

TOLLS EXEMPTION NOT ONLY PLANK IN PARTY PLATFORM

Ship Subsidies Also Given a Particular Mention, President Declares.

BELIEVES REPEAL MEASURE WILL PASS

Wilson Talks Freely Regarding Tolls Controversy with Visitors.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Taking the stand that certain paragraphs in the democratic platform adopted at Baltimore are contradictory, President Wilson today declared that, on account of the contradictory statements of these different paragraphs, democrats need have no hesitation in voting for the repeal of the Panama canal tolls exemption.

The president reiterated that the exemption never was a policy of the democratic house, because it was passed through a coalition of republicans and a minority of democrats, the majority of democrats voting against it on the ground that it was a subsidy.

The president explained that even if the international questions to which he referred in his message had not arisen he would have been opposed to the tolls exemption as against democratic doctrine. He indicated however that if it were not for the international situation he did not feel that it would have been proper for him to question the acts of a previous administration.

Mr. Wilson talked freely about the tolls controversy in congress, saying that the story that he had entered into a bargain with Great Britain through Sir William Tyrrell, price a secretary to Sir Edward Grey, was one of a number of insults that had been introduced in the congressional debate.

The president declared he wanted to express his regret that what had happened to the tolls exemption should have become a subject of controversy.

Mr. Wilson let it be known that he was unqualifiedly opposed to any compromise or amendment, such as have been proposed in the senate. He was for a straight repeal without equivocation.

The white house later authorized quotation of what the president had said.

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SUFFRAGE AMENDMENTS THREATEN CONTROVERSY AMONG SUFFRAGETTES

Mississippi Valley Suffrage Conference Sends Message to Washington.

MEETING OPENS.

DES MOINES, Iowa, March 30.—The Shafroth and Bristow suffrage amendments, now pending before congress, are threatening a controversy at the Mississippi Valley suffrage conference, which began here today.

Although it had been announced last week that the subject would not be brought up at the present meeting, 25 of the women leaders met today and a telegram addressed to the National American Woman Suffrage association was formulated. It was as follows:

"Many members of the Mississippi conference feel that the Shafroth motion to amend the constitution should be left in committee until after the next convention. Were this done it would avoid a chance for confusion which might come were two resolutions simultaneously before the country, and would give time for mature consideration of a measure which many of us do not understand, and which we want to act on with deliberation."

The signers then asked the original board to instruct its congressional committee not to push the Shafroth resolution nor to seek its report from the senate committee.

Miss Alice Paul, of Washington, president of the Congressional suffrage union, which is said to favor the Bristow amendment was among those

COMMITTEE ABOUT READY TO DEFINE BANK DISTRICTS

Limits of Federal Reserve Districts Are Practically Determined.

MUCH SPECULATION AS TO LUCKY CITIES

Committee Declares That Any Lists Published Are Guess Work.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—After three months of consideration the reserve bank organization committee, Secretaries McAdoo and Houston and Comptroller of Currency Williams—charged with laying the ground work for the new currency system, is about ready to define geographically the limits of the federal reserve districts into which the continental United States are to be divided for banking purposes, and at the same time name the cities in each district where reserve banks are to be located.

It is the general expectation here that the announcement of these conclusions will be made about April 1, for the committee is known to have reached a point in its deliberations where little remains to be done.

Conclusions Secret.

The committee has taken precautions to keep its conclusions secret and has announced that any lists made previous to its official publication are merely speculative. Despite this fact there has been great interest here in the doings of the committee and volumes talked by those in official life who are now entirely within the inner circle.

Opinion is not unanimous among those persons as to the number of banks to be established. The law permits the establishment of not less than 8 and not more than 12 banks. There is apparently little ground for believing that the committee will name only eight cities, and many persons are confident that they will select the full number allowed. The expectation is that there will be at least four cities on the Atlantic seaboard. In this section Boston, New York and Philadelphia have been named many times and Richmond and Atlanta, Baltimore and Washington have been put down on many of the unofficial lists. Between the Alleghany Mountains and the Rockies many agree that Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City are practically certain to be chosen, and many add Minneapolis, Cincinnati

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RECORD FOR ACTIVITIES UNDER SHERMAN LAW MAY BE BROKEN THIS WEEK

Many Anti-Trust Matters Now Holding Attention of Government.

