The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1909.

JUDGE MANN ANSWERS FULLY.

Judge Mann last night effectually silenced the critics who said that he would not, and the dark strategists who said that he should not, make clear his intended attitude as Governor toward State-wide prohibition. The judge meets the issue as clearly, fully and explicitly as possible. If a State-wide prohibition bill should come from a Legislature which had no "previous instructions from the people," he, as Governor, would veto it. If a State-wide bill should come from a Legislature elected upon that issue, under circumstances which satisfied him that the will of the people was clearly for State prohibition, he, as Governor, would sign it. If a bill should be passed referring the question to the direct vote of the people, he, as Governor, would sign it. No clearer and more detailed statement of intentions could be desired. The voters of Virginia now know, as was their right, exactly what to expect from Judge Mann in a contingency that may not impossibly confront the next Governor of the State.

It will be observed that Judge Mann's attitude toward State-wide prohibition is very much like that announced by Mr. Tucker some weeks before him. Both candidates agree that they would veto any prohibition bill passed by an "uninstructed" Legislature, and sign any bill passed by a Legislature to authorize a direct popular vote. But here they come to the parting of the ways. Mr. Tucker's dislike of legislative prohibition recognizes no line between instructed and uninstructed Legislatures. He would veto the bill in any case. Judge Mann, on the other hand, would sign a prohibitory bill if he felt satisfied that the Legislature which passed it was acting under orders from the electorate. That some rather nice phases of judgment are introduced here is of course plain. A legislative majority does not always imply a popular majority, nor would every member of the Legislature be elected upon the State-wide issue and that alone. There are too many towns and counties already dry for that. It is easy to see that opinions might easily and widely differ as to how far any given Legislature was "instructed" by the people. But these are matters which, the voter may study out at his leisure, scrutinizing the differences between the two positions and deciding for himself which of them he likes the better.

For the rest, Judge Mann's opening speech is devoted largely to the roads and schools question. There is nothing much new or striking left to say about either of these matters, but Judge Mann undoubtedly strikes the right note in his recommendation for agricultural training in every country high school. This is a suggestion which The Times-Dispatch and doubtless others, have offered within recent memory, and which is certainly destined to be adopted some day. The judge favors a system of inspection for banks. He also "favors the establishment of any proper method by which the burdens" of taxation may be equitably proportioned. But he does not offer any recommendation as to what methods should be employed, nor does he discuss the subject in any such way as to suggest a realization of its large and pressing importance.

In a speech which, though sensible and statesmanlike, was necessarily rather routine and lacking in novel ideas, the candidate's definition of his attitude toward legislative prohibition is, under the circumstances, decidedly the most interesting feature. As to his delay in announcing this attitude, the judge explains, not that he was "insulted" by the question submitted to local option candidates by this newspaper and others, but that he very naturally and properly "preferred to wait, as I have done, until I was able to open my canvass in a public speech." He adds, with evident sincerity, an expression of regret that "my delay has been misconstrued." Whether this was intended as a slap at the over-zealous Petersburg champion, who so eagerly explained for the candidates that the question was too "brutally offensive" for delicate and refined gentlemen to notice, we cannot of course venture to say.

RATTLING THE DRY BONES AGAIN.

"What would be the attitude of a local option advocate, if elected Governor, toward a State-wide prohibition bill?"—The Times-Dispatch, February 13.

"The candidates do not answer the bushwhackers, because the question is an insult to them as gentlemen and an aspersion of their honor and good faith as aspirants to public office."—Petersburg Index-Appeal, February 23.

"If the Legislature of Virginia should pass a bill for State-wide prohibition, I should feel compelled to veto it."—Candidate Harry St. George Tucker, February 25.

"We think he [Mr. Tucker] has acted wisely in not remaining silent."—Petersburg Index-Appeal, February 26.

"If elected, and if during my term of office the Legislature should pass a prohibitory law without previous instruction by the people, I should veto it."—Candidate William Hodges Mann, March 18.

Further elucidations, irresistibly suggested by the above, were not available at the hour of going to press.

A FAR-REACHING DECISION.

