INVESTIGATION OF TARIFF DEATH TO PROSPERITY

So Says Henry C. Emery, President of Taft's New Tariff Board—Tells of Vast Amount of Work Involved.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Chicago, Dec. 3.—Deprecating with equal emphasis the idea that a careful and impartial tariff investigation will prove the death knell of American prosperity and the counterview that the "new method of tariff making" will have all the evils of society, Henry C. Emery, chairman of President Taft's new tariff board, tonight explained at length the work of that body at the dinner here of the Chicago Association of Commerce.

Scores of the biggest business men of the central west were guests at the banquet and listened with marked attention to the explanation of Chairman Emery and his two fellow members of the tariff board, James B. Reynolds and Alvin H. Sanders, in the first authoritative statement of what has been accomplished and what it is hoped to accomplish through their investigation. Refusing to definitely declare whether the results of the tariff board's work to date would be in shape for congressional action at the coming session and declaring that their recommendations would be for the president, to whom all reports would be made, Chairman Emery asserted the perfect independence of his board.

"Facts are what we are after," he said, "and the only influence that can be brought to bear upon us is the influence of facts.

Concentrate on Schedules.

"You can appreciate the necessity we are under of concentrating our efforts at first on a few main lines of investigation. We have decided to concentrate for the moment on schedule 'M' (pulp and paper); schedule 'K' (wool and woolens), and schedule 'G' (farm products). Preliminary work is also being done on schedule 'A' (chemicals); schedule 'C' (metals and their manufactures) and schedule 'I' (cottons). These investigations are not yet complete and I cannot say when they will be."

Speaking generally of what the tariff board has done and what it hopes to accomplish, Mr. Emery said:

"I wish to appeal to you to keep a sane sense of proportion in regard to the work of the tariff board. Unfortunately, there has been great exaggeration on both sides as to the influence for good or for evil of tariffs themselves, of tariff makers and of tariff investigators. There are those who think that the only cause of human welfare is a protective tariff, and there are those who think that protection is the chief cause of human misery.

Many Questions Arise.

"Many question have doubtless already arisen in your minds regarding this tariff program. I fancy I can anticipate some of them. For example:

"1. Is all this information necessary?

"2. What will it amount to?

"3. Can you get it?

"4. What can you do with it?

"Let us take the questions up in order.

"First: Is all this information necessary?

"Many people believe that our investigation is planned on altogether an elaborate scale, and that such a body as the tariff board can find out all that is necessary about tariff conditions by much simpler methods. This is a criticism which should be fairly considered.

"In no country of Europe, for example, have the methods of investigation of industrial conditions as affected by the tariff included such extended examination of costs of production by trained experts in the government employ as is contemplated by the tariff board.

"In Germany, for instance, there is a large committee, which, in the preparation of the last tariff, was very active at a certain stage of the proceedings, and this is some times referred to in this county as the German tariff commission. This body, however, which numbered 36, was primarily an advisory body, made up of the great leaders in the industrial world.

Need Outside Aid.

"In the same way in Austria the government has received much assistance from the Associated Chambers of Commerce. No such body exists in the United States and the effort promptly to put the question of revision on a sound basis, therefore, involves a much more extensive labor of investigation that would otherwise be necessary.

"The second question is 'What does it amount to?' That is, assuming that we have this information, including even details regarding the costs of prosecution, will it afford the real basis for a judgment regarding tariff rates?

"Frankly, we do not believe that a mere statistical knowledge of comparative costs of production is an all sufficient basis for tariff judgment. In fact, we wish to emphasize most strongly our position that the tariff problem is not a mere statistical problem, the greater the mass of figures accumulated the greater the knowledge derived. We must limit or work in such a way as to avoid two grave dangers. First, that the board would be so swamped by a mass of material that, even if it were greatly enlarged, it could not handle the material intelligently; second, that the board would be forced to trust merely to averages in mathematical form. This latter danger promises to become the crux of the whole situation.

Question of Business.

"The tariff question is one of business and not mathematics. The problem of how far an industry needs protection to keep it in sound existence, or what the effect of its decay would be cannot be settled by any algebraic formula.

"Granting all this, however, the fact remains that a sound tariff judgment cannot be formed without detailed statistical knowledge. In the case of standardized products, the facts regarding costs of production are of imperative importance, and we propose to get them. Without judgment, statistics are useless; without statistics, judgment is unreliable.

