

FARMERS' FREE LIST.

DEMOCRATS' FIRST TARIFF REFORM MEASURE FORMALLY PRESENTED.

O. W. Underwood, Chairman of Ways and Means Committee, in Bringing Measure Up, Shows President Favors Some Provisions.

Washington, April 19.—The majority report of the ways and means committee on the "farmers' free list bill," submitted to the house today by O. W. Underwood, chairman, is a merger of Democratic political argument and an analysis of the proposed duty exemptions.

The report shows that the bill would reduce the tariff revenue by \$10,018,495, based on the importations for the last fiscal year, an amount described as "inconsiderable in comparison with the great saving and advantages to all of our people from the additions to the free list provided for."

Quoting President Taft's recent Canadian reciprocity speeches, the report seeks to convey the impression that the administration is convinced that protective tariff rates are too high.

"In several public addresses," it says, "he (the president) has admitted that tariff rates are too high, that such rates have resulted in exclusively high prices for especially in the increased cost of living which now bears heavily on our people, and that they have not received the long promised benefits of domestic competition under high protective duties."

Referring to the president's statement that the Republican party had modified its tariff policies so as to limit it for purposes of protection to the difference in cost of production here and abroad with a reasonable profit to the American producer, the committee report says:

"This is a confession, as was the Republican platform of 1908, that the theory of high protective duties put forth by the Republican party has broken down, that combinations and trusts which prey upon our people have been fostered by the tariff, and that under tariff protection American manufacturers have forced unreasonable profits from the people."

Again the report declares: "The Canadian reciprocity agreement now before the house is a recognition on the part of the administration of the injurious effects of the extreme protective policy which has so long been imposed upon the country, and is an effort to mitigate its effects."

The reciprocity agreement, the committee asserts, can not afford the American people all the needed relief from high protection.

"Action on the agreement involves the necessity of further and immediate action on revision a number of duties on imports from other countries in order that justice may be done to the great army of agricultural producers who in the Canadian agreement are to have the alleged protection removed from their products without a corresponding or reciprocal removal of the protective duties most burdensome on the commodities they must purchase as necessary to sustain their lives and industries."

The report takes up in detail the classified list of articles included in the free list bill. Regarding agricultural implements, it says their manufacture is controlled by trusts and combinations that have sold in foreign countries at lower prices than at home, building up their foreign trade from \$3,859,184 in 1890 to \$28,124,033 in 1910.

Bagging and baling materials essential in the transportation of agricultural products, the report says, can not receive benefits of protection in home markets and duties on them "have annoyed and burdened the farmers to add to the profits of exacting trusts and combinations."

Concerning hoops, bands and ties of iron and steel, barbed wire for fencing, etc., the report says the high duties make the people dependent upon the "giant steel industry" which for years has sold products abroad lower than to domestic consumers, and declares that placing them on the free list will be a "long delayed measure of equity and justice."

The placing on the free list of all forms of leather from cattle, hies and skins together with boots, shoes, harness, saddlery, etc., the committee argues, will be of advantage on manufacturing and necessarily of benefit to agricultural producers as well as to all the people.

The "beef trust" is assailed in discussion of the free listing of fresh

meats and meat products. "The existing duties on meats and meat products," it is asserted, "are for the advantage of the combination only"—a combination that controls the markets both in buying and selling, and the result is a substantial addition to the high cost of living from which the people suffer.

Removal of duties on these products, it is assured, will place the farmers in a free market as to food-stuffs and food products. For the reason that the public desire that no artificial shelter be maintained to protect abnormally high prices on food articles in any form.

The bill also seeks exemption from duty on wheat flour, semolina, rye flour, buckwheat flour, cornmeal and all prepared cereal foods, biscuits, bread and similar articles not sweetened.

In discussing free lumber placed in the bill, hardwood exempted, the report maintains that the ownership of timber in this country has become practically a monopoly and passed for the most part in the hands of great corporations and those who are speculating on the increasing scarcity.

