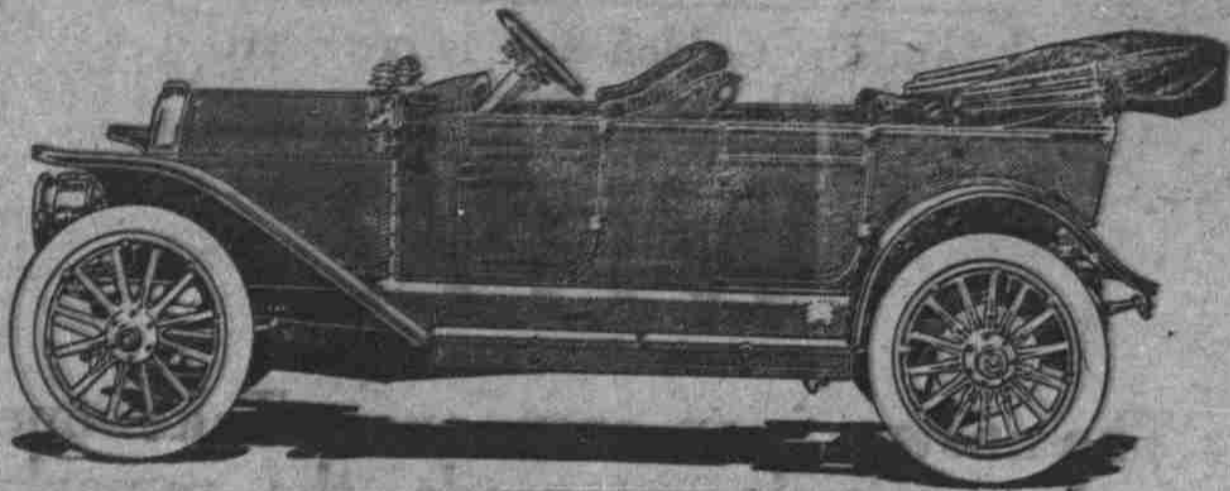


Stoddard-Dayton

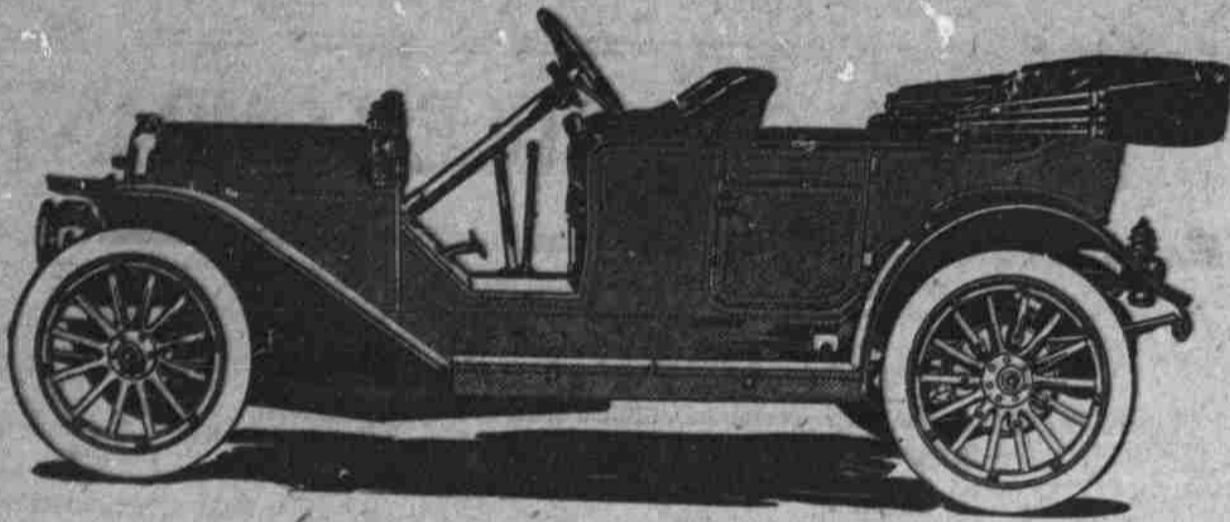
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the declared measure was not followed but a higher division retained or inserted by way of undue discrimination in favor of certain industries and measures. Little, if any, of the criticism of the tariff has been directed against the protective principle above stated; but the main body of the criticism has been based on the charge that the attempt to conform the measure of protection was not honestly and sincerely adhered to.

Tariff Board.

