

TAFT ON THE TARIFF.

Great Political Interest In Secretary's Position on Revision.

BRYAN'S INTERWOVEN ISSUES

Officeholders Ready to Nullify Will of People on Oklahoma Constitution. Foraker's Stand Against the Administration—Says Let the People Speak For Themselves and Then Learn What They Want—London Paper's View on Reid's Rising Dignity.

By WILLIS J. ABBOT.

Secretary Taft is making his way to the Pacific coast with much deliberation and a multitude of speeches. Thus far his speeches made in Columbus, O.; Lexington, Ky., and Oklahoma have defined his position on few points of comparative political novelty. In the main he has contented himself with eulogy of Roosevelt and with unflinching applause of the president's policies. Yet at one point he broke away, as in his Columbus speech, when he mildly opposed the president's plan for federal licenses of corporations.

But perhaps the greatest political interest has centered upon Mr. Taft's position on the tariff issue. The political world knows that he is antagonized by the American Protective League on the theory that he is a revisionist. He referred to himself in his Columbus speech as one of that body. Yet, continuing, he threw a sop to that element in the Republican party from which it gets its campaign funds by saying that there should be no revision until after election. This has always been the position of the Republican party. It was specifically so in 1902, just before the congressional elections, but while there have been three such elections and one presidential election the tariff has been in no way touched, though that party has had absolute control of the government since. If there be no way to judge the future except by the past the people may well believe that promises for reform after the election merely indicate forgetfulness when that moment arrives. If it is worth while to revise the tariff and if it must, as Secretary Taft thinks, entail a temporary disturbance in business, why not do it in the coming Sixth congress and let that possible effect coincide with the usual business depression that attends a presidential campaign?

Foraker's Response to the Challenge. It is not necessary to agree with Senator Foraker's views in order to have an admiration for the man. He is tied neck and crop to corporation interests. He seems to believe with sincerity that what is done for the wealth of the country, however much concentrated that wealth may be, makes for the good of the whole people. He serves the railroads, the trusts and the protected monopolies earnestly and well. Yet he is not a quibbler nor a straddler. What he believes he says, and as he believes he votes. It took courage for him to be the one Republican to vote against the Roosevelt rate bill. Some bravery, too, was demanded when he took up the Brownsville investigation. It is easy to say sneeringly that he had in mind some 30,000 negro voters in Ohio and the enormous power of the southern negro in carrying delegations to the next national convention. Nevertheless in this particular year of political politeness, when practically every Republican senator or representative you meet here in Washington will denounce Roosevelt personally and officially, then "crook the pregnant hinges of the knee where thrift may follow fawning," his manly stand is like a cool breeze on a sultry day.

This is the way the Ohio senator meets the Taft equivocation on the revision question. First declaring that he does not believe revision necessary at all and that so far as he is concerned he would not promise it either before or after the presidential election, he goes on to plead that the Republican party shall express its purpose in plain terms. "Let the people speak," he says, "and then we can learn what they want. They will have a chance in 1908. If they want a revision of the tariff they can give their commands, and their wish will be obeyed."

This is the utterance of a frank and open man if not a wise one. Its weakness is that the people will probably be given no chance to speak with definiteness. The Democrats will undoubtedly put a demand for an immediate reduction of the tariff into their platform. The Republicans will just as certainly declare for revision and attempt to make it appear that the revision will be downward and will be promptly undertaken after the election. Only by studying history and recognizing the fact that never yet has the Republican party reduced a tariff system and that during more than six years of absolute power it has steadfastly refused to carry out its promises to revise the tariff can the people wisely make up their minds. That the tariff issue will be the greatest issue for the people next year is probable. Mr. Bryan places it first among his trinity of issues—the tariff, the trusts and the railroads—though he declares the three to be so inextricably interwoven as to make them of equal importance. It is worth remembering, however, that since the civil war the Democracy has won national elections and congressional elections only on the tariff point.

