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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington D. C. August 2.—When the making of the tariff law of 1909 shall have become a matter of completed history, it will be found that never before has such a task presented itself to a political party for adjustment, and it will be shown that only a party having in view the best interests of the whole country without regard to section or class could have finally agreed upon any bill whatever. It would have been impossible for the Democratic party to have agreed, or for the Populists or the Socialists—no party, excepting a body made up of men who could sacrifice personal interests and sectional interests for the best good of the whole country. It is a most thorough vindication of Republicanism as embodied in the example of our President and party leader and of our Senators and Representatives in Congress. It has shown us as we could not have known it in any other way, the personal character of Mr. Taft and his methods of carrying out what he believed to be wise and honest results. There was no big stick flourished; there were no threats used; there was no coercion—simply calm and deliberate persuasion until, for the most part, he accomplished his purpose.

At all times in our history the members of all political parties have been more or less divided over the schedules and rates of a tariff law. We are geographically so vast a country and our interests are so widely diversified that it would seem almost impossible to harmonize and agree on rates applicable to all sections and all interest, and never was this so apparent as at the present. Naturally as production and consumption increase and methods become more varied, as machinery becomes more effective, and as both capital and labor increase in such enormous volumes, as has been the case during the last decade, the various needs and wants of different sections must be very far apart. It is almost to be wondered at that any tariff bill could be agreed upon by these various interests, and by men having such divergent views, and it is to the honor and glory of the Republican party as a whole that it could give the country a law agreed upon by its majority and signed by its President.

It remains, of course, to be seen whether the operation of the law will be successful, whether we shall prosper as we have under preceding tariffs. It remains to be seen whether sufficient revenue will come, both from the duties on imports and the internal revenue. It remains to be seen whether importations will increase to such an extent as to displace domestic productions, and it remains to be seen whether we become a country giving full employment to our wage earners at the highest wages on the face of the earth, or whether the wage must be reduced and the purchasing power of the people curtailed.

One thing, however, should result from the operation of the new law, and that is if not lower prices certainly no increase. There is not an item in the bill that will warrant an increase in price by the manufacturer or merchant—not one, and if this is attempted it will be an imposition that should be resented by the people, and not charged to the operation of the law. This has been Mr. Taft's design and this has been the thought in the minds of those who have agreed with him in the reductions carried by the bill, and should this result obtain without a reduction in the volume of employment then study the work of the extra session of 1909 will be of inestimable value to the country and redound to the credit of the Republican party who promised it and carried out its pledges.

A recent incident in the reconstruction of the Democratic Congressional Committee is very significant as to its bearings upon the election of 1912. This committee is now being organized by Bryan, notably

the secretary Representative Clark, of Florida, having been ousted. It leaves no doubt whatever in the minds of the political leaders that Mr. Bryan means to try for another nomination three years hence and that means of course, Republican success at the polls should he be successful in the convention, and, at the present time it looks if Mr. Bryan might be successful in gaining the nomination because his opponents are as ever very much divided, and there seems no prospect of them getting together upon any candidate. Of course it gives Mr. Bryan a considerable time unto which to work up a new hobby. Whether or not the Republican party has stolen all his clothes he will have to invent a new raiment and put forth some new tenet to gain a hearing in 1912—in the meantime the Republican party at the next session of Congress will undoubtedly put into enactment many new laws that are needed to carry on the principles and policies of the party and in response to the recommendations that will be made by President Taft in his first annual message.

Following this legislation and the first year of the new tariff law will come the Congressional elections of 1910 and the Republican leaders are not unmindful of the fact that there are many doubtful districts because of one reason or other, and that an election between two Presidential elections is always fought with doubt. And yet there is the utmost confidence that not only will the present Republican majority be maintained in the next House, but that it will be considerably increased in spite of the fact that the Democratic Congressional Committee has seen fit to announce that it is going to win a year before the usual time.

It is believed that next year the people will again be as prosperous as they were for the ten years preceding the so-called panic of 1907—it is believed that they will vote for prosperity and progress that comes through Republican legislation; it is believed that the operation of the new tariff law will bring such employment and such an increase of wages in the aggregate, as to make all present difficulties forgotten, and that while some interests may possibly suffer temporarily to some extent, yet the whole good of the whole country will be so great as to make the people satisfied with general conditions.

State Farmers Convention.

At the A. & M. College, West Raleigh, N. C., Commencing Tuesday, Aug 24th, and Continuing to Friday, Aug. 27th. Four days of Real Study in Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairying, Stock Judging, Etc.

