

PURE FABRIC LAW IDEA OF MURDOCK

Projected Bill Would Reveal Amounts of Cotton and Wool in Cloth.

TAFT'S PLAN TO SAVE PARTY

President Wants Republicans to Unite and Legalize a Genuine Tariff Commission—Next Year's Budget Will Be Fully One Billion.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—It is said on seemingly good authority that President Taft has given his sanction to a bill far reaching in its effect which will compel the affixing to cloths which enter interstate commerce of a statement of the amount of cotton and of wool which they contain. This measure is called here in Washington a "textile pure food bill." The framer of the measure, Victor Murdock of Kansas, says that no reason exists why the consumer should not know how much wool and how much cotton he is getting in his clothes just as he knows under the pure food law how much adulteration he is getting.

An effort is being made to get the two Republican factions in congress to pass a measure of this kind. It is expected that there will be a good deal of opposition and it may be that the "pure fabric law" will have as long a journey to passage as that which the pure food law took before it arrived at its station on the statute books.

Taft's Tariff Commission Plan.

As a fixed daily task President Taft is laboring to bring together the Republican factions in congress in order that he may secure legislation legalizing a genuine tariff commission. One year ago Mr. Taft might have worked nights as well as days along the same line of endeavor and at the end of 24 hours he would have been at the beginning, for the regulars and insurgents were so hostile to one another that attempts to patch a peace would have been met not only sulkily, but defiantly.

This year Mr. Taft, so the men close to him say, has some real hope that he can induce Mr. Cummins, Mr. La Follette, Mr. Murdock and others to link arms with Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Hale, Mr. Boutelle and others and to present a united effort on behalf of a tariff commission. It remains yet to be seen whether the president will be successful, but the politicians say he thinks of a genuine tariff commission as sanctioned and is allowed to go to work in a businesslike way to pass on "proper and improper duties," that the Democrats next year when they are in control of the house will not think it wise to upset the legislation. All this is mere speculation, but it casts a light on one of the chief ends of the administration's winter endeavor and on the views of some of the Republicans of what they must do in order to save the presidential election to their party.

Shall We Fortify the Canal?

The layman who is neither a legislator nor an army officer would find himself unquestionably confused, but probably interested, if he were here in Washington to listen to the arguments for and against the erection of fortifications by Uncle Sam to guard the Panama Canal. A great many of the legislators are opposed to fortifying the waterway, while virtually all the army officers are in favor of it. President Taft has endorsed the fortification plan strongly in his annual message, in which he says:

"It is also well known that one of the chief objects in the construction of the canal has been to increase the military effectiveness of our navy. By convention we have indicated our desire for, and indeed undertaken, its universal and equal use. Failure to fortify the canal would leave the attainments of both these aims in the position of rights and obligations which we should be powerless to enforce and which could never in any other way be absolutely safeguarded against a desperate and irresponsible enemy."

The arguments which pass between the legislator and the army officer on the question of whether or not big guns ought to be placed on the isthmus run something like this:

The legislator says: "The canal should be neutralized, and all nations should be asked to bind themselves to preserve its neutrality. In this way we will be saved the expense of fortification and all danger of the canal's destruction in time of war will be averted."

The army officer says: "An ounce of gun metal is worth a pound of neutralization. If a country at war with the United States finds it to its advantage to blow up the canal, the canal will be blown up. The promise to keep the peace would be whistled down the wind in a minute. The only way to keep the enemy off is to stand him off with a gun. The canal cost hundreds of millions. Under neutralization it could be destroyed in a night."

Budget at Least a Billion.

At this stage of the session of congress some of the appropriation bills have been little more than skeletonized, but it is perfectly apparent even at this early date

that the expenses of the government for the next fiscal year will be at least \$1,000,000,000. Years ago representatives of the party in opposition used to speak of the extravagances of their opponents, and say that they were bent on giving the country a "billion dollar congress."

