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## MR. TAFT'S TARIFF MESSAGE.

The President Warns of Big Deficit in his First Message to Congress.

President Taft's message to Congress is as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I have convened the Congress in this extra session in order to enable it to give immediate consideration to the revision of the Dingley tariff act. Conditions affecting production, manufacture, and business generally have so changed in the last twelve years as to require a readjustment and revision of the import duties imposed by that act.

More than this. The present tariff act, with the other sources of government revenue, does not furnish income enough to pay the authorized expenditures. By July 1 next, the excess of expenses over receipts for the current fiscal year will equal \$100,000,000.

The successful party in the late election is pledged to a revision of the tariff. The country, and the business community especially, expect it. The prospect of a change in the rates of import duties always causes a suspension or halt in business, because of the uncertainty as to the changes to be made and their effect.

It is, therefore, of the highest importance that the new bill should be agreed upon and passed with as much speed as possible consistent with its due and thorough consideration. For these reasons I have deemed the present to be an extraordinary occasion within the meaning of the Constitution, justifying and requiring the calling of an extra session.

In my inaugural address I stated in a summary way the principles upon which, in my judgment, the revision of the tariff should proceed, and indicated at least one new source of revenue that might be properly resorted to in order to avoid a future deficit. It is not necessary for me to repeat what I then said.

I venture to suggest that the vital business interests of the country require that the attention of the Congress in this session be chiefly devoted to the consideration of a new tariff bill, and that the less time given to other subjects of legislation in this session, the better for the country.

William H. Taft.

The White House, Mar. 16, 1909.

## No Tax on Coffee.

We do not wonder that protests are pouring in upon the Ways and Means Committee against the imposition of a tax on coffee. That is a tax which would go right into the homes. We have no doubt that every cent of the coffee tax, no matter what may be said to the contrary, would be exacted from the buyer at retail. It was so with the war taxes, and it is true of every tax which can be transferred to the consumer.

If more revenue is really needed, taxes should be levied elsewhere than upon the common people. Let not the extravagances of billion-dollar sessions be charged upon the man and the woman who can hardly make both ends meet. If we must keep up this imperialistic expenditure, if we must outvie the world in military pomp and power, let the taxes be levied upon those most able to pay, and not upon those least able. An inheritance tax or an income tax would be infinitely preferable to a tax on coffee. Even a tax on commercial and business papers, vexatious though it is, would be better.

A cry has been going up the last few years from the consumer. The price of living has advanced faster than the rate of wages. In the midst of prosperity great masses of the people have been relatively impoverished. What we need is reduction, not increase, of taxation. The consumer demands to be heard in his own behalf. To meet his plea with a fresh tax on one of the commonest necessities of life would be hollow mockery. We do not think the statement responsible for the tremendous increase in our national expenditures will have the nerve to impose it.—Washington Herald.

## Ida M. Tarbell On the Thread Trust.

In the March American Magazine, Ida M. Tarbell writes an article which she calls "Where Every Penny Counts." It is an article which shows how the tariff has increased the cost of living—especially for the poor. Here is the story of the Thread Trust, as Miss Tarbell tells it:

"The poor woman of today not only sees herself cut off from wool clothing and covering, she finds herself pinched by the steady increase in the price of everything which goes into keeping the scanty articles she can buy in order. She must have thread. Spool cotton is as necessary an article of daily consumption in the household as fuel or cloth. Many women with families, on \$500 a year, many shops and factory girls on \$6 or \$8 a week, make their own clothes. Not frequently these women in their work are obliged, when not protected by a union, to furnish their own thread. Miss Ainslee found one cap-worker in New York last year spending an average of 75 cents a week for thread for her work out of an average wage of \$8 a week. For many years the price of the ordinary 200-yard spool cotton has been 5 cents, twelve spools for 50 cents, when suddenly in 1900 it was advanced to 6 cents, about double the price it was selling for in England. The cause of the advance offers one of the nicest studies we have of the beneficent effects on prices of a tariff combined with a trust.

