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WILEY'S MESSAGE

Word About International Conference.

MONETARY CONFERENCE

TO THE TARIFF

IN ADEQUACY OF REVENU

TO WILSON DUTIES

EX PARTE STATEMENT

Made Much Of, Besides

Congress is Asked Only to

the bill and Deal Lib-

ly with Pensioners.

Washington, March 15.—The President

sent the following message to

Congress of the United States:

It is the necessity which has

to call you together, I feel that

standing in extraordinary session

possible, because of the condition

we find the revenues of the gov-

ernment are greater than its receipts,

and such a condition has existed for

more than three years. With unfin-

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THE EXTRA SESSION

Reorganization of the House Was a Brilliant Scene.

THE VOTE FOR SPEAKER

REED RESPONDS IN A DRYLY HUMOROUS SPEECH.

BAILEY SUCCEEDS McMILLAN

Heads Now Minority, on Ways and Means, and Swanson, Also, of Virginia, is Added—Democratic increases, 29 Members.

Washington, March 15.—The Fifty-fifth House of Representatives organized to-day for the work before it. Although the proceedings were perfunctory the scene was a brilliant one. The vote on Speaker which resulted Reed, (Rep.), 199; Bailey, (Dem.), 114, Bell, (Pop.) 21, and Newlands (Silverite), 1, aligned several heretofore unclassified members. All the Populists voted for Bell. Of the fusionists, three, Baker and Jett, of Illinois, and Marshall, of Ohio, voted for Bailey, one, Maxwell, of Nebraska, voted for Bell and three, Jones and Lewis, of Washington and Rood, of Michigan did not vote. Two of the Silverites, Newlands, of Nevada, and Sharroth, of Colorado did not vote and Hartman, of Montana voted for Newlands. Speaker Reed was enthusiastically received on his appearance in the House after his election and made a graceful and dryly humorous speech in assuming the gavel.

Mr. Reed said: "Gentlemen of the House of Representative. It has been the custom for a hundred years for Speakers-elect to so fully express their gratitude and their sense of honor conferred that the language by which thanks are conveyed has been long ago exhausted. Will you pardon me if I confess that on all the occasions when I have stood here I have been more oppressed by the sense of responsibility than cheered by the sentiment of thankfulness.

Yet I appreciate—no man more—the high honor of your vote and the confidence which dictated it. But high as the honor is I will surely fade unless your favor is permanent. I cannot, having had experience, expect to please all of you always, but I do hope, with your assistance and your kind forbearance, to administer justice to each member and to both sides of the chamber under the rules established by the House of Representatives, without fear, favor or the hope of reward."

An ineffectual attempt was made under the leadership of Mr. Hepburn, an Iowa Republican, to limit the operation of the rules of the last Congress, which were adopted temporarily, to thirty days. The Democrats, Populists and fourteen Republicans supported him, but they were defeated 183 to 152. This was the only incident out of the ordinary connected with the proceedings to-day.

The President's message was applauded vigorously by as was Mr. Dingley when he introduced the new tariff bill. The Speaker appointed the Republican members of the old committee on the new Ways and Means committee and added Mr. Bailey, of Texas, Mr. Robertson, of Louisiana, and Mr. Swanson, of Virginia to the Democratic membership. In view of the action of the Democratic caucus Mr. McMillan, who was at the head of the minority of the committee was superseded by Mr. Bailey, although Mr. McMillan was left on the committee. Mr. Cannon, (Rep., Ill.), offered the resolution providing for the seat drawing. After some discussion it was tacitly agreed that Democrats whose membership had increased from 93 to 122, should move up to the centre aisle. The Republicans in the last Congress having lapped over on the Democratic side.

The 21 Republicans who could not be accommodated on the Republican side were to find seats on the extreme right in what is known as the "Cherokee strip."

When the House adjourned it was until Thursday next.

NEW SENATE CONVENES

Harris, of Kansas, Slated, and Corbett's Credentials Referred to Committee.

Washington, D. C., March 15.—The Senate began its work in extra session to-day with eighty-seven Senators present and with galleries packed to their full limit. The business of the day was confined to the reading of the President's message, the seating of the new Senator from Kansas, Mr. Harris, and the reference of the credentials of Mr. Corbett as Senator from Oregon to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. No legislative business was transacted and the Senate adjourned immediately after the message had been read.

DIED ON THE TRAIN

Bernard Claffey, of Philadelphia, a Consumptive, Expires Sunday Morning During the Breakfast Wait.

Charlotte, N. C., March 15.—(Special)—Bernard Claffey, of Philadelphia, died on the northbound Southern train yesterday morning during the breakfast stop here. He was a consumptive and had been in Florida for relief. His remains were sent to-day to Philadelphia to relatives.

Sunday School and Epworth League Conference of the Western North Carolina Conference will be held at Concord on the 27th of May.