Taft's Attack on Oklahoma. Of course Mr. Taft attacked the proposed constitution which is shortly to be submitted to the suffrages of the people of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. The eight Democratic electoral votes that that territory will cast

once it becomes a state look very big to a Republican statesman who is either a candidate for the presidency himself or a stalking horse for his master in the White House. Mr. Taft thinks that the men who adopted the constitution were insincere. He charges that, while it promises people's rule through the initiative and referendum, it denies it through a gerrymander which would enable the Republicans to carry the state by 10,000, yet have a Democratic legislature and two Democratic senators. This question of gerrymandering is one about which it is always easy to make an outcry. So great a traveler as Mr. Taft might have had an opportunity by now to study its operation in the Republican states of Rhode Island, Connecticut and Illinois.

But it seems to me that the answer to the charge of attempted unfairness and endeavor to defeat the political will of the people of the two territories is complete when one says that they sent to the convention which adopted this constitution 100 Democrats and ten Republicans. The constitution itself is eulogized by every progressive student of government. Its provisions for safeguarding the people's rights, for conserving public lands and franchises, for the regulation of railroads and for the rule of the majority by direct popular vote should arouse the envy of every American commonwealth. It is of course understandable that Mr. Taft should prefer to have the people of these territories governed from Washington by the rough rider proteges of the president than to give them self government. One of these proteges, Governor Franz of Oklahoma, said to me in Washington only three months ago that they were going to prevent by legal proceedings, injunctions and other dilatory methods the adoption of this constitution or its approval by the president and demand a new constitutional convention.

"Suppose the next constitutional convention has even a greater proportion of Democrats than the last?" I asked. "It probably will have if you interfere with the desires of the people. What then?" "Well, we have our president in the White House; we'll come up to him again."

In other words, the gang of federal officeholders now governing the two territories stand ready to nullify, with aid from the administration, the expressed will of the people rather than give up their fat jobs. And, furthermore, it is becoming apparent that the fear of the electoral vote of the new state of Oklahoma in 1908 is urging the administration on to a denial of the right of self government to the people of the most prosperous territory of the Union.

His Excellency Whitelaw Reid. There are old fashioned people in the United States who have been accustomed to deplore the increasing practice of sending multimillionaires to be our ambassadors to foreign lands. They are inclined to think, for example, that George Bancroft, as minister to Germany, better represented American intellect than Charlemagne Tower, our present ambassador at Berlin. Indeed, coming to more recent times, they hold that either Lowell or Phelps carried to the court of St. James more brains and more of democratic simplicity than the present incumbent, Mr. Whitelaw Reid. Yet in this as in other things some compensation is to be found. A friend sent me last week a copy of a London newspaper containing a most eulogistic article upon his excellency the American ambassador. Condensation is necessary, though the delightfully British tone of the article would well repay publication in full. It appears among other things that former American ambassadors were so far beneath the proper ambassadorial level that they actually gave attention to their own establishments. Probably their wives did not actually dust the furniture or answer the doorbell, but Mr. Reid is the first whose housekeeping has been on such lavish scale that a major domo is necessary to supervise it.

Furthermore, former ambassadors were vulgar enough to permit callers without prior appointment. Mr. Reid has risen to the dignity of an English railroad magnate who only receives persons after an appointment has been made by mail. First of all, according to the London journalist, the provincial habit that Americans in London heretofore have had of knocking to the ambassador's house on the fourth of July to shake his hand has been corrected. The doors of the Reid palace are closed on the nation's birthday to all save those whose names have been selected long in advance and who have received a special invitation. This seems doubly significant in the London editor when he reflects upon the fact that it was on that same day that King Edward VII. held a garden party and moved freely among his guests, shaking hands with all the cordiality of a Tammany leader at a picnic. The London paper goes on to philosophize. It sees in this leveling down on the part of King Edward and this leveling upward on the part of Ambassador Reid indications of a social evolution that will ultimately bring the leaders of the two nations, England and America, upon precisely the same plane.

Lovely, don't you know!

Mr. Reid in Politics. It is said to be one of the severest tests of a political memory to recall who ran for vice president in any given election. Yet 1892 has not receded so far into the dim past that people may not remember that Mr. Reid then accompanied Benjamin Harrison to defeat. He was never politically popular, and at that particular time the New York Tribune, which he owned, was in the bad graces of printers all over the country for its fight upon the Typographical union.

Washington, D. C.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Secretary Taft is now in the Philippines.

Three homicide cases were for trial at Anson Superior Court this week.

Miss Linnie Shamburger, of Hills Store, is one of the teachers at the Jamestown Graded School.

