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Excessive Customs Tariffs in the Philippines.

EVIL OF MILITARY ADMINISTRATION

In the Single Month of January Flour Alone Paid Duties Amounting to $50,000.

MANILA, P. I., April 5.—(Special correspondence.)—The rules and regulations issued by the War Department under the authority of President McKinley, July 13, 1898, provided, paragraph 20, under the heading "Harbor and Commercial Improvement Charges," as follows:

20. In addition to customs dues and other charges, there shall be levied a charge of 2 per cent ad valorem, to be summarily ascertained, on the value of all merchandise, free or dutiable, imported into or exported from the Philippines. This regulation was very fair, and imposed only a moderate charge for the purposes named, viz., "harbor and commercial improvement charges," but on October 23, 1899, the military governor of the Philippine Islands promulgated another set of rules and regulations, containing amendments to September 1, in which paragraph 20 became paragraph 19, under the same heading, and reads as follows:

Harbor and Commercial Improvement Charges.

"19. In addition to customs duties and other exactions there shall be levied a charge of 6 per cent on the value, as per schedule of all dutiable merchandise imported into the Philippines, and 10 per cent additional on the amount of the import duty."

The schedule referred to in paragraph 19 was made public about the 1st of January, 1900, but copies could only be obtained by purchase from the Government at 50 cents each, so that the commercial people of the United States have not been supplied, as is customary with other documents of this nature. The schedule is nothing less than the adoption of the "Official Gazette of Manila, No. 228, issued by the Spanish Government, August 27, 1896," with a few minor corrections, and it arbitrarily fixes the value of merchandise subject to "customs duties and other exactions." For instance, under "Class XII, group 7, paragraph 259, Alimentary preserves, pork, butchers' produce, mustard and sauces," the Official Gazette fixes a value of $1 per kilo (2 1-5 pounds), and under this classification are grouped every known variety of preserved or prepared foods in tin or glass, and applies as well to the cheapest vegetables. As to the highest-priced conserves known to epicurean repasts, its injustice and absurdity can be at once realized when the value placed upon a case of tomatoes worth $1 75 gold in the United States, is fixed by the Official Gazette at $24 Mexican on its weight basis of 24 kilos; and remember that the certified invoice value is not considered; that no allowance is made for tare on the package, and that it frequently happens that the containing bottle or jar weighs as much or more than the contents, all coming under this sweeping valuation of $1 per kilo.

This great injustice has resulted in killing all business with the United States in canned goods, and thousands of dollars' worth of these goods are now lying in the bonded warehouse at Manila or have been abandoned because they would not sell for the amount of duties imposed.

To illustrate exactly how this tariff works, I will give in detail figures on a few well-known articles, and to avoid confusion will give values approximately correct in Mexican money:

Tomatoes, canned, 2 dozen tins—	Mex.
Value in United States	$ 3 55
Weight, 24 kilos; valuation, $24.	
Specific duty, 20c per kilo	4 80
Harbor charges, 10 per cent on specific duty	48
Commercial improvement, 8 per cent on valuation of $24	1 92
Landing charges and conduction through Custom-house, etc.	25
Total	$11 00
Total exaction, $7 45.	
Percentage, 215.	

Lard, in buckets, 12-5c—	Mex.
Value in United States	$12 00
Weight, 27.25 kilos; valuation, $22 per 100 kilos, $5.94.	
Specific duty, 15c per kilo	4 05
10 per cent of specific duty	40
8 per cent on valuation of $5.94	48
Landing charges, etc.	25
Total	$17 18
Total exactions, $5 18.	
Percentage, 43.	

Milk, condensed, 4 doz. 1-lb. tins—	Mex.
Value in United States	$ 8 75
Weight, 22 kilos; valuation, $1 per kilo, $22.	
Specific duty, 20c per kilo	4 40
10 per cent of specific duty	44
8 per cent of valuation of $22	1 76
Landing charges	25
Total	$15 60
Total exactions, $6 85.	
Percentage, 78.	

Fruit, canned, 2 doz. 2½-lb. tins—	Mex.
Value in United States	$ 6 00
Weight, 24 kilos; valuation, $24.	
Specific duty, 20c per kilo	4 80
10 per cent on specific duty	48
8 per cent on valuation of $24	1 92
Landing charges	25
Total	$13 45
Total exactions, $7 45.	
Percentage, 125.	