At the same time and place there will be held a Woman's Convention where competent will discuss their problems in home making, house-keeping, prevention of diseases, cookery, etc.

In addition to men from our State we have invited speakers for the occasion from the Department of Agriculture at Washington D. C., and from other States.

Come and have four days of real agricultural enjoyment.

President Hill of the A. & M. College offers board at 25 cents a meal and room rent free.

Each person should bring one sheet and one pillowcase.

Let the farmers of the State with their wives and daughters attend.

Reduced rates over the railroads will be asked for.

A fine program—practical question discussed by practical farmers—has been arranged.

Come and help make the occasion a grand success.

A. L. FRENCH, President.

Mr. O. D. Hooker, formerly of Hillsboro, and Mr. W. J. Thorenburg, will have charge of the old Burlington warehouse, at Burlington, N. C., this season. An addition of fifty feet will be made to the warehouse, making a large room 170 by 85 feet to be used for the convenience of the customers—Orange County Observer.

Report of Thompson Township S. School Convention.

The Sunday School Convention for Thompson's Township convened at Salem Church the 4th Sunday in July. There was a very large attendance. There are six schools in the township and all were represented except the Baptist Sunday School at Swepsonville. We cannot account for it failing to send delegates. The exercises of the day were good and much interest was manifested.

The convention was called to order by the Chairman J. N. Thompson and after the opening exercises, consisting of singing by the choir, reading of scripture lesson by the pastor Rev. J. H. Bowman and prayer by L. W. Holt the chairman delivered an address of welcome in which he gave an historic account of old Salem church, showing that it had been occupied as a place of religious worship for more than one hundred years, by Baptist, Presbyterians, Friends, Methodists, Episcopalians and now by Methodist Protestants.

Mr. L. W. Holt in a very short but interesting talk responded to the talk of welcome. After singing by the choir which was very good, the first regular speech of the day was made by L. W. Holt, Vice President of Alamance County S. S. Association, on the subject, why I believe in the Sunday School, Mr. Holt's speech was practical and helpful to the Sunday School worker. The next speech in the forenoon was made by H. M. Cates, State Lecturer of the Farmers Alliance. He prefaced his address with the story of an old negro preacher who when about to address his congregation said: Brethern and Sistern every sermon must consist of these parts, the text the subject and the rousing. I have no text, no subject so I will have to confine myself to the rousing. Mr. Cates talk was greatly appreciated and evidently aroused much interest in the Sunday School work. Mr. Cates' speech was followed by more excellent singing. The thanks of the community are extended to our visiting young friends who aided so much in the singing.

The large congregation after spending an hour and a half eating good dinner and talking with friends reassembled to hear a most excellent address on, A Vision of the Sunday School Work by E. S. W. Dameron of Burlington, Mr. Dameron's talk was plain and practical, just such as people need to hear of. Misses Mattie and Hattie Bradshaw added much to the occasion by acting, "Nearer My God To Thee" Rev. J. H. Bowman pastor of Salem church made an interesting talk to relatives to the Sunday School.

A short time was spent in the discussion of the time that should be spent in hearing Sunday School recitations. The convention then went into the executive session and elected delegates to the County Convention, and also elected officers for the township. Mr. J. N. Thompson was re-elected President, Mr. S. E. Wood Vice President, and Mr. Chas. P. Thompson Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Chas. W. Webster and myself returned from our official work with a clear conscience in regard to duty and a consciousness of having done at least something for the betterment of the Sunday School in the township. It was decided to hold the next convention at Salem.

J. A. W. Thompson,
Retiring Secretary.

The July term of Wake criminal court ended Saturday. There were twenty-eight road sentences imposed upon defendants. One defendant was sent to the penitentiary another to the criminal insane department. There are twenty-eight prisoners now in jail, of whom fifteen are Federal prisoners.—Caucasian.

Cicero Durham left yesterday for Kenner, N. C., where he goes for an opening of the Hopkin Tailoring Company.

PROCEEDING OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Graham, August 2nd, 1909.—The Board of County Commissioners of Alamance County met in the Court House on the above date with the following members present.

E. Long, Chairman, W. A. Murray, B. S. Robertson.

The following business was transacted.

Ordered: That L. A. Becker Company be relieved of tax on solvent credits amounting to \$1500, same erroneously listed, for the year 1908.

