

# CURRENCY BILL TO FOLLOW THE NEW TARIFF ACT

### President Wilson Opposed to Any Undue Delay on Part of Senate in Carrying Out Party Programme.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—Political Washington, relieved of the long drawn out consideration of the tariff, will focus its attention this week on banking and currency legislation.

Though the administration currency bill easily passed the house, its pathway in the senate is admittedly full of obstacles. At present the senate banking committee has not yet begun consideration of the bill.

While there was a unanimity of opinion on the principle of tariff revision, widely divergent views are held by Democratic senators of the anti-trust reform.

A strong desire for a single bank with branches under government control, instead of a regional reserve system of banks, has made its appearance in the informal discussion. It is regarded as doubtful if a bill satisfactory to the banking committee can reach the floor of the senate before the middle of November.

The president wants through consideration of the currency bill and any improvement that the senate can make on the measure as passed by the house will be welcomed. His disposition, however, is to oppose strongly any undue delay.

President Wilson believes a general decrease in the cost of living that will be felt by the rank and file of the country is not dependent alone on tariff revision, but upon prompt reform of the nation's monetary system as well as careful amendment of the anti-trust laws. Even though the tariff laws might bring many imports into this country at low rates or free of duty, the evils of price-fixing, underselling and other discriminations in restraint of trade might, in the president's opinion, defeat the fruits of tariff reform.

Another essential to free competition, in the president's view, is freedom of credit. With the concentration of credit, what the president in his Chicago speech last January described as an "inner circle," even the benefits of trust regulation and tariff reduction can be withheld from the consumer by the stifling of enterprise.

None of the administration leaders entertain the slightest idea that the tariff will have any adverse effect. On the other hand, in pushing forward the currency programme they have pointed out that an elastic financial system is necessary now more than ever to meet a natural enlargement of business transactions following the influx of foreign products for the low duties.

As soon as the December session opens the administration will begin to center its attention on anti-trust programme.

## NEW YORK OFFICIALS ASK FOR MORE TIME

### Governor Felker of New Hampshire to Delay Decision in the Case of Harry Thaw.

CONCORD, N. H., Oct. 5.—The New York state officials have asked Governor Felker to postpone for a time his decision in the matter of the extradition of Harry K. Thaw from New Hampshire. The governor said tonight he probably would grant the request, although he had asked that it be submitted in writing before he made a formal ruling on it.

As the governor understands the situation, this move of the New York authorities is taken in view of the investigation to be made by Attorney General Clegg. Governor Felker said tonight that he had received from William Travers Jerome a certified copy of the indictment against Thaw by the Dutchess county grand jury and substantially withdrawn; also an affidavit by District Attorney Conder of Dutchess county that no indictment against Thaw now exists in that county.

Harry Thaw spent the day quietly at his hotel. He issued a statement in which he reviewed again rumors as to new legal proceedings in New York. "As I am sane," said the statement, "it is not a fact that every person concerned in any effort to take me back to Matteawan is guilty of criminal conspiracy to put a sane man in a hospital for the insane."

## TWO DIE IN WRECK.

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE. GREAT FALLS, Mont., Oct. 5.—Conductor Harry Williams and brakeman W. C. Powers were killed and their bodies burned into unrecognizable masses this morning at 8:25 when a light extra freight crashed into a regular freight on the Great Northern railroad.

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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## SLAYER OF 14 TAKEN; MYSTERY IS SOLVED

(Continued from Page One.)

Mich. Met woman in New York. Came with her to Chicago and then both went to Detroit. He beat her to death, and took her money, burning clothes and body. Did not know name. "They all lie to you," he said.

Port Montgomery, New York. Beat her to death and took \$200 in money and diamonds worth \$800.

English immigrant woman. Killed her near Western avenue and threw her body into drainage canal. Body was recovered, but identity was never established.

Saloonkeeper on Van Buren street, near Aberdeen street. Shot man and wounded his wife while robbing the saloon.