The time in which the tariff was prepared undoubtedly was as short as to make it impossible for the congress and its experts to acquire the information necessary to strictly conform to the declared measure. In order to avoid criticism of this kind in the future, and for the purpose of more nearly conforming to the promise, congress at its last session made provision at my request for the continuance of a board created under the authority of the maximum and minimum clause of the tariff bill, and authorized this board to expend the money appropriated under my direction for the ascertainment of the cost of production at home and abroad of the various articles included in the schedules of the tariff. The tariff board thus appointed another authorized has been diligent in preparing itself for the necessary investigations. The hope of those who have advocated the use of this board for tariff purposes is that the question of the tariff advance imposed shall become more of a business question and less of a political question to be ascertained by experts of long training and accurate knowledge. The halt in business due to the announcement that a new tariff bill is to be prepared, and put in operation will be avoided by treating the schedules one by one as occasion shall arise for an increase in rates and only after it is reported. It is not likely that the board will be able to make a report during the present session on the present schedules because a proper examination involves an enormous amount of detail and a great deal of care; but I hope to be able at the opening of the new congress, or at least during the session of that congress, to bring to its attention the facts in regard to these schedules in the present tariff that may prove to need amendment. To carrying out of this plan, of course involves the full cooperation of congress in limiting the consideration in tariff matters to one schedule at a time, because if a proposed amendment to a tariff bill is to involve a complete consideration of all the schedules and another revision, then we shall only repeat the evil from which the business of this country has in times past suffered most grievously by stagnation and uncertainty, pending a settlement of a law affecting all business directly or indirectly, and the effect of which now is that a business man would ignore in new projects and new investments. I cannot too much emphasize the importance and benefit of the plan above given for the treatment of the tariff. It facilitates the removal of noteworthy defects in an important law without a disturbance of business prosperity, which is even more important to the happiness and comfort of the people than the elimination of instances of injustice in the tariff.

The inquiries which the members of the tariff board made during the last summer into the methods pursued by other governments with reference to the fixing of tariffs and the determination of their effect upon trade, show that each government maintains an office or bureau, the officers and employees of which have made their life work of the study of tariff matters, the cost of articles imported and the effect of the tariff upon trade so that whenever a change is thought to be necessary in the tariff law this office is the source of the most reliable information as to the propriety of the change and its effect. I am strongly convinced that we need in this government just such an office and that it can be secured by making the tariff board ready appointed a permanent tariff commission with its duties, its powers and its emoluments as it may seem wise to give. It has been proposed to enlarge the board from three to five. The present number is convenient, but I do not know that an increase of two members would be objectionable. Whether or not the protective policy

is to be continued and the degree of protection to be accorded to our home industries, are questions which the people must decide their chosen representatives; but whatever policy is adopted, it is clear that the necessary legislation should be based on an impartial, thorough and continuous study of the facts.

Banking and Currency Reform.

The method of impartial, scientific study by experts as a preliminary to legislation, which I hope to see ultimately adopted as our fixed national policy with respect to the tariff, rivers and harbors, waterways and public buildings, is also being pursued by the non-partisan monetary commission of congress. An exhaustive and most valuable study of the banking and currency systems of foreign countries has been completed.

A comparison of the business methods and institutions of our powerful and successful rivals with our own methods, is sure to be of immense value.

I urge the importance of a non-partisan and disinterested study and consideration of our banking and currency system. It is idle to dream of commercial expansion and of the development of our national trade on a scale that measures up to our matchless opportunities unless we can lay a solid foundation in a sound and enduring banking and currency system. The problem is not national, it is not sectional—it is national.

War Department.

The army now numbers about 80,000 men, of which about 15,000 are engaged in the coast artillery.

The general plan for an army of the United States at peace should be that of a skeleton organization with an excess of trained officers and thus capable of rapid enlargement by enlistments, to be supplemented in emergency by the national guard and a volunteer force.

There is now pending in congress a bill repealing the recent volunteer act and making provision for the organization of volunteer forces in time of war, which is admirably adapted to meet the exigencies which would be then presented. The passage of the bill would not entail a dollar's expense upon the government at this time, or

(Continued on page eight.)

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TAPT'S MESSAGE.

In our public buildings we still suffer from the method of appropriation which has been so much criticized in connection with our rivers and harbors. Some method should be devised for controlling the supply of public buildings so that they will harmonize with the actual needs of the government. Not only buildings appropriated for by congress which are not needed and buildings left unappropriated for by congress which are needed, but when it comes to the actual construction there has been in the past too little study of the building plans and sites with a view to the actual needs of the government. The last public building bill carried authorization for the estimated expenditure of \$33,011,500 and I approved it because of the many good features it contained, just as I approved the river and harbor bill, but it was drawn upon an idea that ought to be abandoned. It seems to me that the wiser method of preparing a public building bill would be the preparation of a report by a commission of government experts whose duty it should be to report to congress the government's needs in the way of the construction of public buildings with the added function of including in their recommendation the relative importance of the various projects.

Revenues.

This seems the proper place to consider the operation of the existing tariff bill, which becomes a law August

6, 1909. As an income producing measure the existing tariff bill has never been accorded by any customs bill in the history of the country.

The corporation excise tax, proportional income, has worked well. The tax has been easily collected. Its prompt payment indicates that the incidence of the tax has not been heavy. It offers, moreover, an opportunity for knowledge by the government of the general condition and business of all corporations and that means by far the most important part of the business of the country. In the original act provision was made for the publication of returns. This provision was subsequently amended by congress and the matter left to the regulation of the president. I have decided the issue of the needed regulations.

The Payne Tariff Act.

The schedules of the rates of duty in the Payne tariff act have been subjected to a great deal of criticism, some of it just, more of it unfounded, and to much misrepresentation. The act was adopted in pursuance of a declaration by the party which is responsible for it that a customs bill should be a tariff for protection of home industries, the measure of the protection to be the difference between the cost of production of the imported article abroad and the cost of producing it at home, together with such addition to that difference as might give a reasonable profit to the home producer. The basis for the criticism of this tariff is that in respect to a number of the schedules

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