"The leading brand of thread which has been selling at 6 cents in New York and about half that in England is made by J. & P. Coats, Limited, of Paisley, Scotland, and by the Coats thread combination in this country. The Coats House is the oldest and most progressive thread house in the world. It early saw the advantage of establishing a factory in the United States and competing for the American trade under the protection of the tariff. Other English firms also saw the advantage, chief among them the Clark Mile End Spool Cotton Company of Newark, New Jersey. A few years ago the Coats realized that a combination of the English concern doing business here would be profitable and one was brought about, the products of the amalgamation being handled by the Spool Cotton Company of New York City. That is, the English concerns in the United States trusted themselves to all intents and purposes. In 1897 some sixteen of the English competitors of the Coats concern combined in a \$10,000,000 trust, called the English Sewing Cotton Trust. The J. & P. Coats Company took \$1,000,000 of the stock and at least once since has helped the organization out of trouble by lending it \$2,000,000. Thus the two concerns are working together. The next year after the English combination was formed—1898—an American Thread Trust Company was formed. It was made up of the thirteen leading American concerns—all indeed, but one of the large domestic companies went into it. No sooner was this done than the English Trust bought the majority of the Trust's stock. Here then was an English Trust owning and controlling the American Trust and dictating its policy from the other side of the water. And this British trust was affiliated and partly owned by the still larger concern, the J. & P. Coats Company. It comes down to this, that the \$48,000,000 Coats concern controls practically the thread business of England and America. No sooner was the English control complete here than thread was advanced."

## Liberal Appropriation for the Training School.

The Legislature appropriated \$40,000—\$20,000 annually for two years—to the Stonewall Jackson Training School at Concord. Of the amount \$20,000 is for maintenance and the balance for permanent improvements. The Concord Times says the amount for improvements will be sufficient to construct and equip two additional cottages, which will give a capacity for 120 boys; and that it is probable that philanthropists will give the school an amount equal to that appropriated by the Legislature.

## BRITAIN'S GREAT NAVY.

No Backward Step in Maintaining Supreme Sea Power.

The British naval estimates provide for an appropriation of \$175,713,500, and for the construction of four Dreadnoughts, six protected cruisers, twenty destroyers, and \$5,000,000 worth of submarines. The naval bill in Congress this winter carried an appropriation of nearly \$137,000,000, and a provision for only two Dreadnoughts, eight destroyers, one collier, and four submarines.

A navy in the United States is thus seen to be an expensive luxury. England maintains a naval establishment very much greater than ours, and for about \$40,000,000 additional expenditure receives additional war craft which alone cost much more than the extra sum. American sailors receive higher pay, better rations, and the cost of construction and maintenance is much higher here than abroad.

There is included in the estimates a clause in which the lords of the admiralty seek the power to build as speedily as possible, in 1910, four additional armored ships—probably battle ships—in case of need. The debate will rage around this proposal, which is designed to enable England to meet any forward naval policy in Germany.

The estimates for this year, not including the four additional armored craft, for which authorization will be asked, exceed the expenditures for this year by \$15,000,000. Whether the admiralty shall receive the grant for the extra ships or not, there is no doubt that England has decided to maintain her navy at the highest possible pitch, for the reason that, if the present program shall be followed, Great Britain will have in 1911 only fourteen of the Dreadnought class to thirteen which Germany will then have.

The world interest in England's naval plans is due to the fact that as England builds so will build the powers. England sets the pace. The pace which she is now setting means that Germany and the other powers will continue to build and to maintain great navies, and that the dream of disarmament is begot of fantasy.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

## Ages of Supreme Court Judges.

The retirement of Justice Fuller has so often been falsely presaged that any new rumor must be taken cum grano salis, for at seventy-six Chief Justice Fuller is seemingly as active, both mentally and physically, as when he was appointed to the bench twenty-one years ago. He loves his work so well that it sits as easily upon him as does his judicial robe. But in the next few years, besides the Chief Justice, at least three members of the Supreme Court will retire—Justice Harlan, who will be seventy-six in June; Justice Brewer, who celebrated his seventy-first birthday last summer, and Justice Peckham, who is already past seventy—to that in all probability President Taft will have these three substantial plums to distribute.

The other members of the supreme court are comparatively young men. Justice Moody, the last to receive his commission, is the baby of the bench, being only fifty-six; then follow Justice Day, sixty; Justice White, sixty-four; Justice McKenna, sixty-six, and Justice Holmes, sixty-eight.—Washington Gossip.

## Young Man Marries Elderly Woman.

Last Saturday there was a wedding in Caldwell township that attracted more than ordinary attention. The groom, Mr. Lee Campbell, is 22 and the bride, Miss Martha Caldwell, is 60. Our informant says it was very much of a love affair, and had been looked forward to for some time. Another match in the same neighborhood of a groom of 20 and a bride of 40 is expected to follow in a few days. So strong is the marrying fever in Caldwell, that Mr. David Drum, a widower of 90, sends the Enterprise word that he is going to marry a widow of 40.—Newton Enterprise, 11th.

Teacher—"New, Willie can you mention any creature that belongs to the brute creation?" Willie—"Yes'm; pa does, 'cause ma says so."—Baltimore American.

## SPEAKER CANNON CHOSEN.

New Members From Every State Begin Their Careers in Congress

The opening of the Sixty-first Congress yesterday was one of the most spectacular scenes witnessed at such an event in many years. Speaker Cannon was reelected for the fourth time.

