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Working On Substitute McNary-Haugen Measure

Coolidge and Cabinet Considering Plan for Relief of Farmer Which Would Pay Export Equalization Fee When Foreign Market on Farm

By DAVID LAWRENCE (Copyright, 1924, By The Advance)

Washington, May 15.—President Coolidge and his Cabinet are considering a new plan for agricultural relief proposed by the International Farm Congress and suggested by W. I. Drummond, chairman of its board of governors. It may prove a substitute for the McNary-Haugen bill.

Although it is not politics for them to say so at this time some of the proponents of the McNary-Haugen bill are ready to accept the new plan.

Informally some members of the administration have approved it. For, briefly, it involves no excessive Government appropriation, no marketing machinery of a Governmental kind, no interference by the Government in private business, no requirement that merchandise any portion of farm products or any disturbance of existing channels of trade.

But it does involve the use of the principle of the protective tariff. Here are the essential points in the scheme:

"Whenever the President finds that there is a surplus for export of a principle agricultural or livestock product, together with prebasis of such a product so low as to cause distress to American producers thereof by reason of the price received for the exportable portion controlling and depressing the domestic price, he shall declare an emergency in respect to the product concerned.

Whenever an emergency has been so declared, an export equalization fee shall be paid upon each portion of the product concerned as is exported. Such fee shall be approximately equivalent to the tariff upon imports into the United States of the product concerned, per unit of each product, less a sufficient percentage to prevent excessive imports.

"An excise tax shall be levied upon all of the product concerned which is sold during the emergency period. The excise tax shall be calculated to produce an amount sufficient to pay the export equalization fee as nearly as may be estimated together with all expenses of operating the plan.

"An Emergency Export Corporation shall be created. Its directors shall consist of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of the Treasury and one other, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The director so appointed shall be chairman and managing director. The corporation shall have no capital stock. It shall be empowered to levy and collect the excise tax, pay the equalization fee and conduct all other business in connection therewith.

In order to operate while getting under way, the corporation would be authorized to borrow not to exceed \$5,000,000. Also it would be empowered to borrow as against future tax collections in case they did not arrive in sufficient volume at times to meet administration expenses but the borrowing would be done in the open market, certificates of indebtedness being issued the same as in any other business. They would bear interest at current rates and be payable on or before the close of the emergency period.

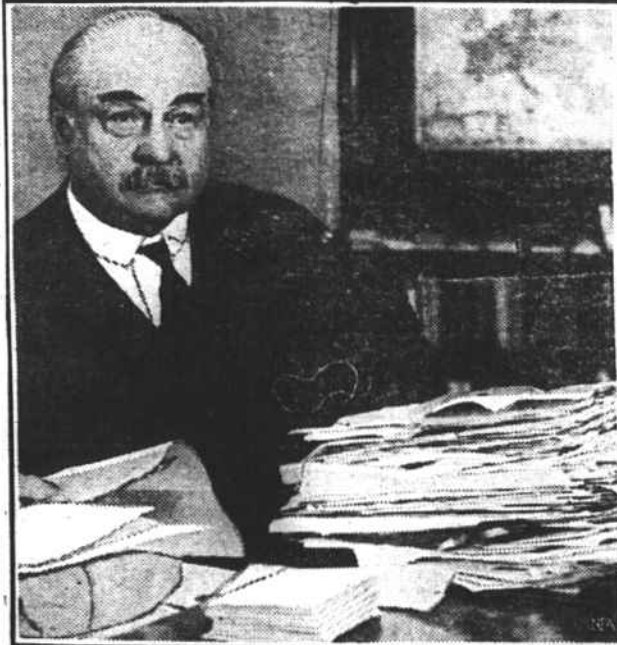
The excise tax would be collected either in the form of certificates or the levying of stamp taxes on each barrel or sack of flour or they would be attached to exporters' bills of lading. In the case of animal products, it has been suggested that they be taxed at the packing plant. Regardless of where it is paid, it would be charged back to and be paid by the producer or grower.