At the time this charge was considered to be one of the highest flights of rhetorical extravagance, and it is doubtful if even those who made it thought that the day would come for scores of years when congress would be called upon to appropriate \$1,000,000,000 in a single year for the expenses of the government.

Natural growth is responsible in a measure for the vast increase in the expense of running Uncle Sam's household. Twenty years ago the navy cost us each year about \$30,000,000; now it costs about \$140,000,000. The acquisition of the Philippines necessitated an increase in the army, and the army appropriation bill is bigger than ever. Naturally all departments have grown at a pace in keeping with the growth in population, and so today, much sooner than was expected, the "billion dollar congress" is an accomplished fact.

The presidents of the United States one after another always have urged economy. It made no difference whether it was Cleveland, Democrat, or Harrison, or any other president, Republican, the plea for economy went from the White House to Capitol Hill each year. In the past year perhaps the saving admonition has been more sharp and pointed than before, for apparently the president, with other American citizens, has been somewhat staggered by the mere sight of the figures in the government's expense account.

Taft Wants Just Debts Paid.

No president, however, no matter to which party he has belonged, ever has asked congress to refuse to authorize the payment of Uncle Sam's just debts. President Taft has urged economy constantly, but like other presidents before him he this year has urged strongly that congress do justice to the persons who have valid claims against the government and who cannot get their money.

Uncle Sam has a court of claims. The judges are as hard worked as, and perhaps harder worked than, any of the other federal jurists. They are obliged to pass judgment on the validity of claims made against the United States by private individuals. If the court finds that the claims are just, all it can do is to say so and to inform congress that the United States owes Henry Nelson or Phillip Stuyvesant such and such a sum of money. Then Henry Nelson and Phillip Stuyvesant go to congress and ask that the money which really belongs to them shall be paid, and congress usually turns a deaf ear. Of course claims are paid from time to time, but many a man with a bill which the courts have O. K'd waits many a long year before he gets his money and then he does not get all he deserves, for no interest is allowed.

In his message to congress this year President Taft urged the payment of the just indebtedness of Uncle Sam. He says this pointedly: "The delay that occurs in the payment of the money due under the claims injures the reputation of the government as an honest debtor, and I earnestly recommend that these claims which come to congress with the judgment and approval of the court of claims should be promptly paid."

Two Cavalry Leaders Die.

Recently two officers of high rank on the retired list of the United States army have died, one in this city, and one in Virginia, just across the Potomac river. Major General Wesley Merritt and Eugene A. Carr died on the same day. Both were cavalry leaders and one of them, Merritt, died within sight of a battlefield on which he won fame and the stars of a major general when he was only twenty-five years of age.

Both Merritt and Carr were buried a few days ago in the cadet cemetery at West Point on the Hudson river, where they lie close to another famous cavalry leader, George A. Custer, who was killed in a fight with the Sioux Indians on the Little Rosebud June 26, 1876. Custer, like Merritt, was a major general of volunteers at the age of twenty-five years.

General Merritt was one of the familiar figures on Pennsylvania avenue and on the streets about Lafayette Square. Despite his age his frame was well knit and erect, his eye was alert and his cheeks had the red hue of early youth. Not long ago I saw the general standing in a driving snow storm outside the little Episcopal church of St. John's where many presidents have worshipped. The general was waiting his turn patiently until that part of the services were reached when persons who are not pew holders are allowed to enter the sanctuary. He paid no more attention to the howling elements than if he were a boy of twenty-one and he looked as if he were good for a quarter of a century more of life, and yet today he is dead.

Carr Famous Indian Fighter.

Eugene A. Carr, like Merritt, was a West Pointer. His rise was rapid and he was one of the few officers of the United States army who received commissions by acts of congress because of conspicuous personal gallantry in the field.