On the whole, the decision of the Court of Appeals in the Ward law case, while welcome, is unexpected. Most lawyers, we believe, as well as such lay observers as had examined the questions involved, had been inclined to doubt that this act could stand in the courts. The Supreme Court's decision upholding its constitutionality is, however, almost unanimous. This gives the pleasurable assurance that past special elections will stand undisturbed, and that future ones will not be hampered by the supposed constitutional inhibitions.

That the Ward law qualifies a suffrage not qualified in the Constitution is in the letter of that act, and is not denied. The act, indeed, was framed for that very purpose. The point at issue here was as to whether the intent of the Constitution made such qualifications impossible, and this point hinged directly on the meaning of the words "all elections" in section 18 of the schedule. This section provides that "in all elections held after this Constitution goes into effect, the qualifications of electors shall be those required by article 2 of this Constitution." Of course, the Ward law, whose qualifications are not these, governs only certain special local elections. Does "all elections" as intended by the Constitution include these special elections? The Supreme Court decides that it does not, and defends its opinion with able argument and many references.

The point that had most weight with the court was apparently the fact that while the constitutional provisions regulating the suffrage were in the Underwood Constitution of 1869 deliberately extended to cover "all questions submitted to the people," this policy was with equal deliberateness rejected seven years later, when a direct vote of the people again confined these restrictions to elections "for members of the General Assembly and all officers elective by the people." This same language appears in the franchise article of the present Constitution. Since the attention of constitutional lawyers had thus been specially directed to the fact that franchise qualifications have applied sometimes to all elections, sometimes to general elections only, it is argued that the framers of the Constitution of 1901 would doubtless have reintroduced the "all questions submitted to the people" clause, if that had been what they intended. Moreover, the clause under which the constitutionality of the Ward law was attacked does not appear in the body of the Constitution proper at all. The requirement about "all elections" is in the schedule. It is contended, with reason, that a provision so important as this would be, if taken in its literal and detached meaning, would hardly have been reserved for a postcript.

The court sets to work on the theory that in an issue of this sort the Legislature should be given the benefit of every doubt. It finds that to exclude special elections from the "all elections" of the Constitution is not "so manifestly contrary to, unwarranted by and so plainly at war with the Constitution that it must be condemned by the courts." There is no question that this decision will be a very popular one. The Ward law was passed to facilitate the holding of special and local option elections which, owing to the prepayment of poll taxes provision, the Constitution practically confined to a very few months in the year. It is desirable that the people should have freedom in expressing themselves at the polls, and this law is a useful one. The local option elections in Fredericksburg, Roanoke, Suffolk, Lynchburg and elsewhere, which were held and entered into in good faith, will stand, as it is fair and just that they should. The road bond and school bond laws will stand. Still another result of this decision, and by no means the least interesting and important, is that it will lay the bogey of State-wide prohibition for awhile at least. There is neither reason nor pretext for a State-wide liquor fight when the machinery for enabling each community to take up and settle the matter for itself is so simple, convenient and easily accessible.

THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

Even a completed and enacted tariff bill is a difficult thing to appraise on paper, because of the great number and complexity of the schedules and the shading of rates upon almost innumerable articles. Practical operation always reveals facts that do not readily appear to the eye. In the case of the Payne tariff bill, as introduced into the House, there are two things that further complicate discussion. One is the uncertainty about the workings of the maximum and minimum provision, a new feature in our tariff legislation. The other is the fact that the bill now is no more than a working draft, thrown into the arena for the interests to squabble over. What it will be like when the Senate and the conference committees get through with it, no seer can foretell.

As it stands, though, the bill, though in no sense what could be desired, is better than there was reason to expect. On only a few articles are the duties increased, the most notable of these being tea, which is taken from the free list and burdened with a tax of 8 or 9 cents a pound. Most important increases fall on luxuries and are laid allegedly as revenue producers, though some articles have their cases attended to on the ground "that there was not sufficient protection under the present law." On the other hand, there is a considerable downward revision over a fair range, extending sometimes to a 50 per cent. cut, and now and then to the transfer of a hitherto dutiable article to the free list.

