

THE STATE DISPATCH.

A REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE UPBUILDING OF AMERICAN HOMES AND AMERICAN INDUSTRIES.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, May 8.—The tariff bill seems to keep pace with the thermometer. Just at present the weather in Washington is most delightful, and Senators are in no haste to get away, especially the new members, who wish to deliver their first great speech in favor of what they have been preaching in magazines and elsewhere before coming to Congress. A considerable portion, therefore of the present month will be given up to the so-called set speeches but as soon the thermometer gets up to eighty or ninety degrees then the real progress on the bill will commence. Various predictions are made as to the date of adjournment—running from June 1st, to August 1st, but it is still hoped that the bill will be in the President's hands before the end of the fiscal year. Although at the close of the debate it may be passed speedily in the Senate, there is yet the Conference Committee to consider, and it is feared that many days if not weeks will be consumed here. This Committee will probably consist of either fourteen or sixteen members—seven or eight each of the Committee of Finance of the Committee of Finance of the Senate and of the Ways and Means Committee of the House.

While much attention is being to the income tax, it is not likely that such a feature will be put in the bill at the present session. The maximum and minimum features will also be assailed, but it is thought that this phase of tariff making will find a place in the so-called Payne bill.

Formal notice of the intention of the American Government to terminate the commercial agreements with a number of other countries made in conformity with section 3 of the Dingley tariff act, has been given by the State Department. This action is based on the mere intent and wish of Congress as shown by the pending legislation. Formal commercial agreements under the Dingley act exist with Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Netherlands, while informal understandings, the bases of which are presidential proclamations have been entered into with Switzerland and Bulgaria.

The importations from abroad continue to increase—large amounts of manufactures' materials coming in—the March value being sixty-eight million dollars.

As there has been a considerable decline in the prices of such articles, the amount imported during March, 1909, represents nearly or quite twice as great a quantity as the forty million dollars worth imported in March, 1908. This, of course means increased activity in manufacturing circles, and there is still the most optimistic feeling in all business centers that a pronounced improvement will be seen as soon as the tariff bill becomes a law. This feeling is further accentuated by the aggregate value of building permits delivered by the municipal authorities during the month of March, 1909, in ninety-five cities in the United States, which shows a total of over \$80,000,000, representing a 46 per cent increase over the February total and an 82 per cent increase over the March figures of a year ago.

The President is gradually making changes in various offices, both at home and abroad, and his appointments still meet with the utmost satisfaction. While taking the advice of Senators and Representatives Mr. Taft at the same time retains the right to make appointments which seem to him to be the best men in every case. While the President shows in every appointment, and every act that he proposes to be the President of the whole people without regard to party and without regard to section, still he has made it emphatic that he is a Republican and proposes to build up the Republican party in every legitimate way possible. This is indicated by the interest he has taken in the coming gubernatorial

election in Virginia and the election in other States, where he proposes to have members of his Cabinet go and preach sound Republicanism—not so much in the hope of overturning the present Democratic majorities, as for the purpose of building up a strong Republican party and making the best showing possible.

While there is a considerable difference of opinion among the leaders of the party in both Senate and House as to certain schedules and features of the new tariff bill, still there is a feeling that there will be no serious breaks in the party, as has been the case in the Democratic party, and those Democrats who are predicting a victory next year in the Congressional election are simply making empty guesses and electing their majority as they usually do a year before the election, while the election itself will show a very different result. Republicans on the inside who know what they are talking about do not hesitate to predict that the Republican majority in the next House of Representatives will be much larger than the present House. Of course it is conceded that the state of business and industry during the next year will have a large bearing upon the result, but it is believed that the new tariff law will be most generally accepted as satisfactory and that a most emphatic revival of business will follow its enactment. There is no fear that the Republicans will lose ground, but on the contrary will increase their party membership in all sections of the country.

SAYINGS OF MRS. SOLOMON.

Being the Confessions of the Seventh Hundredth Wife—Translated

Helen Rowland.

Washington Herald.

Verily, verily, my daughter, why should any woman seek to be a man's soul-mate, even his affinity, which is a side-dish and an amusement? Lo! what glory dost thou consider it to flirt with a married man? For this is taking candy from a babe! Yea, it is too easy!

Yet, what shall thou do, when thou discovered the identity of thy husband's affinity, whether it be a red-headed widow or the blond across the street?