Mrs. Mildred Allison Rexroat, murdered at Wayne, Ill., September 25.

Police Mystified.

The police cannot account for all of the victims Spencer claims to have slain. The only victim, Spencer, Fannie, who probably is the woman he said he killed before he went to the penitentiary.

Spencer told his gruesome story calmly to Captain Halpin and a roomful of detectives and newspaper men. "I've been a thief all my life," he declared. "I killed all these women to get their money. I found it was the easiest way to live. It cost me \$400 or \$500 a week to enjoy the money."

Mrs. Rexroat Easy.

"Mrs. Rexroat was easy. She thought she was working me the same way she worked her husband, and she could work me the same way. I let her think so. At first I was going to take her to Michigan to kill her there, but finally I decided it would be less trouble to take her a little way out on the car line and get the money."

Married Four Times.

Spencer said that he had married four women, killing the first one near West Point, N. Y. He did not know exactly how many years ago. One wife is living in Detroit, he said, and another in Chicago.

Spencer gave details of his alleged murders at the Wisconsin and Michigan resorts, where he said he had spent most of the summer as a hotel thief, committing an occasional murder.

"I killed the two girls at Paw Paw lake for their money and rings," he said. "One of them let me see she had some money with her and so I shot her and sunk her body in the lake. The other girl I killed the same way, but she did not have much money. The girl at Delavan lake I shot with the same gun with which I killed Mrs. Rexroat."

"When I got back to Chicago I met a man one night who looked as if he had money. I shot him in an alley in the south side levee. He did not have much money, but enough for me to go to a hotel for a few days, and there I met another man, an old fellow who said he was a broker."

"Looked Like Money."

"We got friendly and he let on to have a fine business and a lot of money. He looked like money. I was disappointed in that fellow. I got him to take a walk with me late one afternoon in Jackson park and I shot him there and went through him. He didn't have near as much money as he said he had. He told me he had a lot more than found. I rolled him into a swampy place where they were dumping. The papers had a lot about it and called it a case of suicide."

"Another case the police called suicide was a woman killed on the northwest side. I killed her with a hammer, tore up her clothes and set fire to them. The last woman I killed was a few days ago two blocks west of the county hospital. I beat her to death with a hammer. She had two rings and \$200. This murder was done with the hammer the police found whopped in a towel by the railroad track. They thought the hammer had something to do with the Rexroat murder."

Spencer declared he was a user of opium.

Money His Object.

"It costs a lot of money to hold up your head in these cabarets," he said. "I average two jobs a week all the time I am out of jail."

Spencer said that none of the jewelry he said he had taken from his victims ever would be recovered. "I never go into a store and buy a thing," he said. "I sell any of it to some private person, maybe on the street. I do not know the names. A lot of it I gave to girls."

The police report that Spencer had committed the large number of murders and holdups to which he lays claim, but are convinced he is guilty of many of them. The man's jail record extends from his boyhood. He accounted for his immunity from trial for murder by saying that he would get apprehended for some minor crime and would take a short sentence, and while he was in jail the murder mystery would be shelved and forgotten. Several of the murders he declared he had committed are known to-night probably to have been accomplished by Spencer in accordance with his confession. The Fannie Thompson murder, the killing of the policemen, the murder of an old man in Jackson park, the killing of a woman near the county hospital and the attempted killing of a family of four on the west side, all had been catalogued as mysteries.

The entire list of crimes confessed by Spencer will be investigated by the police, who will check up how far the man's account is correct.

His coldly planned murder of the dancing teacher and the other killings of which he boasts were committed while the man was on parole from the state penitentiary for highway robbery. He was paroled to Mark M. A. Messleby of the Volunteers of America, and a short time after he was set at liberty he visited Captain Halpin and asked him to get him a job. Halpin obtained employment for Spencer, but the man held the job but two weeks.

