

FORDNEY TARIFF LAW RESPONSIBLE FOR RISE IN SUGAR.

President Called on to Reduce Tariff and Promises to do so if Shown Price Increased Thereby.

(Special Correspondence)

Washington, April 3, 1923.—The statement by Cordell Hull, Chairman, Democratic National Committee, issued on March 23 calling upon President Harding to direct the Tariff Commission to make a report so that he might reduce the existing sugar duties 50 per cent under the flexible clause of the Tariff law brought from President Harding such an order to the Tariff Commission, including a promise that he would make such reduction if it was found that the Tariff was even partially responsible for the abnormal prices which prevail. The President, however, took the occasion to state that it was hard to believe the tariff had anything to do with the increase in prices.

This statement is at variance with the entire Republican tariff policy. The high tariff is imposed for the deliberate purpose of increasing prices, and in the case of sugar was imposed for the specific purpose of benefiting the beet sugar interest. A high tariff opens the door to profiteering, so that prices are pyramided by jobbers, wholesalers and retailers before the highly taxed commodities reach the consumer.

It is equally true that a further attempt was made by the administration to increase the price of beet sugar in addition to the tariff rates. This took the form of an attempt to limit the size of the Cuban crop, at the suggestion of Senator Smoot, the spokesman for beet sugar in the Senate. In this scheme the Department of Commerce was equally culpable with Senator Smoot. The New York World declares in this connection that "Secretary Hoover drugged his conscience long enough to endorse the Smoot scheme."

It is common knowledge that the stockpiling in sugar which put the price up still higher followed the issuance of the Department of Commerce bulletin interpreted to mean that there was a crop shortage.

As Chairman Hull pointed out in his original statement calling for a reduction in the sugar duties, "There is no sounder law of economics than that in many instances when prices are once artificially boosted by high tariffs, the price increases do not stop with the amount of the tariff, but are jumped higher and higher from time to time, with the inevitable result that arbitrary price fixing, speculation, and profiteering become rampant. Taking advantage of this tariff psychology, sugar profiteers and speculators have been for several weeks, as they are now, fleecing and robbing the American people at a present rate of near four million dollars per annum, or an amount almost as great as the total tariff revenue yield to the Federal Treasury for an entire year."

The Republican tariff policy is the underlying cause of the present high price of sugar and of the jam in which that party now finds itself, and it will only incur further responsibility for the present profiteering in sugar if the President shall fail to reduce the sugar duty 50 per cent as he is authorized to do by law.

A recent report from the Mooresville Co-operative Creamery shows that it distributed around \$150,000 to its farmer patrons last year. How much plant food would a cotton crop of this value have removed from that territory, asks the dairy farming workers of the extension service.

Irreconcilables May Force Another Harding Retreat.

Preparations for President Harding's more or less strategic retreat from his advocacy of this country's representation on the International Court of Justice seem to be foreshadowed in the news from Florida. Republican papers are admitting that leaders of the President's party fear the consequences his proposal may have for them, and are attempting to "dissuade him from pressing this matter when the next Congress meets."

It is believed that this persuasion and pressure from the eastern reactionaries and the irreconcilables will prompt the President either to withdraw or greatly modify his first recommendation regarding American partnership in the International Court. Senators Moses, Brandegee, McLean and others in the East are said to feel deep displeasure at the President's sudden and unaccountable conversion from downright hostility to the League of Nations to open recognition of one of its agencies. These Senators will have the concurrence of Senators Borah, Johnson, LaFollette, Norris and others in the West if they make an attack on the President's proposition.

The President is now a candidate for renomination and reelection. He can not afford to alienate any Republican Senators, East or West. Many of the Republican Senators who are in opposition to Mr. Harding's first suggestion for American co-operation in the restoration and consolidation of peace and prosperity in Europe will remain in office for two or three years after November, 1924, no matter what happens to him at the next election. They will not greatly fear his reprisals between now and then. They apparently feel that if his mistakes must defeat some one the victim had better be he than they.

Reactionaries Seek Peace With Borah.