Cheese, weight 33 lbs.—	Mex.
Value in United States, at 15c gold	$10 00
Weight, 15 kilos; valuation, 40c kilo.	
Specific duty, 15c kilo	2 25
10 per cent on specific duty	22
8 per cent on valuation of $6	48
Landing charges, etc.	25
Total	$13 20
Total exactions, $3 20.	
Percentage, 32.	

Butter, net weight 30 lbs. gross; 33 lbs. in tins.	Mex.
Value in United States at 30c gold	$20 00
Weight, 15 kilos; valuation, $12 per 100 kilos.	
Specific duty, 20c a kilo	3 00
10 per cent on specific duty	30
8 per cent on valuation of $19 80	94
Landing charges, etc.	25
Total	$24 49
Total exactions, $4 49.	
Percentage, 22½.	

Watches, silver and other metals—	Mex.	Mex.
Wholesale value in United States, say $1 to $4 each	$ 2 00	$ 8 00
Value as per schedule, $6.		
Specific duty	2 00	2 00
10 per cent on specific duty	20	20
8 per cent on valuation	48	48
Total	$ 4 68	$10 68
Total exactions on $1 watch, $2 68.		
Total exactions on $4 watch, $2 68.		
Percentage on $1 watch, 225.		
Percentage on $4 watch, 33 1-3.		

Clocks, cheap—	Mex.
Wholesale value in United States, 80c each	$ 1 60
Specific duty	1 00
10 per cent on specific duty	10
8 per cent on valuation of $1 20 each	10
Total	$ 2 80
Total exactions, $1 20.	
Total percentage, 75.	

Flour—	Mex.
Value per barrel in United States, $2 75 gold	$ 5 50
Weight, 196 lbs. (about 90 kilos); valuation as per schedule (100 kilos, $5 60), $5 04.	
Specific duty, $2 10 per 100 kilos, 90 kilos	1 89
10 per cent on specific duty	19
8 per cent on valuation of $5 04	40
Landing charges, etc.	25
Consumption tax (50c per 100 kilos)	45
Total	$ 8 68
Total exactions, $3 38.	
Percentage, 62.	

During the month of January the United States collected duty on 15,000 barrels of flour, a total of $50,700, for bread, from a people earning 50 cents in Mexican silver per day.

The entire book of valuations and specific duties shows the same incongruities and average uniformly excessive duty, bearing most heavily upon the necessities of life. Adding freights and the profits of the wholesaler and retailer, one can readily see that a people with small earning power, not to exceed 25 per cent of the American laborer and mechanic, cannot purchase anything that is imported except the cheapest articles of clothing, hardware, etc. It is the truth that 90 per cent of the population are practically prohibited from eating anything but rice, fish and vegetables, or wearing anything but the cheapest of white drills and cotton prints.

On the articles enumerated, there is an average percentage of exaction amounting to 90 per cent, and these articles have not been selected with the special object of showing the highest, but presenting some of the monstrosities of the tariff. The lowest of the 10 articles shows 23½ per cent; the highest 225 per cent—just 10 times as much.

American trade is impossible. American manufactures are of high grade and cannot compete with shoddy European goods. Our cheap food products are bearing taxes which prohibit any but the well-to-do people from using them. What is the Government's plain duty in the premises?

MAKES ARMOR PLATE USELESS

Remarkable Shell Invented by a Naval Officer.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—Some facts, almost startling in their importance, were laid before the Senate today in secret executive session at the conclusion of the regular open session. They related, it is understood, to the invention of a shell by a prominent officer of the United States Navy, a shell superior to any now in use. The quality of penetration is said to be so great that no armor has sufficient resistance to withstand it. The facts, which were in possession of only a few Senators, were deemed so important that the Senate decided to consider them in secret session.