In general, raw materials have felt the knife go deepest. The iron and steel industry, the lumber trade, the hides dealers and the paper manufacturers have been hit harder than other industries. Iron ore goes on the free list, pig iron is reduced from $4 to $2.50 a ton, and the duty on steel rails is cut in two. Nobody can now be persuaded that these reductions will ruin our iron and steel trade, and probably they will stand. Hides go on the free list, leather is sharply reduced, and boots and shoes are asked to do with less protection. The lumber duty is halved, and wood pulp is to be admitted free if coming from a country which places no export tax upon it. This latter provision is an evident summons to Canada, as is also the proposal to make no levy on bituminous coal and coke imported from countries which adopt a reciprocal attitude toward American coal and coke. The cuts in sugar and in farm products other than hides are inconsiderable. Probably the wools and woolens get a tenderer treatment than any of the great schedules. Reductions are virtually confined to the cheapest grades, where they are not great, and the finer kinds are left almost untouched.

Three general features of the bill are worthy of note. One is the provision for conditional free trade with the Philippines. This provision is subject to the limitation that the amount of tobacco, cigars and sugar admitted without duty shall not exceed specified figures, but it will hardly be agreeable to our Southern protectionists. Another feature is an addition to the customs law which permits consigned import goods, but only those, to be appraised at American prices, which would naturally be higher. Still another is the provision of an inheritance tax. Whether Mr. Taft's recommendations of this tax in his inaugural address and message followed or prompted the inclusion of it in the bill, we do not know. It will probably be resisted by Representatives whose States already tax inheritances for their own revenues.

The Payne bill is officially described as one which imposes lower duties, but provides more revenue. Whether the reductions are enough to stimulate importation to that extent remains to be seen. Doubts on that score are evidenced by the provision for $40,000,000 of Panama Canal bonds, on the past account, and for increasing the maximum of certificates of indebtedness for revenue purposes from $100,000,000 to $250,000,000. No hint appears anywhere that the administration could possibly get along with less money than it is now spending. The bill is framed to meet the theory that extravagance is our settled national policy and that a billion dollars a year is a "conservative" minimum of expenditure. This necessitates taxation to the extent of all the traffic will bear. But it seems that the restiveness of the consuming classes this fall and winter has convinced even Mr. Payne and associates that there is a limit to what is bearable, and they have made concessions which, while anything but reckless, are at least to the full of what was expected of them.

The Washington Herald intimates in an editorial that there has been "A Breach in the House Rules." Still it will take several pairs of such to fix the House Rules up with a competent wardrobe.

"Does Postmaster-General Hitchcock wear nothing but a silk hat?" the Denver Post inquires to know. Well, now, we put it to our Denver friend whether any sane man is likely to try a costume like that on a blizzardy and Boreasque little town like Washington?

This new fishing-rod described by the Buffalo News and the Washington Herald, which will register the size and weight of every fish caught, ought to be instantly suppressed. It is obviously designed to destroy the chief zest in one of the grandest sports known to mankind.

Well, the tariff bill is out. Now let old General Prosperity get his men together and come along.

Some of the free listed chaps will think it a pain tariff bill all right.

The New York Mail, which always tries to find the bright side, contends that spring house-cleaning often makes it possible to break a few Billikens. Even the Mail must admit, however, that it is practically impossible to lose any rubber plants.

We assume that a lot of tea-drinkers will now begin to practice up on coffee.

It does seem to us that if there aren't any tigers in Africa the Smithsonian Institute ought to arrange to put a few nice ones there.

It appears to be a general gratification to our contemporaries that Mr. Taft uses the knee-length message only.

We herewith announce to all crusty but well-fixed old bachelors, lonely Montana mining kings, rich Australian uncles with no nephews and the like, that we are entirely willing to accept any and all legacies on the terms and conditions laid down by Hon. Reno Payne.

"Shall our Capitol be turned into a lodging house?" demands the Houston Post, editorially. We gather that the shiftless and lazy Texas solons are showing a disposition to sleep on their jobs.

Jack Johnson is reported as saying that he dearly loves to read Shakespeare, which sounds like a highly colored story to us.

It goes without saying that Richmonders will expect an even more sublime article from the weather man hereinafter.

Borrowed Jingles.

IN UGANDA.

The beasts of Uganda were beating retreat, and the slower were trying to stay with the fleet, when a lion came flying aside from the rear with his face mutilated and one shredded ear.

"We thought," said the beasts
As they saw him arrive,
"You stayed back to face him
And eat him alive!"
But the man-eater only
Ran faster and whined,
And now and then ventured
A survey behind.