An illustration worked out by Mr. Drummond is as follows:

"Domestic price of wheat is based on a world price which is \$1.00 per bushel. The tariff is about 45 cents. The crop is about 700,000,000 bushels above seed requirements. The exportable surplus is 100,000,000 bushels. Levy an excise tax of six cents per bushel on 700,000,000 bushels and it would yield a revenue of \$42,000,000. Then an export equalization fee of 40 cents would be paid at the port of export amounting to about \$40,000,000 to cover expenses or to be rebated to those upon whom a tax had been levied. The result would be that the domestic price would be \$1.00 less six cents excise tax plus 40 cents in export fee or a total of \$1.34 as the final price of wheat. If desired a higher or lower scale could be used. Illustration: pay an export fee of 60 cents a bushel. This would require an excise tax of 8.5 cents and result in a net increase of 51.4 cents per bushel."

The International Farm Congress is one of the conservative farm bodies and is opposed to the Government entry into private business or price-fixing. The foregoing plan is held to be neither, but a simple ap-

Wry Commentaries on Rye Question



Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, shown in his office surrounded by one-half of one per cent of the mail that has showered upon him since he opened fire on prohibition. Hundreds of them, from all parts of the nation, take the educator to task while hundreds more pat him on the hip, as it were.

CATHOLIC SISTERS TAKE OVER HOSPITAL

That the management of the Elizabeth City Hospital would be taken over by a Roman Catholic sisterhood became generally definitely known Friday when the Independent of that date carried a news item to that effect.

Members of the sisterhood are styled Sisters of Humility of Mary and seven of them are to assume charge of the hospital on June 1, when the directors of the Chamber of Commerce, who some weeks ago agreed to surrender their lease to Dr. John Saliba, owner of the hospital property, terminate their three years' management of the institution.

The hospital property had been converted into an apartment house three years ago when the Chamber of Commerce sponsored a movement to re-open it. The movement achieved its object and the hospital was opened as a community enterprise and has been kept open ever since. However, the directors of the Chamber of Commerce, who assumed the management of the hospital, were not able to operate it without a deficit and elected to surrender their lease this spring rather than go through the mill of another campaign for funds for current expenses and outstanding obligations when Dr. Saliba agreed to take it over.

QUAKES DESTROY ENTIRE VILLAGES

Constantinople, May 16.—Dispatches today report further earthquakes have been felt at Serzrom, Hassankale, and Kars, and entire villages in the neighborhood of Hansankale are reported to have been destroyed. The number of additional victims is given as 120.

FIRMLY AGAINST INFIDELIC THEORIES

Austin, Tex., May 16.—Questions of Darwinism and Modernism were placed squarely before the National General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church here today in the ninety-fourth convention.

CAROLINA MINISTER INJURED IN ATLANTA

Atlanta, May 16.—Rev. R. L. Byrd of St. Paul, North Carolina, while attending the Southern Baptist Convention here was run down yesterday and seriously injured by an automobile.

Movement To Favor More Dignity In U. S. Courts

Lawyer Who Favors Black Robes While Pleading Cases Believes Thousand Lawyers Now Planning Visit England Will Come Back Converted to His Viewpoint

By ROBERT T. SMALL (Copyright, 1924, By The Advance)

New York, May 16.—A New York judge returning from Europe has come out in favor of compelling all lawyers to wear black gowns while pleading a case or representing a client in all but the most inferior of the Federal, state and county courts. This judge was greatly impressed by the dignity of the courts in Europe, especially those in Great Britain and he is confident that added dignity and authority would be lent to American courts if the custom of gowning not alone the bench but the barristers as well were followed in this country.

The opinion of a single judge on a revolutionary proposal of this sort might or might not be regarded as significant by the great mass of attorneys and jurists. But the movement gains immense importance in view of the fact that a thousand or more members of the American Bar Association are going to England this summer to be the guests of the British bar and to study the methods and customs of the British courts.

