

EARLY TARIFF VOTE AGREED IN SENATE

Action Not Later Than
Wednesday Expected.

'GENTLEMEN'S' PACT MADE

Disposition of Democrats Is to
Give but Little Time to Meas-
ure, Leaving Fate to Veto.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, D. C., Feb. 11.—Without unanimous consent but under a "gentlemen's agreement," a vote on the emergency tariff bill will be reached in the senate not later than Wednesday, it was said today by friends of the measure.

While such an understanding was known to have been reached several days ago without the usual parliamentary procedure, observers remained skeptical, believing that at the last minute some democrat could not resist the temptation to object and cause another halt to the legislation. Today this doubt was removed when word was carried to some of the democratic senators that President Wilson intends vetoing the bill.

In view of this advice the disposition of democrats is to give but little time to further discussion of the measure and to leave it to the president to administer the fatal blow with just the least delay possible. What will happen when the new congress convenes, with a president friendly to tariff aid for the farmer and other industries, is difficult to determine.

Business Revival Studied.

A rather large element in congress believes that to take up the tariff first is beginning at the wrong end. The revival of business, it was asserted, depended more upon a revision of the tax laws than upon the enactment of new tariff schedules. It was pointed out that the expense of the government is met in much larger part from its internal revenue, this being 85 per cent of Uncle Sam's income. The tariff produces only 15 per cent.

Chairman Fordney of the ways and means committee favored tackling tariff revision first. He has ordered hearings on a general bill to begin February 21. Several members of the committee, comprising a majority, think that the committee should take up the question of taxes first and frame a bill to overcome all of the common objections to the present law.

Leaders Are Committed.

Leaders in both of the big political parties are committed to the abandonment of this tariff of the present law. The question of how to raise the revenue of the future will start a heated contest in the committee, because there will be advocates of the retail sales tax pitted against those who are against it because they are against it, but who have nothing tangible to offer in its place.

It has been regarded as doubtful that a sales tax can be put into law. In private opinions many members of congress have said that the sales tax is the real solution of the revenue question because it would be paid only by the ultimate consumer and therefore would not be pyramided. Furthermore, in paying it himself, the consumer would know exactly what he was paying.

The present taxes, it was said, have been used to justify some extraordinary prices, which in turn yielded exorbitant profits. In any case, if the emergency tariff is vetoed it will not come forth in another congress as an emergency measure. It will not come out of committee until it can be included in a general tariff measure. The question is, will the new congress choose to act upon the tariff first or put it aside until a readjustment of taxes can be accomplished?

TO CURB NAVY HELD AIM

(Continued From First Page.)

The letter, Senator Borah said, would be given to the naval committee, if it desired. This officer, he added, also wrote that the United States could never be attacked successfully by a power or combination of powers from overseas.

Senator Poinsett in defending the naval committee's report supporting the capital ship building programme, declared that if the United States accepted the building postponement plan, it would "become at once a defeated nation, would lose its insular possessions," and its citizens would be able to travel the seas only upon terms laid down by rival nations.

Precautions Are Advised.

"Before sitting down with these nations at the conference table," he said, "the committee feels we should take precautions not to sit down disarmed. If the six months' suspension were adopted we would lose, in addition, between \$15,000,000 and \$25,000,000."

The senator said he would like to know whether Great Britain would reduce its fleet to the present strength of the American navy and if Japan would actually stop naval construction. He asserted that the British main fleet was twice as strong as the American and that Japan would equal the American strength within the next three or four years.

Senator Smith, democrat of Georgia, suggested that Great Britain give the United States in payment for its war debt half of its naval forces so that the two powers would be equal in strength.

NAVY FUND BILL IS HARD HIT

Appropriation Measure Manages to
Keep Afloat, However.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The naval appropriation bill, which has been in the house today, but at the end was still afloat.

Shot at from all sides, it almost went down at times, but a member attempted to riddle some of the provisions of the \$225,000,000 measure. One section was saved by Chairman Butler of the naval affairs committee. Opposition to the bill cropped out as a result of the general dissatisfaction with the new method of framing appropriation legislation.

Heretofore, the naval bill had been drafted by the naval committee. Under the so-called budget system, a subcommittee on appropriations does the work.

Representative Britten of Illinois,

ranking republican member of the naval committee, threw most of the bombs, using always the argument

that funds recommended by the framers of the measure were not authorized by law. In this way, many sections went out. Only a little headway was made with the reading today.

Advocates of economy and friends of disarmament jumped to their feet in all parts of the chamber to throw out an amendment by Representative Hicks, republican, New York, of the naval committee, providing \$7,500,000 for naval aircraft. In the end, they had their way. There was no vote on the amendment, it being ruled out on a point of order as new legislation.

In going after some sections Mr. Britten hit upon an item of \$500,000 for expenses of the civilian naval consulting board, of which Thomas A. Edison has been one of the leading members since 1914. Chairman Kelley of the subcommittee, in charge of the bill, smilingly remarked that it was subject to a point of order, but insisted it should stay because the country still was technically at war. Chairman Butler pleaded with Mr. Britten to let it stay and the latter finally withdrew his objections, after announcing in a stinging unauthorised demand strict compliance with existing law.

There were several speeches for and against the biggest navy in the world.

WHAT CONGRESS DID AS ITS DAYS' WORK.

Disarmament and reduction of naval construction are discussed for three hours.

Salary of vice-president is increased from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Legislative appropriation bill is debated without conclusion being reached.

House.

Consideration of naval appropriation bill is resumed.

Ways and means committee begins hearings on free list.

Representative Welby introduces bill making it misdemeanor for federal judge to receive compensation other than from government for duties as arbitrator or other officer in any corporation or association of persons.

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ROADS DENY PLAN FOR BIG WAGE CUT

General Reduction Never on
Programme, Says Official.

UNSKILLED LABOR TARGET

Labor Unions Map Out Scheme for
Rebuttal of Arguments Asking
Abrogation of Agreement.

CHICAGO, Feb. 11.—A general reduction in wages of railway employees is not being considered by the Association of Railway Executives, which represents 90 per cent of the truckage of the country, according to a statement issued tonight by Thomas De Witt Cuyler, chairman of the association.

Mr. Cuyler's statement came in response to reports circulated in railroad and union circles that the meeting of railway executives which he today called for February 18 would discuss plans for a general wage reduction. Such a proposition never has come before the association or its labor committee, Mr. Cuyler said.

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