

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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THE EMBARGO TARIFF BILL

ON Monday President Harding sent his message to congress urging that it pass at once what is known as the emergency tariff bill in order to boost the price of farm products. It has been known for months that congress would do that as soon as the special session met. Wednesday last came the announcement that it would be put through the lower house by special rule with practically no debate and would be rushed through the senate with small delay and be signed by the president. It puts a tariff of 40 cents a bushel on wheat, and similar large rates on corn, oats, rye, beans, livestock, wool and manufactures of wool. We believe peanuts and oranges and lemons are also on the preferred list, so to speak. The same bill was put up to President Wilson just before he left office and vetoed by him on the ground that it was a fraud, and would not even raise the price of the articles named to the producers of them, but would do harm in other directions.

On Wednesday last when the news reached the Chicago grain exchange that in a few days or weeks at most this embargo tariff bill would become a statute of the United States, we read this item of news coming from the greatest grain and produce market of the nation: "Wheat, corn, oats and rye, all declined to the lowest price yet this season, and closed heavy with wheat five cents to four and a half cents down. May \$1.22 1/2 to \$1.23. Corn lost 1 1/2 cents to 1 1/4 cents. It is not necessary to tell the cattlemen that the stiff duty which the bill carries on Canadian cattle is not reflected in the Chicago price just now, and we recently read that lemons and oranges were piled on the roadsides in some portions of California, practically worthless. It looks as though what President Wilson said about the worthlessness of this legislation from the farmers' viewpoint had been demonstrated to be correct. It remains to be seen if its other bad consequences materialize after it becomes a law, which it will in a few days.

ROOSEVELT AND THE TREATY.

SENATOR Kellogg of Minnesota, has opened a fight in the senate on the confirmation of the treaty with the United States of Colombia. This treaty has the indorsement of President Harding and Henry Cabot Lodge, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, who opposed its confirmation under the Wilson administration. It was negotiated by William Jennings Bryan in the early days of the first Wilson administration and has been hanging fire. Ex-President Wilson called it an "infamous" treaty and declared it would create "a dangerous precedent," that might cause other South American countries to make claims against the United States, and in particular Roosevelt mentions Chile "for our insolent and improper treatment of her in connection with the Alsop claim."

We think Senator Kellogg is perfectly logical and correct when he says that ratification would cast a reflection on Ex-President Roosevelt. It would. No matter how the treaty is worded, or how silent it may be about the methods by which the United States acquired title to the canal strip on which we constructed the Panama Canal, this treaty provides that we pay the United States of Colombia \$25,000,000 for its rights in that strip. This is exactly the sum which Colombia asked for it when we tried to buy it from her. Roosevelt offered ten million and the offer was declined. Then he bought it from a revolutionary crowd headed by the personal attorney of the late E. H. Harriman which had sailed from the United States with two shiploads of arms and war munitions and over-powered the Colombian officials on the zone. Twenty-four hours after the news reached Washington, Roosevelt recognized the new government of Panama and ordered a large force of U. S. marines who happened to be conveniently at the spot, to land and protect the new Panama government by force against the troops of Colombia sent to put down the rebellion. Then Roosevelt paid the ten millions which he had offered to Colombia to the new government and got from them title to the canal strip.

Roosevelt and his admirers defended this transaction as one of the brightest achievements on the page of American history. He denied that he engineered the Panama revolution and denounced the

Colombians as "brigands" and black-mailers." On the other hand, the Colombians pointed to a treaty made half a century or more ago between the United States and Colombia by the terms of which this republic guaranteed both the political and property rights of the Colombian government against all assailants. The issue is plain enough. If we did no wrong to Colombia we should certainly refuse to pay her this twenty-five million dollars. If we pay her for the property now after having bought and paid for it already, we must admit that we had no right to buy it from Panama. Besides, we will have paid thirty-five million dollars for the property that we could have bought from Colombia for twenty-five million without any fuss or hard feelings raised. That could hardly reflect any credit on Roosevelt's action in "taking" the canal when he got the chance.

We are not much impressed with the logic of Ex-President Roosevelt that a bad precedent would be raised by making reparation provided a wrong was done. It all depends on that. If it be true as President Roosevelt wrote while opposing this treaty that our conduct toward Chile was "insolent" and wrong and our treatment of that republic "improper" in the Alsop claim or any other claim, we should make reparation. It is never too late to right a wrong done, and it is certainly highly honorable in a strong country like the United States to make such reparation freely and cheerfully where the claimant is weak and unable to force respect for his just claims.