"Well," said the hippo, who ran as he could, "did you eat him alive as you boasted you would?" But the lion limped onward with never a word—at least anything that the rest of them heard.

"I'll bet," said the rhino,
"He bit off his head
And left them to find him
All bloody and dead!"
Whereat they all laughed
And the great lion cried
And licked at the gashes
All over his hide.

"I see how it happened," the elephant said. "Our brother was up in a tree overhead, and when he pounced on him, a stranger to fear, the cruel thorns tore him and shredded his ear!"

They all laughed again,
And the lion, all red
With blood, only shuddered
And limped ahead.
"O, come," they exclaimed
As they followed with haste,
"We all know that you ate him,
But how did he taste?"

The lion turned around at the top of a rise, and his whiskers were matted with tears from his eyes. "Don't taunt me," he begged, "and I'll tell you my woes." And blood trickled off from the end of his nose.

"We'll do it!" they answered,
And, husky with grief
And fear, he proceeded:
"My story is brief.
I did lay for Teddy,
Intending my worst,
And I jumped as I promised—
But he bit me first."

—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

MERELY JOKING.

Expert.

"She talks very learnedly on art. Is she an expert critic?"

"No. She's an expert talker."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Recognition.

Hoax: "Here comes Borleigh. Do you know him to speak to?"

Joax: "Not if I see him first."—Philadelphia Record.

Insight.

"I don't suppose you have a dollar you want to lend me?"

"Your insight does you credit. How did you guess?"—Cleveland Leader.

The Christening.

"And the name is to be?" asked the suave minister, as he approached the font with the precious armful of fat and flounces.

"Augustus Philip Ferdinand Codrington Chesterfield Livingstone Snooks."

"Dear me!" (turning to the sexton). "A little more water, Mr. Perkins, if you please."—Tit-Bits.

Stranded.

"For goodness' sake, Harriet, why so sad?"

"The cook's left, but that isn't the worst of it; she took with her the recipe book for all the things John's mother used to make."—Brooklyn Life.

Collections.

"I suppose you visited some of the finest collections in Europe?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Cumrox, "and I never before appreciated the full significance of that frequent remark, 'Collections are slow.'"—Washington Herald.

WISDOM IN SMALL DOSES.

MR. ROOSEVELT will have two rooms, a stenographer and a private telephone in the office of the Outlook. It is probable that he will also have a rug on his floor. Nevertheless, he will find it necessary to be exceedingly respectful to the foreman of the composing-room.—Chicago Record-Herald.

* * *

That is a wise Kentucky editor who limited his salutatory to ten words. It has secured him several thousand dollars' worth of free advertising throughout the country.—Washington Herald.

* * *

Even if ex-Senator Thomas C. Platt had not had a successor, it is not at all certain that his retirement would have caused a vacancy.—Charleston News and Courier.

* * *

The appearance of thirty-two unusually ferocious lions in one spot where Roosevelt is to hunt this summer has created a distinctly optimistic feeling in Wall Street.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

* * *

There is some satisfaction that the government escaped from the Standard Oil trial without being fined $29,000,000.—Washington Post.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Mrs. Nora Stanton Blatch de Forest, granddaughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, is said to be equipping a factory at Newark, N. J., for the manufacture of electric condensers.

The Prince of Wales is now an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. The Princess of Wales and Lord Rosebery—another honorary fellow—saw him duly enrolled and in possession of his diploma.

Albert C. McMillan, who gained a congressional medal for his bravery as a Rough Rider during the Spanish-American War, and who won his bride, Virginia Boyd, of Fordham Heights, at the conclusion of hostilities, has been sued for divorce.

Coal ashes are being washed in spaces in Pennsylvania mines from which the coal has been removed. As the water recedes they form a solid mass, strong enough to hold up the earth and prevent cavelns.

Figures issued by Manchester University point to the fact that women graduates rarely marry. Out of 560 women who have taken degrees only sixty-four have married. Twelve of these married graduates of the same university.

Motorists who suffer with cold hands while driving their cars may have relief by using a steering wheel provided with electric heat. An English invention describes a steering wheel with a core that carries two electrically-heated coils insulated one from the other and from the outer rim.

