

FORDNEY-M'CUMBER TARIFF DEVELOPING INSURGENCY

Continued from First Page.

to confer special privileges on interests whose support was desired, and particularly to the spokesmen of the agricultural bloc. There was comparatively little opposition to the bill framed by the Fordney committee in the House, because practically every demand made by influential members whose support was desired was granted.

The same scheme was adopted by the McCumber committee in the Senate and has been manifested in the debate over the "perfect opportunity" in the Senate. The principal thought that seemed to be back of the work of preparing the tariff bill in both houses was to attract votes enough to head off an insurgent movement such as that successfully staged in 1909.

The bill has now been under consideration in the Senate for one month. It has been attacked by a number of Republicans and a few Democrats, although the leaders of the latter party have discouraged criticism among their associates on the theory that passage of the bill will win tremendous popular support to the Democratic candidates in the coming Congressional elections.

Protests made by Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee against what they described as "excessively high and disproportionate" rates in some of the schedules have up to date proved unavailing. Chairman McCumber and leaders of the agricultural bloc have successfully recruited enough support to prevent any drastic changes in these schedules.

Warning Is Not Heeded.

The warning of the Republicans not susceptible to agricultural influences, or who do not believe the farmers of the country desire "a tariff wall" built around the country, have been unheeded. Mr. McCumber and his supporters in the agricultural bloc insist that the maximum of protection be provided for the producing farmer, regardless of the effect of such a policy on the general business of the country, as also the buying public—the ultimate consumer.

According to Republican as well as Democratic critics of the "top heavy" tariff bill there does not exist any widespread demand for enactment of such a measure as that which the Fordney and McCumber committees have presented in the two houses.

Representatives of business interests who appeared before the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees reflected the idea that there is no urgent demand for a prohibitive protective tariff in the present condition of business either at home or abroad.

Many of these representatives expressed the opinion that Congress should wait a year or two before revising the tariff upward. The emergency tariff passed by Congress last year provided all the protection needed until normal business conditions have been restored, and suggested that the tariff be turned over to the commission created for that purpose, to work out and recommend changes along reasonable lines.

Hand of Big Business Absent.

It is a significant fact that the hand of "big business" has been conspicuously absent from among the influences that dictated the composition of the Fordney-McCumber tariff bill. The fact is, spokesmen for these interests which in other days were credited with the power to dictate tariff legislation have not manifested one-half of the enthusiasm over the pending project as the self-constituted representatives of the agricultural interests.

Chairman Fordney of the House Ways and Means Committee is a "staid pat high tariff" man of the old school. Chairman McCumber has been described as "reactionary." A majority of Republican Senators and Representatives privately condemn the joint tariff production of these two leaders as a "monstrosity," but will vote for it on the ground of "party regularity."

Suggestions made by them that greater power be given the Tariff Commission to work out a permanent policy for the country along sound economic lines have not been acceptable to Chairmen McCumber and Fordney and their supporters. Most of the latter have given little or no personal attention to the construction of the pending tariff bill beyond seeking privileges of special importance to their respective districts. This pyramiding process has, in fact, been responsible for most of the support of the bill.

In presenting the measure to the Senate Chairman McCumber declared that his committee had endeavored to recommend rates that will afford protection to American industries and permit them to pay wages sufficient to enable our workmen to maintain the

about the construction of a tariff bill framed to meet pertinent and normal conditions which, in their judgment, do not now exist.

The next step favored by this group is to substitute a simple measure turning the tariff over to a committee with instructions to work out a plan that will eliminate the political features of the pending measures. This suggestion is naturally opposed by Mr. McCumber and the Senators pretending to speak for the agricultural interests. The plan of this element is to force the Fordney-McCumber bill through on the theory that the people of the country favor a tariff measure. Mr. McCumber and his associates would not make any prediction as to the approximate date for passing the tariff bill.

The North Dakota Senator admitted this afternoon "the debate may run along for several weeks." The group of Republicans who are displaying signs of insurgency but who have not moved to stage an open revolt are inclined to take things easy for the time being. One of the members of this group said this afternoon that opposition to the Fordney-McCumber tariff bill is constantly growing and "might result in a serious break in the Republican party."

During the debate over the bill today Senator John Sharp Williams answered the statement of Mr. McCumber that the latter's tariff bill was necessary to relieve oppressive business conditions.

"The Senator from North Dakota says, and he says truly," said Mr. Williams, "that we are in a bad condition financially, and if modern patriotism prevails amongst our boys when they get a bonus we shall be in a worse condition financially. There is an appeal for a bonus if we can put the money in the Treasury. The only way to let the imports come in and collect a tax on them, unless we are going to levy an internal tax upon some products."

"My friend from North Dakota knows that the object of this bill is not to put money in the Treasury. He knows the effect of it will be to keep money out of the Treasury; he knows that the purpose is to stop imports; he knows that the effect, if the purpose is carried out, will be to stop payments into the Treasury."