This Colombia treaty ratification should not depend on what the attitude of Theodore Roosevelt was to it, but on whether the United States wronged Colombia in the matter or not. If we did, we should pay the claim and make frank apology besides. If we did not, we should not pay the twenty-five million dollars, the sum at which Colombia valued the strip when she was the undoubted owner of it. Neither should we pay other sums, large or small.

THE BACHELOR'S TAX.

WE hear that some of the bachelors of Montana contemplate refusing to pay the bachelor's tax imposed by the recent legislature and signed by Governor Dixon. They declare that they will appeal to the supreme court and after that go to jail if necessary rather than submit to discriminating taxes of this sort. Meantime, however, the newspapers of the east are warning their young men not to come to Montana where they must either marry at once or pay extra taxes.

The Omaha World-Herald in commenting on our last revenue raising law says: "The unmarried male population of sufficient years to be called bachelors, is herewith cautioned to watch its his, or their step, considered singly, in pairs, or gangs. Horace Greeley admonished young men to 'go west.' Conditions have changed since Horace's day, however, and it behooves unmarried men to watch their steps on going west, that they do not step into Montana. The lawmakers of that state, most of them, if not all, of the masculine persuasion, have voted in legislative counsel to require bachelors to pay a tax of \$3 a year, the proceeds to go for a widow's pension fund. "Anybody will rejoice that Montana has a widow's pension fund. It's a pretty serious proposition to be left a widow, no sturdy oak for the vine to cling upon, nor a man to do her political and other serious thinking for her. When there are sturdy lads and little lassies whose restless feet must be shod, and whose education must be advanced, then the state of being a widow is indeed serious, unless perhaps in the state of Montana, where gay bachelors must help supply the shoes and the school books.

"It is never the purpose of this great family journal to smile over the strange predicament in which any of its fellow creatures may be caught. Though not caught in matrimony, Montana's bachelors are caught in the snare of the law. How are they going to take it? Having been shrewd and crafty enough to dodge Cupid and his artful accomplice all these years, how will they proceed to evade this pesky law? Some folks think that's the chief joy in having laws; finding a way

to dodge them. Caught coming and going, will Montana bachelors prefer to spend their \$31 at the marriage license bureau, and risk the pitfalls of the married state, or will they rather pay the tax that is the price of freedom?"

The SPIRIT of AMERICA DAILY EDITORIAL DIGEST

Prepared Exclusively for The Tribune Today's Subject: UNCLE SAM AND THE "HOMES OF THE FREE."

The Senate Committee on Reconstruction on evidence depend on the friendly support of a large part of the press in its effort to meet housing needs. The findings of the committee are accepted as throwing additional light on a problem that is acute in practically every community, and its recommendations are welcomed by most writers at least "as a useful starting point."

Some papers, of course, see in the report but one more "congressional investigation." They agree with the St. Louis Post Dispatch (Ind.) that "the showing up of evils is a futile pastime if it be not followed by recommendations of practical remedy," and in this specific case there is "a lack of an satisfactory solution to the drastic housing shortage." But while objections are made to some of its proposals, the general feeling is that the committee, in the words of the "Washington Post," "has done a great service in laying the facts before the public," irrespective of whether the measures proposed prove effective.

The conclusion at which the Baltimore American (Rep.) arrives, after reading the report, is "that the journey back to the normal in house construction will be a long and hard one," and even the proposals of the committee "are suggestions which pursue the slow and painful course of normalcy." Recognizing also this absence of immediate panacea, the Boston Transcript (Ind. Rep.) draws the normal that "it is apparent that no time should be lost in finding ways of raising the needed capital, and getting to work."

The necessity for co-operation of all forces in solving what the Cleveland Plain Dealer (Ind. Dem.) says, "is recognized as a national problem" is emphasized by the Atlanta Journal (Dem.), because: "No city can truly thrive and fulfill its rightful purpose, no city can measure up to standards of sanitation and material prosperity, much less of democracy and social justice, while part of its people are crowded into living quarters which are unhygienic, or are driven from pillar to post because there are not enough houses to go around. Moreover, there are few factors that make more steadily for good citizenship among the rank and file than home ownership."