The Thompson Lumber Co., of Greensboro, was placed in bankruptcy last Friday.

Thos. C. McLeod, who has been telegraph operator at Cameron, has resigned to enter Elise High School.

The Cramp Ship Building Co., of Philadelphia, will build a branch plant at Norfolk.

Theodore Wolfram, of Columbus, Ohio, has discovered an anti-toxin that is said to kill diphtheria germs in three minutes.

The Lindsay Chair Company, at High Point, was sold last Saturday to the Ford-Johnson Company for \$15,000.

E. J. Crouch has been awarded contract to build the new County High School at Springfield in Guilford county.

Evangelist George Stuart began a series of meetings at the Main Street M. E. Church at High Point Tuesday.

5,151,862,130 cigarettes were manufactured and consumed last year, it being an increase of 1,368,595,815.

Greensboro is to have a great Centennial Celebration next spring. A committee of thirty is making preparations.

Sample S. Brown and his former wife, Mrs. Helen G. Brown, of Greensboro, were married in Danville last week.

The North Georgia Electric Co. has been placed in the hands of a receiver. It operates a 50,000 horse power plant on the Chattahoochee River.

At McAdville, Pa., Henry Lehman, who confessed to robbery and three assaults on 14-year old Anna White, head, was last week sentenced to 55 years in the State Prison.

Mr. R. L. Conrad, of Thomasville, was accidentally shot through the fleshy part of both thighs one day the past week by Chief Holton, whose pistol dropped to the floor and discharged one of the cartridges.

One mile of track for the new electric railway for High Point, which will include an inter-urban line from Greensboro to Thomasville, via High Point, has been completed within the city limits.

The Concord Wholesale Grocery Co. registered a deed of assignment last Thursday. The Southern Loan & Trust Co. is trustee. The liabilities are \$6,500 with \$4,000 assets.

Saturday night, the 7th, instant, at midnight, the store of H. A. Cameron, at Vass, was destroyed by fire. It is thought to be of incendiary origin. The stock was valued at \$3,000, with \$1,200 insurance.

The Southern Railway Co. has ordered the number of employes in the Spencer machine shops be reduced 150. It is understood that the reduction is made to reduce operating expenses.

A reunion of the Andrews family was held at the home of Lee Andrews, at High Point last week. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Andrews of High Point, N. C.; and C. W. Andrews, of San Antonio, Texas, were among those present.

Chas. E. Letton, chief clerk in the tax collector's office at New Orleans, is short in his accounts \$107,000. He was captured while contemplating suicide by jumping into the Mississippi river. He confessed that he stole the money and spent most of it on a negro woman.

MRS. PRAG DEAD.

Was a Native of Montgomery County. Mrs. Jane Andrews Prag died in Cambridge, Maryland, September 24, 1907. Mrs. Prag had been sick for a long time. She was raised in Montgomery County, N. C., and was married in 1869 or 61 to G. W. Sugg, of Randolph County, and soon after their marriage Mr. Sugg went to the army and was taken sick and died at Sanderson, Va., and left his wife and child with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Sugg. And in 1875 she married Capt. J. Prag in Asheboro. Capt. Prag was a refugee from Newbern. He left there just before the Yankee took Newbern, and after the war they moved back to Newbern, and from there to Baltimore, Maryland, and from there to Cambridge, where Capt. Prag died several years ago. Mrs. Prag's only child by her first husband is Cyrus E. Sugg, of the place.

OUR GREASE MINERAL WEALTH.

Randolph Gold Mines an Expert Opinion as to Our Gold Mines and How to Work Them.

Editor The Courier:—You have asked for some information about our property in Randolph county and mining in general in the state, and why there is so much work done on mineral lands and finally abandoned. To clearly answer these questions may take more of your valuable space than you can afford to give, but if the people of North Carolina appreciated the value of their mineral wealth there would be no necessity for urging them to develop it.

"North Carolina exceeds any other state in the Union in the number of its mineral species," (Bulletin 293 U. S. Geological Survey); and while the bulletin treats of a small section and is rather pessimistic on gold mining, it goes as an explanation that the oxidized ores found above water level and easily worked have been the sources of profit in the past; the sulphates found below the water level require expensive machinery to treat them. There are no custom smelters or mills in the state and in order to recover the metals ores must be shipped. Shipping and smelting charges exclusive of mining cost about \$16.00 per ton. Is it any surprise that mining does not pay in North Carolina?

