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the vehicles of childhood for the sake of mere revenue. One peril of this fiscal legislation by the sea is that it may find limitation. All of the available coast may be turned into a source of income for municipal governments. Thus may be realized the auriferous dream of extracting the precious metal from salt water. Hitherto the cashiers' windows at the hotels have been sufficiently active receivers of the visitors who willingly pay for their wholesome entertainment. In turn, the hotels have borne their share of the cost of local public improvements, which have proved sound investments. But a tax on baby carriages to meet the prosaic appropriations voted at the city hall? The tale is incredible. It were more comforting to attribute its source to some inventive genius of the seaside news factories.

Il-paved and Unkept Streets. The streets of Washington, once its pride, are to-day in a condition far from pleasing. They are receiving scant attention, obviously, from those entrusted with their care and upkeep.

No doubt the appropriation is running low, or is exhausted, and that Congress is entirely to blame. We have never known the time that a perfectly logical explanation was not readily forthcoming to fit any such case, and we, therefore, accept it in this case in advance, and let it go at that.

It is the condition of the streets, not the explanations and excuses and extenuating circumstances, that interests us, and with which we are dealing at this time. The street paving on many thoroughfares—and they are among our best thoroughfares, too—is wholly out of repair, and has been allowed to remain so for months. Ruts abound that are a menace and disgrace. Conditions prevail that would put to shame smaller municipalities, that cannot go in for asphalt paving, but must content themselves with well-kept streets more primitively fashioned.

If Washington could have model streets in years past, it ought to have model streets now. But they are going from bad to worse. We purposely refrain from asking why. We merely point out the fact and emphasize the condition. Not only is the paving on many streets worn out, full of holes, and well-nigh impassable for carriage, wagon, or automobile, but the streets generally—the well-paved and the ill-paved streets—are not kept clean. Downtown thoroughfares not infrequently present a most unsightly appearance.

While we are all so keenly interested in the good roads movement, and seeking by enthusiastic effort to arouse a general sentiment for improved highways throughout the land, let us not overlook the decaying thoroughfares here at the Capital of the Nation—the ill-paved streets at our very door.

This is not written, as we have indicated, to invite explanation or bring forth excuse. It is written in the hope of prompting action for a better state of things.

A Tariff Commission Beginning. An observation frequently met with in tariff discussion, both in Congress and in the press, is that the present tariff bill is the last that will be framed with the aid of a tariff commission or a board of experts which has given the subject continuous attention for a series of years. The enactment of a tariff measure, in certain aspects, attains the proportions of a national scandal. Insufficient information and biased opinions guide the makers of a tariff bill, and their followers, groping about for facts, are compelled to accept blindly the conclusions prepared for them, frequently by interested parties. Duties protective of a single industry or section of country are logrolled through on the principle of give and take, with the result that every bill performs contains more dutiable articles and higher duties than it should under any fair principle of protection. Obscurity attends many of the schedules, the effect of which is uncertain and disputable. So unhappy are all the circumstances of a tariff revision that every interest dreads it, and there will be general sympathy with Senator Doliver's hope that American business may never be put through such a sweat as it has been this summer.

The tariff commission idea, however, has met with cold favor in both Houses. A somewhat indefinite provision in the Senate bill, the fate of which in conference is still undetermined, gives the President authority "to employ such persons as may be required to make thorough investigations and examinations into the production, commerce, and trade of the United States and foreign countries" for the purpose of securing information to enable him to discharge his duties under the maximum and minimum sections, as well as "information which will be useful to Congress in tariff legislation and to the officers of the government in the administration of the customs laws." Though unsatisfactory to the advocates of a tariff commission with a specific function, this provision has been accepted as the best attainable under existing conditions, in the hope, to quote Senator Newlands, that the persons employed by the President may by a "process of evolution gradually become a tariff commission with full power to act under a rule laid down by Congress."

