

RAILWAY COMMISSION

GIVES A HEARING ON INCREASING RAILWAY ASSESSMENTS.

Communications From Russell, Clark and Josephus Daniels in Opposition Thereof Read—Speeches in Opposition Made by Railway Officials and Their Attorneys. The Governor Contradicted by Extracts From His Message to the Legislature—A Rap at Justice Clark

(Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., July 12.—The railway commission met at noon in the supreme court room and the importance of the session was made evident by the attendance. Every leading railway official in the state was present, including acting President Andrews, of the Southern.

Clerk Brown of the commission read first the letter of Associate Justice Walter Clark, urging increase in valuation and a reduction in fares, the letter being, as Justice Clark announced it, "in the name of the 300,000 voters of North Carolina." A copy of a newspaper containing Governor Russell's letter was laid before the commission by Chairman Wilson. Then Clerk Brown read a letter from Editor Daniels of The News and Observer, in which he urged material reduction in rates, and stated that Caesar Cone said freight rates in North Carolina were higher than elsewhere.

S. Otho Wilson, of the commission, filed a statement which was read, that Justice Clark's statement that he and Chairman Wilson had appeared before a legislative committee at the last session and opposed reduction of rates was untrue.

President Elliott said the papers read were expressions of individuals and were not complaints by the people. He said Justice Clark stated in his letter that there was no hostility on the part of the people to railways. There are no complaints on the part of the people here today. He declared it seemed to him that this showed the commission had made just rates and were serving the people properly, and that the railways are paying their full proportion of expenses of government. Only these three men who have said and written so much against railways have come forward, though the entire state was invited. In no state is property assessed by its real or cash value for taxation, but at its taxable value, and this is recognized by the people as attaching to all property. It is about 60 to 65 per cent. of the real value. Railways are as much entitled to this as land owners. The assessment of railway property is really now higher than that on other property, and why should railway property be singled out for still higher taxation? The gentlemen who filed complaints want the gentlemen who have built railways to be prevented from investing their capital in North Carolina. They want, in other words, to defeat any successful investment of capital here. They attack capital at both ends. The legislature, directly from the people, refused to pass an act reducing passenger fares. Lands outside of towns, 25,000,000 acres in the state with a yielding capacity of \$65,000,000 annually are assessed at only \$110,000,000, while railways are paying a valuation equal to 20 per cent. of these county lands and 60 per cent. of the valuation of all city and town lots in North Carolina. He asserted that the references in the letters to "foreign capitalists" were for the express purpose of creating prejudice against the railways. Their claim that \$12,000,000 is yearly carried out of the state is a fiction. The investments vastly outweigh sums carried out of the state.

President Henry Page, of the Aberdeen and West End railway, made a very bright speech. He expressed regret at the fact that Russell, Clark and Daniels were not present. He wanted to ask them some questions. He wanted to know why Clark was so concerned about railway taxation and not concerned about taxes on other property. He intimated that really all these complaints favored government ownership. Russell having recently attacked the courts, was placed beyond reasonable counsel. The railways are willing to have the roads assessed at their full value, but they want other property to pay tax on its value also. He ridiculed Otho Wilson's plan that railway valuation be an amount approximate to the principal which at 6 per cent. annually would yield an amount of net earnings of such property.

President W. C. Petty said the Carthage road could not stand an increase in assessment or reduction of rates.

General Counsel Henderson, of the Southern, took the same view as Mr. Elliott and declared the railways ought to bear only their proportion of the public burden. Anything else is unfair. In fact, the law requires that railway property shall be taxed as other property. He attacked the plan now being pursued of constantly bringing up this rate matter, and of putting it in politics as ruinous. The whole policy is: "Go for the railways, put burdens upon them, and take away their revenues."

President Elliott asked the commission to take into consideration some of the inaugural remarks of his friend, Governor Russell. The latter said that this state had derived more from railways in the past fifteen years than any other source, and that the passenger rates were so low he did not advise the legislature to make any change in them. Mr. Elliott also quoted Governor Carr's last message, to the effect that rates here were lower than in 90 per cent. of all the states.

