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MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1930.

Tariff and the Two Parties.

A look backward reveals at once the political danger of tariff revision. Both parties have suffered from it. Public and selfish interests are involved alike, and, usually running counter, make for party trouble.

To-day, owing to the unpromising outlook for satisfactory tariff legislation, the Republicans are obviously apprehensive, and the Democrats characteristically hopeful. There is alertness to impending danger on the one side and unconcealed eagerness to profit by it on the other. Already political prophets are willing to stake their reputations that the next House will be Democratic, and our friend Champ Clark, it is understood, is full of such faith in the future.

For our own part, we can quite easily appreciate the existence of some solicitude in Republican circles. There is no reason in the world why the great body of American people should be in an amiable mood at this juncture. There is every reason in the world to prompt a reputation of the steps thus far taken toward tariff revision. But, really, whatever the outcome—and we still hope for a creditable outcome—we cannot now for the life of us imagine the people turning toward the Democratic party for relief. Why should they? As we view the situation, the Democracy has lost ground in this crisis, and is still losing it. Its course has not been reassuring. It is disorganized, split up into factions, refusing to be led and avowedly ready to sacrifice principle for temporary gain. It is true that some admirable tariff speeches have come from the minority, sounding a clarion call for honest tariff revision, and that men innumerable are to be found in Congress to-day worthy to call themselves Democrats. But the party as a party is not handling itself during this special session in a manner to inspire confidence in it or give substance to the hopes for its immediate future. And all this despite the intelligent, well-directed effort of the minority leadership in the House.

Possibly the Democratic Senators may make more out of the situation. We do not know. Possibly Mr. Aldrich, after all—great man that he is—may yet evolve tariff legislation that will in the main satisfy the country, so long clamorous for tariff reform. We shall not be surprised if he does. But assuming that the consumer—the public at large—is to be generally dissatisfied in the end, we cannot, as we say, imagine the country turning toward the Democratic party for relief—not until there is evidence to-day.

The country may not be pleased with the Republican party, but the alternative is lacking.

Our sprightly contemporary, Life, believes in making hay while the sun shines, evidently. In the last issue there are eleven pictures, some accompanied by jokes, and two poems about Roosevelt and the African hunt, not to mention the cover design which concerns the same interesting topic. We wonder if everybody really knows by this time that Mr. Roosevelt is after stirring up the animals in Africa?

Micro-organic Terrors. The New York Press has grown somewhat weary of the menace of the microbes, and advises its readers to forget them, or, at least, not to worry unnecessarily about them. The Press takes the position that one might just as well be gobbled up by germs and things as to worry oneself crazy for fear one will be gobbled.

There is a large measure of common sense in the Press' animadversions in respect of these admitted pests. Microbes are unquestionably minute citizens of most undesirable qualifications. We have no earthly use for them, and we are always willing to join in a crusade against them. Through the discovery of their existence, however, much has been brought to pass for the benefit of the human race. Life has been made more pleasant; disease less frequent. More than all that, we have been taught how to guard against physical ailments, which is infinitely better than being told how to get well after we are sick.

But microbes have been used a trifle beyond the limit, on occasions, as scaracrows. This way of being afraid to open the door for fear there may be a million microbes or so on the knob, or shying at the scent of a spring violet for fear a malicious army of microbes may infect its petals is silly, and ought not to be encouraged. Another thing we have no patience with is the effort to suppress entirely the kissing of babies—even by their own mothers. Indiscriminate kissing of babies is not to be tolerated for several reasons—good taste, disinclination to make children the common prey of unrestricted humanity, desire for the happiness of the little ones, and so on. But when, in ordinary circumstances, you say a mother must not kiss her own babe, or permit her admiring friends to kiss it now and then, why, it is nonsense, pure and simple.

Do not worry about microbes. Observe ordinary, common-sense rules of living; get plenty of fresh air and sunshine; eat wholesome food, and observe regular hours and habits in general. The microbes will not bother you. On the contrary, they will positively shun you. They do not take to people who do those things.

Mr. Roosevelt is working right along on that lecture he is to deliver in Paris next year. And yet, when it is delivered we expect to hear some people say, "My, how impulsive that man is!"