Not only were there new members from nearly every State in the Union beginning their official careers in the Capital, but there was added interest on account of the fight over the Speakership and on the old House rules that have been criticized and even made campaign issues in many of the districts.

Every seat in the House was taken long before the hour for convening, and when the gavel finally called the members to order there were crowds in the doorways, craning their necks in an effort to hear and see what was going on.

Alexander McDowell, the clerk of the House during the Sixtieth Congress, called the members to order at exactly 12 o'clock, and prayer was offered by the chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden.

Representative Currier, of New Hampshire, then, following the instructions of the Republican caucus of Friday night, nominated Speaker Cannon for re-election. Champ Clark of Missouri, was nominated by Representative Clayton, of Alabama, and the vote resulted as follows:

Cannon.....	204
Clark.....	166
Cooper.....	8
Norris.....	2
Esch.....	1
Hepburn.....	1

Then Mr. Currier nominated the old House officers for re-election, and the following were elected:

Clerk—Alexander McDowell.  
Postmaster—Samuel A. Langum.  
Doorkeeper—F. B. Lyon.  
Sergeant-at-arms—Henry Casson.  
Chaplain—Rev. Henry N. Couden.

Following this, the House took up the fight on rules, and adjourned at 5:25 o'clock until noon today, when the members will be assigned to their seats on the floor of the House. This is usually a part of the first day's program at a new Congress, but so much time was taken up with the other part of the organization that it could not be reached yesterday.—Washington Herald, 16th.

## Mr. Watts is Afraid of Storms.

The Senators are moving in their new office building, near the union railway station. Each Senator has two or three rooms and everything in the way of fixtures that one would desire. Senator Simmons has 223 on the first floor, and Senator Overman 211. The Senate Office Building cost about \$4,000,000, and is very imposing and comfortable. In the office of Mr. Simmons, Col. A. D. Watts, one of the most interesting politicians in North Carolina, holds forth. William W. Leinster, stenographer to Mr. Simmons, is there with him. These two young men are delighted with their new quarters. Mr. Thomas J. Pence, who has known Colonel Watts through calm and storm, says that the chief pleasure that he (Colonel Watts) will get out of the new building is the assurance that it will not blow down before a stiff wind. The old Annex is reported to be unsafe, and Colonel Watts could not be entirely happy there if there were rumblings in the heavens. He was seen once, when a dark cloud hovered over the building, running away. Now his mind will be at ease. Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay on death does not appeal to the man from Iredell.—Charlotte Observer.

## Lumsden Sentenced to 18 years in Prison.

John C. Lumsden, the young North Carolinian who was last week convicted of manslaughter in the first degree in New York city, for the killing of Harry Suydam, a broker, was sentenced "to not less than 18 years nor more than 19 years and six months" in Sing Sing penitentiary. The maximum penalty for the offense is 20 years. It is stated that the case will not be appealed.

Learn to unlearn what you have learned amiss.—German.

## In Memoriam.

Mrs. Mary L. Stephenson, wife of Mr. W. J. Stephenson, died at the Memorial Hospital in Richmond Friday, March 12, 1909, she having undergone an operation for chronic appendicitis on Monday previous. In this passing the writer feels constrained to note some facts of the life of the deceased, though hastily sketched.

Mrs. Stephenson was the daughter of B. T. and Sarah Barber, she being one of nine children of whom one sister, Mrs. Cassie Lee, of Benson, and four brothers, Messrs. Horace, Bytham, Arthur and Percy Barber of Cleveland township, survive her. She was married to Mr. Stephenson about twenty-five years ago and leaves behind to mourn their loss her husband, one son and three daughters. She was forty-eight years of age and has lived a life of usefulness.

Mrs. Stephenson was of a good family, was reared at the old home in Cleveland township. For many years she lived at Smithfield, but for the past several years at Wise, Warren county, where she was buried. For some years she had been in declining health, her husband having sent her at intervals to the mountains and to the beach and to the sanatorium in order to restore her to health. Slightly rebuilding but then relapsing she was conscious of the approaching end and when advised by her physician and family to return to the hospital she said to her husband and children, "For your sake, I will go, but it is soon death any way." Her daughters were with her to the last. All that skilled operators and nurses could do could not save her.

In many respects the deceased was a remarkable woman. Perhaps kindness was her predominating trait of character. What higher traits can crown a noble woman's life? She was a Christian, a faithful and consistent member of the Primitive Baptist church. Her faith was unwavering, her walk circumspect, her life lovely and pure and adorned with the higher Christian graces—goodness, charity. Mrs. Stephenson was very industrious, but from her generous nature found time to visit and minister to the sick. She was sociable, and cheerful and wherever known had a host of friends. Her sweet disposition and Christian life like celestial flowers shed a holy fragrance in the community. She could not hold enmity against any one. Her Christian faith was strong, and resigned to the will of her Master, often said "I am not afraid to go."