John D. Shaw spoke for the Seaboard Air Line and turned his guns on Walter Clark, saying in 1874, when the latter was a director, freight rates were 35 cents per hundred pounds, yet he did not quarrel; while now with a rate of 35 cents he raises a row. Then the rate for passengers was 6 cents per mile; now it is 24. He expressed surprise at Governor Russell's declaration that private property is taxed as much as railway property. No other man in the state will make that assertion.

W. A. Guthrie spoke for the Norfolk and Western's Lynchburg and Durham branch, and J. C. Buxton for its Roanoke and Southern branch. Guthrie also represented the Durham and Charlotte railway, which he says is owned nearly all by on man and will be an independent line. The charter forbids its lease or sale to the Southern railway. It is to be pushed through to Charlotte quickly. Guthrie declared that if the commission is to fix a policy of cutting railways at both ends; that is, to lower rates and increase taxation, the time for railway building is ended. He called on the commission to stand in the breach and do what is right.

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President Hancock, of the Atlantic and North Carolina railway, asked for time until tomorrow to present some statistics. Vice President Findley, of the Southern next spoke. And then R. O. Burton spoke for the Wilmington and Weldon railway, as did also T. M. Emerson, who said there was no complaint as to local rates from any part of the state. He said Justice Clark had been able to make two converts, one of whom, (the governor) said last January that rates were just and reasonable.

General Traffic Manager Culp, of the Southern, showed a comparison which proved the rates in North Carolina to be as low as anywhere, and that freight earnings per mile were less in North Carolina than in Georgia, South Carolina or Virginia, while the rate here is lower than in these states.

A letter from Caesar Cone was read, alleging that freight rates were excessive.

W. A. Turk said the passenger business done was at a rate of 24 cents, and the average haul was fifty-one miles.

Chairman Wilson, of the commission, announced that the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley officials, Fry, Rose and Kyle, would be heard tomorrow. He then made some remarks regarding the commission, and said today's meeting was called because men of very great prominence were charging that the commission was ignorant and not faithful to its trust. The meeting was called to investigate and get all the information, and that all should have fair treatment, as the commission has no prejudice against the railways.

Otho Wilson offered the following resolution which was adopted:

"Whereas, The desire of this commission is to have a full discussion of tax and rate questions, and

Whereas, All persons opposing were permitted to do so in writing, and as verbal speeches were given by those representing the railways, we invite Governor Russell, Judge Clark, Josephus Daniels and any others to come before the commission, review the evidence as taken by stenographer and reply to same."

GRAHAM CONVICTED.

Superintendent of Instruction Calls for His Resignation—Graham's Reply—Constitutionality of the School Tax Law Questioned

(Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., July 12.—One of J. L. Graham's attorneys, T. M. Argo, says that he was found guilty of a misdemeanor, because the bill of indictment failed to charge a common law offence either under the common law or under the statute. State Superintendent Mebane wrote another of Graham's attorneys, W. H. Day, a letter saying: "I have asked for Graham's resignation. Strong pressure was exerted to this end ever since the bill was found, but for fear I might turn or influence justice against him, and for the sake of his wife and child, I have given him the benefit of all doubt and have shown a spirit of charity. It is not a matter of policy or sympathy. It is my own character and reputation I must now defend. I wish to go out of the office with a character, whether I have anything else or not."

Graham resigned this afternoon in the following letter: "Notwithstanding the great injustice that has been attempted, and so far perpetrated against me, in the persecution in which I was charged with burning the Presbyterian manse at Newton, to relieve you of embarrassment, I hereby tender my resignation as clerk in your office. I have appealed the case, and shall, no doubt, obtain a re-hearing, and hope in the end to obtain what alone will be just—an acquittal. It is not proper, however, that pending the litigation, when the issue, apparently at least, is still uncertain, that I should retain a position in an office, the incumbent of which might be harshly criticised on that account. I therefore, retire, thanking you for kindness shown me, and will continue the fight against my slanderers and persecutors."