SOME SETTLEMENTS

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Unless there is some unexpected hitch in the plans of the department of justice, this promises to be a record week for activities under the Sherman anti-trust act. According to present plans, work on a complaint against the so-called smelting trust will be begun; a settlement will be reached with the Metropolitan Tobacco company of New York, or that company will be the object of an anti-trust action; the Elgin board of trade will cease to defend the anti-trust action brought against it late in 1912 and a decree against it will be recorded at Chicago, and a final report on the facts in connection with the charge of violation of the Sherman act in the case of the United Gas Improvement company of Philadelphia, is expected. It also is regarded as probable that final disposition will be made of the report of the investigation into the alleged Wanamaker customs under-valuations.

The report on the investigation of the "smelting trust" is in the hands of G. G. Todd, assistant to Attorney General McReynolds, in charge of trust prosecutions, and it was said that Mr. Todd will begin immediately the preparation of the usual bill in equity asking for the combine's dissolution.

Negotiations between officials of the department and representatives of the Metropolitan and other tobacco companies are in progress in New York. Attorney General McReynolds is convinced that these companies are operating in violation of the Sherman act, and the bill against them is ready to be filed at once if negotiations fail.

According to reports here, United States District Attorney Wilkerson, at Chicago, is near the end of conferences with representatives of the Elgin board, by which the suit

TORREON BATTLE IS STILL RAGING REPORTS DECLARE

Believed That Federals Are Making Their Final Stand in Big Barracks.

VILLA USING GUNS, NOT TYPEWRITERS

Tells Newspaper Men They Can Send No Dispatches Until Torreon Falls.

JUAREZ, Mex., March 30.—The rebel and federal forces at Torreon are still engaged in battle, it was learned tonight. This information came from Roberto V. Pasqueras, confidential agent of the constitutionalists in the United States, who recently arrived here from Washington.

Senor Pasqueras spent the afternoon and part of the evening in this city investigating various rumors and so-called official reports dealing with the situation at the front. At the conclusion of his investigations, he telegraphed a long report to associates in Washington and later talked with newspaper men. The constitutionalist secretary of the interior, Senor Zubaran, was present at the interview.

No Facts to Divulge.

They had no facts to divulge save that fighting continued, and that the battle thus far has been bloody and stubbornly contested on both sides. They stated that no telegram from General Villa had been received, saying that General Velasco had suggested a conditional surrender. They asserted positively, on the other hand, that federal reports of victory were absurd.

"I believe that the rebels tonight are making a concerted attack on the federal positions," said Secretary Zubaran. "With what success I do not know but in the end I believe General Villa is certain of victory. Many of the telegrams credited to General Villa have not really been sent by him. Whence they came I do not know."

Using Guns.

"Villa is using guns and hand grenades not typewriters. He told the correspondents at the front frankly that they could send no dispatches until he had taken Torreon. There have been no such dispatches and the conclusion aside from our actual, though scanty information, is clear. Torreon has not been taken. On the other hand every fact at

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VARNER NOT CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS AGAINST REPRESENTATIVE PAGE

Declares He Would Not Have Time to Organize District for Race.

THANKS FRIENDS

(By George H. Manning.) WASHINGTON, D. C., March 30.—Henry B. Varner, of Lexington, will not be a candidate for the congressional nomination against Congressman Page in the seventh district. The writer received a letter from Mr. Varner today in which he declares that as the primaries are called for May 16, he would not now have time to organize the district and make a satisfactory campaign. Mr. Varner's letter of withdrawal is in part as follows:

"I have been considering becoming a candidate for congress this year, because of the constant urging of hundreds of good loyal democrats from all parts of the district that I make the race. If a man is human he must listen to his friends and consider their suggestions. That and the fact that as a member of congress I would have an opportunity to be of greater service to the people of this district and of the state, is the only reason that I have had for even considering making the race. For to run would be a distinct sacrifice.

"The state democratic executive committee, however, has called the primaries for May 16, which is nearly two months earlier than they are usually called in an off year; therefore, I would not now have time to organize the district and conduct a campaign that would be satisfactory to either myself or my friends, and I shall not run. I have never led a 'forlorn hope' and do not intend to begin it at this date.



VERBAL ARTILLERY UNLIMBERED DURING TOLLS REPEAL DEBATE: WILSON ATTACKED AND DEFENDED

Senator J. Ham Lewis Paints Weird Picture of What Might Happen if the United States Undertook to Intervene in Mexico—Brings it in During Discussion of Foreign Relations in Debate.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—On the eve of the vote in the house of representatives on the repeal of the American canal exemption in the Panama canal act, congress today was completely absorbed in the controversy. Verbal artillery thundered throughout the day in both house and senate.