So far as concerns the suggestions of the committee, the Newark News (Ind.) writes, "The press estimates of the proposed remedies when it says they are 'like the disposition of the little girl in childhood's remembered rhyme, when they are good they are very, very good, and when they are bad they are horrid!'" To this it must be added, however, that editorial opinion is not entirely in accord as to which of the suggestions are "very good" and which very bad. For instance, the News "cannot endorse" the proposal in the committee program "to amend the federal reserve act so that savings and time deposits may be used for long-time loans" because it is "bad," while the Omaha News (Ind.) features of the plan "seems sensible and practical." So, also, with the proposal to give certain tax exemptions to money invested in building, which the New York Evening Post (Ind.) condemns because "to add to the already long list of tax-exempt securities would be mischievous if not 'dangerous,' and further, this measure offers 'less stimulus to housing than is often supposed.'" On the other hand the Canton News (Dem.) approves this scheme as "the most important," since "the establishment of such a division would make available for this country all the experience that has been gained in Europe, for instance, during the last few years."

Objection to the whole scheme proposed by the senators is voiced in some southern papers, because of what the Louisville Post (Ind.) calls "its paternalistic feature." "Surely," the Post thinks, "we learned during the war enough about the baleful effects of the government taking over private industry." The Chattanooga Times (Ind. Dem.) agrees that "the proposition goes very far toward government interference in individual affairs and leans in the direction of a 'big father,' but at the same time it sympathizes with the New York Globe (Ind. Rep.) since "the establishment of such a division would make available for this country all the experience that has been gained in Europe, for instance, during the last few years."

posals "for the relief of the housing shortage get actually into legislative halls there will be no problem unless unwise material men start another ballooning of prices."

Pungent Paragraphs

And when we hear father slinging to the baby we would pretend to be asleep if we were the baby.—New York Herald.

Mr. Lansing's book shows that whatever else he may be, he is no hero-worshiper.—Boston Globe.

Window glass has come down in price 21 per cent. This will tend to decrease the cost of neighborhood baseball.—Baltimore Reformer.

Germany is drinking less and Great Britain more which shows one reward of being the victor.—Norfolk (Neb.) News.

Slayer sent back to school, says a headline. He must have bungled the job.—Buffalo Express.

Some families get along and in others the head of the house is always spilling catsup on the clean table cloth.—Joplin (Mo.) Globe.

Detachable eyelashes for women are said to be coming into style. Something else to mislay.—Toledo Blade.

Fortunately for Secretary Hughes, he found a copy of "The Complete Letter Writer" in the Department of State.—Philadelphia Record.

"The best way to avoid sleeping sickness," says the New York Sun, "is to keep moving." The house hunting before moving also helps.—Des Moines Register.

Viviani will come to Baltimore for the Franklin celebration. It is gratifying to feel that he has to leave Washington to commune with dead statesmen.—Baltimore American.

A man may be down, but he's never out of alibi.—Baltimore Sun.

Nowadays when Greek meets Greek it's generally on a home run.—Philadelphia North American.

Plutocrat—A man wealthy enough to pay both his fine and his lawyer.—Nashville Tennessean.

Apparently there are physicians who don't care who makes a nation's laws if they can write its prescriptions.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

With Rene Viviani making so many calls it's well we're not bluffing about anything.—Washington Post.

Englishmen consider prohibition a joke. Most of us can laugh at a joke, when it's on the other fellow.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

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Meagher Requires \$200,000 to Meet Outstanding Paper

White Sulphur Springs, April 14.—Petitions are being circulated for a bonding election to be held as soon as possible, to provide \$200,000 for the purpose of taking up outstanding road warrants, and to complete the work already contracted for. The petitions will be looked over at a special session of the commissioners April 15. Should the entire procedure be completed in best possible time, and the bond issue sold, the time required will be well over four months. Figures prepared show that there are outstanding warrants to an amount of over \$155,000. The government in addition, through the state highway commission, is asking for an amount of \$8,000 and another of \$32,000 for completion of signed contracts.

The sound from the report of a ten inch gun travels 22 feet a second faster than the normal speed of sound.

Bozeman Man Placed Upon International Crop Pest Committee

Regina, Sask., April 14.—Appointment of a permanent organization to be known as the Northwest International Committee on Crop pests was announced Thursday after a meeting of entomologists from the dominion and some of the western United States. Norman Criddle, dominion entomologist, is chairman of the committee and R. A. Cooley, Bozeman, Mont., is a member. The grasshopper was named as the first object in their war.

SUES FOR DIVORCE.

Special to The Tribune. Lewistown, April 14.—Bert E. Lohr has brought suit against Earsel M. Lohr to secure a divorce, alleging desertion in 1918 at Junction City, Kansas. They were married at New Orleans in 1913.

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