Ordered: Dr. H. M. Montgomery Supt. of health be received and filed.

Ordered: That the report of J. H. Tarpley Supt. of the County Home be received and filed.

Ordered: That J. H. Tarpley be and is hereby elected County Supt. of the Home of Aged and Infirm for two years beginning the first Day of October 1909, at a salary of \$25.00 per month.

Ordered: That the petition of citizens of Morton township asking for a road from the Burch road on Prof. J. W. Gilliam's place to the Ossipee and Burlington Road be advertised and heard at the next meeting of this Board.

Ordered: That J. H. Tarpley Supt. of the County be authorized to call on Mr. Ed. Teague for the rent on house and lot of Polly Boonshie being an inmate of the County home and that the renter be and is hereby authorized and instructed to pay said rent to J. H. Tarpley Supt. of the County home each month.

Dr. H. M. Montgomery County Supt. of health gave notice of his resignation as County Supt. of health to take effect on the first Monday in Sept. The Sanitary Committee is requested to meet with the Board of County Commissioners on that Day to consider the matter and to elect a County Supt. of health.

There being no further business the Board adjourned to meet the first Monday in Sept.

Graded School Faculty.

The following have been elected by the board of education of the town to the serve as faculty of the graded school during the scholastic year of 1909-1910: Prof. F. H. Curtis, principal; Misses Mary Posey Glenn Springs, S. C., Annie Burton, Jefferson, Va., L. Gertrude Kennedy, Cambridge, W. Va., Mattie A. Jackson, Lewisburg, W. Va., Annie G. Webster, Graham, N. C., R. F. D. No. 2, Idalia Petty, Rustburg, Va., Margaret Mizelle, Roanoke Rapids, N. C., Susie F. Stafford, Burlington, N. C., Bessie Sterrett, Charlotte, N. C., Lettie MacRice, Windsor, N. C., Mildred Cunningham, Madison, N. C., Mayme E. Fonville, Burlington, N. C., Cecelia H. Bason, Burlington, N. C., Helen L. Hall, Burlington, N. C., Mary Wilson Brown, Locus Hill N. C., Cornelia Hancock, Manchester, Va., Josephine E. Estes, Music Teacher, Newtonville, Mass.

Colored Teachers—I. L. Tillery, Burlington, N. C., Fannie G. Hall, Graham, N. C.

Holt Farm Sold.

The large farm which lies three or four miles southeast of here formerly owned by Mr. Robt. L. Holt, but bought by Mr. J. Q. Finch a few months ago, has been purchased Saturday by Mr. John Caffey of Wilkesboro for \$12,000. Mr. Finch who paid \$10,000 claimed an advance in the property of \$2,000 on account of the macadam road. This one of the many instances which are coming up daily showing the great value of the macadam roads and the rise of valuation on real estate. With a network of macadam roads over the country and some of the best farming land in the State, there is no reason why Alamance should not take first rank as an agricultural county.

Visit the one half price sale which is to begin at H. Fleishman Saturday August 7. Big bargains are waiting for your inspection.

THE WASTE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Scientific American.

The present awakening of the national conscience on the subject of the waste of our natural resources is one of the most encouraging signs of the times; but in this, as in all other great national awakenings, there is the danger that the movement may never progress beyond the stage of discussion to that of practical effort. Until the necessary legislation is secured, it is well for us to take an occasional review of the present conditions of waste, and point to the ultimate absolute depletion of our resources which must inevitably ensue unless the strong arm of the law be called in to enforce remedial and preventive measures. We have before us a succinct review of the question by Dr. George F. Swain in a paper presented at the recent annual meeting of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, in which the subject is treated under the four heads of Forests, Water, Lands and Minerals.

At the present time the people of the United States use annually forty cubic feet of wood per acre, as an offset to which there is a natural growth of only twelve cubic feet per acre. In answer to the question, whether it is necessary for us to use three times what we produce, attention is invited to the fact that, while in the United States we use 262 cubic feet per capita, Germany uses only 37, France 25, and Great Britain 14 cubic feet per capita. Forest fires, most of which are entirely preventable, have consumed since 1870 an average of 50,000,000 acres of standing timber per year. There is much necessary waste due to careless methods of logging and sawing. For each 1,000 feet of standing timber that are cut down, only 320 feet are put to use. Tanning establishments bark the trees and leave them to die. The turpentine industry, also, results in a large annual destruction of timber. It is not to be wondered at that in the last nine years the price of yellow pine at the mill has increased 65 per cent.