Many of the American lawyers will continue their journey to the continent and take a peek at the courts of the other nations. It is the confident belief of the New York judge that virtually all of the American attorneys will come back imbued with the same impressions which were made upon him and that they may land their support to the suggestion that American courts be surrounded with great formality. Unquestionably formality makes the respect, either consciously or unconsciously. Here in the state supreme court when the judge enters to take his place on the bench, all spectators, lawyers and the individuals at the bar are compelled to rise and remain standing until the judge is seated. This does not apply only to the opening of the court in

the morning when the crier makes his call, but unless to any and all interruptions, recesses and other occasions when the judge leaves the bench.

In most of the American courts, even the judges are not gowned. In a great many states only the supreme justice appear in the black flowing robes. Even in the lower branches of the Federal courts the wearing of gowns is not compulsory. Therefore it is evident that before the movement to compel lawyers to wear gowns can make much headway, there must first be a general application of the rule to the judges of the various courts.

Leading members of the American bar have contended for some time that this country could learn much from a study of British methods of jurisprudence. Chief Justice Taft of the United States Supreme Court has himself made a personal study of the British courts and is counted among those who believe that every vantage of dignity should be given to the American courts. The chief justice has viewed with a great deal of satisfaction the pilgrimage the lawyers of this country are about to make abroad.

Committees of the American Bar Association from time to time have gone on record as saying that greater respect for the law should flow from greater general respect for the courts of the land. It is perhaps a minor thing to say that gowning the lawyers as well as the bench would make for respect, but one judge at least believes the experiment worth trying.

When the American lawyers return from Europe in late August and September the whole subject will be thrashed out and many interesting points of view

Reform In Court Insanity Trials Urged By Alienist

From Ranks of Psychiatrists Themselves Comes Most Severe Castigation of So-Called Expert Testimony When Jury Is Called on to Decide as to Defendant's Sanity

By ROBERT T. SMALL (Copyright, 1924, By The Advance)

WILL JEOPARDIZE SMALL BUSINESS

Provision of New Tax Bill for Making Public Tax Returns Would be Disastrous, Says Secretary Hoover.

Washington, May 16.—Secretary Hoover in a formal statement today declared that the provision of the new tax bill of opening tax returns for inspection will jeopardize the small business and place it at the mercy of its large competitors.

The secretary recalled that the publicity of tax returns during the period of 1867 to 1872 contributed to the "industrial and financial chaos of the time" and charged that the provisions of the new bill would open new fields for fraudulent concerns.

SHE LOST COUPLE OF HUSBANDS THAT WAY

Los Angeles, May 16.—Edna Wallace Hopper, actress and exponent of the modern theory of rejuvenation, today announced that she will be married to a British army officer in China next month. The Los Angeles Examiner says she declined to reveal the name of her prospective husband, explaining that she had "already lost a couple" that way.

DR. CHASE IMPROVES

Durham, May 16.—Dr. Harry W. Chase, president of the North Carolina University, is recovering from an operation for appendicitis.

GETS ROAD SENTENCE FOR DRIVING CAR INTOXICATED

A sentence of 30 days on the road was imposed on Arthur Miller, colored, in the recorder's court Thursday when Trial Justice Spence found him guilty of operating a motor car while under the influence of liquor. On the night of the preceding Tuesday, Miller driving toward town, ran into F. W. M. Butler, one of Elizabeth City's most respected negroes, driving toward Weaverville, just this side of Dead Man's Curve.

Miller noted an appeal and was required to give bond in sum of \$75. Wiley Long was taxed with the costs for operating a motor car with defective lights and two negro defendants, Ed Wilson and William Walton, were meted out justice in the same measure.

RAILROADS OBTAIN INJUNCTION ON RATES

Wilmington, May 16.—The Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard Air Line yesterday obtained a temporary injunction preventing the interstate rate on water cargoes passing through the port from being placed in effect, returnable next week at Raleigh. The decrease ordered by the commissioner was about ten per cent in rates.

WILL NOT TRY FLOAT ROAD IN PERQUIMANS

Hertford is to have something of Elizabeth City's experience with a ferry detour when, probably within the next two weeks, work is begun preparatory to paving the causeway leading to the Perquimans river bridge at the town limits of Hertford. A barge used as a ferry when McNutt was building his "floating concrete" road across Machelhe's Island and the swamps of the Camden mainland will be used and will be put into service on the Perquimans, but the State will not attempt to float the Perquimans road. They will put piling under it, instead.

