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DINGLEY TARIFF OUT OF DATE

Republicans Demand Its Revision.
President Roosevelt Will Be
Urged to Make Declaration.
Leaders Convinced.

(Washington Post.)

New York, May 20.—A Washington dispatch to the New York Tribune says: It is by no means improbable that the President may urge on Congress in his next annual message the advisability of immediate revision of the Dingley tariff. The extent to which such a course is being urged on him would, were it generally known, occasion much surprise, for some of the most conservative statesmen, and, too, some of the staunchest protectionists, have expressed the view that it might be wise to deal with this troublesome subject next winter.

Senator Allison, talking recently for publication, said:

"In the next campaign, and possibly in the next session of Congress, the tariff is certain to be an important issue."

Senator Spooner, as will be recalled, in debate with Sen. Aldrich near the close of the recent session, expressed his conviction that the time had come when the tariff should be readjusted, and Senator Aldrich himself, although he has been termed "the high priest of protection," believes that a number of the schedules should be lowered and many of them altered to suit changed conditions.

Two years ago last February, at a conference called on this subject at the White House, Mr. Aldrich voted for tariff revision, as did Senator Allison, and only the determined "standpatism" of Speaker Cannon and his allies in the House prevented the President urging revision on the last Congress in its first session. Senator Lodge is another leader in the Senate who regards tariff revision as all important, and Senator Spooner's successor has already announced his belief that the duties should be lowered. Senator Hale is probably the only "roob-ribbed standpatter" in the Senate.

From all parts of the West comes the information that a change in the schedules is regarded as imperative, and even certain representatives of the steel industry have declared that they will no longer oppose the inevitable, while the demand for lower duties in certain parts of New England is well known.

The tariff programme which has been most extensively discussed in executive and legislative conferences in Washington, and which has many advocates, consists of a definite pledge to be incorporated in the next Republican national platform, to call Congress in special session soon after March 4, 1909, for the express purpose of revising the existing tariff schedules. From a political point of view this programme has much to recommend it. Practically, it has the

advantage that the members of the next House of Representatives would then, presumably be elected under a pledge to carry such revision into effect, and the influential "standpatism" in the lower chamber would be powerless to disregard the recommendations of the Executive, the will of the upper House and probably the will of the people.

The only alternative to this programme is for the President to urge upon Congress the necessity of tariff revision in his next annual message, and prompt and effective action by the coming Congress. It is between these alternatives that the President must, before he prepares his next annual message, make his choice.

Personally, the President has long been convinced that the tariff should be readjusted, and now the only problem which confronts him is the question of expediency. The most powerful argument against pledging the party to tariff revision in the next national platform, a revision which could not be accomplished until practically a year later is that the prospect of a change of the tariff schedules entertained so long in advance would have a strong tendency to interfere with business and might prove gravely inimical to the general prosperity. This argument has proposed tariff revision to the party great earnestness when, in the past, he has proposed tariff revision to the party leaders, and he appreciates that there is force in it.

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