Today, after the naval bill had been laid aside for the day, Tillman asked for a secret session in order that he might explain to the Senate why he desired the armor-plate matter to be discussed in secret. When the doors were closed, he explained that several days ago he had offered a resolution calling upon the Secretary to send to the Senate for its information the details of tests made by the department officials of armor-plate at Indian Head. No answer to the inquiry had been received, and in all probability none would be received. It seems that Tillman called at the Navy Department and was informed that it would be unwise at this time to make public the details of the tests he had asked for, as it would place in the hands, not only of the Senate, but of representatives of foreign governments, information that properly belonged exclusively to the United States. He was informed that Admiral O'Neil, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, had been conducting for several months a series of armor tests at Indian Head, the results of which were very remarkable. No piece of armor submitted to the test, it is understood, was able to withstand the test. The shell fired from high-power guns penetrated the armor almost as bullets from a Krag-Jorgenson rifle would penetrate green wood. The shell which was so effective was not described; indeed, the Navy Department is guarding jealously all details concerning its construction.

The argument of Tillman is that with such a projectile in the possession of the Government, the details of which sooner or later will become known to other governments, it would not be the part of wisdom for Congress to enter into contracts to purchase high-priced armor unless it could be so improved as to resist projectiles of the kind used at Indian Head. Feeling that more or less of the matter concerning the tests recently made by the Government would be used in the debate upon the armor question, Tillman suggested that it would be desirable to consider the subject in secret. The Senate agreed with him, and tomorrow armor-plate matters will be discussed behind closed doors.

New Shell Tested.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—With one of the soft, metal-capped shells of American manufacture developed by the Naval Ordnance Bureau, a six-inch naval rifle today plugged a clean hole through a plate of Harveyized armor 14 inches thick. The gun was charged with smokeless powder.

ARGUMENT FOR DEFENSE.

Coeur d'Alene Investigation Nearing an End.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—The argument for the defense in the Couer d'Alene investigation was made today by John Cheney, representing the State of Idaho, and incidentally defending the course of the United States military authorities. He maintained that the course of Governor Steunenberg in declaring martial law and in appealing for Federal aid was justifiable and in accordance with law. As to the stories of "bull pen" outrages, Mr. Cheney declared that they were largely imaginative and designed to poison the mind of the public and divert attention from the infamy of the blowing up of the Bunker Hill mill. The latter event he declared to be the consummation of a conspiracy among dynamiters who for years had maintained a reign of terror in the Coeur d'Alene district. The action of General Merriam throughout the disturbance was strongly approved as that of a high minded soldier seeking to do his duty.

At the conclusion of Mr. Cheney's argument, the committee decided to allow Mr. Robertson, attorney for the prosecution, half an hour tomorrow afternoon to reply to the points made today, after which the long investigation will be at an end.

Dewey Goes to Nashville.

MEMPHIS, May 8.—Two brilliant receptions tonight, one at the residence of General Luke Wright, and the other at the Peabody Hotel, closed the list of entertainments which were arranged by the Memphis people for the entertainment of Admiral and Mrs. Dewey. The Admiral will leave for Nashville tomorrow morning.

Shanklin Acquitted.

FRESNO, Cal., May 8.—J. W. Shanklin, ex-City Clerk, was tonight acquitted of the charge of embezzling public money. Shanklin was brought back from Hillsboro, Or., for trial.

A SUSPICIOUS PLANK

Democratic Platform Not Supported by the Record.

CLAUSE ON LABOR TROUBLES

Chairman and Secretary Certify to Declarations Which Are Not in the Official Draft.

George E. Chamberlain, chairman, and C. E. Redfield, secretary, of the late Democratic State Convention, have issued and certified to what purports to be the "platform in full of the Democratic party of the State of Oregon for the campaign of 1900, as the same was finally adopted by the Democratic State Convention, held at Portland, April 12, 1900."

The third plank of this certified platform, regarding which there was confusion in the convention and about which there is now dispute, follows:

We are opposed to government by injunction, as applied to labor troubles and strikes, and the resulting deprival of the right of trial by jury to men who are charged with criminal acts. We believe in the passage of an employers' liability act, applicable to railroad companies, similar to such acts now in force in other states, by which the doctrine of fellow servants and that an employer is not liable to one servant for the negligence of another, shall be abolished. And we also believe that where the injury is caused by the negligence of the master, the mere fact the employe knew of the negligence and continued in employment should not defeat his recovery. And we pledge our members of the Legislature to favor legislation along these lines, and also repealing or extending the limit of recovery for the death of an employe. We further favor a reasonable supervision and limitation by the state of the operation of railroad trains, and of the number of cars which may be hauled in a train; and a limitation of the hours which employes shall work without rest. We further believe the Legislature should pass laws by which the books of a railroad corporation should be open to inspection by the proper officials of the state, so that a reasonable rate law may be established and reasonable wages secured for employes.