"We now come to the third question, namely, whether the board can secure this information which we have already attempted to show is both necessary and significant.

To Deal With Actualities.

"This really involves two questions: First, whether such information can be secured, assuming the fullest powers on the part of the board and the most complete cooperation on the part of the manufacturers, second assuming that such information is available, whether such a board has sufficient power to secure it.

"Under the first head the crux of the question comes in the matter of getting costs of production. Obviously, what we call the glossary part of our inquiry, as already described, can be easily carried out and in the matter of getting prices and competitive conditions we are sure that adequate information is available.

"One thing we wish to make perfectly plain, and that is that we intend to deal with actual costs and not with hypothetical or average costs. Every practical man knows that costs vary not only from factory to factory, but from month to month in the same factory. We are sometimes asked 'which cost will you take, the highest or the lowest; the January cost or the July cost?' The answer is that we shall not select any one, but shall carefully consider all, among them attempting to give each its dues. We can never work out a figure in dollars and cents, and this is the cost of production, but we can get a knowledge of cost conditions which will be both comprehensive and practical.

"In reply then, to the question, can we get it? We say that we cannot get everything expected by the most optimistic, but we assert with confidence that we can get all that is necessary to form a basis for an intelligent judgment on the tariff.

Has No Compulsory Powers.

"The second part of this question is whether the board is clothed with sufficient powers to get this information where it is actually available. At the present time as you will understand, the board has no compulsory powers whatsoever.

"In the last question which I assumed you were to ask was, what can we do with it?

"In the first place, the most ardent defender of the present tariff must appreciate that there have crept into it not a few inconsistencies never really intended by the committee which framed it. And this has been true of all tariff acts. These have been simply the result of haste in the midst of a multitude of details.

"It is not uncommon to hear statements to the effect that the tariff question should have a scientific solution, or that the tariff should be made purely a business question and be taken out of politics. Such statements are serviceable when their meaning is really understood, but they are too often misleading. It is true that in the collection of facts for any purpose the scientific method is of the utmost value, but in dealing with the tariff problem absolute scientific accuracy is impossible, and a scientific solution of the tariff question, in the sense of a permanent and perfectly just tariff, suitable to all times and to all industrial conditions, is obviously a dream.

"It is also true that the question is a business question, in that it should be settled for the best economic interests of the country and should be taken out of politics in the sense that 'skeds' should be adopted or rejected with a view to their effect on these economic interests, and not with a view to some political advantage in the play of party interest.

"The present weakness of the tariff board lies not so much in the extent of its powers as in the uncertainty as to the perpetuation of such powers in the future.

"It is, however, of the utmost importance that it should be established on a permanent basis; that its members be appointed solely for their capacity efficiently to deal with economic questions of this nature without bias of any kind and that its duties and powers should ultimately be defined by law in such a way as to make them independent of the good will of any individual and free from the influence or control of any party."

BRINGS DEEDS TO MILLION WON AT COST OF A LIFE

(Continued from Page One.)

about to realize his life dream of great wealth.

Professor Holt was a man of exceptional intelligence and force of character and for many years was associate editor of the New York Sun. He left the Sun in 1875 to take up the hunt for gold and for 20 years chased the rainbow in California, in the Rogue river district of Oregon, in Alaska and finally in South America. He had scarcely perfected his title to the Rio Mata property, which is said to be enormously valuable, when he died. Strange to say, he was 78 years old when he attained his goal of wealth—only to lose it through death.

Diary to Be Published.

Mr. Fuller has Professor Holt's original diary with him. Typewritten copies have been made and it will be published if the consent of the children is obtained. It recounts a remarkable story of his trip to South America from the time he left New York in March of this year until a few days before his tragic death in the Colombian jungles at Cisneres, in the state of Antoquia.

From first to last this diary which is written in interesting fashion and in most entertaining English, gives descriptions and anecdotes of the country and of the hardships that this man of nearly four-score years underwent in his search, interspersed on nearly every page with thought for his family and for the wealth that would be theirs if his quest proved successful.