The state superintendent of public instruction telegraphed Governor Russell: "The council of state desires a meeting immediately. Such men as A. C. Avery and J. C. L. Harris are giving it out that the new school tax election law is unconstitutional. We want the governor to call on the supreme court for a decision at once. There is \$50,000 of the people's money in this. Come at once."

Baltimore's Chief of Police Discharged. Baltimore, July 12.—The board of police commissioners today dismissed City Marshal Jacob Frey, the actual chief of police, as the result of an investigation regarding police affairs which has been in progress for several weeks. Frey has been on the police force in various capacities for more than twenty years, and has been at the head of the force for ten years.

The charges were preferred by the executive committee of the reform league of this city. Captain J. J. Gilbert and Round Sergeant Edwin McLean also received their dismissal at the hands of the commissioners and several minor changes in the force were made. Deputy Marshal Thomas F. Farnan was temporarily placed in charge of the force. The vote by which the dismissals and changes were made was a strictly partisan one. Commissioner Frey was the only democrat on the police board, voting in the negative on every proposition, while his two republican colleagues, Hedding and Johnson, voted together at all times.

Frey was appointed to the police force with the rank of captain in 1867, was made deputy marshal in 1874 and marshal in 1885. During the intervening period he has made many important arrests and ferreted out many mysterious cases, among them being the famous "Unger trunk mystery," about a decade ago, in which case the trunk was found in the only democratic trunk in the city, packed in a trunk and shipped to Baltimore from New York, where the murder was committed. It was mainly due to the shrewdness of Frey that the trunk was traced back to the point of shipment and the criminal arrested, convicted and sentenced to a long term in Sing Sing, where he now is.

Marion Harland says:

"Lard unadorned is less wholesome than vegetable oil has become. It is pernicious to most stomachs."—National Cook Book.

Cooking experts and physicians unite in condemning lard for its indigestible and unhealthy qualities, and these same eminent authorities say "Use COTTOLENE"

that pure, healthful vegetable food product. Containing only refined cotton-seed oil and choice beef suet, Cottolene is wholesome, nutritious, and easily digestible.

The genuine is sold everywhere in one to ten pound tins, with our trade-mark, "Cottolene" and star's head in cotton-petal wreath on every tin. Not guaranteed if sold in any other way. Made only by THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Chicago, New York, Montreal.

STRENGTHENING THEIR LINES.

The Striking Miners Increasing Their Numbers—No Disturbances—Labor Commissioners Assembling in Order to Arbitrate Differences—A Coal Famine Threatened

Pittsburg, July 12.—Beyond the strengthening of the miners' lines along the rivers, there was little change in the strike situation today. The iron clad contracts which were in force at several mines in the Monongahela valley were swept out of existence today and the strike was made general in the fourth pool.

The Blyth Coal Company has offered the 60 cent rate to their men at the Red Bird mine, but the officials will not allow them to go to work at present. The men in the Stickle Hollow mines of the Washington Coal Company also came out today, making the suspension complete in this district except at the mines of the New York and Cleveland Gas Coal Company, where about 1,200 men are working. No effort has yet been made to get these diggers out and the miners at other pits have laid down their tools, grumbling at the slowness of De Armit's men in joining the movement.

The hot heads are advising drastic measures. They have been kept in check so far, but there is no telling when the fever will break out and concerted moves on Sandy and Plum creek made.

The greatest interest is now manifested in the scheme to arbitrate the strike question. Labor commissioners and official arbitrators of the several states affected are mobilizing in this city. The state of Ohio is the only one which has a regular appointed board of arbitration existing for just such emergencies as this and is naturally eminently well prepared for the work.

Most of the others interested are labor commissioners and industrial statisticians who are also well able to act in the capacity of arbitrators. From Pennsylvania, arrive from Harrisburg this morning. Officials of West Virginia, are expected here today. The Illinois commissioners of labor—J. D. Keefe, J. B. Gill and H. R. Cohn, are on their way to Pittsburg and will meet on Wednesday. All the states, with the exception of Kentucky and Tennessee, where the strike is on will be represented in the conferences which are to be held here during the next few days.