Chairman Chamberlain and Secretary Redfield have certified to a plank which is not now and never was in their possession, nor was it ever in the possession of the Democratic State Convention. It was brought into the Democratic State Convention on the night of April 12 by Isaac Swett, a Multnomah County delegate to the Populist State Convention, and the Multnomah County member of the platform committee of that convention. Mr. Swett's presence in the Democratic Convention at that time is explained by the fact that fusion of the Democrats and Populists had already been practically agreed upon, and the platform committees of the two conventions had been in conference for the purpose of adopting a uniform platform. After the plank referred to had been read, and before it had been acted upon, Mr. Swett took it back to the Populist State Convention. That was the first and only glimpse the Democratic State Convention ever had of the third plank. Later in the evening, when the plank was under discussion, the convention was forced to adjourn until the following morning because the plank was not in the hands of the convention. The next day the plank was still unobtainable, though the Democrats knew where it was and that the Populists had it. It was therefore read from The Oregonian and not from any document or record that was before the convention. If the plank was adopted and is part of the Democratic platform, why do not the minutes of Secretary Redfield show it? Why is it not in the official copy of the platform now in the possession of Chairman Chamberlain? An Oregonian reporter called on Mr. Chamberlain yesterday, and was shown the official platform. It is identical with the platform reported by Chairman Crawford, of the platform committee, on the night of April 12, with the third clause crossed out by heavy pencil marks, and nothing inserted in lieu of it. There is nothing in the minutes to show that anything else was incorporated.

Judge A. S. Bennett, of The Dalles, writes a letter to a local paper, in which he makes the statement that the platform published in The Oregonian April 13 and referred to in the issue of April 14 as having been adopted by the Democratic convention, was incorrect as to the third clause. He contends that the third plank is as printed above. As published in The Oregonian, the third plank reads:

We oppose government by injunction and the blacklist, and favor arbitration as a means of settling disputes between corporations and their employes; and, recognizing the fact that a corporation is a creature of law, we believe and favor a reasonable supervision by state inspection of mines, machinery, manufacturers and railways, to the end that injury to employes be avoided and life rendered secure. We favor the passage of a reasonable employers' liability act, similar to those enacted in other states.

The only difference between the clause as supported by Judge Bennett and as published in The Oregonian is that the longer plank is the more radical. It was drafted by Bennett, who is a hater of corporations. It arrays class against class, railroad men against the companies which give them employment and, as was shrewdly hinted by a delegate to the Democratic convention, is a bid by Bennett for the championship of the oppressed servants of corporations.

The certified platform is being widely circulated at The Dalles, which is Bennett's home, and other railroad towns, for the purpose of influencing railroad men to support the Democratic ticket. The Democrats are pretending that the radical clause was inserted at the request of railroad employes and that it is the duty of railroad hands to support the Democratic ticket in return. The whole thing is a Democratic-Populist scheme to catch votes.

The present contention of the Democrats is that the platform, as now published over the signatures of Chairman Chamberlain and Secretary Redfield, is the original draft reported by the platform committee, of which Judge Crawford was chairman, and concurred in by the Populist conference committee. Granted. Many delegates regarded the platform reported by the committee, together with the plank which young Mr. Swett carried to the Populist convention as the original draft of the platform, and that it was to be the platform of the Democratic and Populist parties when they had completed fusion. The other platform, minus the Bennett plank, but containing the less radical declaration regarding government by injunction and liability of employes, was regarded as the Democratic platform.

The action of the convention upon the platform is thus stated in Secretary Redfield's minutes of April 13:

Moved that original draft of platform stand as read and be incorporated in platform; lost.

The foregoing motion, it would seem, defeated the platform carrying the Bennett plank.

On the main question, there is this further entry in the Secretary's minutes:

Report of com (mittee) adopted.