Mr. Fuller, who came to Portland to deliver the property of Professor Holt to his son and daughter, is chief engineer of the Mata mines in Colombia and secretary of the Holt Leasing company, which controls the leases secured by Dr. Holt and which have passed into the hands of his heirs. Mr. Fuller is a typical American mining engineer—quiet, resourceful, full of his subject and of the country he is working in and with a fund of information about Colombia that makes anyone who talks to him want to go there and wash gold out of the Rio Mata. Remedies is the nearest town to Mr. Fuller's property. The holdings are on the Rio Mata, which flows into the Rio Cauca and thence into the Magdalena, which empties into the Caribbean sea. From Remedies to the mouth of the Magdalena is some 600 or 700 miles.

Opportunities Are Many.

"Portland and the entire Pacific coast should be greatly interested in Colombia because of the opening of the Panama canal," said Mr. Fuller, "that is being cut through the isthmus which was taken away from Colombia by President Roosevelt. Colombia is the nearest country to the canal and with Venezuela, is to be the first to profit by its opening. It is unbelievable the opportunities that exist there for those capable of improving them. The country at present is practically in a state of innocence. It is as large as Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Arizona and New York state put together. The government is good, the people are docile, gentle and honest. All labor is done by the peons, who receive at the highest 30 cents a day. The country is really bankrupt because the customs are paid over to several European countries, who are taking that means of enforcing the collection of loans. Concessions are not hard to secure and are good when granted.

"Currency of the country is practically valueless and all prices are based on gold. Banks and business houses clamor for New York paper and I have received as high as 10 per cent premium for a New York draft. To show the value of their money, here are five notes of the Colombian government," and Mr. Fuller handed out five "greenbacks" of the denomination of $20, $10, two $5 and a $1. The total face value was $41. The value in gold is $4.10.

"Mining operations are carried on very much as they were in California in '49 and in the first rush to the Klondike," said Mr. Fuller. "Natives do the work, washing out the black dirt in the river beds and carrying water in sluices to wash out the gravel. The country is unbelievably rich in gold. Mr. Holt tells in his diary of veritably walking on a carpet of gold and that is the truth. Our work in the Mata averages more than $5 a cubic yard. Expert mining engineers will say that is impossible. Good placer properties in California go 17 cents. The gold is washed out by natives in what are known as bateas, there being 140 bateas to a cubic yard.

Ship Gold on Mules.

"We ship the gold—thousands of dollars' worth of it at a time—on mule back to the towns, with only one peon in charge. You never hear of one being molested. The peons wouldn't think of making away with a gold bar—they have no way of disposing of it. What few robberies have occurred in Colombia have been committed, I am sorry to say, by Americans or Europeans.

"We use the elevating and hydraulic process, washing down the banks of the streams for the gold. Modern machinery is necessary to work to advantage, though the natives have worked in their primitive fashion for centuries and gotten fabulous sums out of the rivers. I shipped two hydraulic outfits down from Los Angeles last week and incidentally received an object lesson in what the Panama canal and the South American trade will mean to this coast. It is not only much quicker to buy on the Pacific coast, but it is immeasurably cheaper from the point of freight rates than to buy and ship from New York. There is no reason why an immense trade could not be built up by the Pacific coast cities with the ports of South America on the Pacific and Caribbean coasts.

"I venture to say that all the hardwoods you now secure from the orient will be shipped from northwestern South America when the canal is finished. Our forests of mahogany, rosewood, arbor vitae and other valuable woods are practically virgin. Land can be bought for 10 cents an acre—and they will give you 20 years' time in which to pay for it. The southern hemisphere is undoubtedly the country of the future."

Hardships Silently Borne.

Dr. Holt, shortly before his death, secured a 50-year lease on a portion of the Mata river, and it is this lease that has descended to Byron Holt and his sisters, one of whom resides in Portland and two in Santa Ana, Cal. He was a strict vegetarian, and it is to this and to the fact that he steadfastly refused to take medicine that Mr. Fuller ascribes the fatal illness of last July. He underwent astonishing hardships, according to Mr. Fuller, without a word of complaint. A trip over the mountains, which he describes in his diary, was an instance of this. He says:

"I climbed the 'Devil's Stairway' in Rogue river in Oregon last year, and thought the devil had better been in his own dominion attending to sinners than on earth constructing such a stepping road, but this road down to the Parco in South America beats the devil, except it is not so precipitous at the sides as the stairway; but our every mule step was deep in mud to the saddle girth and slippery beyond a Fourth of July greased climbing pole in Uncle Sam's dominions.