President Taft is again referred to, the report quoting from his speech of February 26, 1911, in which he said: "By giving our own people access to Canadian forests we shall reduce the consumption of our own, which in the hands of a comparatively few owners now have a value that requires the enlargement of our available timber resources."

Sewing machines, the report avers, are sold abroad by American manufacturers cheaper than at home, and should not be protected.

The manufacturers would have by the proposed bill the additional advantages of free lumber.

Salt, also included in the free list, the report urges, should be free from artificial enhancement in price, the domestic supply being dependent upon a limited number of natural deposits controlled by concentrated interests.

THAT FELDER LETTER.

Attorney General May Make It Public—Questions Asked Gov. Blease.

Columbia, April 18.—J. Fraser Lyon, attorney general, upon his return to the city from Abbeville today will very probably make public the letter he has received from T. B. Felder, the Atlanta attorney, in which the latter's position is stated with reference to the dispensary situation. Mr. Felder has said that he will have nothing more to say concerning the conduct of Gov. Blease with reference to the old State dispensary until the chief executive has answered certain questions asked.

K. OF P. LODGE INAUGURATED.

Automobile Party Go From Here to Paxville to Inaugurate Lodge.

Wednesday afternoon a party of Knights of Pythias members went from here to Paxville to inaugurate a Knights of Pythias lodge at that place. The party went down to Paxville in automobiles, leaving here about six o'clock in the afternoon and returning this morning about four.

The lodge at Paxville was inaugurated with the ceremonies of the order, there being 19 candidates who were put through all three degrees. The following officers were also installed: Chancellor Commander, L. J. Nettles; Vice Chancellor, John Pritchard; Prelate, S. F. Geddings; Keeper of Records and Seals, C. W. Hicks; Master of the Exchequer, E. M. Brown; Master of Finance, W. E. Tisdale; Master Works, H. A. Brown.

The party which went from here was treated to a supper upon their arrival at Paxville and were invited to stay to a dance after the work of the evening was over. Those in the party were:

L. J. Parrott, H. A. Knox, District Deputy Grand Chancellor; L. E. Woods, J. C. Bryan, J. A. McKnight, T. A. Nettles, J. T. Green, H. C. Haysworth, H. L. Scarborough, R. K. Wilder, W. Y. L. Marshall, Dr. Weberg, Dr. Geo. W. Dick, Walter E. Dear of Georgetown, Grand Chancellor; C. D. Brown of Greenville, Grand Keeper of Records and Seals, and M. DeVaux Moore.

The party went down in four automobiles and reported a very pleasant and successful trip, although many of them complained of lack of sleep during the night.

CONGRESS MUST ACT.

PRESIDENT TAFT'S POSITION ON MEXICAN SITUATION.

Executive Feels he Has Done All Possible to Protect American Lives and Property Without Further Authority from Congress—Won't Send Special Message, as Believes Party Leaders are Thoroughly Informed—Plainly Shows Worry Over Conditions.

Washington, April 17.—President Taft felt tonight that he had done personally all that can be done by a Chief Executive to control the situation along the Mexican border. He and his advisers believe that now Congress must say whether the situation is grave enough to warrant intervention and its consequences.

Through the State department, he played his highest card today. He notified both sides of the Mexican belligerents that the occurrences at Douglas, Arizona, must not be repeated. Information was requested also as to what measures the authorities had taken to prevent combats of this kind.

A few hours after the department announced that it had issued this second demand, the dispatches from Douglas began to come into the war department, showing that the second battle of Agua Prieta had begun. Tonight, no reply had been received from the Mexican authorities.

The President is plainly worried. He talked but little, the White House folks say, about Mexico today, but the bulletins that came through the war department and through the press were taken to him wherever he happened to be and were read with interest. He did not conceal the fact that he was intensely interested in the news from Agua Prieta.