Carr stayed in the regular service at the close of the civil war and was sent to the plains to begin the untiring duty of fighting Indians. Like General Miles, Carr developed a remarkable plainsman's sense. They would perhaps even more fame as Indian fighters than came to them as fighters against men of their own color.

Mistletoe Is Dangerous.

Few people who know mistletoe only as a desirable feature of Christmas decorations understand that the plant is a parasite dangerous to the life of trees in the regions in which it grows. It is only a question of time, after mistletoe once begins to grow upon a tree before the tree itself will be killed. The parasite saps the life of the infected branches. Fortunately, it is of slow growth, taking years to develop to large proportions, but when neglected, it invariably ruins all trees it reaches.

English Women Smoke Pipes.

The latest fancy of the woman-smoker is a pipe—not the tiny affair that suffices for the Japanese, but a good-sized brier or a neat meerschaum. The pipe is boldly carried along with a gold card case and chain-purse. For some time now the cigarette has given place to a cigar, small in size and mild in quality. Women said they were tired of the cigarette, and wanted a bigger smoke.—London Mail.

Cripple Rides Bicycle.

George Anstey, aged 12, a cripple, of Leicester, England, is one of the most remarkable cyclists in the country. Both his legs are withered and useless, but the Leicester Cripples' Guild has provided him with a two-wheeled pedalgear machine, with a padded tube covering the axle bar. Across this he lies face foremost, and with wooden clogs strapped to his hands he propels himself along the streets and roads in a marvelously rapid manner. He has complete control of the machine, his hands acting as pedals, steering gear, and brake combined.

Pretty Good Definition.

We hear some funny things in Fleet street sometimes, and the following definition of the height of aggravation, by a gentleman in rather shabby boots, whom we encountered in a well-known hostelry the other day, struck us as being particularly choice.

"The 'eight of aggravation, gentlemen," said this pithy humorist, setting his pewter on the counter and looking round proudly, with the air of one about to let off a good thing, "the 'eight of aggravation—why, trying to catch a sea out-er yer ear with a pair of boxin' gloves."—London Tit-Bits.

An Alaskan Luncheon.

Runners of woven Indian basketry, with white drawnwork dollies at each of the 12 covers, were used on an oval mahogany table. The dollies were made at Sitka. In the middle of the table a mirror held a tall central vase of frosted glass, surrounded by four smaller vases, all filled with white spring blossoms. The edge of the mirror was banked with the same flowers. Four totem poles were placed on dollies in the angles made by the runners.

Place cards were water colors of Alaskan scenery. Abalone shells held salted nuts, and tiny Indian baskets held bonbons. The soup spoons were of horn, several of the dishes used were made by Alaskan Indians, and the cakes were served on baskets.

The menu was as follows: Poisson a la Bering Sea (halibut chowder), Yukon climbers (broiled salmon, potatoes Julienne), snowbirds avec auroras (roast duck with jelly), Shungnak river turnips, Tanana beets, Skagway hash (salad), Fairbanks nuggets (ripe strawberries arranged on individual dishes around a central mound of powdered sugar), arctic slices (brick ice cream), Circle City delights (small cakes), Klondike nuggets (yellow cheese in round balls on crackers), Nome firewater (coffee).—Woman's Home Companion.

Acknowledgment.

"You will admit that you owe a great deal to your wife?"
"I should say so," replied Mr. Cumrox. "I wouldn't be invited to any of her receptions or musicales if I wasn't married to her."

Disqualified.

Her—My brother won first prize in that amateur guessing contest, but they ruled him out as a professional. Him—A professional?
Her—Yes. He's employed in the government bureau, you know.

Lightning Change.

The Manager—Can you make quick changes and double in a few parts?
The Actor—Can I? Say, you know the scene in "Love and Lobsters," where the hero and the villain are fighting, and a friend rushes in and separates 'em? Well, I played all three parts one night when the other two fellows were ill.

Not Altogether Dead.