THE MISSISSIPPI FLOOD

COUNTRY ALMOST COVERED WITH WATER.

Homes Not Habitable and Rescuing Going on Among Rapidly Increasing Sufferers.

Memphis, Tenn., March 15.—The river has broken all records, the gauge registering 36.4. The rise continues at Cairo, New Orleans and intermediate points. News of the first serious break in levees reached this city to-day. It occurred Saturday near Nordan, Arkansas, 50 miles above Memphis. The river is raging through the crevasse at a terrific rate, having a tremendous fall of 15 feet to give it force and send it to the lowlands of Mississippi county. There will be no attempt to stop the break. The break is the more terrible because less life surely will occur from it. Those who know the conditions there do not dare to hope that all the people in the lowlands escaped from the flood when it came upon them Saturday night.

The levee which gave way is in front of Mississippi county, and it is thought the water will almost, if not entirely, cover this county. The steamer City of Osceola passed down a short time after the break occurred and rescued a number of the unfortunate people. For miles and miles to the west of Memphis not a home is habitable. On the overflow land where the current is not strong, it is not difficult for most of the people to escape with most of their household stuff on skiffs, dug-outs or rafts, and the surface of the water in every direction is dotted with these little craft.

At Marion, Arkansas, all day yesterday and to-day the available steamers fit for such duty have been employed rescuing the flood victims and some of the sights that have been met are truly pathetic. Down on the levee are stored great stacks of goods of all kinds, the household property of a few negroes or poor white folks; great numbers of live stock, horses and cattle have been saved, while still greater numbers have been lost before relief could come. When the first relief boat, the C. B. Bryan, got to Marion, there was a great rush on the part of the people, white and black, to get aboard with their property. Negroes had been standing in the water with their stock for hours, waiting. Up and down the river very few signs of life are manifested on any of the plantations and it is certain that nearly all stock has perished. Nearly all refugees that are brought to this city are totally without means. Many of them seek on the levee last night while others found temporary accommodations at the homes of friends in the city. A hundred citizens of Memphis got together this morning and devised means to send relief boats to the overflowed districts and to furnish support to the flood victims, when they are brought to this city. A relief fund of \$1,000 dollars was immediately subscribed by the citizens present.

Memphis, Tenn., March 16.—The Mississippi river at Memphis to-night gauges a fraction over 36.5 feet, a rise of over one-tenth since morning. The river continues to rise slowly. Two lives are known to have been lost during the day. Two negroes who live at Marion, Ark., attempted to cross Mound Lake, in a dug-out, when they were caught in the mighty current, their boat capsized and they were swept away. The change in the situation in the past 24 hours has been decidedly for the worse in every respect so far as the flood and the flood victims are concerned. Localities that were expected up to the last moment to withstand the overflow are at last under water. People who thought they were safe from the angry river, find themselves hemmed in and their danger is the greater because of the confidence that prevented them from providing against it.

At Marion and the adjacent country, four hundred people are reported to be lined up on the railroad track, over which occasional waves sweep, threatening to carry off the desperate people and live stock. Along the other railroads similar out of this city into Arkansas a similar condition of affairs exists.

Down on President's Island, where it was supposed that all persons in danger had been carried off last night, it is learned, because of the imminent danger, this morning standing in the water and praying for the sight of a boat that would take them off.

From Island Fort came reports that the water is everywhere, and that human beings and dumb brutes are huddled together wherever shallow water offers standing places. There are many other points from which come appeals for aid. It may easily be understood, therefore, that the relief committee which has been established in this city, has its hands full of work. This work is being looked after without delay, nevertheless. All the local river craft have been requisitioned for this duty, and Capt. Fitch, in charge of the United States fleet, has placed every steam vessel and barge in his command at the disposal of the committee. Nearly 1,000 people have been brought to this city already from the overflowed country. Only a few of these are white, and all such have been able to take care of themselves upon arrival, as well as to assist a hand to the negroes who come by train. But some of the refugees who have come here, and the negroes who saved nothing but their own backs, and may be some stock, the latter being an incumberance rather than an assistance in the matter of finding food and accommodations in town. But the citizens relief committee have found places to house the refugees and food is furnished them also from time to time.

Many rumors of wholesale drowning are current, but these cannot be verified. A well defined report reached here last night, that five colored people had perished near Marion, and a colored man and child are known to have been drowned at West Memphis.

DINGLEY'S SYNOPSIS

General Outline of the Republic "Revenue" Measure.

A \$75,000,000 INCREASE

\$100,000,000 INCREASE OF REVENUE TO COME LATER.

RECIPROcity IS NOT FORGOT

Little Change in Steel, Iron and Cotton Schedules—Duties of 1890 Fully Restored in Agricultural Schedule

—Rep. Dingley's Unanimous.