Invitations have been sent to the coal operators of the Pittsburg district to meet the arbitrators informally and talk over the matter of settling the strike. It is expected by the arbitrators that the representatives of the local operators will be gotten together within the next twenty-four hours. However, persons who are well acquainted with the warring factions that exist among the coal operators here say they will be hard to get together in this move, although the extreme gravity of the outlook may have the desired effect. Those in touch with the situation say that the attempt at conciliation will simply reopen the old discussion of President De Armit's policy of a price differential to compete with the company's stores.

Peace emissaries called at President De Armit's office today and it is said that he told them it would be a day or two before he could give them a definite answer as to the course of action he proposed. The arbitrators, however, brought into line on the conference idea there will be no obstacles imposed by miners. President Ratchford notified the operators publicly a few days ago that he was ready for a conference at any time. This afternoon he held the arbitrators that the miners' officials would meet with them tomorrow.

There is a strong indication of a coal famine confronting the country within the next ten days. It is claimed by conservative operators that the marketable supply at present, which is placed at 10,000,000 bushels, is only barely able to meet the demands of the market for about a month under ordinary conditions. With the scarcity of coal already prevailing at the lake ports, it is claimed the supply will not last over two weeks at the longest. In anticipation of such a condition the coal operators are not very anxious to fill orders and are holding out for the advance in price that is expected to result. The only source of supply is from the river mines, as the railroads are confiscating for their own use all the coal ready for shipment along their lines. Interest has shifted from the Dilworth mines, on the Wheeling and Lake Erie road up the river to the region on the Baltimore and Ohio branch of the river from Belleair. The men at the Schick mines there, have been working at 60 cents, a rate made by the strikers, but the Baltimore and Ohio object to the men working and are trying to

force them. So far they have been unsuccessful, but a meeting is to be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at Neffs Siding with the avowed purpose to get the men out at Schick's mines.

West Virginia coal is passing over the three coal carrying roads in this vicinity in large quantities, but so far there has been no molestation of trains. At Dilworth all is quiet and the only possible source of trouble so far as can be seen lies in the rumored intention of the Wheeling and Lake Erie management to operate the mines with outside men. Such a course means wholesale evictions of the old men when trouble could scarcely be averted.

A General Battle in Cuba

Jacksonville, Fla., July 12.—Information received by Justo Carrillo, a Cuban patriot, from his brother, Colonel Vincent Carrillo, dated Santa Clara province, June 31st, that the Spaniards, who were carried on, and that the Cubans are holding their own despite the presence of Spaniards in much greater numbers. An exciting engagement is reported to have taken place between General Weyler's troops, numbering 40,000 men, and those under General Carrillo, comprising the many of the town and the Cubans on the other side. Four sharply contested battles were fought, the Cubans coming out victorious, killing many Spaniards and having few dead on their side. The Cubans cunningly prepared ambuscades and succeeded in entrapping many of the Spaniards, who were left dead and wounded.

In recognition of the splendid services of General Carrillo's corps he has been requested by General Gomez to furnish him with the names of the officers for promotion.

Havana, July 12.—Reports from Sancti Spiritus confirm the rumor that General Quintin Bandera, who commanded the insurgents in the engagement on July 5th, at Baya heights, was killed during the fighting.

Captain General Weyler, who left Sancti Spiritus in the latter part of last week, with the Asturias battalion, surprised a camp of the insurgents, near Jaruco, and a sharp engagement took place. Among the killed was the well known Dr. Hernandez.

The Yberia squadron, while reconnoitering near Guanabara, on the north coast in the province of Pinar del Rio, encountered a large band of insurgents, killed nineteen and captured two. The Spaniards destroyed the huts at the Salt mines and a sugar mill.

The Laurada Libel Case.