Mr. Robert Butler of Marlborough, England, has had the peculiar experience of hearing his death announced. He was attending the poor law conference at Exeter when one of the delegates moved that, in consequence of the death of Mr. Butler, which they all regretted, another gentleman, whom he named, should be appointed to fill his place as one of the representatives of Wiltshire on the central committee. Mr. Butler rose from his place on the platform and announced to the conference, amid much amusement, that, so far as he was aware, he was still alive and in good health, and would be pleased to continue in the office if the conference desired.

Bankers and Bank Notes.

Four men, three of whom were connected with brokerage concerns in the Wall street district, were discussing United States paper currency and the disappearance of counterfeiters. "We are so sure nowadays," said one of the party, "as to the genuineness of bills that little attention is paid to them in handling, except as to denomination." To prove his assertion he took a \$10 yellowback from his pocket, and, holding it up, asked who could tell whose portrait it bore. No one knew, and by way of coaching the broker said it was the first treasurer of the United States. Again no one knew the name. "Why, it's Michael Hillegas," said the man proudly. "But in confidence, I'll tell you, I didn't know it five minutes ago."—New York Tribune.

Vivid at Least.

Dr. Hiram C. Cortlandt, the well-known theologian of Des Moines, said in a recent address:

"Thomas A. Edison tells us that he thinks the soul is not immortal; but, after all, what does this great wizard know about souls? His forte is electricity and machinery, and when he talks of souls he reminds me irresistibly of the young lady who visited the Baldwin locomotive works and then told how a locomotive is made.

"You pour," she said, 'a lot of sand into a lot of boxes, and you throw old stove lids and things into a furnace, and they you empty the molten stream into a hole in the sand, and everybody yells and swears. Then you pour it out and let it cool and pound it, and then you put it in a thing that bores holes in it. Then you screw it together, and paint it, and put steam in it, and it goes splendidly; and they take it to a drafting room and make a blue print of it. But one thing I forgot—they have to make a boiler. One man gets inside and one gets outside, and they pound frightfully; and then they tie it to the other thing, and you ought to see it go!'"

Echoes of Munchausen.

It was an absent-minded traveler who had lately taken to ballooning. "Yes," he observed impressively. "It was a fearful journey. The machine, a thousand feet up, and no more ballast, headed straight for Siberia, and the rarefied air—well, you know as well as I do what effect that has on a balloon. Yes, the peril was terrible." Then the old habit was too strong for him. "The wolves detected our presence. A desperate race ensued. We felt their hot breath on the nape of our necks."—London Globe.

Largest of Whales.

The largest whale of its type of which there is scientific record was captured recently off Port Arthur, Tex. He measured sixty-three feet in length, and was estimated to be about three hundred years old. Captain Cob Plummer, mate of a United States pilot boat, sighted the monster in the shoals off the jetties, and the crew of his vessel captured the mammal. The huge body was towed ashore, exhibited and much photographed before being cut up.

Rat Bounty Excites Merriment.

Seattle, fearing the introduction of bubonic plague by rats, has offered a bounty of ten cents a rat. This moves Tacoma, safe from infection from the sea, to raucous laughter, and the Ledger says that the bounty, "though not intended for rodents of Tacoma, Everett, Bellingham and other populous and busy centers, has been finding its way into the pockets of non-residents of Seattle for non-resident rats. But the joke would be on us if it were found that our rat population had found its way into the Seattle census."

Two Very Old Ladies.

We have heard a great deal lately about long-lived people, but it is probable that the oldest two people in the world today are Frau Dutkewitz and another old lady named Babavasilka. The former lives at Posem, in Prussian Poland, and was born on February 21, 1785. She is therefore one hundred and twenty-five years old. The latter, however, is nine months her senior, having been born in May, 1784.

She is still a fairly hale old woman, and for nearly one hundred years worked in the fields. Her descendants number close on 100, and these now make her a joint allowance. She lives at the village of Bavelko, whose neighborhood she has never quitted during the whole of her long life. She remembers events which happened at the beginning of last century much more clearly than those of the last 40 years.—Dundee Advertiser.

