as to Military Preparedness is Left Out. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Secretary Bryan signed a peace treaty to-day with the Netherlands. The treaty is slightly different from those negotiated with the Central American republics in that the provision that each country shall maintain the status quo as to territory, possessions and armaments is considered an investigation of the vital principle of the treaties.

Secretary Bryan said that the United States was ready to negotiate a peace treaty either with or without the provision. He regards the provision for impartial investigation of disputes as the vital principle of the treaties.

GEN. WOOD FOR EAST; BARRY FOR MANILA

Gen. Bell Is to Take Command of the Second Division in Texas.

OTHER SHIFTS ORDERED

Funston Gets the Fifth Brigade and Pershing Goes to the Presidio. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Orders transferring most of the Major-Generals and Brigadier-Generals of the army from their present posts, making a shift in the more important commands, was announced at the War Department today.

Major-Gen. Thomas M. Barry, now stationed at Governors Island, is transferred to the command of the Philippine department, relieving Major-Gen. J. Franklin Bell. This change is to take effect about April 15.

Major-Gen. Bell upon being relieved will return to the United States and assume command of the Second Division, now mobilized at Texas City under command of Major-Gen. William H. Carter, who is transferred to the command of the Hawaii department.

These transfers are effective just a few weeks before Gen. Wood, now chief of staff, is to be relieved from that position. The fact that no successor to Gen. Barry is named is taken as a prediction that Gen. Wood will succeed to the command of the Eastern department at Governors Island.

This position he held once before, but at that time his command embraced less than at present. The army had not then been reorganized into the existing three departments within the territory of the United States. It is said that Gen. Wood is preferred to command to any other post for Major-Generals in the United States.

Brig-Gen. Frederick K. Funston, on relief from command of the Hawaiian department, will be relieved of command of the Fifth Brigade at Galveston, Tex.

Brig-Gen. John J. Pershing, recently relieved from duty in the Philippines, will assume command of the Eighth Brigade, with station at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Brig-Gen. Ramsey D. Post is relieved of the command of the Eighth Brigade and will be relieved of command of the Sixth Brigade at Vancouver Barracks, Wash.

Brig-Gen. Clarence R. Edwards is relieved from command of the Sixth Brigade and will assume command of the First Hawaiian Brigade, relieving Brig-Gen. Montgomery, who will become president of the Army War College, Washington, D. C., relieving Brig-Gen. Hunter Liggett.

Brig-Gen. Liggett will assume command of the Fourth Brigade at Texas City.

Brig-Gen. John P. Wesser is relieved of the command of the Fourth Brigade and will assume command of the Pacific Coast Artillery district, with station at Fort Mifflin, Pa.

Brig-Gen. Thomas F. Davis is relieved from the command of the Fifth Brigade and will assume command of the Sixth Brigade.

Brig-Gen. Charles J. Bailey will assume command of the North Atlantic Coast Artillery district, with station at Fort Totten, N. Y.

The fact that Major-Gen. Bell has been detailed to command the Second Division and Major-Gen. Barry has been assigned to command the Philippine division is regarded here as disposing of the question of the promotion of Chief of Staff to succeed Major-Gen. Wood, who will be relieved in April next.

Gen. Bell and Barry had previously been considered as having a good chance for the position of Chief of Staff, but is ordered to Hawaii, has also been considered as a possible successor to Gen. Wood. Their elimination seems to indicate that the promotion of Chief of Staff will be made by the President, as the most likely successor.

It has been said that the retention of Gen. Murray at his present position in San Francisco, commanding the Western department, is considered essential by the Administration because of the important work he is doing to assist the management of the Panama Canal exposition. Gen. Watersworth seems to be in the best position to become the next Chief of Staff.

NO MOVIES IN CUSTOM HOUSES.

Treasury Plans to Save Cost of Censoring Imported Films. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—A plan has been suggested by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Hamlin for obviating the need for adding a moving picture show to the custom houses of the country, which it had been thought would grow out of the revision of the tariff law that the Treasury Department should establish a censorship office offered for importation.

Cooperation with city or other existing boards of censorship has been suggested. Mr. Hamlin favors it because it would put the provision into effect. The work will not be undertaken, however, until several more important sets of regulations have been issued, and meanwhile the provision stands suspended.

WILSON GETS CARABAO REPORT.

Daniels and Garrison Make Recommendations as to Officers. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Secretary Daniels and Secretary Garrison completed their investigation today into the doings of the military officers at the annual dinner of the Military Order of the Carabao held here last week, which was the occasion of songs and jokes which were pronounced offensive by President Wilson. The two Cabinet officers prepared a report to the President, including recommendations for action. This report Secretary Garrison sent to the White House and later it was the subject of a conference between him and the President.

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BROOKLYN: Courtlandt Ave. cor. 148th Street. BROOKLYN: Graham Avenue cor. Debevoise St. PRINCETON: cor. Rockaway Ave. 1/2 PER CENT CHARGED UPON REPAYMENT. PAID WITHIN TWO WEEKS FROM DATE.

MAY BAR POTATOES FROM ALL EUROPE

Quarantine Probably to Be Extended—Inspection Will Be Insisted On. LINDQUIST MAKES THREAT If Embargo is Lifted He Will Try to Put Plant Board Out of Existence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—There was a spirited discussion today before the plant quarantine board of the Department of Agriculture as to whether or not the quarantine now being maintained against potatoes from certain countries should be extended. If the quarantine is extended it will include Germany, Ireland, Newfoundland, Austria and two islands of the St. Lawrence River.

To all intents and purposes all of Europe from which potatoes can be imported would be included in the embargo. Representatives from cities looked with apprehension upon an extension of the quarantine, and those from potato raising States seemed to believe that if there is no extension of the quarantine and foreign potatoes are not barred, the potato crop of the United States would be a serious matter.

The purpose of the quarantine is to protect the domestic crop from powdery, scab and wart diseases with which certain foreign grown potatoes are afflicted. The board arrived at no conclusion, but H. C. Marlett, its chairman, announced that there would be no delay in reaching a decision. It is intimated that the quarantine will be extended, but that potatoes will be allowed to come in from suspected districts if they can pass inspection.

Representatives of the growers made their opinion of the hearing that by their protection the consumer would not be properly protected even with such a precautionary measure.

Representative Taylor of New York said that the quarantine was a scheme to gouge city folks.

Representative Brown of New York, who represents the Long Island district, filed resolutions of protest, and the board agreed to a lifting of the quarantine and favoring its extension.