The President had two important conferences. He talked with Secretary Knox in the afternoon, and tonight he had a conference with Ambassador Bryce, of Great Britain. The official explanation of Mr. Bryce's visit was that he came to talk about the proposed arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain. It is practically certain, however, that Mr. Bryce figured in the conversation.

Mr. Bryce explained to the President the landing of the British marines at San Quintan. He stated that the landing was only after American, and it was explained that Americans came first, and British subjects asked for protection that the British vessels of war put the marines ashore.

In connection with Mr. Bryce's visit, a suggestion that there might be joint intervention in Mexico by the United States and England was discarded. It was reported that any such joint intervention would be considered as an acknowledgment by the United States that this nation is unable to handle the situation and that it would be almost an abandonment of the Monroe doctrine.

President Taft told callers he does not contemplate sending a special message to Congress relating to the condition of affairs in Mexico. He has shown to leaders of both the Senate and House the confidential correspondence relating to Mexico. He feels that few of those who have been taken into his confidence have failed to agree with him that the movement of troops to Texas was justified.

He thinks that since the leaders in Congress have practically all the information he has, it is their duty to take any further action. The President himself has let it be known that no United States troops would cross the line unless authorized by Congress and the Secretary of War, Mr. Dickinson, confirmed that statement tonight.

No one here doubts that intervention would mean war. War in Mexico, the President's advisers say, would mean a conflict that would rage for months, probably years. The topography of Mexico, the mountains, the insufficient means of quick communication and a dozen other things that must be figured, would have to be met.

Intervention would mean a long drawn out struggle, in which the Mexican Federals and Mexican insurgents might soon be found fighting side by side. Furthermore, intervention would be likely to dissipate all the good feeling that years of careful diplomacy have created between the United States and the Latin-American countries.

A few farmers are scraping cotton this week—that is getting the crop started early.

REBELS PROPOSE ARMISTICE.

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SEEMS INCLINED TO ACCEPT.

Offer Made to War Department by Dr. Gomez, Insurrecto Agent at Washington, and Reply Indicates Favorable Reception of Suggestion—Probable Result of Loss of Life in Battle of Agua Prieta—Fighting May Cease in Forty-eight Hours.

Mexico City, April 18.—A proposition for an armistice pending negotiations for a settlement of Mexico's internal troubles was received by the department of foreign relations today from Washington, presumably from Dr. Vasquez Gomez.

The reply was returned, in which it was indicated that the Government looked with favor upon the suggestion.

The armistice proposed appeared to be a direct outgrowth of the battle of Agua Prieta, and the consequent loss of life and bodily injury occasioned in Douglas by the fire from the Mexican side. It points specifically to the dangers of international complications, which might follow a continuation of the conflict.

Minister De la Barra this afternoon sent to Washington the answer to the proposal made by the agent of the revolutionists. In it he stipulated certain minor terms, to which it is believed there will be no objection. It may be assumed, however, that before a full agreement is reached by the Government and rebels, every detail of the proposition will be submitted to Francisco I. Madero, Jr. So far have negotiations gone through, that it is not expected that Madero will longer oppose the overture his agents have made for peace.

It is believed that no time will be lost, either by the rebels or the Government, in concluding arrangements for the formal declaration of the armistice and that as soon thereafter as possible the work of drafting the terms for permanent peace will be begun. It is conceded that both sides realize that the war is costing the country too much in money and lives.

It will not be at all surprising if the armies now opposing each other in the north receive orders within the next 48 hours to cease operations.

Minister De La Barra did not consider himself at liberty to disclose the conditions on which the armistice will be granted.

EXCEEDS ADVERTISING LIMIT.

J. S. Berger, Charged With Misuse of Mails, Seeks to Have Notables Summoned as Witnesses.

Savannah, Ga., April 18.—Following the arrest of J. S. Berger here by postoffice inspectors who charge him with using the mails to defraud by advertising that he is showing here the "world's greatest aviators," the defense has announced tonight that it will present a long list of witnesses tomorrow to the United States commissioner, to be subpoenaed.