Too Ardent a Lover.

Georgotto Fontano, an embroiderer who lives in the Rue Serres in Paris, has found himself condemned to a month's imprisonment for what seems to her a harmless act.

She was going home from a concert a few evenings ago when she decided she would like to see her fiancé. As he happens to be a fireman whose station is in her own neighborhood it occurred to her it would be very easy to summon him to her side by breaking the glass of the fire alarm and sounding a call.

She did so and in a few moments fire engines came from several directions, all laden with firemen, of course, but alas! her fiancé was not among them, and more than that all the firemen were angry, and before she knew what had happened she was taken to a magistrate, who proceeded to make the course of true love run unsmoothly by sending her to prison for a month in spite of her tears and protests that she thought it would be a simple way of bringing her fiancé to her side.

The Bright Side.
Nebuchadnezzar was lurching in accustomed style.
"All flesh being grass," he rebuked. "This must be Beef a la Mowat." And chuckling hoarsely, he took other chaw.—Puck.

Kindly Intentions.
"A man who enjoys seeing a woman in tears is a brute."
"I don't know about that," replied Miss Cayenne. "One of the kindest husbands I know takes his wife to all the emotional plays."

Takes Himself Seriously.
Nicola Tesla, dining by himself in a hotel's great dining room, taking out his meal he wears a deeply absorbed, completely absorbed, attitude. He may bring to the table a portfolio filled with papers. These he scans with prolonged solemnity. At any event, he sits an eloquent tableau of profundity.—New York Press.

Holidays in the States.
Washington's birthday is a holiday in all states. Decoration day is a holiday in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Decoration day is observed everywhere. The ally every state has legal holidays having to do with its own special affairs—battle of New Orleans in Louisiana, Texan independence and battle of San Jacinto in Texas, Admission day in California, and so on. Mississippi is like the federal government in lack of statutory holidays, but a common custom Independence day, Thanksgiving and Christmas are observed. A new one is Columbus day in a few of the states.

Planting Wedding Oaks.
Princess August Wilhelm, of the kaiser's fourth son, has set on foot the task of reviving one of Germany's oldest customs, that according to which newly wedded couples immediately after the marriage ceremony plant a couple of oak saplings side by side in a park or by the roadside of their native town.

The town of Mulhausen, in Thuringia, is the first to respond to the princess' appeal. A municipal official appears at the church door after every wedding and invites the bride and bridegroom to drive with him in a carriage to a new road near the town and there plant oak saplings.

The tree planting idea was started by a former elector of Brandenburg with the object of repairing the ravages caused by the 30 years' war. The elector forbade young persons to marry until they had planted a number of fruit trees.

An Unnecessary Confession.

A hearty laugh was occasioned at the Birmingham police court by a pleader who gave himself away in a very delightful manner. The man was the first on the list, and the charge against him was merely one of being drunk and disorderly. He stepped into the dock, however, just at the moment when the dock officer was reading out a few of the cases which were to come before the court that morning, and a guilty conscience apparently led him to mistake these items for a list of his previous convictions.

He stood passive enough while the officer read out about a dozen drunk and disorderly cases, but when he came to one "shopbreaking" the prisoner exclaimed excitedly, "That was eight years ago, your honor." Everyone began to laugh, and the prisoner, realizing the blunder he had made, and looking very black indeed, but still saw the humorous side of the matter, and a broad smile spread over his face. His blunder did not cost anything.—Birmingham Mail.