The platform adopted was the platform reported by Chairman Crawford for the Democratic convention and as published in The Oregonian. It is difficult to see wherein The Oregonian made a mistake in reporting the platform. It aimed to give a full and fair account of the proceedings of the convention. Its reports were widely read, and their correctness was not challenged by Bennett or any one else until two weeks after the convention had adjourned. Some explanation of Judge Bennett's letter and of the platform which Chamberlain and Redfield have published may be found in the fact that the platform of the Democratic convention, as published in The Oregonian, did not satisfy the Populists. They freely charged that the Democrats did not keep faith with them in the matter of a uniform platform any more than they did in the division of judicial nominations in the Sixth district.

Whatever course the dispute regarding the action of the Democratic convention touching the platform may take, the fact remains that the platform published over the signatures of Chamberlain and Redfield is not a true copy of the platform in their possession. It is fraudulent.

SENATOR MARION BUTLER.

WHO WILL CALL THE POPULIST NATIONAL CONVENTION AT SIOUX FALLS TO ORDER TODAY.

CUBAN POSTOFFICE FRAUDS

The Department Admits a Shortage of $75,000.

HAVANA, May 8.—The postal frauds have been the principal topic of conversation in Havana today, although as yet the papers have scarcely alluded to the matter. The Department of Posts admits a shortage of $75,000, but further investigation has brought to light the fact that in July of last year the receipts showed a falling off of about $12,000 from the average of the months previous, and that this shortage has been kept up ever since. It appears that about that time Director of Posts Rathbone gave orders for the destruction of $411,000 worth of surcharge stamps on account of the issue of a new stamp. This work of destruction was left in the hands of Charles F. W. Neeley and his assistants, but it is now believed that none of these stamps was destroyed, the theory being that they were sent out with the new stamps. The Havana receipts amounted to about $13,000 a month, according to the books, but the other offices of the island showed only $2000 or $4000, amounts absurd. Governor-General Wood has ordered that all property standing in the name of Neeley in Cuba shall be placed under Government control.

NEELEY'S SHORTAGE.

Cuban Postoffice Embezzlement Discussed by the Cabinet.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—The only matter of interest which came before today's Cabinet meeting is the alleged heavy shortage in the accounts of Charles F. Neeley, formerly treasurer of the Postoffice Department of Cuba. Neeley has been arrested in Rochester, N. Y., and the question arose as to whether the United States or Cuba was responsible for the amount of the defalcation. It seemed to be the opinion of all the members present that as Neeley was appointed by the United States, and that in administering the affairs in the island this Government is acting in a sense as a trustee, it therefore is responsible for the shortage and can proceed against Neeley's bondsmen for the amount involved. It was practically settled, too, that Neeley would be taken back to Havana for trial before a civil tribunal. It is the opinion of the Attorney-General that it can and should be done.

AT THE ZAND RIVER

Roberts' Army Is Making Rapid Progress.

EIGHTY MILES FROM BLOEMFONTEIN

Entire Boer Force Has Retired North of the River—Relief Column Pushing On to Mafeking.

LONDON, May 9, 4:10 A. M.—Four thousand British cavalry watered their horses at Zand River Monday, 25 miles beyond Smaldeel, where Lord Roberts continues to date his dispatches. The scouts who have been searching the country for miles along the stream have found no Boers south of the river. The enemy are laagered in unknown force on the north bank. Thus the British advance guard is within 45 miles of Kroonstad.

The War Office has issued the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Smaldeel, May 8:

"General Hutton, with mounted infantry, reconnoitered yesterday to the Zand River, and found the enemy in considerable force. General Broadwood's brigade of cavalry, with General Ian Hamilton's force, performed the same operation with much the same result.

"General Hunter reports that he occupied Fourteen Streams yesterday without opposition, owing, in a great measure, to the able disposition made by General Paget on the left bank of the Vaal River at Warrenton, where his artillery fire rendered the enemy's position practically untenable. A 6-inch gun was found most useful. As the Sixth and half of the Fifth brigades of infantry advanced under cover of the artillery, the enemy retired precipitately, abandoning their clothing, ammunition and personal effects."

