

FIND NEED OF TRAFFIC BOARD

Prominent Men Join in Move for Non Partisan Commission.

Chicago, Dec. 6.—A canvass of the country, covering every section, all branches of business and the various political and economic elements, shows an urgent demand for a permanent, high-grade, non-partisan, export tariff commission. A definite plan prepared and advocated by the Tariff Commission league, which is composed of many distinguished men and women, has been submitted to the business, civic, industrial, agricultural, labor and educational organizations in every part of the country, and hundreds of individuals, and the expression of approval and unqualified endorsement of such a measure has been practically unanimous. A bill to be submitted to congress, outlined by Mr. Howard H. Gross, president of the Tariff Commission league, provides for a commission of seven members, to be appointed by the president, confirmed by the senate, with long tenure of office, fixed appropriation to insure permanency, liberal compensation and the broadest powers of research, investigation and recommendation. No creative or administrative power can be delegated by congress to such a commission, under the Constitution of the United States, and the logic, soundness and equity of the commission's reports and recommendations supply the foundation of public confidence in such a body. The widespread and keen public interest in the subject is reviewed by President Gross here today, on his return from an extended tour of the country and following a perusal of reports of field representatives of the league.

"The country has awakened everywhere," said Mr. Gross, "to the necessity for a big, impartial, non-political commission to deal with the tariff. It is tired of log-rolling and political methods and insists that hereafter the tariff shall be regulated in the interest of all the people. The necessity for prompt action is accentuated by the belief that when the European war ends and fifteen or twenty millions of men, now in the trenches, again become producers, we, with the rest of the world, must readjust ourselves to new conditions, the extent and character of which we cannot as yet clearly foresee. The public views in future with apprehension, hence it is calling as never before, for immediate provision for a scientific adjustment of the tariff based upon facts for the public welfare rather than for selfish interests and party advantage. It was surprised to see how strongly the current is setting toward a non-partisan tariff commission. Party lines are being swept away, and I apprehend that the parties will vie with each other in enthusiasm in support of it. The records show that more than 90 per cent of the hundreds of organizations, publications and prominent individuals who have considered our plan strongly approve of it.

"The duties of congressmen are so many and varied and the demand upon them is so great that they have neither the opportunity nor the facilities to acquire the information that is necessary for a well-considered tariff act. The help they get from officials and clerks in the treasury department is wholly insufficient. The subject must be taken up by a body of trained experts working under the direction of a tariff commission of really big men. The outlook is most encouraging."

Unlike many honorary connections, the members of the official and advisory staff of the Tariff Commission league are taking the liveliest interest in its activities. James J. Hill, Geo. W. Perkins, Thomas A. Edison, Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the brotherhood of locomotive engineers; ex-Supreme Justice C. B. Ames of Oklahoma; Col. Ike T. Pryor, a leading cattle man and capitalist of San Antonio, Texas; Frank C. Logan, retired capitalist and public spirited citizen of Chicago; Burrige D. Butler, president of the Agricultural Publishers' association; Hon. P. D. Coburn, ex-commissioner of agriculture of Kansas; Cyrus H. K. Curtis, head of the famous Curtis Publishing Co. of Philadelphia and a number of others, are giving their money, time and advice to the movement. The latest additions to the advisory committee are Robert E. Dowman of New Orleans, La., one of the largest individual lumber manufacturers in America, and Alva B. Johnson of Philadelphia, president of the Baldwin Locomotive works.

Many representative members of every political party, including members of congress and other high officials, have endorsed the movement without reservation. Recently the following statement was made by Gov. Martin G. Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania to a member of the Tariff Commission league: "I am glad to

put myself on record as being heartily in sympathy with any national legislation which will tend to put the tariff on a more sound and scientific basis. I believe that a really effective tariff commission would be a valuable means to this end. While I am a strong believer in a protective tariff, which will allow American industry to compete with foreign industry, and at the same time afford the present high standard of living to the American workman, I am convinced that this tariff should be regulated on the basis of ascertained facts as to actual conditions. Tariff schedule making is of such vital importance to the welfare of the country as a whole that it deserves the constant attention of a competent body of experts. The campaign which is being carried on for a permanent non-partisan tariff commission by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and by the Tariff Commission league, is worth the right direction. I trust that constructive results may be accomplished."

TO CRITICIZE BRITISH MOVES

Opposition Party Formed—Parliament System Needs Opposition in Work.