Washington, March 15.—Chairman Dingley of the Ways and Means committee, in response to a request that he furnish a synopsis of the new tariff bill presented by him to-day makes the following statement: "The bill has two purposes, namely to raise additional revenue and to encourage the industries of the United States. On the basis of the importations for the last fiscal year the bill would increase the revenue about \$112,000,000 divided among the several schedules roughly as follows:

A—chemicals \$3,500,000; B—crockerie and glassware, \$4,000,000; C—metals \$4,000,000; D—wood, \$1,750,000; E—sugar, \$21,750,000; F—tobacco, \$7,000,000; G—agricultural, \$6,300,000; H—liquors, \$1,800,000; I—cottons, \$1,700,000; J—jute, linen and hemp, \$7,800,000; K—wool, \$17,500,000; L—manufacturers of wool \$27,000,000; M—silks, \$1,500,000; N—pulp and paper \$58,000; O—sundries, \$6,200,000. This estimate is on the supposition that the imports of each class of goods would be the same the next fiscal year as in the fiscal year ended last June.

But as the imports of wool are three times as great and those of woollen goods more than twice as great in pounds as in 1893, the committee assume that their excessive importation would be largely reduced by the proposed bill, although the fact that our domestic production of wool has diminished eight million pounds since 1893 will necessitate the importation of much more wool than in the latter year. Assuming that the importations of wool will fall off at least one third from those of 1896, on account of anticipatory imports to avoid duties we place the increased revenue from this source at \$11,000,000. Anticipating also that the imports of woollens will fall off nearly 50 per cent from the enormous imports of 1896, we estimate the increased revenue from this source under the proposed rates at about \$14,000,000.

From sugar we estimate \$20,000,000 additional revenue. Anticipating a considerable falling off of imports of Havana tobacco because of the revolution of Cuba we reduce the estimates of additional revenue to be derived from the tobacco schedule to \$4,000,000. The remaining schedule would afford a revenue of about thirty nine and half millions on the basis of the imports of 1896, but as there will probably be diminished imports at some points, although the gradual restoration of business activity would import luxuries we reduce the estimates on these to \$31,000,000. These would aggregate an additional revenue of \$80,000,000 the first year. A further reduction of five or ten millions for contingencies would leave \$70,000,000 to \$75,000,000 as the probable increased revenue from this bill the first year, which would undoubtedly rise to \$100,000,000 the second year.

"These estimates are below rather than above the probable result unless a considerable delay in the enactment of the bill should greatly enlarge the opportunity for imports of articles out of which duties are to be raised—particularly wool and woollens—for speculative purposes. Undoubtedly any delay beyond the first of May in placing the bill on the statute book would result in a large loss of revenue.

"This increase of revenue is secured by transferring wool, lumber, crude opium, argols, paintings and statuary, straw ornaments, straw matting, burlaps, and various other articles from the free list of the present law to the dutiable list; by increasing the duty on woollens to compensate the manufacturer for the duty placed on wool; by raising the duty on sugar about three fourths of a cent per pound in order to encourage the production of sugar in this country, which it is believed can be done and thus give our farmers a new crop which we now import mainly from abroad; by increasing the duty on agricultural products affected by Canadian competition and on fine cotton goods, some advanced manufactures of iron and steel, manufactures of jute, flax and hemp in order to encourage these and other industries here and especially by increasing duties on such luxuries as liquors, tobacco, silks and laces, etc.

"As a rule the rates of duties proposed are between the rates of the tariff of 1890 and the tariff of '94, such reduction being made from the former law and increase from the latter. The protective principle behind the protective principle herein is possible by changed conditions. The agricultural and steel schedule is changed very little from that schedule in the tariff of 1894, the change being entirely in the more advanced articles. The same is true of the cotton schedule. In the agricultural, wool and glass and earthenware schedules alone are the duties of the act of 1890 fully restored as a rule, and in a few cases increased, with the view of amply protecting and encouraging our farming interests at every possible point. While the duty on clothing wool is larger in proportion to the foreign value than on manufactured articles, yet

it is thought desirable for the public interest and for our agriculture that we should produce this prime necessity for ourselves.

The duty on carpet wools, as well as upon many other articles, imposed mainly for revenue. The irritation caused by the use of a few wools heretofore classed as carpet wools being used for clothing purposes has been remedied by transferring such wools to the clothing wool classes, but the duty on clothing wool has been restored to the rates of the act of 1890."

"In framing this new tariff, the aim has been to make the duties specific or at least partly specific as far as possible to protect the revenue, and also to protect our own industries. This has been done in response to the wishes of the better class of importers, as well as of the administrators of the law and of our own producers. The very general substitution of specific duties even where they are only the equivalent of existing ad valorem, will of itself increase the revenues and strengthen the protection afforded to our industries.