The latest hobby of the Kaiser is Norwegian furniture and domestic decoration. He has ordered furnishings in this style for the hall of one of his palaces, and from a celebrated Norwegian artist has had plans for furnishing the new palace at Posen, which is nearing completion and is intended as a visible sign of German domination in the eastern provinces of Prussia.

CANNOT BUY NEWS COLUMNS.

Paid Matter Must Be Marked "Advertisement" in Papers.

An act proposed by Ferdinand F. French to prohibit the publication of certain paid matter in newspapers and periodicals unless inserted as advertisements is now pending in the Massachusetts Legislature.

If the act passes, no person will be allowed to publish or cause to be published in a newspaper or other periodical any paid matter unless it plainly appears as an advertisement. Reading notices in the news columns will have to be preceded or followed by the word "advertisement" in a separate line, and in type not smaller than that of the body type of the publication.

It further provides that money cannot be paid for mention in the editorial columns unless the same is marked "advertisement."

Any person violating this law will be punished by a fine of not more than $500 or by imprisonment for not more than one year.—The Fourth Estate.

HOME MADE COUGH CURE

Go to your druggist and get one-half ounce Concentrated pine compound, which can be procured from your druggist; two ounces of glycerine, half a pint of good, pure whiskey; mix it up and use it in doses of a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful every four hours, shaking the bottle each time. The Concentrated pine is a pine product refined for medical use, and comes only in half-ounce bottles, each inclosed in a screw top case. Relieves in a day.

The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

Lieutenant's Commission for Woman.

LADY ERNESTINE HUNT, the first woman to receive a commission of lieutenant in the medical branch of the territorial division of the British army, and whose picture, arrayed in a gaudy military uniform, occupies just at present a conspicuous place in all the London illustrated papers, is the eldest daughter of the Marquis of Ailesbury, and a woman whose career since her twentieth year has been of a somewhat unusual description. She is well known on this side of the water in connection with her shipments of horses raised on her 30,000-acre ranch at Calgary, Alberta. These are sold at Dublin and in London at very remunerative prices, which have rendered her ranching venture exceptionally profitable. Her marriage was a very romantic one, and was vigorously opposed by her father and family. Passionately fond of the sea, and a noted yachtswoman, she studied at a nautical school at Liverpool, with the object of securing a master's certificate, so as to be duly qualified to take the command of her yacht.

At the school was a young man of the name of Harry Brady Hunt, who, having spent some years at sea, first as an apprentice, then as a mate, was likewise studying for a master's certificate. Their acquaintance ripened into affection, and one day they were quietly married at Liverpool, in St. Michael's Church. Soon afterwards Hunt was appointed skipper of a sailing vessel, and Lady Ernestine, who is small, with beautiful eyes, fine complexion, and by no means ill-looking, accompanied him on his first voyage, as well as on many subsequent ones, being quite as competent as himself to take command of the ship.

Lady Ernestine, who was thus graduated as a professional sick nurse from the great Liverpool Infirmary, and who served as such throughout the war in South Africa, gave up her sea-faring life about four years ago, and since then has divided her time between the little place which she has in Ireland and her ranch in Canada. She is the first woman who has ever brought live stock across the Atlantic Ocean by herself, and is enthusiastic over the qualities of the cattlemen employed in that work, whom she considers a much maligned class.

They on their side are equally loud in their praise of her extraordinary influence over even the wildest horses, and declare that she is able to accomplish by mere gentle suasion what ranchmen can only attain through the hardest kind of rough riding. I may add that Lady Ernestine was one of the half-dozen adventurous women who took part in the Jameson raid in 1896 in connection with the ambulance department.

Old Lord Howth has not long outlived the wonderful old yew tree in the courtyard of Howth Castle, with which the fortunes of his historic house are identified, for the old earl died last week, and his honors become extinct, while the castle, situated about nine miles from Dublin, will, I understand, go to his grand-nephew, Algernon St. Lawrence Lee Guinness, heir to the baronetcy of his childless uncle, Lord Ardilaun, and son of the late Benjamin Lee Guinness, of the Royal Horse Guards. The late Lord Howth, thirtieth holder of the Howth barony, was at one time well known to many Americans, having been for a number of years master of the hounds at Pau, France, a favorite resort of wealthy United States citizens, to whom the numerous romances, the dramas and the tragedies of his family are a source of never-failing interest.

