

Fun for the Whole Family



The HOME TOWN REPORTER
In Washington
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Controversy on Tariffs

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BITTER controversy over the age-old tariff question now before the congress should be carefully watched by every farmer, every business man, every industrialist and every worker in the nation . . . for no matter from what standpoint the question is viewed, the outcome is of vital concern to every one.

This question—that of extending the Reciprocal Trade Agreements

act for a period of three years and giving the President further authority to reduce tariffs another 50 per cent—has developed into the hottest party fight to face the 79th congress. With Republicans generally agreed to oppose the extension of the act, the issue narrows down to three possible results:

The act will be extended as presented to the congress or—
It will be extended in possibly some modified form, or—
It will be defeated and the tariff rates will revert to those provided by the Smoot-Hawley law which were in effect prior to the Reciprocal Trade Agreement act that became effective in 1934.

It seems to this reporter, however, that something more is involved in this fight for and against the Reciprocal Trade act than a viewpoint on the question of high or low tariffs. However you feel about tariffs, whether you are in favor of a high protective tariff, or whether you favor the reciprocal agreements, the fact remains that during the past decade the principle of reciprocal trade agreements has become an essential and underlying basis of our foreign policy.

The entire Good Neighbor policy in our relations with South and Central American countries is based upon the elimination of trade barriers and the reciprocal trade program. And these agreements have, in the eyes of these South American neighbors, become the most tangible and abiding manifestation of whether the United States is indeed, a good neighbor.

Language of the reciprocal trade act is written into the Bretton Woods international monetary agreements for operation of the monetary fund is expected to help "remove trade barriers in favor of open or reciprocal trade agreements to provide free and open trade among member nations."

Written Into Agreements.
The principle of the reciprocal trade agreements is written into the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the removal of trade barriers, for the elimination of surpluses, to expand international world trade, to expand production and consumption and to raise the standard of living in all countries.

The principle of these trade agreements is written into the Atlantic Charter and into the Dumbarton Oaks agreements of the United States, acclaimed as the ground structure for international peace now under consideration at San Francisco.

The same principles are written into the Pan-American agreement reached at the recent conference in Mexico City.

Also tied in with consideration of this most vital piece of legislation actually are the Bretton Woods agreements, also before the congress, the extension of authority of the Export-Import Bank to finance United States Foreign Trade, and repeal of the Johnson act prohibiting loans to governments in default of their obligations to the U. S.

So it is obvious that in the consideration of this reciprocal trade extension there is involved the very world cooperation which is being sought at the San Francisco conference. And to this writer the issue looms much bigger, relatively than the mere party question of high or low tariffs.

There is no question but that the reciprocal trade agreements now in force between this nation and 23 other nations have aided in developing mutual confidence and trust and world cooperation on a plane never heretofore attained. The question uppermost is, would abrogation of these agreements create serious misgivings on the part of these countries concerning our future relations at this time when the future peace of the world is at stake.

Trade experts of every political faith agree that an expanding international trade is the key to many important postwar problems. If we are going to produce abundantly both on farms and factories, for benefit of both producers and consumers, then there must be a constantly increasing change of goods and services among nations. There can be no denying the fact that high tariffs do constitute trade barriers even if erected for the avowed purpose of "protecting American agriculture and American workers against foreign competition."

WHO will be the rookie of the year for 1945, a year when rookies are about as scarce as wild turkeys that feed out of your hand?

Sam Breadon, the Irish - panned owner of the St. Louis Cardinals, knows more about rookies and has had more good beginners than anyone else in baseball. Year after year, the Cardinals have come up with recruits who proved to be better than many well - known veteran stars.

Breadon keeps his eyes on the kids. Their salaries are never too high, but St. Louis is far from being the hottest baseball town in the country, so far as attendance figures show.

You can understand Sam Breadon's enthusiasm when he figures that he has not only the best rookie of 1945, but one of the best of all time.

All of the aforementioned is by way of leading up to a recent remark made by Breadon as he watched Billy Southworth ready his Cardinals for another National league campaign. The experts were saying that the Cards were a cinch and that the all-time record of four straight 100-year victories was as good as in Al Munro Elias's statistics, but Breadon wasn't thinking about the Cards in general but of a freckled-faced kid playing left field.

'Better Than Musial'

"He's a better prospect right now than was Stan Musial when he reported to us," remarked Breadon—and a half dozen reporters' pencils dug into note pads almost before Sam's words were dry in the hot St. Louis air.

"Better than Musial? Say, wasn't that taking in a lot of territory?" "Well," Breadon hastened to remark, "I mean he can do more things. He's a good infielder; he can play the outfield as you now see. We could use him at second, short, third, left, center or right and stop worrying about any position he took over. He's as fast as they come and those minor league batting averages are no flukes. Watch him. He's the rookie of the year."

And who was the target of all this tall praise? Well, you'll hear a lot about him this year—Albert (Red) Schoendienst, a typesetter's headache but a manager's dream.

Here's a player who has been headline bait ever since he walked into a ball park. Well, almost since that first day. The weight of numbers obscured his first trek to Sportsmen's Park for he was one of 300 or 400 kids invited in 1942 for a tryout school. As a matter of fact, Schoendienst just walked in with a pal from Germantown, Ill., and told the Cardinal scouts he would like to be a ball player. He was put through a series of tests—races, throwing contests, batting drills—and, after the scouts had prepared a few notes on him he was excused and told he could stay for the ball game that afternoon of June 18, 1942. He returned home not knowing when he would be called again.

Quickly Signed Up

He didn't have to wait long. The Cardinals' Union City, Tenn. team in the Kitty league sent an SOS to the parent ball club and the St. Louis board of strategy, after a hurried meeting, decided to sign up the kid redhead.

As I said, Schoendienst was headline-happy from the start. He was batting .467 when the league disbanded and finished the season with Albany, Ga., where he hit .269. The spring of '43 found him at Portsmouth (Piedmont league) but when he opened the season with eight straight hits he was rushed up to Rochester where Pepper Martin found him as enjoyable as an old Western "gee-tah." Schoendienst resumed his blasting in his new uniform, finished the season with an average of .337, and was declared the league's most valuable player—an unusual honor for a rookie. After 25 games in 1944, in which he hit .373, he was called into the army.

An old eye injury caused him to be discharged. In fact, his left eye is practically blind. But this is an era when men overcome handicaps such as these and Schoendienst did so by becoming a switch hitter. Now experts will tell you he packs more punch as a southpaw swatter than he does as a right-handed raper, his original stance at the plate.

Gordon or Doerr?

One of the main arguments among war hospital partisans is the choice between Joe Gordon of the Yankees and Bobby Doerr of the Red Sox. Here's part of the answer—Gordon's five-year batting average was .284 — Doerr's seven year average was around .293. Gordon in his five years belted out 125 home runs while Doerr in his seven years hit only 87 four-baggers. Gordon also had a good lead in the matter of runs-batted-in. This leaves them pretty well matched offensively.

SPARKY WATTS



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