

to the withdrawal of the company which had received the award.

The conversation became somewhat peppery and a member said: "It looks as though you are trying to railroad this thing through for the Hartford company." Then Ledyard Bailey in the chair remarked: "It's a ten to one shot they will get it."

However the other member persisted in warning them to be careful of their action. The vote to refer to the committee, with power to act, was carried, two members voting "no," and apparently, after they had given the matter consideration, bids were accepted from all companies which wished to put one in. In calling for the new bids, the committee asked that a certified check for the full amount of the premium accompany the bid in order to guarantee them from any further withdrawals.

When the bids were opened by the committee, the award was quietly made to the second highest bidder, the Hartford company, their bid still being six dollars higher than that made by a local company which keeps all of its money in Utah, and the explanation made to the writer who asked why it was done was that this company had no boiler inspector and had previously not been in the business of insuring boilers. The acceptance of their bid would have meant the saving of nearly \$300 to the city, and in this connection it may be authoritatively stated that a letter accompanied their bid saying that the inspection would have the greatest care, and that the inspector would be competent in every respect and satisfactory to the board of education.

The grounds for turning down this bid were flimsy to say the least, and it is absurd to think that there are not just as many competent men to fill the position of inspectors right here as may be sent here by an eastern company. But the whole point is this: this man Glaucque who poses as a friend of the people and as a civic economist, with his associates, deliberately threw away several hundred dollars of the people's money and gave it to an outside company that takes the money away from the state and can render no better services than the company having its interests here with a constantly increasing payroll and with its funds conservatively invested in this state.

By all means nominate Glaucque for city commissioner from the west side.

It would be a splendid idea if the commissioners would arrange to mark safety lines on the streets such as there are in several large cities. The town is full of strangers and practically none of them knows the traffic rules. In consequence there is considerable confusion at street crossings. The majority of them who have been to the coast know what the white lines painted on the pavement mean and if we had them the rules would be observed by a great many who now require guiding. It would not be in the nature of an experiment, for it has been done successfully elsewhere.

Not the least of the minor regrets of the great war will be that the two thousand Missouri mules on the Armenia never had a chance to demonstrate their offensive and defensive prowess in the stress of a campaign.

People who are surprised at the mildness of Mr. Bryan's criticisms of the administration should remember that, like John Paul Jones, Bryan has "not yet begun to fight." When he gets ready to tell what he knows, he will tell a thrilling story.

Vice-President Marshall says he is a fatalist. Then, of course, he is resigned to the defeat which next year has in store for him.

SOME INTERESTING FIGURES

Washington, July 21, (Special Correspondence.)—If the American farmer has a fancy for figures, he can find some interesting facts set forth in statistics contained in a pamphlet just issued by the department of commerce under the title: "Trade of the United States with other American Countries, 1913-1914." Unfortunately, the statistics deal with a fiscal year, and not with a period fixed by changes in economic policies. The figures regarding imports deal with the year ending with June 30, in each instance, whereas the new tariff law, which exerts so large an influence upon imports, went into effect early in October, 1913.

It is therefore apparent that the statistics for 1913 include a full twelve months under a Republican tariff while the figures for 1914 cover three months of Republican tariff and nine months of Democratic rates on imports. As the European war did not break out until August, 1914, the commercial transactions covered by this bulletin were entirely free from any war influence. A few illustrations of changes in imports of farm products will be illuminative.

In 1913 Canadian farmers sold to buyers in the United States cattle, horses, sheep, etc. to the value of a little more than \$1,500,000 but in 1914 they cut into the market of the American farmer to the extent of \$11,000,000. That gain of \$9,500,000 was enough to make quite a jingle in the pocket of the Canadian stockgrower.

In 1913, Canadian farmers sold in American market only \$2,750,000 worth of grain and flour but in 1914 they were able to ship in enough of the same commodities to take away \$12,440,000 of good American money. That is \$9,690,000 to the gain of the Canadian. Leather added another \$2,000,000 to the net gain of the Canadian producer. Wool imports from Canada gained \$1,100,000 in 1914 as compared with 1913.

Those four classes of commodities, livestock, grain, hides, and wool, constituting the foundation of agriculture, yielded the Canadian producer a gain of over \$22,000,000 in American markets under Democratic as compared with Republican tariff laws.

But it was not Canadian farmers alone that profited by the reduction or removal of tariff duties on farm products. Mexican stockmen increased their sales in the United States about \$5,500,000, \$7,000,000 by sales of grain; nearly \$6,000,000 by sales of meat and dairy products and \$2,000,000 by sales of wool.

Agricultural producers in those and other countries were aided in selling other products in American markets but the items mentioned above give the larger amounts of increased sales and serve to illustrate the manner in which reduced tariffs on agricultural imports throw the American farmer into competition with farmers of other nations. The war in Europe served to give these other countries a more profitable market than the United States, but the increase of \$42,500,000 in agricultural imports from three nations, in a period of nine months of the new tariff, indicates what still greater injury would have been suffered by American producers had not the war intervened.

The treasury statement at the close of the week, Saturday, July 10th, showed a net balance in the general fund of \$73,963,615.53 as compared with a balance of \$136,343,611.17 on the same day, two years ago, under Republican administration. Revenues to July 10th, of this fiscal year amount to \$14,064,907.80, and disbursements \$25,306,064.25, leaving a deficit for the first ten days of this fiscal year of \$11,241,156.46.

Perhaps Edison can invent a use for Bryan.—Seattle Argus.

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