Strife Over the Newberry Orders. While Secretary Meyer is expounding to his friends and admirers up Boston way the imperative need of building more war ships, we know of no place more in want of a Dreadnought than the Navy Department at the present moment. An armor-plated naval authority, equipped to throw a weight of metal sufficient to overpower all opposition, would seem to be demanded to meet the requirements of a situation practically amounting to insubordination and defiance of departmental orders.

It all comes about through the unwillingness of certain elements in the navy to carry out the spirit and intent of the Newberry plan for the reorganization of navy yard administration. Mr. Newberry, when Secretary of the Navy, calculated on some resistance to his orders, and gave notice that officers unwilling to conform with his wishes would be replaced by others more compliant. One of the officers who proved intractable was detached from duty, but has managed to have his case reconsidered, and still retains his billet, whence he has permitted a campaign against the Newberry orders to be conducted. Mr. Meyer has suppressed the literature of this campaign, but not the spirit of insubordination by which it is animated.

Of the merits of the controversy over the details of the Newberry reorganization we know nothing. We know only that the reorganization was undertaken for the purpose of putting navy yard administration on a business basis, and thereby saving to the public Treasury the large sums heretofore wasted by incoherent and inharmonious management. It seems a pity that a reform of this sort cannot be initiated, without setting the naval personnel by the ears.

A strong hand somewhere would appear to be the prime need of the hour.

The kind of an income tax we need in this country is one guaranteed to keep the Treasury a few laps ahead of the outfit.

A Bluff in Wheat. Our monopolistic friend, Patten, of Chicago, affects to believe that the removal of the duty on wheat would not hurt his corner of that commodity. "I am in favor of removing it right now," he says, "because we will have to do it inside of ten years at any rate. It would not affect the price of wheat a penny, for the markets of the world are on a parity right now."

Mere bluff, like most of the talk we are hearing from this newest Napoleon of finance. The markets of the world may be on a parity, but there is an obstacle, in the shape of the tariff, to the free flow of Canadian wheat to the American side. Consequently, Mr. Patten does not have to reckon with the Canadian supply, but only with that in our own boundaries. He is protected in his combination, just as all the other trusts are protected. Remove that protection, and he would have to corner the Canadian market as well as our own.

But we have no notion that Congress will reduce or remove the wheat duty. It is on an exactly the same plane as other protective duties, all of which tend to increase the domestic price by reserving the home market to domestic producers. When these producers combine they have the consumer at their mercy, just as Patten has at this instant. His operations are a striking illustration of the way the protective tariff works to support monopoly and oppression of the consumer. If our legislators really wanted to stop the Chicago gamble, they would repeal the wheat duty to-day. But they will not do it. They prefer to go clean around the barn to find some impossible way of preventing corners.

Buzzards Bay, Oyster Bay, Beverly Bay. Apparently, our Presidents like to affect bays for summer residences.

Having in mind the strenuous and enthusiastic manner in which the D. A. R. divides against itself, one might think that the D. stands for Democratic.

The lid will be kicked off the Hains mess to-day in Flushing. Not from cholera, however, but from necessity.

Not all the horrible things you hear are true. For instance, married men will be pleased to learn that the reported forthcoming fashion prescribing a 50-bottom-up-the-back gown for women is based on nothing of truth.

have been let off with a rebuke, we think. He will know better than that after the season has progressed a little farther.

"Is the American girl bent on making a comic valentine of herself?" asks the New York Herald. Hardly that, we think; but those waist-basket hats certainly indicate an ambition somewhat bordering on that, apparently.

No doubt, however, those wheat speculators would admonish us that a half-sized loaf for 5 cents is better than no bread.

An Alabama paper thinks drinking has been heavier in that State since prohibition went into effect than ever before. From this we conclude that Alabama wears the "smile" that won't come off.

"Roosevelt in Eden," says a headline. Doubtless near to being in a bad box as anybody ever succeeded in getting him.

Chinese Joss-sticks come in free under the Payne law as it is now proposed. We regret that joss-sticks do not make very good soup; and even as a hash factor they are not counted a great success.

A colored youth recently said that all the education he received at Yale is a detriment to him. An investigation of the rolls shows that he never received any education at Yale. We guess he is about right.

Just as I am, without one plea, but that the standstills fashioned me. The congregation of consumers will please arise and sing this old Congressional tariff hymn.