For if thou revilest her, she shall rejoice in thy confusion and mock thee with her ha-has. But if thou invitest her to dinner, she shall wink and smile privily, saying, "Is she foolish or is this mere bravado?"

If thou eatest thy heart out in silence, thou shalt court worry wrinkles and nervous dyspepsia; but if thou flirtest with another thou shalt give thy spouse a good excuse.

Yet, there is a way!

For, I say unto thee, affinity is only a chance, but a wife is a steady diet which hath become tiresome. Therefore, get thee into the country for a long visit and make the ways of the affinity easy. Lo! make thyself the change and let the affinity become the constant diet. Yea, stuff her down his throat!

And behold, he shall grow faint with satiety and shall long for thee as one longer for roast beef and potatoes after too much lobster and champagne.

Go to! Many a wife's jealousy of her husband is mixed with a strange wonder that any woman should waste her time upon him. For she that stealth a married man's heart, stealth trash! But she that winneth a seasoned bachelor is clever; for this requireth sleight-of-hand.

Then give the affinity the fruit of her labors, which is nothing but seconds, even the left-overs! Yea, let her rejoice in canned emotions and evaporated sentiments and console herself with warmed-over love! For she is welcome! Salahi!

Miss Gracie Montgomery spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday attending the Friendship exhibition and visiting friends in that neighborhood.

HIGHWAY COMMISSION DEFENDS ITS ACTION

Considers Article in Graham Tribune unfair to the Commission.

We notice an article in the last issue of the Graham Tribune which we consider unfair to the Highway Commission of Alamance County, and misleading to the citizens of Alamance County. This article censured the Highway Commission for not finally awarding the contract for the building of the bridges to the Eureka Building Block Co. of Burlington, N. C., and accused the Commission of not doing this just because our County men did not have quite as much money as some one else.

After reading this article we consulted with the Treasurer of the Highway Commission, and we find the following to be the facts in the case:

At a recent Meeting of the Highway Commission, the matter of bids for concrete bridges and macadamizing roads was opened. The Eureka Building Block Co., being the lowest bidder for the concrete bridges, were awarded the contract, provided they would comply with the terms and conditions as set forth in the specifications and contract. The contract was signed by the Highway Commission with the Eureka Building Block Co. on April 6th, and the Commission expressly stated that the successful bidder was to furnish the Highway Commission with a satisfactory Bond in a good Bonding Company within five days after the signing of the contract, or at any time which might be mutually agreed upon between the contracting parties and the Highway Commission. We find that, as above stated, the contract was signed by the Eureka Building Block Co. on April 6th, and that the Treasurer of the Highway Commission wrote the Eureka Building Block Co. on the 16th of April, after giving them ten days instead of five days, as per agreement, to get up their Bond, and this letter read as follows:

"In regard to your bid for the concrete bridges on our road work, we beg to state that the specifications state that within five days after contract is signed you are to furnish us with a satisfactory Bond for the faithful performance of this work.

While it is not the sense of the Commission to be in any way unreasonable about this, still, we must ask that you hurry up and get this Bond in shape.

Please let me know by return mail when I may expect the Bond to be duly signed, as per form provided in the back of contract and oblige."

Yours truly,
(Signed)—Jas. N. Williamson, Jr.,
Treas.

In reply to this letter, the Treasurer states that he received a 'phone message from the Insurance Agent respecting the Eureka Building Block Co. in negotiation for the Bond, in which he stated that he was at work on the Bond, and hoped to have the same shaped up very shortly, and the Treasurer replied that it would be all right provided they rushed the same through as soon as possible. There was nothing heard from the Eureka Building Block Co. for several days afterward and when they wrote, they stated it would be an impossibility for them to give a Bonding Company, but they would give a personal Bond. In answer to this, on the 27th of April the Treasurer wrote them after consulting with other Members of the Highway Commission that the Commission would not accept a personal Bond, but would give them until Thursday noon to get up a satisfactory Bond in a good Bonding Co. As the Eureka Building Block Co. did not furnish this Bond the matter was not taken up until the last Meeting of the Highway Commission, which met in Graham on Monday May 3rd. At this Meeting, Mr. David A. White, Sec. of the Highway Commission, got

up and favored accepting the personal Bond, and while the matter was not put to a vote, it seemed that the majority of the Commission was not opposed to receiving a personal Bond from anyone.