The Free Staters, in the expectation that Kroonstad will speedily become untenable, are, according to information from Lourenco Marques, preparing to transfer their government to Heilbron, a little more than 50 miles northeast.

The proclamations of Lord Roberts appear to have little effect upon the inhabitants of the invaded districts. Every farm is found deserted, except by the women and children. All the men are away fighting.

Correspondents at headquarters are now wiring freely concerning the incidents connected with the occupation of Smaldeel. Some exasperation is expressed at the ease with which the Boers escaped with their transports before the very eyes of the British. For instance, when the British entered Smaldeel, the Boer ox wagons coolly outspanned only five miles away, as if in contempt of the ability of the British to overtake them.

Lord Roberts is described as rightly "unwilling to sacrifice his horses for the sake of a comparatively minor advantage." Nevertheless, the waste of horseflesh, in spite of all precautions, is enormous.

Smaldeel is a village of only a score of dwellings, but it expanded in one night to a vast canvas city, and the glow of the campfires was like a scene in an iron smelting district. The city is likely to fade away in a day by the immediate progress of the infantry to Zand River.

The tidings from Mafeking are gloomier than ever. Everybody there has an empty stomach and a pinched face. The natives are no longer given porridge, and the whites now have nothing but a quart of that substance and a pound of horse sausage daily. Everything else eatable has gone. Insufficient food, wet trenches and cold nights are deadly to the health of the garrison. This information comes from reliable natives. Lady Sarah Wilson, under date of April 27, says:

"The Boers now number 4500, including young Eloff, President Kruger's grandson, who has sent for six more guns."

The Mafeking correspondent of the Times, who also emphasizes the extreme gravity of the situation, says:

"It is impossible to ignore the fatal significance of Colonel Baden-Powell's reference to the hardships endured by the women and children, among whom many deaths have already occurred. The commissariat is holding a certain stock of foodstuffs in reserve for use in the direst extremity."

The British column is reported to have reached Taungs, 30 miles north of Warrenton. According to Pretoria advices, the British are nearing Vryburg, which is half-way between Warrenton and Mafeking. General Hunter is probably not in personal command of this relief column. His forces embrace 20,000 infantry and from 5000 to 6000 horsemen, an army far greater than has hitherto been supposed. Lord Methuen is apparently a subordinate. While the relief column is moving toward Vryburg, General Hunter is apparently preparing an orderly advance northeast along the Vaal River to participate in the Pretoria advance as Lord Roberts' left flank.

The Cape Town correspondents learn that an important movement in Natal is expected within the next four days. General Buller is rapidly completing his transport organization.

The president of the Transvaal Volksraad reiterates President Kruger's undiminished tenacity of purpose. In the course of the debate he said that, should he be sent to St. Helena, the republican cause would still go on. Generals Louis Botha and Lucas Meyer are in Pretoria consulting with the Volksraad.

A dispatch from Maseru, Basutoland, dated Tuesday, May 8, says:

"Lord Roberts' rapid advance has confused the Boers, who are holding the roads between Wepener and Clocolan, along which a continuous stream of wagons and cattle has been proceeding northward for days. Monday, some of those countermarched, and the herds got into an inextricable muddle, the Boers not knowing which way to turn."

With Hunter's Division.

WARRENTON, Cape Colony, Monday, May 7.—A British camp is now being formed at Fourteen Streams. The old railroad bridge can be repaired in a week. A Boer prisoner says the burghers, who number 10,000 men, are now on their way to Christiana.

FRUIT TRAIN WRECKED.

Two Men and Two Boys Killed Near Rawlins, Wyo.

OMAHA, May 8.—A special to the Bee from Cheyenne, Wyo., says:

One of the worst wrecks which has occurred in Wyoming in recent years took place on O'Neill's sidetrack, 16 miles west of Rawlins, on the Union Pacific, today, when an east-bound fast fruit train, drawn by two locomotives, dashed through an open switch and down a high embankment. The dead are: Louis Banta and James Johnson, both firemen, of Rawlins, and two boys, aged about 20, who were stealing a ride. Their names are unknown. The injured are: Engineers Frank Rehemeyer and Andy Sholer, both of whom will recover. Engineers Rehemeyer and Sholer jumped from their engines before the end of the siding was reached, and escaped with a few injuries.