"Not once, but dozens of times, I came within an ace of tumbling over my mule's head, but these mules are the surest footed animals on earth. They excel their North American mule brethren in sure-footedness. After a long descent we finally came to a swollen mountain stream, and there we met a long mule train, and we also met difficulty.

"A week ago there was a bridge across the stream, but where was it now? Washed away! How were we to cross? Dismounting, we three white men crossed on stringers while our peons unsaddled and unpacked our mules and carried across all our baggage. Then the mules came across. I don't know how they did it, for I had other things to attract my attention. The mule train was stalled at this point, and many of the poor mules dropped to the ground with their burdens upon their backs, and there they lay, panting with their long ears in the mud and their loads of coffee pressing them into the yielding earth. I wonder what they had done that was wicked in a former incarnation when they were caliphs, moguls, chiefs, kings, emperors, empresses and such aristocrats of all sorts to justify incarnation into mules to take coffee in Antioquia."

The journal is full of anecdotes, of the fables of the country which Mr. Fuller says are intensely interesting and come directly from the days of the Incas, and of the sights and customs of the country. Whether it was a crowd of the "little people of the forests," as Mr. Holt called the monkeys, that attracted his attention, or a scientific discussion of the processes of procuring gold from the rivers, it was described with equal facility and interest.

Mr. Fuller is to be in Portland only long enough to straighten out Professor Holt's affairs with his son, when he is to hurry back to his gold mining in South America. He says he'll be glad to get back to the land of parrots, monkeys, alligators, real rain—they had 15 feet last year—and gold. But he's leaving something of his romance in Portland, with the Holt family.

ALEXANDER SHAW TO APPEAL FROM TAFT

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)

Washington, Dec. 3.—Steps will be taken to learn what is to be done with the application of Alexander C. Shaw of Portland to practice before the interior department. Shaw's application has been held up since January 15 1910, when it was filed. Repeated urging by Shaw has failed to move it from the pigeon hole in which it is buried.

Shaw rests under President Taft's displeasure as one of the men discharged from service when Forester Pinchot and Law Officer Price were dismissed.

Shaw was a law officer of the forest service during the period when the Pinchot-Ballinger controversy was incubating, and he took an active part as a partisan of Pinchot. He applied to practice before the interior department January 24, but Ballinger referred the application to Taft, accompanying the reference with a copy of a statement which Shaw and Price had filed with the Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee, which, of course, was tantamount to recommending the denial of the application.

Shaw is a native of North Carolina and at his request Senators Simmons and Overman and Representative Page of that state called on the president about it. Taft is reported to have flown into a rage, declaring Shaw should never practice before any executive department so long as he was president. Shaw has now decided to take up the matter with vigor. Inquiry was made today at the interior department and at the department of justice, but it could not be learned if any further facts relative to the Shaw matter had been placed before the president.

If no action is taken by the president Shaw will have his case taken to the floor of either the senate or the house, where official inquiry will be made as to why an attorney against whom no charges have been filed and with fifteen years' experience in interior department practice is thus withheld from pursuing his vocation.

TO ANALYZE PIECE OF TURKEY CAUSING DEATH

A piece of the Thanksgiving turkey that caused the death of the little two-year-old daughter of Mrs. Richard Schriber and almost killed the parents and other members of the family who partook of some broth made from the turkey last Thursday evening, was brought to the city health office yesterday afternoon by Mrs. Martha Grimm of Willamette Falls, near Oregon City. Mrs. Grimm and her husband ate dinner with the Shriber family Thanksgiving day and they took a portion of the death-dealing bird home with them. They were also made violently ill by eating part of the turkey. Mrs. Grimm fed some of it to a chicken last Tuesday and the chicken died.

The piece of turkey brought to the health office will be analyzed by the city chemist. It is believed the turkey was afflicted with some disease.

MAY BE WEEK BEFORE MADISON BRIDGE READY

Just when the Madison street bridge will be turned over to the city is still veiled in doubt. The task of cutting down the steel and concrete counterweights to where they will balance the lift span is a tremendous undertaking and may take much longer time than was originally fixed by the contractors. A large force of men is at work night and day with drills cutting into the counterweights. Drake C. O'Reilly, president of the United Engineering & Construction company, made the following statement last night: "We expect to turn the bridge over to the city the last of this week unless the weather is so bad that we can't go on with the work."

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