The invitation extended by Secretary Hughes to Senator Borah to discuss the administration's foreign policies is being read in connection with the reports from Florida. It begins to appear that President Harding is attempting either to get Borah's public approval of these policies or to keep him silent. Senator Borah intends to tour the country during the summer just about the time that the President is on his swing around the circle, and the expectation was that if Mr. Harding discussed the International Court, Senator Borah would not remain wholly inarticulate. If Senator Borah were either satisfied or silent during the President's oratorical journey the latter would be saved much embarrassment.

Republicans realize that President Harding must by all means avoid a row with the irreconcilables in the Senate next year while he is in the midst of his activities in behalf of his second candidacy. They can not understand why he proposed American participation in the International Court when he did, but many of them believe that now the menace which it holds for his own political fortunes are plain to him he will let the proposition linger and die in the arms of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The irreconcilables know that while Mr. Harding has never shown any particular genius for starting anything he is a "bear" at quitting.

Newspaper a Business Guide.

The newspaper that carries a good line of advertisements is to the shopper what the time table is to the traveler and the published guide is to the tourist. Busy people will study these advertisements in the home or in the office as they do a time table, and before they start out shopping they have determined where they are going.

The newcomer or visitor in the city finds the advertising columns of a newspaper a reliable guide to follow, just as he finds the printed guide for tourists to points of interest a matter of interest and time-saving.—Ohio Newspaper.

HOW TO PLANT THE GARDEN.

Raleigh, N. C., April 3.—Now is the time to plant the vegetable garden and while it is hardly necessary to remind most people of this fact, still Frank E. McCall, garden specialist for the State College and Department of Agriculture, finds that it is necessary to urge gardeners to make their land perform more regularly than in the past. He states that it is possible to have some fresh vegetables direct from the garden every day in the year. This can be done by a careful planting for rotation of crops.

Mr. McCall states that early or quick maturing vegetables like radish, early peas, beans, leaf lettuce, spinach, beet and early carrots may be planted at regular two weeks intervals throughout the entire spring and on into the early summer. This will insure a continuous supply until midsummer, at least.

Right now, Mr. McCall states that plants of cabbage, cauliflower, head lettuce and early celery as well as the seeds of such long season crops like parsnip, parsley, salsify and onion may be put out. In planting any of these garden crops, it always pays to use the best varieties and to use only good seed.

"He that planteth a tree is a servant of God, He provideth a kindness for many generations, And faces that he hath not seen shall bless him." —Van Dyke.

STILL TIME TO PLANT RED CLOVER

How to Plant and Amount of Seed Required.

Raleigh, N. C., April 3.—Most of the red clover in North Carolina is sown upon small grain in the spring, states E. C. Blair, Extension Agronomist for the State College and State Department of Agriculture. Mr. Blair points out that the advantages of sowing at this time are that the ground contains plenty of moisture, the seed will germinate quickly, and the dry weather of the fall and winter freezes will be avoided. Clover sown in the spring must be put in late enough to avoid severe freezing, which will kill the plants when very young; and early enough to let them get a good hold in the soil before the hot, dry weather of summer. On an average, between March 10 and April 10 is a safe date.

Mr. Blair states that it is just as important to sow clover seed in the right way as at the right time. He says, "The old way was to sow by hand when the ground was heaved up by a freeze, depending on the soil to cover the seed as it settled. Another way was to sow the seed and harrow or roll them in. Each of these methods required about fifteen pounds of seed per acre. More recent experience, however, has shown that the grain drill will do better than either. The drill distributes the seed more evenly, and covers them better, so that each one has a better chance to grow. Seven or eight pounds of seed per acre, sown with a grain drill may be depended on to give a better stand of clover than fifteen pounds sown by hand. Clover seed are always high in price and this difference is well worth saving.

"A clover seeder may be attached to the drill at a small cost. The best type runs the seed into the grain spouts, others drop the seed in front of the discs. Some fertilizer should always be drilled in with clover seed, for this gives a better stand and a more vigorous growth. Good results may be obtained by mixing the seed with fertilizer and distributing both together through the drill."