Wilmington, Del., July 12.—United States Commissioner S. Redmond Smith resumed the taking of testimony in the steamship Laurada forfeiture case today. The witnesses heard were Jeremiah Hurley, Alvan Lund and Harry Hansen, all of whom were employed on the Laurada early in the current year, when the expedition to Cuba is alleged to have taken place. Lund was a fireman and the other two were sailors. The testimony was to the effect that the Laurada left Baltimore on February 28, 1897, with Captain Hughes in command; she proceeded to Barnegat, N. J., where a cargo of munitions of war was taken on board, and from that place the boat proceeded to San Salvador, and that the munitions were landed in Cuba. Before they were landed, however, the witnesses stated, men aboard the Laurada were drilled, and two guns were raised to the stern of the Laurada. They stated further that two torpedoes were placed at the entrance to the bay to protect the Laurada after she had entered.

District Attorney Van de Grift expected the prosecution on Thursday and the defence will occupy about two or three weeks.

Coal Operators Increase Wages

Fairmont, W. Va., July 12.—The operators of the seventeen mines in this county, which constitute the Fairmont coal region, on which the result of the great miners' strike rests, gave an advance of 5 cents a ton today to all the men. This advance in wages with the 5 cents given the men on Wednesday, brings the price to 40 cents a ton, running coal, which is 13 cents more on the ton than Pennsylvania and Ohio miners are striking for, when the difference in railroad rates and screening are taken into consideration. Notwithstanding this advance, the sympathies of many of the miners in this region are with the strikers, and although the organizers, four of which are already in this region, will have a hard battle if they succeed in getting the men out, that may be the final result.

Tutt's Pills

Cure All Liver Ills. Secret of Beauty is health. The secret of health is the power to digest and assimilate a proper quantity of food. This can never be done when the liver does not act its part. Do you know this? Tutt's Liver Pills are an absolute cure for sick headache, dyspepsia, sour stomach, malaria, constipation, torpid liver, piles, jaundice, bilious fever, biliousness and kindred diseases. Tutt's Liver Pills

BIMETALLIC CONFERENCE

President McKinley's Commissioners in Consultation With British Officials. Their Presentation to the Queen

London, July 12.—An important conference was held at the foreign office today between Senator Wolcott, former Vice President Stevenson and General Paine, the members of the United States bimetallic commission, and Ambassador Hay and Lord Salisbury, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, chancellor of the exchequer; Mr. Arthur Balfour, first lord of the treasury, and Lord George Hamilton, secretary of state for India.

The conference, which lasted an hour, was preliminary to the carrying on of further negotiations on the subject of international bimetalism. The Americans did most of the talking.

Lord Salisbury inquired what were the powers of the American commission and was informed that they stood authorized to make arrangements for the holding of an international conference or to negotiate a treaty of international bimetalism, which they might submit to their government for ratification. It was stated also that France was ready to co-operate with the United States, Great Britain and Germany in reaching an agreement for international bimetalism.

The British representatives present made no statement indicating their intentions in the matter. Consultation of high British officials will be held before another meeting with the American commissioners and in the meantime the latter will privately discuss the question with Baron de Rittschild and other financiers and endeavor to secure their support.

Lord Salisbury accompanied Messrs. Wolcott, Stevenson and Paine to luncheon at Windsor on Saturday when they were received by the queen and presented to her majesty their commissions as special envoys. The reception was entirely formal.

Yesterday's Races

New York, July 12.—This was opening day at Brighton Beach, and there was a large crowd of spectators present. The new course looked fine, although it was slow on the turns which have not time to settle since they were rebuilt.

The chief event of the day was to be the Brighton handicap at a mile and a quarter, but the fact that The Friar was in at 107 pounds caused all but Ben Brush to withdraw, while Volley, with the \$200 third money in sight, was sent out at the fall of the flag. The Friar went out in the lead but did not seem to be able to get away from his field as in the realization, Ben Brush hanging to him like grim death as they sped along. The rate was terrific, for they went to the half in 1:14.4, and the three-quarters in 1:14.4. On the upper turn they struck the deep going, and Ben Brush drew along side The Friar who was faltering. Then came the cry "The Friar is beaten," for Littlefield went to work with his whip. But the gallant 3-year-old had got enough and drive as hard as he might, he could not again head the Dwyer colt and the latter came through the stretch eased up, a winner in the fast time of 2:09, on a track fully three seconds slow.