When the Commission met, there was no one to represent the Eureka Building Block Company, so the Chairman appointed one Member of the Commission to go out and look up some Member of the Eureka Building Block Co., and after sending for them, Mr. A. B. Nicholson and Mr. Sam Johnson appeared before the Commission, suggested that while the Commission was opposed to receiving the personal Bond that possibly the Eureka Building Block Co. might get its personal Bonds-men to indemnify a Bonding Company and let the Bonding Company in turn issue a Bond to the Highway Commission, for the faithful performance of the work by the Eureka Building Block Co. To this, Mr. Nicholson replied that he had returned his machinery, and cancelled his contract for Cement, and while he did not say so in so many words, he intimated that he would just as soon or a little rather give up the contract than to perform it; and we understand that Mr. Johnson, Secretary of the Eureka Building Block Co., stated to one of the surveyors that they had made a mistake in figuring the cost of the shapes necessary for this concrete work.

According to the terms of the proposal and the contract and agreement, the Eureka Building Block Co. forfeited their \$2,000.00 check, which they placed with their bid for good faith, therefore this \$2,000.00 really belonged to the Highway Commission, feeling that they wanted to be fair to all parties concerned took a vote as to whether or not they should return the Eureka Building Block Co.'s check for \$2,000.00 to them, and by a unanimous vote it was agreed that this certified check should be returned to the parties.

It was certainly the purpose of the Commission to treat the Eureka Building Block Co. fairly in this matter, in every detail, and we feel that both Mr. A. B. Nicholson and Mr. Sam Johnson will agree that they were treated absolutely fairly and justly in the matter, and we submit the above to the citizens of the County to know whether or not in their opinion the Highway Commission of Alamance County has treated its fellow citizens in an honorable and correct manner.

No Ends of Laws.

Buffalo Express.

Someone with nothing better to do has been counting up the number of new laws which the legislatures of the various states of the Union enacted in the year of 1907.

We presume that year was chosen as the latest for which exact figures could be readily obtained and probably not because it was an exceptional year in any respect. This man has found that in that year these legislatures enacted 16,064 laws, including resolutions. The resolutions were probably comparatively few. This number does not take into consideration anything that Congress may have done in the way of new laws; it is all state legislation.

And is it not appalling when one stops to think about it? What a waste of time it involves! What a uselessness of effort! For surely it cannot be possible that the people of these states were in actual need of and such number of new enactments to keep them and their respective governments going. It has often been said that too many laws are made for the good of the people, and this record may be offered in proof, without examination of the character of the laws enacted.

Their number is condemnation. Of course, new laws are required to meet new conditions and to provide the yearly needs of our states. But who will have the hardihood to say that to meet these needs it was necessary for the legislatures of the several states in a single year to pass 16,064 enactments, even including resolutions?

DECISION AFFIRMS FEDERAL POWER.

Significance of the Opinion on the Commodities Clause.

New York Tribune.

From a theoretical and constitutional point of view, the decision is important in broadly reaffirming the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce. The decision of the Circuit Court for the Third circuit was obviously not in harmony with the ideas of the present Supreme Court—ideas developed in a long series of decisions. The lower court's decision was handed down by two extreme anti-Federalist judges—Messrs. Gray and Dallas—both more or less in sympathy with antebellum strict construction theories. Judge Gray held that the commodities clause was not a regulation of interstate commerce, but a prohibition of it, and therefore unconstitutional. He wanted to restrict the application of the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce to narrower limits.

It has been said that the decision leaves the situation practically as it was before the law was passed. But that conclusion is not justified. The Supreme Court has emphatically approved of the principle of dissociating the functions of producer and carrier, just as it approved of it two years or more ago in the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad's case. It says that Congress is vested with power to deny a common carrier the right to transport commodities in which the latter has a legal interest, and indicates that there is ample power under the Constitution to end the practices under which by an improper fusion of functions and interests railroads have been able to discriminate against independent shippers and make them virtually pay the cost not only of their own shipments of favored rivals. Hereafter, under the Supreme Court's ruling, there must be no juggling of rates, and the coal corporations in which a railroad has stock must pay exactly the same freight charges as individual producers or nonaffiliated corporations.