The list includes Attorney General Wickersham, Maj. Gen. Miles, Maj. Gen. Robert M. Oliver, assistant secretary of war; Maj. Squier, U. S. A., two commissioners of the District of Columbia; the Wright brothers and Glenn Curtiss, aviators; several well known men of New Orleans, the mayors of several Georgia towns, the president and secretary of the Aero Club of America and others.

They will be asked to testify as to the merit of the aviators here. Incidentally the question, it is said by the defense, will be asked as to how far an advertiser may go in claiming excellence of his wares and then permitting the advertisement to be carried by the mails.

TO RETURN RECORDS TO STATE.

Bill Providing for Giving Historic Documents Back Passes New York Assembly.

Albany, N. Y., April 18.—The bill providing for the return to South Carolina by the State education department of certain documents, said to have been "appropriated" during the Revolutionary war, passed the assembly today. It was thought that these records were destroyed by the capital fire but two of three books, although damaged, were sufficiently preserved to save their historical value intact.

A full force of hands is at work on the Y. M. C. A. building this week and rapid progress is being made.

TROOPS READY FOR LONG STAY.

Manoeuvre Camp at Fort Sam Houston Daily Being Made More Permanent.

San Antonio, Tex., April 19.—The manoeuvre camp at Fort Sam Houston is daily being made more permanent. The troops have resigned themselves to the belief that there will be no active service, and are settling down for a long stay. Tomorrow Maj. Normyle will open bids for 1,000 tons of hay, and it is probable he will call for other bids for a like quantity within the next few days.

The Third brigade has again occupied its tents and settled down to garrison routine. Tomorrow the Third artillery will leave for the Leon Springs military reservation to burn powder and hurl shrapnel on theoretical enemies. So far no other arrangements for manoeuvres at Leon Springs have been made.

STATE WILL BORROW MONEY.

Palmetto National Bank of Columbia Offers Sum at 3 Per Cent. Interest.

Columbia, April 20.—The State of South Carolina will borrow \$500,000 through the Palmetto National bank of Columbia for running expenses for this year. The rate of interest is 3 per cent., which is considered very low. This announcement was made yesterday following a session of the finance committee of the State, which is composed of A. W. Jones, comptroller general, R. H. Jennings, State treasurer, and the governor. The general assembly authorized the committee to borrow the above amount.

There were several propositions before the committee. The Germania Savings bank of Charleston offered \$200,000 at 4 3-4 per cent. The First National Bank of Rock Hill made an offer of a little less than 3 3-4 per cent.

The loan will be paid back during January when the tax money is received by the State treasurer. It is probable that the loan will be repaid in installments of \$100,000. The loan last year was placed at above 4 per cent. The loan was handled by Chief Clerk Carter of the office of the State treasurer.

GOULD NAMES THE MAN.

B. F. Bush Elected President of Missouri Pacific.

New York, April 18.—Although recently forced out of the position himself, Geo. J. Gould, opposing the Rockefeller-Kuhn-Loeb interests, brought about the election today of B. F. Bush as his successor as president of the Missouri Pacific, defeating the opposition candidate, David R. Francis, former Governor of Missouri. Mr. Bush is president of the Western Maryland Railroad.

The victory of the Gould faction was followed by the announcement of Kuhn-Loeb & Co's withdrawal as bankers of the system and with the resignation of Paul M. Warburg, the company's representative on the board of directors.

Geo. Gould and Kuhn, Loeb & Co. issued a statement explaining their side of the case, Mr. Gould regretting personally the withdrawal of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., but congratulating the road on the selection of Mr. Bush. Kuhn, Loeb & Co. explained that they did not favor Mr. Bush, and that because of his election, Messrs Warburg and Vanderbilt felt "unwilling to share responsibilities in the management of the company under the circumstances."

Mr. Gould said that he was much influenced in his advocacy of the election of Mr. Bush by the results he attained in the management of the Western Maryland.