First Race, six furlongs. Chum, 4 to 1, won; Winged Foot, 2 to 5 and out; Hand, 15 to 1, third. Time 1:16.3.

Second Race, five furlongs. Bluebird, 9 to 2, won; Michael III, 5 to 1 and 8 to 5, second; Mr. Baizer, 7 to 2, third. Time 1:03.4.

Third Race, first attempt, five furlongs. Varnus, 10 to 1, won; Handball, 9 to 5 and 2 to 5, second; Blueway, 7 to 2, third. Time 1:03.4.

Fourth Race, Brighton handicap, one mile and a quarter. Ben Brush, 9 to 1, won; The Friar, even and out, second; Volley, 25 to 8, third. Time 2:09.

Fifth Race, one mile. Dwyer, 6 to 5, won; Wolhurst, 8 to 5 and 3 to 5, second; Arabian, 20 to 1, third. Time 1:42.5.

Sixth Race, Hempstead, five furlongs. Rubicon, 10 to 4, won; Farrier, 7 to 2 and out, second; Rodman B, 100 to 1, third. Time 1:04.2.

Seventh Race, seven furlongs. Abuse, 5 to 1, won; Decide, 5 to 2 and 4 to 5, second; Leedsville, 8 to 5 third. Time 1:16.5.

THE RUMOR CONFIRMED

Of the Recovery of a Murdered Woman Near Atlanta, Ga.—Surmises as to the Victim

Atlanta, Ga., July 12.—A special to The Journal from Quitman, Ga., Brooks county, confirms the reported finding there of a woman's body hacked to pieces and packed in a barrel, which had been buried in a swamp. The discovery was made by a farmer named Jacob Wooten, on Mule creek. The body was tumbling into a barrel and dirt heaped around it. It still in a remarkable state of preservation, the flesh retaining almost its natural coloring. The red color of the barrel was decayed and pine roots had worked themselves through its side. This would seem to indicate that it had been there for some time.

No one has been missed from the community and it is the general opinion that it was either buried there several years ago, or else was brought there from some distance away.

Rumors in the county have it that several years ago there lived near the place a man who had a wife, whose hair was the color of the corpse; that man's wife left and has never been seen since. Shortly after her disappearance she took up with another woman who did not stand high in the community and left for Florida.

The Goldensleepe Murders in Court

New York, July 12.—Mrs. Augusta Mack and Martin Thorn, the alleged murderers of Goldensleepe, were arraigned in general sessions today to plead to the indictment found against them. The prisoners seemed to be fully alive to the gravity of their situation, and for the first time since their arrest, the lines of care were visible on their features.

Their attorneys entered demurrers to the indictment, contesting the jurisdiction of the court on the ground that the crime, if one was committed, was done beyond the limits of New York county. The demurrer will be argued on Wednesday, July 21st.

Incendiary Fire at Greensboro

Charlotte, N. C., July 12.—A disastrous fire in Greensboro tonight originating in Darden's shoe store, spread to the dry-goods store of Armfield, Ridge & Vickory, and the old Star warehouse used as a produce house. The two former were saved by the firemen, but were badly damaged. The warehouse building was totally destroyed. The losses are not known tonight.

The Phoenix produce house, it is said, was undoubtedly fired by an incendiary. While it was burning two negroes were overheard to say that there would be other fires before morning. Extra policemen are patrolling the streets tonight.

SOME TARIFF SNAGS.

THE CONFERENCE MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS IN THE BILL.

The Committee From Each House Standing Out Strongly for Its Bill on Matters of Importance—Likely to be Several Reports Made—Wool and Sugar the Chief Disturbing Articles—House Conferees Insist on Duties on Cotton Bagging and Ties

Washington, July 12.—The tariff conferees have struck some snags in their work. The minor matters were easily adjusted, but on all important features there have been no agreement and the outlook today was that several reports would have to be made before an adjustment could be reached. The house conferees are standing solidly by their bill, and the senate conferees are no less tenacious.