While opposing forces were clashing in oral debate at the capitol, President Wilson took occasion to discuss the all-embracing situation with callers, expressing keen regret that what had happened to be a dignified contest over principles had degenerated into a fight upon the administration. While on the subject, today President Wilson characterized as "a crowning insult of a number of insults," in the debate, the declaration of Representative Knowland, of California, that the administration had made a deal to repeal the tolls exemption with Sir William Terrell, secretary to Sir Edward Grey, British secretary for foreign affairs.

Clark's Speech Anticipated.

With a final vote on the Sims repeal bill in the house scheduled for late tomorrow, interest in the controversy revived, the closing speech of Speaker Clark in opposition to the repeal serving as the chief objective point of anticipation. Little doubt as to the result of the vote on the bill is entertained by any one, the majority for the repeal being variously estimated at from 20 to 75 votes.

All ears will be strained for the speaker tomorrow, and there is much speculation as to the course his attack on the bill will take. His friends do not expect him to attack the president. Some democrats believe that he will not refrain, however, from allusions to political entanglements.

Discussion of the Issue in the Senate.

Discussion of the issue in the senate today was enlivened by Senator James Hamilton Lewis, of Illinois, who pleaded for the president's cause, urging, however, a compromise giving the president authority to suspend tolls.

Senator Lewis aroused mingled

astonishment and curiosity among his colleagues by discussing the foreign relations of the United States and explaining what he thought the president might have referred to in his message on the tolls issue, asking congress to grant the repeal. He drew a vivid picture of dire things that would happen should the United States intervene in Mexico.

Referring to the president's failure to specify what foreign relations

prompted him to appeal for tolls exemption repeal, the senator did not hesitate to give "what I feel may have been his reasons." He then entered upon a recital of acts of aggression on the part of the United States, beginning with the taking of the Philippines.

Mexican Situation.

Taking up the Mexican situation and reviewing the operations of the United States in other lands and the interests in Mexico of England, France, Japan and other nations, Senator Lewis dramatically declared:

"The very first moment we move down into Mexico with a view of executing the Monroe doctrine against these foreign nations who have stationed themselves there upon the theory that we no longer had a right to execute the doctrine because of our past folly, Japan promptly would seize the Philippine Islands. She would then seize Hawaii and then in such conditions—our armies in Mexico, the canal not finished, no way to have a jolter of our navy—in what condition would our country be?"

"Russia, with her grievances—she who sent aid to the union at a time when it was threatened—feels that because of English influence, the administration in power the last ten years lent its aid to Japan against her. Russia, remembering this wrong now in an offensive and defensive alliance of life and death with Japan, would not lose her opportunity. Japan with her grievances promptly would aid in seizing Alaska and the north near her."

Would Divide Army.

"The north and the south, now

united, would sail to the north sea to protect Alaska and the Orient to the Philippines. The army would be divided, one part in Mexico and the other part moving to our possessions to protect them. England, feeling under those conditions no friendliness to us, and South America alarmed by a feeling that when, under the administration of Colonel Roosevelt, we performed a casuarian operation on Colombia and exercised from her the government of Panama, only waits that it may duplicate the performance upon an equally defenseless country on the south near to the canal zone; furnishing supplies to the enemy and supporting the assault. In what a splendid condition we would stand. Sad, indeed, it is to contemplate."

Senator Lewis appealed to congress to trust the president, "hoping that we may return to the doctrine of a true party."

Excitement and Suspense.

These were the events in today's chapter of the continued story which is keeping the country at the highest pitch of excitement and suspense.

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CONLEY WANTS NEGROES WHO TALKED TO FACE HIM

Says He Will Prove They Are Speaking Falsely About Him.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 29.—"If those negroes who have made damaging statements against me will face me, I will show them that they are speaking falsely."

This was the declaration here today of James Conley, the negro convicted as accessory to the murder of Mary Phagan, 14 years old, regarding recent affidavits made in connection with efforts under way to obtain a new trial for Leo M. Frank, superintendent of the National Pencil company, under sentence of death for the girl's murder.

HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO PROGRESSIVE MEETING

Simmons Says Men Are Within Their Rights—Is Back at Capital.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29.—Senator Simmons when questioned upon his return here today regarding the progressive convention to be held at Raleigh, stated that if some gentleman in the state wished to call a convention to discuss progressive policies and plan progressive legislation they were entirely within their rights and that he would make no objection and place no obstacles in their way.