Mr. Gould stated that the Kuhn, Loeb & Co.'s interests in the Union and Southern Pacific made a continuance of their relationship as bankers unadvisable. Referring to Kuhn, Loeb & Co.'s advocacy of Francis for the presidency of the Missouri Pacific, Mr. Gould said he felt that their influence was not helpful to the property, and that Mr. Francis' efficiency as a railroad operator was not apparent to him.

Lack of experience in handling large properties and fear that he could not command the support of the banking community were given as the reasons for the opposition to Mr. Bush. Missouri Pacific was the centre of an excited market all day.

Horse racing at the local race track is scheduled to come off next Thursday when Mr. C. W. Smith puts up his trotting mare against the fast pacer belonging to Mr. C. F. King.

THE FACTIONS ON RECIPROCITY

BILL CAUSES FURTHER SPLITS AMONG REPUBLICANS.

Standpaters for and Against Canadian Agreement, Insurgents Ditto—Sentiment Among Democrats Not Unanimous, However—Majority Anticipate Effort of Minority to Cause Embarrassment by Effort to Add Proposed Free List to Reciprocity Measure May Pass Tomorrow.

Washington, April 18.—Sentiment is not unanimous among the Democrats in favor of the Canadian reciprocity treaty. At every day brings new evidence of the absolute demoralization which this issue has thrown the Republicans. The division has entered even into the subdivision of the G. O. P.

There are reciprocity and anti-reciprocity standpaters, and reciprocity and anti-reciprocity insurgents and often they get into arguments with each other.

The Senate is taking things easily, while the House works overtime; before long the House will be adjourning for three or four days at a clip, while the Senate will be in constant action.

Democratic leaders are prepared for an attempt by some of the Republicans, who oppose the Canadian reciprocity bill, to embarrass the Democratic majority in the passage of the bill by proposing, as an amendment to it, a section embodying all of the free list that the Democratic ways and means committee has prepared as the first of the party's tariff measures.

Opposition Republicans have charged in the House that if the Democrats were in earnest to have this free list passed, they would offer it as a part of the reciprocity bill, so that President Taft could not find occasion to veto it, even though it did not meet with his approval.

Chairman Underwood, of the ways and means committee, is apparently proceeding on the belief that an amendment to be talked into the free list bill will be offered. He said today that such an amendment would be at once ruled out of order, as it could not be considered, "germane to the bill," under the House rules permitting the offering of amendments.

An effort is to be made to wind up the open debate on the Canadian agreement tomorrow night. The bill probably will be brought up for final consideration, amendment and passage Thursday.

Henry George, Jr., of New York, in his maiden speech in the House during the reciprocity debate today, proclaimed himself a free trader and said he had aligned himself with the Democrats, because he believed it is the only great party "moving toward the light."

He endorsed the Canadian agreement as tending toward free trade and believed that eventually the United States would have absolutely free trade with the world. This speech did not arise any great enthusiasm on the Democratic side.

Representatives Howland of Ohio; Knop, Wisconsin, and Gillette, Massachusetts, spoke in favor of the agreement.

BANKERS CONVENTION MEETS.

Franklin MacVeagh, Secretary of the Treasury, to Make an Address Before Bankers.

Summerville, April 18.—The 11th annual session of the South Carolina Bankers' association convened here tonight at Pine Forest inn. Rev. F. W. Marbler of the Presbyterian church made the opening prayer, Mayor Simons of Summerville the address of welcome. Mayor Rhett of Charleston and others spoke. The response was made by Richard I. Manning of Sumter. Considerable routine business is scheduled to be disposed of, and a number of interesting papers will be read.

Franklin MacVeagh, secretary of the United States treasury, will be one of the honored guests of the association tomorrow. The bankers' party will spend a part of Thursday in Charleston and will be entertained here.

POPULATION BY WARDS.

Director of Census Gives Details of Sumter Census.

Washington, April 18.—Sumter City ward totals population thirteenth census First, 946; second, 2,632; third, 2,622; fourth, 1,909.