Its founder was Sir Amory Tristram, who received a grant from King Henry II., giving him a title to all such lands as he could wrest from the native Irish by the sword. An account of his landing, and of his subsequent exploits, is found in the "Book of Howth," which is preserved among the manuscripts in the library of Lambeth Palace, the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It relates how Sir Amory married the sister of his companion in arms, the Sieur de Courcy, upon St. Lawrence's Day, and how he was afterwards known as Sir Amoricus Tristram de Sancto Laurentio. It is from this circumstance that Tristram St. Lawrence became the patronymic of the Lords of Howth, who are lineally descended from that doughty knight; a personage who has wandered out of the Arthurian legends, in which he figures, into the more or less sober pages of Burke's "Peerage."

Among the treasures preserved in the castle is a sword which belonged to him, and which was discovered in the tomb of one of the Lombard Kings in Northern Italy. It bears the inscription: "Cel est l'espee de Meser Tristant dont il ocyst l'Amoryt de Irlant."

The castle dates from the twelfth century, being partly rebuilt by Christopher, the twentieth baron, known as the Blind Lord, the late earl having been the thirtieth holder of the barony. It is a grand old place; a typical baronial structure, with battlemented walls, majestic halls, with oak wainscoting, black with age and filled with treasures of art and history, among the modern curiosities being the weighing machine used by the real Sir Roger Tichborne when a guest at the castle, while serving as a subaltern with his regiment, the Carabineers, at Dublin, nearby. This fact was put in evidence at the trial of the claimant, when the visitors' book containing Sir Roger's autograph was also submitted to the jury. Every day for centuries past, no matter whether the owner of the castle has been in residence or not, the big gates of the castle, opening through the great gateway tower, have been solemnly shut, and then immediately opened at the dinner hour.

This is in accordance with a pledge exacted from a sixteenth century Lord Howth, by the celebrated Irish chieftainess, Grace O'Malley, better known in Irish history as Graine Ul Maille. According to the story, this lady, on her return from the memorable visit which she paid to Queen Elizabeth in London, landed at Howth, and proceeded to the castle to obtain refreshments, but found the gates closed, owing, as it was explained to her, to the fact that it was the hour of dinner.

Indignant at such a want of hospitality, she seized the infant heir of Lord Howth, whom she encountered with his nurse on her way back to her ships, and carried him off to her castle in Mayo; nor was the child restored until its father bound both himself and his successors by a solemn covenant, that the gates of the castle should never again be closed at the dinner hour. This promise has been religiously observed ever since.

As to the origin of the old yew tree in the courtyard, a number of stories are current.

But the truth of one legend concerning it has received numerous illustrations, even in modern times. It is to the effect that whenever a branch is broken from the trunk the death of the head of the Howth family for the time being quickly follows. Two or three years ago the tree, which was of immense age, indicated, among other things, by the care with which its branches were propped up, began to rot at its base, and, despite all the efforts to prolong its life, the decay sapped its vitals, and after an existence of many centuries, it finally died the other day. Its end may have hastened that of the old earl, who, like all the people in the surrounding district, was firmly convinced that his death-knell had been struck by the demise of the tree. The late Lord Howth, whose honors comprised a barony granted by Henry II. and confirmed by King John, of Magna Charta fame, was a soldier by profession, a veteran of the Crimean War, a knight of the Order of St. Patrick and the founder of the annual Dublin Horse Show, which is known to sporting men in all parts of the world.

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STATE PRESS

Protection in Virginia.

It is reported that several Virginia and North Carolina Democratic Congressmen are in favor of high tariff schedules for certain articles like peanuts, lumber, tobacco, etc., and that they will vote accordingly, and yet these men are elected to Congress as Democrats, supposedly in favor of a tariff for revenue only, with schedules offering no particular protection to one class over another. As far as Virginia is concerned the large majority of Democrats in this State do not desire to see Democracy and Democratic principles abandoned in order to protect peanuts. What a farce this tariff question is growing to be and how it shows up the grasping ideas of different people.

The Democratic party as a whole is against the principles of protection, but Democratic Congressmen individually seem to be protectionists for fear that any other course will mean the loss of votes. If these men haven't the nerve to vote against undemocratic principles they ought to cease posing as Democrats. If Newport News wants ship subsidies, to which the Democratic party is opposed, and Petersburg and Suffolk want a peanut tariff, why don't they send Republicans to Congress instead of Democrats? We have no patience with such Democracy, and we can't appreciate that opposition to high tariff which excepts home products from those on which rates should be reduced to a revenue basis.—Fredericksburg Free Lance.