(By J. W. T. Mason.) An opposition party to criticize the British government's methods of conducting the war is now being created in parliament with the tacit consent of the government itself. The British parliament system is never able to work satisfactorily while there is no strong party in opposition. Before the present coalition government was formed, the conservative opposition failed to play a critical part in parliament because it feared the effect of being charged with lack of patriotism. Since the organization of the coalition cabinet, there has been no formal opposition of any kind in the British national legislature. Many of the mistakes the British have committed during the war are attributed to the breakdown of criticism in parliament.

Sir Edward Carson, who recently resigned from the cabinet because of the Balkan blunders, is now organizing a national party whose work shall be that of formal opposition in normal times. Associated with the brilliant Irish conservative, Sir Herbert Dalziel, a strong radical member of the house of commons. The national party, therefore, is not to be a partisan organization, but will exist solely as a patriotic body, to spur the government to greater activity. The Marquis of Lansdowne, who was the government's spokesman in the house of lords, recently declared the ministry would welcome criticism. He suggested the occasional critics, such as Lord Loreburn, Lord Morley, Lord Milner and Lord Courtney, be considered as a group of elder statesmen, after the Japanese model. But the objection to the kind of criticism of the war which now and then breaks out in the house of lords, is that it is not concerted. It is individual rather than representative and loses much force because of that fact.

If Sir Edward Carson can complete the organization of a national party along formal lines, it is certain that an improvement in the British direction of the war will result. It is also certain that parliament will recover the spirit of democracy the government which has been thrust aside because of supposed military requirements.

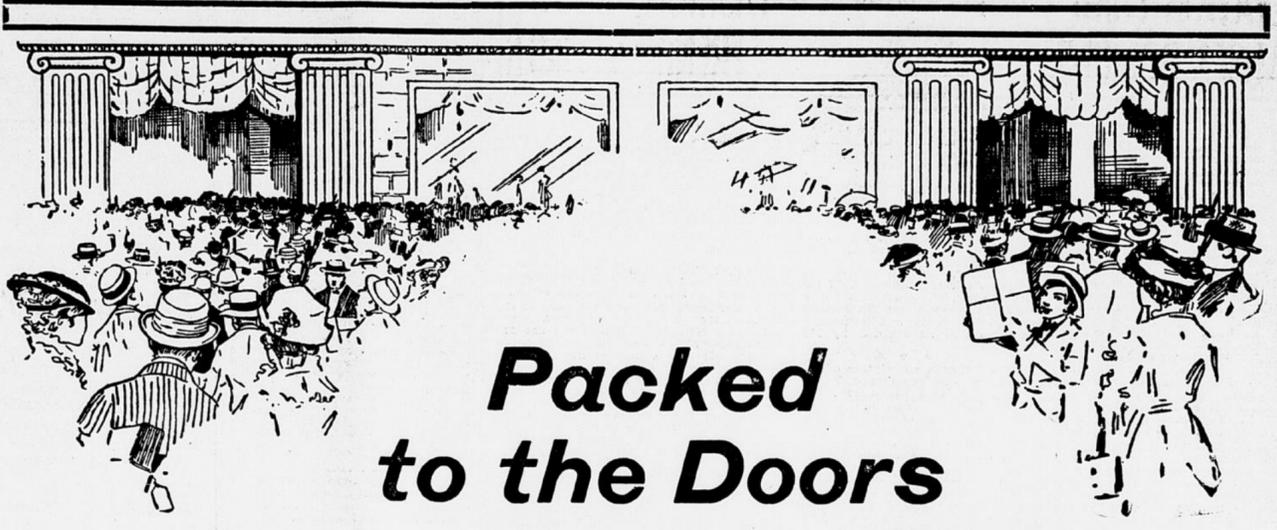
State Finds That Self Insurance Is Economical Method

St. Paul, Dec. 6.—Since Minnesota began carrying its own insurance August 1, 1913, fire losses on state property have totaled \$9,385,81, according to figures compiled by Samuel D. Works, state insurance commissioner. Mr. Works said today that this was an unusual record in view of the fact that more than \$12,000,000 of insurance is in force in the state insurance account.

Mrs. Young Will Not Accept \$400 From Pension Fund

Chicago, Dec. 6.—Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, who for the last six years has been drawing a salary of \$10,000 annually as superintendent of Chicago's public schools, will not draw her pension of \$400 a year when she retires next week, it was learned today. Legally she is entitled to the annuity, but she declined it, saying that all pension funds should go to grade teachers.

Herald Want Ads Bring Results.



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