Dressed in her best suit of clothes yesterday, "April's lady" was a dream.

"A new natural gas well has been discovered in Indiana," says the South Bend News. Literary or political?

"The weather now apparently being over," begins the Wheeling Telegraph. If it is, really.

"Daniel Boone was born in Pennsylvania," says the Philadelphia Inquirer. Respectfully referred to Elder Caldwell, of the Charlotte Observer, who is very much better of a recent illness, we are pleased to note, and ought to be in fair shape for a row.

Considering everything, Mr. Taft's ability to tread on eggshells without breaking them is truly remarkable.

Mr. James Schoolcraft Sherman recently delivered a highly interesting address on "Our country." Is this an administration hint that the one and particular "my" policy is to go gimmering?

A thing of duty and a joy forever—the Payne bill is stand-pat philosophy.

CIVIL SERVICE CAREERS. Possibilities Shown by Successes of Hitchcock and Cortelyou.

From the Boston Times. In the United States there is a steady increase in the number of places in the civil service. The total is already large enough to be a serious draft on the most promising of the nation's army of young men. By frequent examinations the lists are kept up so that those who fall below high standards have little chance of appointment. The hard road to success in private life, which develops the best qualities, the drudgery which precedes success, does not deter the ambitious young man when nothing else offers. But the inducements which the civil service holds out are exactly the things which lure the young, even the ambitious. It gives an opportunity for one to earn a comfortable living with leisure to pursue the studies of a profession.

Of recent years the examples of Messrs. Cortelyou and Hitchcock, both employes in the classified service, who have risen to places of prominence in the political world, have served as a strong attraction. It is as a career by showing that it may carry great possibilities. The classified civil service is also sending constantly into private business and professional life a steady stream of men, many of whom employ a chauffeur by the special experience which they have had under the government. Patent Office examiners become patent lawyers, and customs experts in the Treasury Department become custom-house attorneys. The Department of Agriculture is steadily sending men into the agricultural industries, and so the welding of the civil service with the general business of life has become very much more close than would at first sight appear.

PLATING THE UPPER AIR. Aviation Will Make Drafts on Meteorological Science.

From the Review of Reviews. When the cautious "air-skipper" of the future prepares to start on his transcendent voyage by aeroplane from New York to San Francisco, he will consult not only the regular weather maps of the United States to learn where storms are disturbing the surface of the continent, but he will also carefully examine the international charts of the upper air, by means of which he may guide his airship to the most favorable atmospheric strata and there be aided by the air currents in his meteoric flight.

All over the world men of science are engaged in probing the air blanket which surrounds the globe, and already results have been obtained which are being carefully analyzed and will soon be employed for the benefit of mankind. It is confessed at once that these researches are not primarily in the interest of aviation, the future of which seems yet so uncertain, but they promise to be of immediate and practical value in increasing our knowledge of the secrets of the higher regions of the air. In other words, they are advancing the science of what most of us refer to as "the weather," and what scientists term meteorology.

Magnificent as have been the achievements of our Weather Bureau, the remarkably accurate forecasts which are estimated to save over \$50,000,000 to agriculture and commerce annually, and for the maintenance of which our government gladly spends more than all the European governments combined, for similar service, it is nevertheless generally agreed that observations at the ground level, which have hitherto constituted the basis of forecasts, are insufficient and untrustworthy. The small layer of atmosphere at the earth's surface is affected by every object rising in its path, but the great ocean of air, miles high above us, is influenced but little by the strata at the very bottom level, where our forecasters occupy somewhat the position of shellfish groping about the ocean floor.

Licensed Bachelors. From the New York Evening Sun. There is the further objection to the taxation of bachelors for purposes of revenue, only that many of them would come to regard themselves as licensed widows, &c., considering their condition. The consumer has been a welcome ally for his cause, but has had little representation at the tariff hearings and little consideration in the councils of the schedule-makers. But the consumer delegates, falling to secure a favorable response to their presentation of their needs before Congress and its committees, appealed to the President. The American consumer has been a welcome ally for his cause, but has had little representation at the tariff hearings and little consideration in the councils of the schedule-makers. But the consumer delegates, falling to secure a favorable response to their presentation of their needs before Congress and its committees, appealed to the President. 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