The senate conferees have laid before the house members the condition in the senate, where there is not actually a majority of the republicans and where other than republican votes are necessary to pass the bill or adopt a conference report. They asserted that in 1894 the democrats were in better shape in the senate than the republicans are now, as they had an actual majority, yet the house was finally compelled to accept the senate bill in order to pass it.

The members of the house are standing by their bill, nevertheless, and have told the senators that they cannot accept the amendments on many important items.

Burlaps, cotton ties and other items which were placed on the free list by the senate, met with great hostility from the house conferees and so far nothing in the way of a compromise offered by the senate members has been accepted. The house conferees are also insisting upon higher compensatory duties on most of the cotton on account of the duty of 20 per cent. on raw cotton. The house members have maintained that the house bill has been commended more than the senate bill and that the conferees should get as close to it as possible.

The senate conferees, in addition to presenting the present political complexion of the senate, have pointed out the difficulty that will occur if several reports of partial agreements and disagreements are made. They have told the house members that it will lead to endless discussion; that they have no power to force a vote and that there is not a majority in the senate to keep the senate in session in case of a filibuster against the conference report.

The noon recess of the conferees was devoted largely to a conference with individual senators in which the house representatives in the conference participated. This conference developed the fact that the wool schedule had been under especial consideration during the forenoon session and that the house men had shown a decided disposition to hold on to the house rates.

There was evident apprehension that if this conference was granted there would be difficulty in getting the bill through the senate, and it is not believed that this apprehension was changed by the results of their inquiries. There was also a hurried conference of the republican representatives of the senate and the democratic members of the finance committee in regard to the probable course of the democrats in case the articles to which they were especially instrumental in having placed on the free list should be made dutiable. Those articles include cotton bagging, gunny bags, gunny cotton ties, Paris green, floor matting, etc. The house is insisting upon their restoration to the dutiable list and some of the senate conferees are inclined to yield because of the need for the revenue they would produce.

The conferees with the democrats was by no means reassuring. The republicans were told that if these changes were made they (the democrats) would be disposed to insist upon a full explanation in committee and an elaborate debate in the senate, which might indefinitely prolong the session.

The committee is meeting with its greatest difficulty in reaching an understanding on the wool and the sugar schedules. On sugar, Senators Aldrich and Jones of Nevada, are holding out especially for the senate schedule and are supported by the entire senate representatives. The house conferees are just as firm in their demand for the house rates. The indications when the conferees adjourned tonight were that a compromise would be necessary which would split the difference between the two houses on the differential on refined sugar and it was stated upon apparently good authority that an agreement to this effect had been reached. The house conferees are standing siffly for the house schedule on wool, contending that the senate rates would be most oppressive upon manufacturers. The senate classification of third-class wool is also being objectionable to carpet manufacturers and Senators Penrose and Quay have been active during the day in their efforts to secure an advance to 12 cents in the value of wool that may be admitted at 4 cents. The senate schedule makes 10 cents the figure of demarcation in value, fixing a duty of 7 cents a pound on all wool above that price. The Pennsylvania senators say that under this classification 90 per cent. of the carpet wools would be made to pay 7 cents duty and that the result would be to close many of the carpet makers out.

There was quite a movement on the democratic side of the senate today to insure a firm stand for free burlaps, cotton bagging, floor matting, cotton ties, etc., placed on the free list in the senate, and to hold white pine at \$1.00 per 1,000 feet. This was because of the report, which was authenticated, that the committee had tentatively agreed to restore the \$2.00 rate on white pine and to restore the other articles mentioned to the dutiable list. These changes were made in the senate by majorities ranging from one to five votes, and the supporters of the senate action expressed the opinion that they would be able to hold all the votes for a motion to reject the conference report that were originally cast for the amendments. To do this they would have to make sure not only of Senator McEnery's vote, but of some republican votes, as Senators Carter and Hansbrough. The problem bids fair to develop an interesting situation in the senate if the committee on conference adheres to the present determination with regard to these articles.