It may not be complimentary to certain persons in your state, who are engaged in selling mines(?), but it is a fact that the development of your mineral resources has been hurt by reason of so many worthless properties being "unloaded", on persons inexperienced in mining matters. Of course, if one does not know mineral property when he sees it and cannot tell the difference between a prospect showing few "colors" and a mine, he is to a certain extent to blame when he swallows the bait, hook sucker and all the line he can get, when the seller springs the "Ancient History attachment" and the "old inhabitant story" on him—every old shaft has these—always some one who was the last man out when work was stopped and will swear to nuggets left in the wall, etc.

Recently I have examined a number of so-called mines in N. C. Most of them were nothing more than the remains of an old shaft, now filled with dirt or water with no evidence of metal in sight. When you ask why work was stopped, the answer is always the same—the water—or a falling out of owners—not enough money to continue—always something plausible, but the mine(?) is very rich, plenty of ore ready to take out and thousands in it! However, you will not find one of them willing to put his time and a few dollars in it, to open up this wonderful proposition that would make him rich if it were half as good as he represented it.

When a victim is lured, he spends a few thousand dollars, then finds he has to spend a great deal more to develop his prospect; that as a rule he has an ore that requires smelting and concentration. With no smelter in the state and no money to put up a mill he is "up against it". He quits work, disgusted, and goes home with a false impression of the mineral wealth of the state and an insane desire to consign the man who sold him the mine(?) to a place we all hope to avoid.

There is gold in North Carolina in paying quantities, it can be mined to a much larger extent than at present, and at a profit. It is simply a manufacturing proposition, a question of producing the finished product at a cost that will leave a profit. Like banking or the cotton mill business or any other business it requires money, brains and careful management; executive ability, a thorough knowledge of the business and competent labor. Ores that were worthless 25 years ago will pay handsomely now. Great improvements have been made in mining machinery and in methods of ore treatment.

The investors in the past have been influenced by suggestions of the many so-called miners in the state. Few if any of the miners have ever seen a modern ore mill. They know nothing of concentration or the cyanide process. Their experience dates back 40 years to the time of the old stamp mill that lost as much as it made and of no more. The experience of those men is largely confined to the past, yet they pose as experts. They know little of rock formation and how to break ground to any advantage.

These conditions have caused many failures but they do not affect the real mineral wealth of your state. You cannot expect outside capital to develop this as long as your citizens look upon the investor as legitimate prey. I have often heard it remarked that North Carolina could not whip the Yankees, but it could sell them "gold mines", which means to them "good catches".

Now, as a Southerner, I am ashamed of such sentiment. I believe your paper can prevent much of this practice, but it will require moral courage.

In regard to the Spoon Mine, which we own, our prospect work has been thoroughly satisfactory. We found what we expected to find; the ore is free, milling with comparatively small veins, but very rich. We also have a very large vein of low grade ore which we have had tested both by mill runs and chemical analysis and find nothing to prevent economical treatment.

It's not our intention to do any further work until our custom mill is completed. This mill will be commenced at Charlotte within the next month. At Charlotte we have two well developed mines—we worked these mines two years before deciding what machinery would best suit our ores—and those of the state which we might be called upon to treat. Had we adopted the stamp mill as was recommended, North Carolina would have had another failure to her credit ere this. Our plant will include a 50 ton mill of the Monnock type with all the equipment of a first class custom plant, samplers and concentrators. The concentrator will be treated according to their composition by the cyanide or chlorination process, while the tailings will be cyanided.

When completed we will be prepared to treat gold ores at a small cost. The man who takes ore there will get its value less the milling charges.

In conclusion will say, unless one is prepared to develop his property before returns are expected, he should not try to mine. One should remember, "It takes a mine to make a mine"; that more attention should be paid to what is below the surface and less to what is shown in the pan; that no actual development should be undertaken without first getting the opinion and report of a mining engineer. A prospective investor should be like the man from Missouri, "Show me", is what he must say.

The majority of individuals in your state who are selling mines(?) remind us of Rouchefoucauld's maxim in which he says, "There is something in the misfortune of our friend that does not exactly displease us". Help eliminate these and you will have a more healthy condition in your mineral industry.

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