It is evident that the President can assist this process of evolution to a considerable degree, under the liberal authority granted him to employ such persons as he chooses, yet he may be hampered in doing so by want of the necessary appropriation, a circumstance which has led some people to express suspicion as to the sincerity of the proposed legislation. Whatever may be the fate of the evolutionary process hopefully looked forward to by tariff commission advocates, it is pretty certain that administrative authority in the framing of tariffs will be vastly increased by the maximum and minimum provisions. The determination of conditions justifying the application of the minimum tariff will necessitate the creation of a permanent tariff bureau with duties of investigation and recommendation that will give its conclusions weight with both the executive and the legislative branch. It will ac-

cumulate a mass of exact and authoritative information that will serve to guide both Congress and public opinion. Perhaps there will be at last some governmental office to which the bewildered member of Congress can appeal with confidence for the facts essential to the formation of honest and intelligent judgment respecting tariff rates. So much, at all events, can be accomplished by the President, if Congress furnishes the money, under the grading tariff-commission clause of the Senate bill. It is an "entering wedge" of which we heartily approve.

The young Duchess de Chaulnes is reported engaged to Prince Joachim Murat, but her father "emphatically denies the rumor." Ah! That, we believe, precisely parallels the original de Chaulnes-Shonts announcement.

"Old-actually has new-thought beaten three ways from the subconsciousness," explains Franklin P. Adams, in the New York Mail. And Mr. Adams probably admires baseball English as little as any person you ever heard of, too.

A French statesman proposes international abolition of tariffs. Having failed to get anywhere in particular with disarmament, The Hague might try its hand on demilitarization—better word subject to revision, without notice, by its friends.

"What is the plural of maximum and minimum?" inquires the Richmond Times-Dispatch. In the words of Huckleberry Finn, "It ain't got no one."

Considering the amount of talking they do, we incline to suspect the Wright brothers attend to other folks' business in inverse ratio to the manner in which they attend to their own.

Fifty-odd lieutenant colonels and one lone major have been appointed to serve on the staff of the governor of Georgia. The major, however, will enjoy a sort of "splendid isolation."

Arg is mad, Peru is glad, and Bo knows what will please her—down South America way, you know.

If it be unlawful to play a piano in Washington "after midnight," is it not more than technically correct to say that it is, therefore, unlawful to play it before midnight?

The Standard Oil Company already makes a yellow axle grease that is probably as good to eat as its newfangled "petrol" butter.

"Aldrich is a good listener," says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The wonder is he never seems to hear that "still, smaller voice."

"San Francisco now has more than \$10,000,000 in the city treasury," says the Call. An eloquent tribute to the patriotic purpose Mr. "Abe" Ruef serves in jail.

The political atmosphere down in Old Ferginya, however, makes this Weather Bureau thing seem positively chilly.

"Suffragettes make things lively for prison keepers," says a headline in a London daily. We should think that headline might be accepted as axiomatic by this time.

"Wanted—a scare," says the New York Mail. Very, somebody has trotted out the "crime of '73" in Mr. Tom Watson's Jeffersonian Weekly, if that will help any.

"Treat the candidate kindly," advises the Nashville American. On the contrary, we shall not treat the candidate at all; it is the candidate's business to treat us.

Senator "Jeff" Davis says he does not wish the President to consider him "rude." The Senator is of an intensely independent mind, you know. Evidently, he does not care if the President does not consider him at all.

Guggenheim a Linguist. From the New York Globe. Senator Simon Guggenheim, of Colorado, is credited with knowing all about the smelting business; but he knows something more than that. He is one of the best linguists in the House of Congress. It is not of record how many languages he can use, but he is familiar with several aside from his own—including French and German.

He took a special course in languages in Europe when a young man, after being graduated from the public schools of Philadelphia. He is still a young man—only forty-two.

PEOPLE AND THINGS

Stubs and Grub.

Gov. Stubbs, of Kansas, has issued an order that sounds at once eloquent and of attractive import to enforced dwellers in prisons and asylums. The executive opinion is thus tersely expressed: "If the grub provided at State Institutions isn't good enough for the officers and employes of the institutions, it isn't good enough for the inmates." The enforcement is enforced by the further direction that if special articles of grub are provided for officers and employes, they shall pay for them out of their own pockets. This Kansas idea seems sound. Nevertheless, it would seem to bear hard upon the social life that may be possible for the prison employes. Are their dinner parties to visiting friends to be marked by menus of beans, bread, and water? Are their visitors to have none of the luxuries of the season at the expense of the State, and, incidentally, to the penance presumably due the inmates? 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