Digging in the dirt pays in health and perhaps in money when the dirt is in the home vegetable garden. Let the Agricultural Extension Service at Raleigh send you a free gardening bulletin. Circulars 121, 122 and 123 are all good.

THOUSANDS JOIN WITH CO-OPERATIVE SUCCESS

Majority Virginia Crop to Pool. Fifty Years Tobacco Averaged Less Than Ten Cents Net To Grower.

Hundreds of tobacco farmers joining the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association month by month have brought its total membership in the Carolinas and Virginia to well over 88,000 according to this week's count of contracts now on file at the association's Raleigh headquarters.

Tobacco growers are now joining the big co-operative at the rate of more than a hundred a week, over fifty from Surry County alone, having signed the five year contract last week.

Richard R. Patterson this week called attention to the 88,000 members of the association whose leaf sales he directs, to the fact that the present crop of Virginia-Carolina bright tobacco alone will be approximately 75,000,000 pounds larger than that of last year. According to the Tri State Tobacco Grower in which Director Patterson's article appears, the marketing association has already received a large majority of the dark fired Virginia tobacco crop and is expected to market a majority of both the bright and dark tobaccos of the present Virginia crop.

Association receipts in the dark fired area will be about 27,000,000 pounds and the auction sales about 21,000,000 pounds in the dark fired area, according to recent estimates. The association according to its officials has sold about 75 per cent of its dark tobaccos in green order, advancing cash payments which already far exceed the prices paid the growers in average years.

Between the Civil War a period of fifty years Virginia tobaccos averaged \$8.22 per hundred and North Carolina tobaccos brought an average of only \$10.30 according to figures recently compiled from government reports and published in part by the official house organ of the marketing association which this week reaches close to 90,000 farmers, out of these small averages tobacco farmers have paid the warehouse and selling costs, which makes the price to them less than ten cents.

Orderly marketing of a larger tobacco crop this year has unquestionably brought higher prices in spite of the fact that United States tobacco exports in 1922 were 83,445,000 pounds less than in 1921 and combined retail prices for the whole United States dropped 6 per cent according to government reports.

Organized tobacco farmers from 127 counties will hold mass meetings in three states, Saturday, April 7th, to nominate delegates to represent the entire membership of the association in the election of directors for another year.

Sows and litters should run on clean lots to keep internal parasites down to a minimum.

Drawing its membership from New Hanover, Pender and Brunswick counties, the Cape Fear Poultry Association has recently been organized in Wilmington to promote the growing of better poultry, to buy feedstuffs co-operatively and to sell poultry products. They began work by saving \$10 per ton on feedstuffs, reports Miss Florence Jeffress, Home Agent in

Republican 60-cent Dollar.

With the cost of living well above the level of March, 1922, a dollar in March, 1923, is worth only about 60 cents, compared with what it would buy in 1913, the last year before the World War, according to calculations made by Prof. Irving Fisher.

The farmer's dollar is depreciating along with every one else's. There has been a slight increase in the average price of agricultural products, but the cost of commodities which the farmer does not produce and must buy has risen more than 5 per cent in a year.

DUEL INDEFINITELY PUT OFF

Must Be Admitted That Israel Putnam's Method of Conducting It Was Somewhat Disconcerting.

Old Israel Putnam had his own ideas about dueling, although it was regarded in his day as more or less a part of a gentleman's code of honor. It once happened that Putnam unintentionally offended a brother officer in the Continental army. The dispute arose at a wine table, and the officer demanded instant reparation. Putnam, being a little excited, expressed his willingness to accommodate him with a fight, and it was stipulated that the duel should take place on the following morning, and that they should fight without seconds. At the appointed time the officer went to the dueling ground armed with swords and pistols. Putnam was there before him on the field and had taken a stand at the opposite end, musket in hand. Catching sight of his opponent he leveled his musket and fired. The astonished officer ran toward Putnam, who was deliberately reloading his piece. "What are you about?" he demanded. "Is this the conduct of an American officer and a man of honor?" "What am I about?" inquired Putnam. "A pretty question to ask a man whom you intended to murder; I'm about to kill you; and if you don't beat a retreat in less time than it would take Old Heath to hang a Tory you are a gone dog." He ranned home the charge in his musket and threw the piece to his shoulder; whereat the would-be duelist took to his heels and fled for his life.