Paying the Fiddler.

But after all, it is the consumer's fault. He knew the tariff was the cause of the high cost of living, and he knew that the government needed money. He knew that unless the tariff was lowered to a revenue basis taxes would have to be levied to meet the deficit, if not now, then later. He knew that the Republican party was not going to make any material reduction in the tariff duties. Knowing all this, what did he do? Vote for the party offering relief? He did not. He voted for the party responsible for it all, the party that promised to keep on going the same pace. The consumer will get it in the neck all right, but the consumer fashioned the axe.—Lynchburg Advance.

Fair Treatment to Railroads.

Most of the fair-minded men who have looked into the subject at all, and who take into account the last year's depression in the railroad business, believe that the compulsory 2-cent maximum has been an unreasonable hardship on the railroads of Virginia. The demand of the public was really for better service rather than for reduced rates—and the demand for better service is just as strong as ever. It is a pity that in so many States the force of public sentiment was deflected for a time to the chase for arbitrary rate reductions, which have rarely stood the test of the courts.

Virginia sets an example in giving the railroads fair treatment. The Corporation Commission of this State put a 2-cent rate on the railroads, but after a reasonable demonstration that the reduction is not just the same commission that ordered the rate revises and raises it. This is worth a great deal more to the roads than fighting the State by appeals to the Federal authorities before the possibilities of State relief have been exhausted. It ought to be as easy for railroads and other corporations to get fair treatment from the State governments as from the Federal government. They have no right to more than fair treatment anywhere.—Norfolk Landmark.

How Northern Contemporaries View the Tariff Bill

As Much as Could Be Expected.

From the standpoint of the householder and consumer the tariff is, of course, disappointing. The rates in most of the favored industries are still far beyond any genuine protective requirements of American wages. The Payne tariff enacted will still be a "mother of trusts." . . . .

Yet benefit there will be—unless the bill is jobbed in the Senate, or in its final shaping in conference, or the maximum-rate provision is juggled into a means of sly exaction. The rates cannot be so materially reduced upon steel products, lumber, stone and other great staple commodities without helping the consumer, though he may not know just where and how.

The Payne report is by no means what would be expected from a popular mandate for real tariff reform. That may come four years later. But the voters decreed at the polls last fall that the tariff should be "revised by its friends." The committee has done perhaps as much as a country which gave a protectionist President 1,233,404 plurality could well anticipate.—New York World.

Thinks It Real Revision.

It is a real tariff revision which has come out of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Whatever other criticism may be made, it cannot be said that the new tariff bill minces matters when it comes to reductions. They are general, substantial, and in many important cases no less than sweeping. With them are associated three important matters which have sought to stand before the country on their own feet, and have never before been incorporated in a general tariff measure.—New York Evening Mail.

An Honest Effort.

The bill may be recognized as the result of an honest effort to fulfil the pledges made by the Republican party to the people and to adjust the tariff to actual conditions without involving any departure from the protective principle by which the party no less firmly than ever stands, and it may be expected to produce a generally favorable impression upon the country. It will, of course, elicit a considerable volume of adverse criticism. That is inevitable and not undesirable, as it is from this criticism that a knowledge of the national sentiment upon the subject is to be derived. No one supposes that the bill will be enacted into law as it stands.—Philadelphia Enquirer.

Metal Schedule Freely Cut.

The lowering rate in the metal schedule, especially iron and steel, has been done very generally and freely. The testimony of some of the prominent men associated with those industries prepared the way for this reduction. The conviction was very general that a free cut could be made in many iron and steel industries without crippling seriously any home industry. If this is not true, and if the reduction goes too far, these interests adversely affected will make themselves heard. The bill is, of course, far from being in its final form. The work of modifying different items will continue up to the final passage of the bill.

The tax on inheritances, which has the indorsement of President Taft and is incorporated in the bill, has much to recommend it on general principles, though it has never found very general favor in this country.—Philadelphia Press.

Its First Serious Attempt.