The senator returned today after an absence of about two weeks which he spent in recuperating at his home in Newbern. He explained that he returned earlier than he intended because of the statement made by Senator O'Gorman, chairman of the committee on interoceanic canals, that he would not call the committee to consider the bill to repeal the canal tolls provision because of the absence of Senators Simmons and Shields.

MOVE TO OUST STANDARD OIL COMPANY FROM OHIO

Judge Dillon Grants Writ Ordering Attorney General to Oust Company.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 30.—Judge Dillon, of the common pleas court, late today granted an alternative writ ordering Attorney General Hogan to institute proceedings to oust the Standard Oil company and its subsidiaries, including the Imperial Oil company of Canada, from doing business in Ohio. The case is set for hearing April 20.

The suit to compel Attorney General Hogan to file several proceedings was instituted several days ago by George H. Phelps, an attorney of Findlay, Ohio. Phelps alleged that the Standard Oil company, Ohio Oil company, Buckeye Pipe Line company, Solar Refining company and the Imperial Oil company of Canada, are being operated in this state in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law and the Valentine anti-trust act, an Ohio statute. Mr. Hogan had announced, after an investigation that he would not institute the proceedings demanded by Mr. Phelps. The insurance of the writ by Judge Dillon will force him into court to judge the

ASQUITH BECOMES SECRETARY OF WAR; ASKS RE-ELECTION

Premier Springs Unsuspected Solution on House of Commons.

RESIGNATION OF SEELY ACCEPTED

Viscount Morley is Expected to Resign Today—Excitement Tense.

LONDON, March 30.—After all the many solutions of the governmental crisis, which had been proposed and discussed, Premier Asquith announced a solution to the house of commons today which none of the prophets had suspected or even expected. The premier, himself, will assume the burden of the war office in addition to his other and almost crushing duties. He will resign from the house at this critical stage, when the second reading of the home rule bill is about to be taken up and will appeal for re-election to his constituents in East Fife, Scotland, within a few days.

Stand by Resignations.

Field Marshal Sir John French, chief of the imperial general staff, and General Sir John Ewart, adjutant general, declined to withdraw their resignations in spite of the army order issued Friday, which Viscount Haldane cleverly framed as a platform on which the general might stand with consistency and honor.

It thus became impossible for Colonel J. E. B. Seely, who was co-signer with them of the assurances to Brigadier General Gough that the army would not be used to suppress the Ulster opposition to home rule, to retain the secretaryship of war. His resignation, therefore, was accepted, after he had been for some days under fire from the newspapers of his own party, which insisted that he must go.

Viscount Morley, of Blackburn, lord president of the council, who was partner with Colonel Seely in drafting the offending paragraphs of the document, stands in the same position, and his withdrawal from office is expected tomorrow.

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RATINGS OF APPLICANTS FOR POSTMASTERSHIPS COME WITH GREAT RUSH

Hundred Offices in First Batch Sent in To Civil Service Department.

MANY IN TENTH.

(By George H. Manning.) WASHINGTON, D. C., March 30.—The ratings of applicants for fourth class postmasterships who took the statewide examination in North Carolina in February commenced coming to the postoffice department today with a rush, over one hundred offices being in the first batch sent in by the civil service commission. They contained certifications from every district in the state and the appointments will be made after consultations have been held with the congressmen.

The first office to be certified and the first postmaster appointed was at the home town of Congressman Fairson, named after him, where Christopher H. Pierce was appointed today. Pierce was the first man in the list having a rating of over ninety per cent, and the first postmaster appointed in the state.

In the tenth district nine postmasters were appointed today, after conference with the congressmen. They are as follows: Azales, Samuel T. Lewis, democrat; John T. McKinney; Hollis, Grady Withrow; Etowah, Pearl G. Cash; Horas, Shea; Miss Louisa E. Bird; Highlands, James A. Hines; Cliffland, Charles H. Haynes; Farm School, Mrs. Alma R. Jolly; Fairview, F. O. Merrick.

Congressman Stedman also had three postmasters appointed in his district as follows:

Dobson, John C. Freeman; Haw River, H. B. Williamson; Milton, W. T. Bryant.

The president today nominated G. Morley, to be postmaster at

THE WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Forecast for North Carolina: Local show