As some final reminiscences characteristic of the tender mother and wife while seeming perfectly conscious of her inability in her feeble condition to survive the operation, yet as she went to the table smiled and waved a good-bye to family and throwing kisses at them. This was the last natural act. After it was over and at times partly revived, with outstretched hand she would say, "my sweet baby;" "my darling husband;" "my precious daughter," "bless my son," and like fond expressions. But the messenger called and she had to leave them. She especially requested that they shed no tears when she was gone. The beautiful casket bearing her remains laden with fragrant flowers gently placed with loving hands was taken back to Wise and placed to rest in the cemetery. Her spirit is at rest, sweet rest.

Thus has passed from human activity a tender and loving mother, a devoted wife, a faithful friend, and exemplary Christian. May those she has left behind strive to emulate her many virtues and her life so eminently pure.

Smithfield, Mar. 18, 1909.

## Elkin Mar a Suicide.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Mar. 17.—W. E. Paul, for twenty years agent for the Southern Railway at Elkin and one of the town's leading citizens, after kissing his wife and five children good-bye, telling them he believed he would go to his work, walked into his barn at 9 o'clock this morning and shot himself through the head with a pistol, dying five hours later.

Ill-health, produced by over-work, is given as the cause of the tragedy.

## WORLD'S LARGEST RAILWAY.

Several Thousand Miles of Cape to Cairo Road Unfinished.

Cecil Rhodes, South Africa's empire builder, died at Cape Town seven years ago this month, his prestige shattered and his dreams of empire unfulfilled. Yet within less than two years after his death and his entombment in the lonely Matoppo Hills, near Buluwayo, in Matabeleland, Dr. Jameson, Cecil Rhodes' closest friend, by the whirligig of time, became premier of Cape Colony and set himself to work to accomplish the greatest scheme of the master mind of South Africa—the Cape to Cairo Railroad. The work of construction was carried forward so rapidly that the delay occasioned by the Boer war was partly recovered. The main line from Cape Town to Buluwayo, 1,360 miles long, has been in operation since 1897, and played no inconsiderable part in the war which determined British ascendancy in South Africa.

As to the line north from Buluwayo, its course has been altered considerably from the original Rhodes plan, owing to the better knowledge of the country and its resources from later surveys. Most of the variations are due, however, to the projecting and building of feeders to the main line. Thus a branch runs from Buluwayo northeast to Salisbury, the capital of Rhodesia, and thence to Beira, on the Portuguese coast. The main line also has been deflected farther northwest from Buluwayo, thereby tapping the rich Wanki coal fields and tracts discovered by Livingstone. The valuable copper mines 200 miles northwest of Victoria Falls have also been brought within the scheme, and a mail route to this region was opened four years ago. Its growing network of feeders is a natural development of the plan, and upon their survey and construction and consequent development of the country the success of the main line will largely depend. The great Victoria Falls bridge, linked with the system in April, 1905, marked another great advance in the work.

Perhaps the most important fact in regard to the recent progress of what, when completed, will be the longest railway in the world was the formation last summer of the Cape to Cairo syndicate, which intends soon as possible to push the main line on from Broken Hill, the present terminus in Rhodesia, to a point on the frontier of the Congo State near Mayaba. In all there is a stretch of about 2,500 miles to be completed, lying between Khartoum, in the British Egyptian Sudan, and Broken Hill. F. von Gheld Gildemeester, chief engineer of the new Cape to Cairo syndicate, estimates that this long link lying through Central Africa will be completed within three years, and then a railway in the neighborhood of 6,000 miles long will traverse the Dark Continent, and it will be possible to go from Paris via Brindisi by rail, thence by boat to Alexandria and then to Cairo and Cape Town by rail in eleven days.—New York Sun.

## PROPOSAL WRITTEN ON EGG.

Man Asks for Answers from Any Marriageable Young Lady.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Mar. 12.—While employes of a wholesale commission house here were today unpacking eggs, they found one containing a proposal of marriage. On it were the words:

"Charles A. P. Ush, of Middle Creek, Snyder County, Pa., a good-looking wealthy young man, would be pleased to have an answer from any marriageable young lady."

The employes are keeping the egg, but will give the young man's address to several young ladies they know, and see what can be done for him.

It has been figured that Mr. Taft traveled 202,114 miles during the past nine years. Still, he wound up at the White House; which must have been satisfactory enough.—Washington Herald.

First Farmer—"Hello, Hiram! Where be ye goin'?" Second Farmer—"Goin' to town to git drunk, an' gawsh, haow I dread it!"—Boston Transcript.