Attorney General Wickersham has expressed the opinion that Congress can go ahead and extend the provisions of the Hepburn law to "the carriage of commodities owned at the time of shipment by a corporation in which the carrier has a stock interest." The Supreme Court avoided considering that probability. But its sweeping affirmation of the power to regulate must be considered significant, and it is plainly committed to the principle that no devices to create discrimination in freight rates ought to be tolerated. It will probably depend largely on the manner in which the coal railroads conform to the spirit as well as to the letter of the law, whether Congress will attempt next winter to break the bond between the railroads and the mining corporations in which they hold stock. If old abuses revive, the reserved power of regulation will undoubtedly be appealed to.

Surprise Party.

The friends of Miss De Louas Cheek met at the home of Miss Lillie Shatterly Tuesday evening May 4th at 7:30 and adjourned to Miss Cheek's home where they gave her a surprise party. All present decided the evening and occasion of pleasure and enjoyment. Refreshments were served and many were the amusements. Those present were: Misses Ida Loy, Minnie Layton, Bettie Lyde May, Birdie Holt, Madge Thompson, Pearle Mebane, Miriam Quakenbush, Mary Shoffner Lillie and Maude Shatterly. Messrs Dewitt Thompson, Raymond Holt, Burch Humphrey, Currie Bryant, Carl Page, Fred Holt, and Erle Hatch.

If you don't know what the Philadelphia Press is, call at our office and get a sample copy, or write us and will mail you one.

IT WILL NOT HELP THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

"Red Buck" the efficient Washington correspondent of the Charlotte Observer, has the following on the appointment of Judge Connor:

President Taft was told by Judge Connor's friends that he was a man of fine character, excellent ability, and judicial temperament. He was impressed with the fact that Mr. Connor had never been a bitter partisan, but was fair in dealing with men of the opposing party, and convinced that he did not belong to any corporation. As a rule the Democrats here think well of the appointment, but none of them believe that it will do the Democracy any good. In various ways Mr. Taft has made himself popular in North Carolina. The famous Greensboro speech, in which he so accurately described North Carolina Republican leaders he set lukewarm Democrats to thinking. In his tour through the State last year, just before the election, he made many friends. During the stay in Georgia he created a good impression. His visit to Charleston improved the start he had made. His coming visit to Petersburg and Charlotte will, his friends think help him in his work in the South. There fore the naming of Judge Connor, one of the cleanest men in his profession in the State, will help Mr. Taft and his party. Old-time Republicans, especially pie hunters, are sore. They do not see where the party will profit.

The contest for the place has proven that Republicans are not the only pie-hungry lawyers in North Carolina. Pie, especially political pie, looks good to everybody no matter what party he supports.

PRESIDENT TAFT ON THE TWENTIETH OF MAY.

His Time In Charlotte To Be Fully Occupied. Everyone will be Given an Opportunity to see Him.

Charlotte, May 10.—The Central Committee of the Twentieth of May Celebration, which is to be held in this City May 18, 19 and 20, has outlined the programme for President Taft, when he will be a guest of the City, as follows: Arrive in Charlotte at 10 o'clock on a special train. 10 a. m. salute of 21 guns by the Charlotte artillery upon his arrival at the Southern Station.

Special committee to meet President and Mrs. Taft at the Southern station and escort them to the Selwyn Hotel.

11 a. m. President and Mrs. Taft to receive reception committee and their wives at the Selwyn Hotel.

11 a. m. Old soldiers to escort President and Mrs. Taft and Mrs. Stonewall Jackson to the reviewing stand on South Tryon St.

2 p. m. Luncheon at the Selwyn.

3:30 p. m. The President to address the public.

5:30 p. m. The President to specially address the students of Biddle University and the colored people generally at Biddle University.

6-30 p. m. Dinner at the Selwyn.

8:30 The President and Mrs. Taft to receive the public in the large parlors of the Selwyn. Leave Charlotte on special train after the public reception.

To the R. F. D. Carriers.

All members of the Rural Letter Carriers Association of Alamance County are hereby notified that their annual dues of \$1.75 are due and are requested to settle same at earliest date possible so the Secy. and Treas. may be able to make his annual report at our next meeting May 29th.

Respectfully
J. M. WORKMAN Pres.
J. A. LOWE Secy & Treas.