Natural gas is allowed to waste in many localities without restraint, and it is estimated that a sufficient amount is lost to light all the cities of the United States having a population of over 100,000. At the present rate of use and waste all the known supplies of natural gas will be exhausted in 25 years. As for oil, it is sufficient to state that at the present rate of increase the supply will be exhausted before the year 1950. Although there has been an improvement of about 50 per cent in our methods of coal mining in recent years, the present system is uneconomical. We extract the high grade coal and allow the mine to cave in thereby wasting a large percentage of the available supply. By the middle of the next century, the easily accessible and available coal in this country will have been exhausted.

The situation with respect to our supply of iron ore is even more serious; for it is estimated that if the present rate of increase of consumption continues, the known supply of high grade ore will be gone by the middle of the present century. Twenty-five years is also the limit set for the exhaustion of another important mineral—phosphate rock. Taking all our mineral products together, it is estimated that the total waste approximate \$1,000,000 per day or over one-sixth of the value of the total production.

As to public lands, or lands in general, it is undeniable that we are failing to secure as large crops as we should, chiefly because we neglect some fundamental principles, such as the development of rotating crops, and so plowing on sloping grounds as to prevent washing away of the soil. Although we have some of the richest soil in the world, the average yield per acre from 1897 to 1906 was 13.8 bushels of wheat in the United States as against 28 in Germany and 32.2 in the United Kingdom.

The facts as above set forth relating to the exhaustion of our fuel

supplies indicate that in the future years the value of water power as a natural asset will become increasingly evident. To utilize the full hydraulic power of the rivers it will be the greatest importance to reduce the extremes of flow so that the waste of water through floods may be made a minimum. Statistics show, moreover, that the annual damage done by floods is increasing and has risen from \$45,000,000 in 1900 to \$118,000,000 in 1907. The Merrimac River discharges at its period of highest flood seventy times as much water per second as it does at its lowest stage, and ten times as much as its average flow throughout the year. The regularity of the flow may be increased by the preservation of the forest, whose presence tends to retard the run-off of the rainfall, and by the construction of reservoirs, which will hold back the floods and allow the surplus waters to be drawn off as needed, thereby increasing the average flow throughout the year. Particularly necessary is it to protect the forests on steep mountain slopes, with a view to the prevention of floods and the resulting destruction of the arable lands in the lower valleys. In the Tenth Congress on International Navigation held in Milan in 1905, the engineers were unanimous upon this point. M. Lafosse, the French delegate, describes the evil effect of stripping the mountain sides as follows:

"The soil, swept bare of its forests exhausted by the abuses of grazing, loses quickly its vegetable stratum. Washed periodically, and carried away by melting snow and summer storms, it is soon disaggregated. The water runs toward the low points, rolling before them grave and boulders, and even tearing out loose sections of rock. A thousand rivulets cut out beds, the torrent is forced down, and a mass of mud, stones and rocks invades the valley, destroying everything as it passes."

Most of the countries of Europe have learned the lesson and taken steps for the careful preservation of their forests; and this has been done not merely with a view to increasing the timber supply, but in the interests of navigation. Over half a century ago, the French government entered upon a policy of forest protection and reforestation, and up to the 1st of January, 1900, they had acquired no less than 620 square miles for these purposes. The efforts of our own government to solve this question on a scale commensurate with its importance should receive the hearty co-operation of every State of the Union.

Protection in The South.

The South is going to be one of the strongholds of Protection in the future. There are a few in the West who think that progressiveness stands for an abandonment of this great national doctrine. They boast their freedom from its trammels and attacked in drivers places and in manners that have not been known even to those Democrats who have been hereditary foes of Protection.

But Protection is going to survive. It is going to remain a living and vitalizing force not only in our political life, but in our individual and commercial lives. We are going to be more persuaded, not less persuaded, that our first concern must be for ourselves; that what we can do or grow or make of ourselves we should not look to other countries for.

The new South is going to have this as one of its cardinal doctrines. Southern Congressmen have not hesitated to proclaim themselves as being out and out Protectionists, and they have dared to say that in that policy lies the future greatness of that undeveloped section of the country.—Cedar Rapids "Republican."

Messrs. Ed Bowland and Lewis Marshall spent Saturday and Sunday at Ebenezer attending an association of the Baptist. Mr. Bowland states that he never received more courteous and hospitable treatment than at the hands of those good Baptist brethren.