This is the first time the Republican party has undertaken seriously to reduce the tariff, and that the fight will be a bitter one may well be expected. The hope of the country is, however, that it will be short. It wants the tariff fight over with, so that it may settle down to peace and quiet and to business.—Baltimore News.

Only Preliminary.

A tariff bill has been reported to the House by the Committee on Ways and Means after prolonged hearings. There is keen interest in the bill, of course, and mingled cheers and howls may be expected from those whose interests are protected or slaughtered, as the case may be. It should be borne in mind, however, that the bill as introduced is one thing and the bill as it emerges from Congress is another. Those who are favored by the committee's draft will do well not to count their chickens yet, and those who think they have not received a fair deal need not despair. Conditions may be greatly altered in the bill as it finally comes from the hopper.—Washington Post.

G. O. P. Changing for the Better.

That disappointment will be expressed in some quarters when the proposed changes, contained in the Payne bill, are made known is more than less of a certainty; but, be that as it may, there is no denying the fact that the views of the Republican party have undergone a marked change for the better on the tariff question in recent years, and the measure before Congress is, in particular features, a persuasive indication of an enlarged grasp of that issue, and a more comprehensive and enlightened approach toward its solution.—Wall Street Summary.

Revenue Above Protection.

In general the tariff indicates the tendency to place revenue above protection. It is protective in that it aims to supply ample security for the articles of domestic manufacture, yet it seeks to secure greater freedom for entrance of articles of consumption that no longer menace the domestic product. The tariff, in relation to the Philippines, permits a limited amount of sugar and tobacco to be introduced from the island dependencies of the far Pacific duty free. This equity towards the subject people will go far towards stimulating the economic advance of the islands.—Baltimore American.

Hardly a Revision.

It can hardly be said with truthfulness that the new tariff bill is a thorough revision of the existing tariff law.

Although there is an extensive list of reductions, whole schedules remain untouched, the protective duties upon the bulk of manufactured articles being allowed to stand as they are. Evidently when "Uncle Joe" Cannon argued some time ago for a maximum and minimum tariff, with the present duties as the minimum, he had some provision of the way the tariff was to be revised by his colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee.—Washington Herald.

Deductions Not Drastic.

Many of the reductions are not so drastic as would seem at first glance, since the minimum rates named are conditioned upon concessions being made by foreign countries. Advances are made in the existing duty upon articles which the framers of the bill consider luxuries, and presumably tea is put in this class, since it is proposed to impose a tax of 8 cents a pound on this article, which now comes in free.

Minimum rates as fixed are to become effective immediately. A bill is enacted and maximum rates 20 per cent. higher are to be made effective after sixty days against countries that in any way discriminate against our products. It is estimated by its sponsors that the new tariff would produce a revenue of $300,000,000. Nevertheless, they have deemed it necessary to cast an anchor to windward by providing for an issue of bonds representing the purchase price of the Panama Canal from the French and have increased the 100,000,000 of short term certificates the Treasury is now authorized to issue in case of need to $250,000,000.—New York Herald.

Not a Radical Measure.

The Payne tariff is certainly not a radical measure. The tariff the Senate will permit to become a law is likely to be still farther from a radical measure. But the bill as it stands concedes something substantial to the demand for tariff reduction, and it will be worth while to try to save this concession from destruction. On the question of the desirability of all possible expedition in disposing of the bill there is a universal agreement, and it is to be hoped that unnecessary delay will not be encouraged in any quarter.—Baltimore Sun.

Could Have Cut Lower.

Steel ingots, blooms, etc., undergo a change from 3-10 to 7-40 cent per pound and zinc in blocks is reduced from 1½ cents to 1 cent and in sheets from 2 to 1¼ cents. These are fair examples of the treatment of the metal schedules. The reductions are perhaps as much as were to be expected, but not so much as could easily be borne.

In lumber the duties are reduced about one-half for the cruder forms and are little if any changed for manufactures of wood. A few changes are made in the list of agricultural products, but they are not very significant. The duties on barley and barley malt and on cabbages are reduced about one-half, and those on meat products are somewhat lowered. Hides are put on the free list, and the duty on band and sole leather is reduced from 20 to 5 per cent. ad valorem, and on boots and shoes from 25 to 15 per cent. The treatment of wool duties is disappointing.—Journal of Commerce.

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