"The murderer's name—if it is ever learned, for he says he does not know it—will be ranked by the police with those of H. H. Holmes, who confessed to twelve murders and was suspected of a total of 27; and Johann Hoch, who admitted four murders, and generally was considered guilty of many more."

"Is your name really Spencer?" a reporter asked. "Oh, I never knew my parents and I never knew my name, except 'Harry,'" he replied.

"The first I remember was in the reform school at Peckhamville," he went on.

"That is my first recollection. They may have a record of my real name. I ran away from the school and never was found out. From that time on I lived with thieves and bad women. I never knew a good man or a good woman in my life."

"I got my first prison term shortly after running away from the school. A man sold me a suit of clothes for a nickel—that's how it started. I knew the suit had been stolen but it did not impress me as anything serious. That sort of thing was a part of my life. The very next day I walked right into the shop from which it had been stolen and I was surprised when they arrested me. The prosecution and the judge wanted me to plead guilty and take a sentence of thirty days, but my lawyer said no. He said fight it out and so I pleaded not guilty."

"What do you suppose I got? I got ten years and if there ever was any good in me that killed it. Ten years for a suit of clothes!"

"I served the full term. I had about two years good time coming to me, but I attacked a guard and lost it. They strung me up by the arms and they starved me; they put me in the solitary, too."

"I think it was the solitary that really got me. When I came out I was surprised—anybody's blood. I wanted to kill people and see it run. They gave me ten dollars when they turned me loose, and eight of that I spent for a gun. I have been killing more or less ever since, and I liked it in a way; when I robbed anybody I was a sort of satisfaction to clean up the job by shutting up the victim's mouth forever."

At Joliet the murderer was known as Smith, as Burke and one other name.

Spencer didn't kill any one there since

he said. "I took the name 'Spencer' when I got out last time—it was another ten-year sentence but I got three years off for good behavior," explained the prisoner.

"Spencer" was garbed in a plain, well-kept business suit; his linen was clean and his wavy chestnut hair carefully parted and brushed.

A detective, trying to visualize the monstrosity of the story to which he had just listened, described the man negatively.

"If I saw him behind a cashier's desk in a bank, or selling alkali over a counter, I wouldn't have thought him unfitted for the part. He doesn't look like a tough."

His whole manner of telling his story, with its incompleteness, its lapses and vagueness of detail, was regarded as symptomatic of his admitted addiction to the opium-smoking habit.

For the most part those who heard his story of criminal abnormality had difficulty in reconciling the self-possessed young man—he is 22 years of age—with the moral monstrosity he pictured himself to be. Two missing women, whom the police believe may have been the ones lured to Delavan Lake, Wis., and killed are Laura E. Voss, Lake Geneva, and Mrs. Margaret Whitneck of Three Rivers, Mich. Both were reported as missing.

Sheriff Has Doubts.

DETROIT, Mich., Oct. 5.—Sheriff Franz of Berrien county, in which Paw Paw lake is situated, said tonight that he knew nothing of the supposed murderer of two girls at that place.

"Spencer didn't kill any one there since

## GOVERNOR FOSS AGAIN WARNS RAILROAD MEN

BOSTON, Oct. 5.—A strike undertaken by the engineers and firemen of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad with the rule of seniority as the issue "will compel this commonwealth to adopt suitable measures for the protection of its citizens," Governor Foss again declared in an open letter tonight. This communication was in answer to one addressed to him by officials of the railroad employees last Friday stating their attitude regarding a strike vote being taken on the New Haven road.

The governor told the union officials that their letter was written upon the "assumption that your organization is engaged in a private calling and that the state or nation will in some way trespass upon the rights and freedom of your members if they undertake to regulate the conditions of employment."

"This assumption," the governor said, "is wholly inadmissible."

Salt Laker in New York. Special to The Tribune. NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—At the Park Avenue hotel, E. F. Root.

I have been sheriff," he said. "Newspaper files in this city and in Grand Rapids contain no record of such a crime."

At local police headquarters tonight it was declared no woman was murdered on Belle Isle last summer.

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