"Now here we are in this fix. We cannot balance our budget even this year. With the bonus threatening us we will not be able to balance our budget for the next year and the year after that. We will not be able to balance it for twenty years unless we tax to death the people at home."

"With the world owing us \$11,000,000,000, a world which has neither cash nor credit wherewith to pay, having nothing but commodities, nothing but the things it can produce on the farms, in the fields or in the mines—here we are with this bill, saying, 'You have no cash and you have no

security, and it is true that the only way you can pay is in your products, but we decline to let you pay in that way.'"

Senator Harrison (Dem., Miss.) in calling Chairman McCumber's attention to the prediction made by Mr. Beveridge said:

"If Beveridge were here he would indict all your Republican leaders for passing this bill." Mr. Harrison condemned the McCumber bill as putting a tax on meats, bread, wheat and the necessities of life.

"You tax the joys and toys of little children," he said. "You tax the souls and sorrows of old women. You even tax the chalk of children used in the schoolroom."

Senator Harrison read some of the articles on the Fordney-McCumber free list. "Here we have sand, dried blood, bones, dried insects and cuticle-bones," he said.

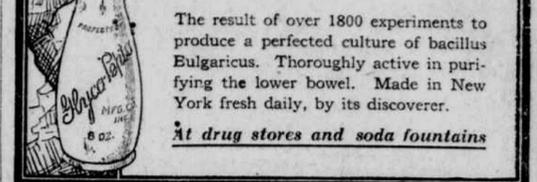
The big fight over the Fordney-McCumber tariff will come when the American valuation section is reached next week. The attitude of some of the farm bloc Senators encourages Senators who regard the Fordney-McCumber bill as unsuitable to hope for an insurgent combination that will at least postpone the passage of it.

Senator Capper, the millionaire chairman of the agricultural bloc, surprised some of his colleagues to-day by attacking the Fordney plan. In the Senate bill the foreign valuation scheme has been adopted, but the rates are so arranged that they can be

quickly converted into American value ad valorem system, which Mr. Fordney says will have to be adopted.

Senator Capper declared the American valuation piece is fraught with danger to the American farmers and the American consumer. He said that the "carriage" of American valuation schemes is "neither more or less than a cloak to hide the enormous duties imposed in the House on many commodities necessary to the farmer."

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To-day's Radio Program

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STATION WJZ, NEWARK.

6:00 P. M.—"Review of the Iron and Steel Industries and Their Relation to General Business Conditions," by the Iron Age.

7:00 P. M.—"Recollections of a Sky Pilot," by Major Chaplain John J. Allan, formerly chaplain of the Seventy-seventh Division, A. E. F. Major Allan will also play "Aria from Lucia" and Handel's "Largo" on the concert presented to him by the boys while in France.

8:00 P. M.—Address Secretary Herbert Hoover, as presented before the convention of the National Electric Light Association at Atlantic City.

8:30 P. M.—"The Work of the American Red Cross," by Mrs. August Belmont of the central and executive committees of the National American Red Cross. Arrangements through the Health Speakers Bureau of the Brooklyn chapter.

9:00 P. M.—Concert by the Philadelphia String Quartet of New York. Maurice Kaufman, first violin, former concert master of the Russian Symphony Orchestra of New York; Joseph Dicka, second violin; Otto Schill, viola; Russell Kingman, violoncello; assisted by Henry Levy, pianist.

STATION WGY, SCHENECTADY.

7:30 P. M.—Noon stock market quotations.

7:00 P. M.—Stock and product market quotations and reports, baseball results and late news bulletin.

STATION WJZ, MANHATTAN.

1:40 P. M.—Brief song recital by Edna Beatrice Bloom; J. Thurston Noy at the piano. (a) "My Little House," Pierce; (b) Yesterday and To-day; (c) "Dawn," Curran.

2:40 P. M.—Brief violin recital by Alexander Hackel; William Edward Berge at the piano. (a) "Meditation" from "Thais," Massenet; (b) "Catalina," Raff.

3:40 P. M.—Brief song recital by Edna Beatrice Bloom; J. Thurston Noy at the piano. (a) "Bring You Heart's Ease," Brannan; (b) "From the Land of the Sky-Blue Water," Cadman; (c) "May Day Carol," Leece; (d) "Tally Ho," Curran.

4:40 P. M.—Children's hour, by Elsie Jean, with music writer of children's stories and verses: "Professor Gray Squirrel's Tail a Scrub Brush."

5:00 P. M.—Lecture, "Address by Thomas Robert Guinness, subject, 'Three Laws of Life.'" Brief musical program.

STATION KDKA, PITTSBURGH.

7:00 P. M.—"Anthracite Coal Mining," Dever C. Ashmead, anthracite editor Coal

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