That Suit for Libel Against the Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Gave a Splendid Chance to Bring Out Facts

A disagreement about advertising arose with a "weekly" Journal. Following it, an attack on us appeared in their editorial columns; sneering at the claims we made particularly regarding Appendicitis. We replied through the regular papers and the "weekly" thought we hit back rather too hard and thereupon sued for libel. The advertisement the "weekly" attacked us about claimed that in many cases of appendicitis an operation could be avoided by discontinuing indigestible food, washing out the bowels and taking a predigested food Grape-Nuts. Observe we said MANY cases not all. Wouldn't that knowledge be a comfort to those who fear a surgeon's knife as they fear death? The "weekly" writer said that was a lie. We replied that he was ignorant of the facts. He was put on the stand and compelled to admit he was not a Dr. and had no medical knowledge of appendicitis and never investigated to find out if the testimonial letters to our Co. were genuine. A famous surgeon testified that when an operation was required Grape-Nuts would not obviate it. True. We never claimed that when an operation was required Grape-Nuts would prevent it. The surgeon testified bacteria (germs) helped to bring on an attack and bacteria was grown by undigested food frequently. We claimed and proved by other famous experts that undigested food was largely responsible for appendicitis. We showed by expert testimony that many cases are healed without a knife, but by stopping the use of food which did not digest, and when food was required again it was helpful to use a predigested food which did not overtax the weakened organs of digestion. When a pain in the right side appears it is not always necessary to be rushed off to a

hospital and at the risk of death be cut. Plain common sense shows the better way is to stop food that evidently has not been digested. Then, when food is required, use an easily digested food. Grape-Nuts or any other if you know it to be predigested (partly digested before taking). We brought to Court analytical chemists from New York, Chicago and Mishawaka, Ind., who swore to the analysis of Grape-Nuts and that part of the starchy part of the wheat and barley had been transformed into sugar, the kind of sugar produced in the human body by digesting starch (the large part of food). Some of the State chemists brought on by the "weekly" said Grape-Nuts could not be called a "predigested" food because not all of it was digested outside the body. The other chemists said any food which had been partly or half digested outside the body was commonly known as "predigested." Splitting hairs about the meaning of a word, it is sufficient that if only one-half of the food is "predigested," it is easier on weakened stomach and bowels than food in which no part is predigested. To show the facts we introduce Dr. Thos. Darlington, former chief of the N. Y. Board of Health, Dr. Ralph W. Webster, chief of the Chicago Laboratories, and Dr. B. Sachs, N. Y. If we were a little severe in our denunciation of a writer self-confessed ignorant about appendicitis and its cause, it is possible the public will excuse us, in view of the fact that our head, Mr. C. W. Post, has made a lifetime study of food, food digestion and effects, and the conclusions are endorsed by many of the best medical authorities of the day. Is it possible that we are at fault for suggesting as a Father and Mother might, to one of the family who announced a pain in the side: "Stop using the food, greasy meats, gravies, mince pie, cheese, too much starchy

food, etc., etc., which has not been digested, than when again ready for food use Grape-Nuts because it is easy of digestion?" Or should the child be at once carted off to a hospital and cut? We have known of many cases wherein the approaching signs of appendicitis have disappeared by the suggestion being followed. No one better appreciates the value of a skillful physician when a person is in the awful throes of acute appendicitis, but "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Just plain old common sense is helpful even nowadays. This trial demonstrated Grape-Nuts food is pure beyond question. It is partly predigested. Appendicitis generally has rise from undigested food. It is not always necessary to operate. It is best to stop all food. When ready to begin feeding use a predigested food. It is palatable and strong in nourishment. It will pay fine returns in health to quit the heavy breakfasts and lunches and use less food but select food certainly known to contain the elements nature requires to sustain the body. May we be permitted to suggest a breakfast of fruit, Grape-Nuts and cream, two soft boiled eggs, and some hot toast and cocoa, milk or Postum? The question of whether Grape-Nuts does or does not contain the elements which nature requires for the nourishment of the brain, also of its purity, will be treated in later newspaper articles. Good food is important and its effect on the body is also important.

"There's a Reason"
Postum Cereal Co., Ltd.,
Battle Creek, Mich.