PROGRESS MADE IN TANNING

Process Known to Be at Least Three Thousand Years Old, but Improvements Came Slowly.

At first skins were cured by simply cleaning and drying. Then it was found the texture of the leather improved by the use of smoke, sour milk, various oils and the brains of the animals themselves. Later it was discovered that certain astringent barks and vegetables affected permanent changes in the texture of skins and stopped decay. The ancient Egyptians possessed this knowledge, for engravings on their tombs depict the process of tanning. In China specimens of leather have been discovered in company with other relics that prove them to be over three thousand years old. The Romans used leather which they tanned with oil, alum and bark. Early explorers in America found the Indians wearing skins prepared with buffalo dung, oil and clay.

No improvement in the general methods of preparing leather took place from the most primitive times until about 1790, when the use of lime to loosen the hair was introduced. By 1825 English tanners were attempting to introduce new methods by which the tanning process could be shortened. One of the pioneers in these experiments was John Burridge, the inventor of the barkometer, an instrument for determining the strength of tanning liquors.

Life Rafts for Wharves and Docks.

Although ships have carried life rafts for many years, the only provision ordinarily made on docks and wharves for accidents is the common, round life preserver. These are inadequate at times, especially in the event of a gang-plank breaking and precipitating several persons into deep water at once. A California seaport, realizing this danger, has installed life rafts mounted on trucks for instant moving and launching. They are almost the size used by ships, but with a double deck body and a central cockpit for passengers, the whole being rigidly mounted on pontoons. The buoyancy of these rafts is sufficient to support a large number of persons.

Yes, Trees Must Eat.

Do you know how trees grow by forming new layers of wood directly under the bark? The roots are the support of the tree, says the School Book of Forestry. They also supply the tree with food. Through delicate hairs on the roots they absorb soil moisture and plant food from the earth and pass them along to the tree. The body of the tree acts as a passage way through which the food and drink are conveyed to the top or crown. The crown is the place where the food is digested and the regeneration of trees effected.

Are Screech Owls Ominous?

In some sections of the country people believe that when a screech owl alights and begins to scold out its shivering cry into the night it is a sign of some ill luck which is soon to befall them. Particularly do ignorant people put faith in this sign. Many have been heard to say that it betokens the early death of a loved one. No more utterly false specter of the imagination was ever created. A screech owl is quite harmless. In fact, they are quite valuable, pretty little night birds.—Our Dumb Animals.

ONCE LAIR OF SEA WOLVES

Isle of Pines Long Known as Rendezvous of Ferocious Pirates—'Slave Fattening.'

The Isle of Pines, an appanage of Cuba, has filled an interesting page in history. Las Casas, who chronicled the story of the voyages of Columbus in his "Historia de las Indias," writes that the admiral discovered the island during his second voyage, in June, 1494, on St. John the Evangelist's day, therefore naming it "Evangelista." There is every evidence that between the time of Columbus and the earliest settlers the island was the headquarters for the most ferocious pack of sea wolves that hunted the seas in the late Sixteenth and early Seventeenth centuries. English, French and Dutch all found security on the Isle of Pines.

Not the least interesting epoch of the island's history was when it served as a "slave fattening" depot. In the days when the traders in "black ivory" found the difficulties of their profession increasing in the ratio of prejudice against slave-holding, their profits decreased in a like ratio. They attempted to rectify this loss by bringing a more valuable article to the market, and the Isle of Pines became a haven of rest and contentment for the slaves they brought over in dark holds from Africa, before they were sold in "the States."—Detroit News.

ENTHUSIASM TO BE GUIDED

Properly Directed, It Is One of the Most Valuable Possessions a Woman Can Have.