"The reciprocity provisions of the act of 1890 have not only been fully restored, but this policy has been extended by adding to it sugar, tea, coffee and hides, as articles on which to make reciprocal agreements on such articles as champagne, brandy, wines artificial and natural mineral waters, chickie, argols and silk. In adding these articles the reciprocity provision is strengthened greatly by providing for a reduction of duties to countries giving us similar concessions.

"The bill, as a whole, has the unanimous support of the Republican members of the Ways and Means committee, and will, it is hoped, receive the support not only of Republicans, but of others who believe that revenue should be at least equal to expenditures, with a small surplus added, and who are patriotic enough to entertain the conviction that in adjusting duties to secure such revenue it is a wise policy to encourage home production and manufactures, and thus provide employment at good wages for the wage earners of our people, upon whose purchasing power depends the market for our products."

SOME SCHEDULES IN DETAIL.

The Tariff Tinkers Took Good Care to Bleed the Users of Cotton Ties and Bagging.

Washington, D. C., March 15.—Following are the duties and schedules, more or less affecting North Carolina interests in the tariff bill as introduced:

COTTON TIES ADVANCED.

Under schedule C, metals are treated, beginning with iron ore and pyrites, residuum at 40 cents per ton, with no allowance for moisture. Hoop iron and steel, valued at 3 cents or less and 8 inches and less in width and not thinner than No. 10, 6-10 cent per pound; between 10 and 20 gauge 7-10 cents; below 20, 9-10 cent. Hoop iron or steel cut to length or made into hoops and ties for cotton, splayed or punched hoops, etc., 1-10 cent per pound additional to above. Lead bearing ores 1 cent per pound, on lead containing; mien, 3 cents per pound and 15 per cent; nickel 6 cents per pound.

COTTON MANUFACTURES.

Schedule I, cotton manufactures, cotton carded or combed yarn, warp, skeins or any form except spool thread, not colored or advanced beyond the condition of singles, 3 cents per pound on numbers to 15, 1-5 cent per number to 30 and 1/4 cent beyond 30; colored, bleached, etc., 6 cents on numbers to 20 and 3-10 cent per number above that. Cotton cord laps 45 per cent ad valorem. Cotton thread, not exceeding 100 yards per spool, 6 cents per dozen; every additional 100 yards 6 cents; not on spools 1/2 cent per 10 yards.

Cotton cloth, not colored and not exceeding 59 threads per square inch, 1 cent per square yard; bleached 1 1/2 cents; colored 2 cents; not exceeding one hundred threads, from 1 1/4 cents to 3 1/4 cents, according to weight, bleached, 1 1/2 to 2 1/4 cents; colored, 2 1/4 to 3 1/4 cents. Similar rates being 8 cents, and in addition ad 150, 200 and 300 threads, the maximum rates being 8 cents, and in addition ad valorem duties of 25 to 40 per cent are fixed on cottons of these classes above certain values.

TOBACCO.

Leaf wrappers, unstemmed, \$2 per pound; stemmed, \$2.75; if more than 15 per cent of the tobacco is suitable for wrappers it shall make the whole dutiable as above. All other tobacco, unmanufactured and unstemmed, 75 cents per pound, stemmed 80 cents. Manufactured and not specially provided for, 40 cents per pound. Snuff 40 cents pound; cigars, cigarettes and chocoas, \$4.50 pound and 25 per cent. Paper cigarettes, same.

AGRICULTURAL DUTIES.

Agricultural duties are levied as follows: Cattle, from \$6 to 30 per cent per head. Hogs, \$1.50 each; horses, calves, \$20, valued at over \$100, 25 per cent. Sheep, \$1.50, under year old, 75 cents; other live animals 20 per cent. Barley, 30 cents bushel. Barley malt, 40 cents bushel; barley pearled, patent or hulls, 2 cents pound; buckwheat, 15 cents bushel; corn, 15 cents bushel; corn meal, 20 cents bushel; oats, 15 cents bushel; oats, hulls, 10 cents; rice, cleaned, 2 cents pound; uncleaned, 1 1/4 cents pound; rice flour and mean and broke rice, 1/2 cent pound. Paddy, 3/4 cent; rye, 10 cents bushel; flour, 1/2 cent pound; wheat, 25 cents bushel; wheat flour, 25 per cent; butter and substitutes 6 cents pound; cheese, 6 cents pound; beans, 50 cents bushel; leams, peas and mush-rooms, 2 1/2 cents pound and 15 per cent; all other prepared vegetables not provided for, 40 per cent; cabbage, 3 cents each; cider, 3 cents each gallon; eggs, 5 cents dozen; hay, \$4.00 per ton; honey, 20 cents gallon; hops, 15 cents pound; onions, 30 cents bushel; garlic, 1 cent pound; peas, green, in bulk or in tin. (Continued on Eighth page.)