AMENDMENT SEEKS TO DRAW TEETH STRIKES

Washington, May 16.—A railroad strike or lockout threatening a transportation emergency would result automatically in suits by the Government to throw the roads affected into a receivership, under an amendment to the Howell Barkley bill approved by the Senate subcommittee today.

DR. SUN YAT SEN IS ALIVE AND WELL

Hong Kong, May 16.—Dr. Sun Yat Sen, president of the South China government, whose death was reported to have occurred Tuesday, is alive and perfectly well, his confidential secretary today declared emphatically to a representative of The Associated Press sent from Hong Kong to Dr. Sun's Canton headquarters.

New York, May 16.—There has been quick response both in the medical and legal professions here to the suggestion of Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald, who was an alienist for the state in the first two trials of Harry Kendall Thaw, that a curb be applied in the future to the so-called "expert" testimony in criminal cases involving a plea of insanity.

Dr. MacDonald has held up to public contumely the spectacle of two sets of alienists at a murder trial. The same long rambling hypothetical question is asked of the opposing alienists. One set avows that from the details and circumstances set forth in the question there is not the slightest doubt in the world that the defendant was insane at the time the crime was committed. The second set avows that from the details and circumstances set forth in the question there is not the slightest doubt in the world that the defendant was of sound and discerning mind at the time the crime was committed.

Then, says Dr. MacDonald, a poor jury of 12 laymen is supposed to decide which set of experts is right. It is small wonder, he adds, that a rich man, accused of murder, should be able to keep his case dragging through the courts of two states for more than 17 years.

No one is better able to speak with authority as to the so-called experts than Dr. MacDonald. He has devoted the greater part of his life to psychiatry and has been an observer of many famous insanity cases of his time. He also has been connected with some of the country's leading institutions for the care and study of the mentally unbalanced. He has seen "brother medical men" sit on the witness stand time after time and swear just as they were paid to swear. He intimates very plainly that if by chance they had been employed by the other side their testimony would have been diametrically the opposite of what it was. He also has seen doctors pose as experts when even the most casual expert examination by an able district attorney shattered their testimony to the winds.

It is time for the evil of conflicting expert testimony to stop, Dr. MacDonald believes, and his principal remedy for a situation which is a "stench in the nostrils of the people" is that all questions of insanity shall be eliminated from the trial of a criminal before the ordinary jury. If there is to be a plea of insanity it should be entered after a verdict on the facts and the facts and the facts alone has been rendered. If the defendant is found guilty and his attorneys believe he was insane at the time of the crime, they might call for a sanity commission at once and have it appointed by the courts, with the experts paid by the state to render an impartial verdict and to receive certain fixed fees, regardless of what their final decision might be. If the defendant were acquitted in a trial and the district attorney believed him insane and a menace to the community, the state likewise would be permitted to apply for a lunacy commission. Thus the rights of the individual and of the people at large would both be protected.

Harry Thaw was acquitted at his second trial for the murder of Stanford White on the ground that he was insane at the time the shooting on Madison Square Garden roof occurred. The Thaw alienists attempted to show that while Thaw was insane and irresponsible at the exact moment of the shooting he was perfectly sane and safe at the time of his trial and should be released. The state's alienists successfully combated that contention.

Dr. MacDonald has been more unsparing on his profession than most of the lay critics who have discussed them from time to time and he bluntly says there are experts who think more about earning their fees than about the ethics of their profession or the actual telling of the truth. The doctor also says it is not fair to expect a judge and jury to follow the intricacies and the devious ways of expert testimony when they have no means really of distinguishing the good expert from the unscrupulous one, for sometimes the latter is just as plausible if not more so than the man actually trying to do his duty.

The New York Bar Association is to be asked to take the matter up and it is possible entirely new legislation may be planned for consideration at the next sitting of the legislature at Albany.

BONUS BILL VETOED HOUSE WILL OVERRIDE

Washington, May 16.—President Coolidge yesterday vetoed the bonus bill and the matter will come to a vote to override his veto in the House tomorrow with proof positive that they will override the veto.