There are women who let all of their enthusiasm bubble to the top of their conversation, frothy women. Then there are women who let their enthusiasm settle at the bottom of their personality, like the dregs of lost youth. Absorbed in the routine of their own little lives they lose touch with the lives of others. As their circle of interests narrows, their enthusiasm dies. Finally, inevitably, they join that sad sisterhood of drab, colorless women—women who don't count.

But there are women whose enthusiasm neither bubbles to the top nor subsides to the bottom. Women who really let "themselves go." They are interested in other people and events outside of their own little lives, and this interest sparkles into enthusiasm. These are the women whom we call "vivid" and these are the women who make happy friendships and happy marriages, even when they are handicapped by lack of beauty, or lack of cleverness, or lack of style.—Exchange.

Lost Treasure of Montezuma.

According to legend, Montezuma, at the time of his overthrow in 1520 by Cortez and his Spanish followers, had, in addition to the colossal loot which the victors secured in gold and silver, fabulous wealth in gold stored away beneath his secret palace hidden in the plateau region of what is now the state of Nayarit, Mexico.

The loot, which the invaders secured, was stupendous, to be sure. But they missed the greatest single cache of gold in Mexico by dismissing Montezuma in time for him to recall his messengers sent out to bring in the gold from the chief treasure house of his gods.

Cortez tortured and then murdered hundreds of the leading Aztecs in an effort to get from them the secret of the location of the great treasure place and palace. Failing to gain his information in that way, he spent several years scouring the western part of Mexico, but in vain.

Americans at the Telephone.

One way to measure the extent of the relative use of the telephone in several countries is to determine the average amount of time per year actually spent by each inhabitant in telephone conversations. Statistics indicate that in the United States the average per capita time consumed in holding telephone conversations is 18 hours; in the Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, 12 hours; in Germany, five hours; in Switzerland, three hours; in Great Britain, two hours; in France, one hour, and in Italy considerably less than one hour.

World's Accessible Timber.

The accessible timber of the world is inadequate to the requirements of modern civilization, says the forest service, United States Department of Agriculture. We now draw one-third of our paper requirements from Canada. There is an embargo on the export of pulp wood from the crown lands of Canada, and this is likely to be extended to all forest lands in the Dominion, completely shutting off the supply of raw material for the paper industry of the United States. This illustrates the hazard of becoming dependent upon foreign supplies of timber, it is pointed out.

Virtues Ascribed to Gems.

The old custom of wearing a ring to hold a necktie in place originated in 1476, when the duke of Burgundy wore his signet ring on a ribbon around his neck. Many were the virtues ascribed to gems. Amethysts were supposed to ward off effects of too frequent libations, diamonds gave the wearer virtue, courage and magnanimity; opals sharing in the charms of every stone of which they reflected the color, if stolen, rendered the thief invisible, while topaz and chrysolite lost brilliance if dipped in poison, a highly important quality in an age when one could not tell friend from foe.

Up to Papa.

Margery's school reports weren't very good, so her father said: "The first time you get a hundred I'll give you a dollar." Time went by and the reward could not be claimed. Then one day the child was taken ill. When the doctor had gone she asked: "Mamma, am I very sick?" "No, dear, your temperature is a little over a hundred, but the doctor thinks you'll be better tomorrow." Margery's face lighted up. "Then, mamma, I can have my dollar, can't I? Papa said he'd give it to me if I got a hundred in anything."—Boston Transcript.

First Navigating Instrument.

To the Greek, Anaximander of Miletus, is attributed the invention of the first navigating instrument. The following account is given: "Mariners had observed that the farther north they went the higher the polar star rose in the heavens, and Anaximander is reported to have invented an arrangement of two sticks hinged together, so that when one was held horizontally and the other pointed to the pole star the angle they made would indicate how far north the observer was."

Long Span of Three Lives.

William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, was born October 14, 1644. His youngest son, Thomas, was born March 9, 1702. Thomas Penn had a son, Granville Penn, who was born December 9, 1761, and died September 28, 1844. The lives of these three men in direct descent thus covered—even allowing for the reform of the calendar in 1752—two centuries, lacking less than one month. Commenting on this, historians of the Penn family have expressed the opinion that the incident is probably unique.

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