

ON THE TARIFF BILL

Members Gave Their Views to Senate Subcommittee.

FAVORS DINGLEY BILL

Before the Senate Asking Commission to Introduce Bread Foods into the Orient.

Washington, April 17.—Senator Quay has introduced a bill authorizing the appointment of a commission to introduce and popularize the products of the United States among the people of the Orient. It provides for a commission of five members, to be appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate, to be known as the bread-foods commission of the United States, and to have the direction and control of the study of agriculture. The commission shall ascertain and from time to time report to the secretary of agriculture the best modes of introducing and popularizing the bread foods of the United States among the people of the Orient. The salary of the members shall be \$5,000 a year, and the commission is authorized to employ a secretary at a salary of \$3,000, and \$10,000 is appropriated to defray the expenses of the commission in the execution of its work. Hansbrough's measure is designed to further the study of extending the trade of the United States with China and Japan, and is suggested by the letter recently received from James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railroad, on the subject of trade with the Orient.

TARIFF SUGGESTIONS.

Members Gave Their Views to the Senate Subcommittee.

Washington, April 17.—The Republican committee of the senate on finance held an all-day session in the capitol to afford an opportunity for senators to make suggestions on the tariff bill. Among the senators who had conferences with the committee were Messrs. Quay, Elkins, Platt, Wellington, Per-shoupe, Pritchard, Baker and Perkins. Mr. Quay urged a rate of duty on carpets and matting, which would protect the industries of the country against the products of Japan.

Mr. Perkins was given an extended hearing on the fruit schedule. He presented the committee with samples of California and foreign currants and raisins, and asked for a reduction of the rate on Zante currants, bringing it up to 2 1/2 cents per pound. He suggested a duty of 1 cent on oranges and lemons, instead of four-tenths of a cent, as fixed by the Dingley bill. He suggested to Mr. Perkins by the members of the committee that the fruit schedule had already been changed, and the rates charged to be reduced, but the California senator declined for thorough protection. Mr. Perkins suggested a substitute on beet sugar, providing for a duty of 1 cent a pound on sugar testing the polariscope and increasing to 1 1/2 cents for the 90 per cent test. The committee promised to give this matter attention, but gave no further indications of the probable result of its deliberations.

More pronounced favorable reception was given to a suggestion for a duty on imported tin cans, in which fruits and salmon are exported. The suggestion appeared to meet with approval.

Senator Sewall's suggestions pertained almost entirely to new manufactures, and he filed briefs upon all of them. He presented a request of the silk manufacturers for a uniform 50 per cent ad valorem duty on all silks. Senators Baker and Harris asked for a duty of \$2 per ton on gypsum, and for a reduction of the duty proposed on cattle. They reported that there were immense beds of gypsum in the west, sufficient to supply the wants of the entire country. With reference to the cattle they were needed to combat the grass crop of the West, and it was more economical to move the cattle than the grass. Senator Elkins and Senator Wellington appeared in support of the Dingley rate on coal, which there is an effort to have reduced.

During the day, a number of the Republican senators met to agree upon a plan of co-operation. They reached no conclusion, except to stand together in their demands on wool, hides, lead ore and other Rocky mountain products.

The Indian Bill.

Washington, April 17.—The senate today considering the Indian appropriation bill, but did not complete the bill in the session the proceedings were made executive, and when the bill was open again to the public, the Indian bill again came up. The question was on the committee's report opening the Uncompaghe reservation in Utah to public entry. Senator Arkansas withdrew the point which he had made, and on an aye vote, the amendment was agreed to.

Thanks, Awfully, John Bull.

London, April 16.—The St. James' Gazette, referring to the trouble in Har-greaves regarding the landing of Japanese immigrants, says that if a rupture between Japan and the United States occurs the latter may find the Japanese a hard customer to tackle.

INVADERS CHECKED.

Greek Irregulars Defeated by the Turks at Krania.

Larissa, April 19.—Severe fighting has occurred in Macedonia between the Greek irregulars and the Turkish forces. A column of irregulars sent to the right from Pitravitzo, after having attacked and captured Sitovno, continued its advance toward Kritudes, Phisia and Kouruzi, with orders to hold Kouruzi at all costs, as it commands the right approach to Grevno, the objective point.

This column, commanded by Chiefs Zermos and Luzzo, attacked Kritudes on Friday. The place was defended by two companies of Turks. After a severe fight, during which eighty Turks were killed and twenty-five taken prisoners, the position was captured by the Greeks, who also obtained possession of 1,100 rifles and a quantity of cartridges.

The insurgents, however, have suffered a severe check in another direction. A strong force of Turkish troops from Macovno, with a number of mountain guns, advanced on Krania, which had recently been captured by the Greeks, and attacked 400 irregulars of Greece, who occupied an entrenched position. It is reported the fighting was ferocious on both sides. The insurgents eventually were compelled to retreat north to the mountains. Some, however, succeeded in breaking through the Turkish lines and escaped to Baltonia, just across the frontier in Macedonia, first captured by the Greek irregulars and used by them as a depot for provisions and ammunition.

Accounts given by refugees of Turkish losses are believed to be exaggerated. They say 265 Turks were killed, while the irregulars only had eight men killed and seventeen wounded. The leader of the Greeks operating in that direction, Chief Milonas, was among the wounded, and returned into Greek territory with a number of refugees. One of the latter says a portion of the Turkish force is composed of irregulars whose dress resembles that of the Greek insurgents. This, it appears, enabled the Turkish force to execute a flank movement unheeded by the leaders of the Greeks. The refugee referred to blames the Greek leaders for badly handling the men. All the refugees bore traces of having experienced great fatigue, and it is reported that Ethniko Hetairia, or the national league, has ordered the Greek irregulars to retreat into Greek territory, regarding further bloodshed as useless, unless the regular army of Greece supports the irregulars.

AGREEMENT REACHED.

Columbia River Fishermen Will Take Four Cents a Pound.

Astoria, Or., April 19.—It is now settled that the Columbia river packers will not get their fish this season at less than 4 cents, as was anticipated. At a conference between a committee of the union, appointed for that purpose, and the packers, this afternoon, it was determined by the former that no fish would be delivered to any cannery for less than the 4-cent price.

It now remains to be seen whether the packers will pay the union rate or shut down. The probabilities are, however, that it will be decided to go ahead with the season's pack, but an effort will be made by the Cannerymen's Association to stiffen Eastern prices so as to justify the 4-cent price for fish.

A prominent packer is authority for the statement that no more fish will be offered under first-class labels after today at a price that will not leave a fair margin of profit at 4 cents for raw material. It could not be learned what action the association has determined to take, but it is generally reported that its members have agreed to render such assistance to one another as will enable the entire spring pack to be carried over until the desired improvement takes place in the market.

When it became generally known tonight that the impending strike had been averted, there was great rejoicing.

When the season opened, business experienced a sudden improvement, but fell off again as the agitation continued. Great uneasiness was felt. The situation, as it now stands, is all that could be desired, and indications are bright for a prosperous year. The only disagreeable feature of the situation is that the Chinese have secured an advantage over white labor. This condition has caused a great deal of unfavorable discussion, and is condemned on all sides.

Several hundred boats went out tonight, the decision of the union setting all doubts at rest. The run of salmon continues light, but the fish is of excellent quality. It is predicted by fish experts that the run this year will be without precedent in the past ten seasons.

Security of Funds in Land Office.

Washington, April 19.—The exhaustion of the funds appropriated for the general land office is largely crippling the work in the field, and further retrenchment on the salary rolls was made today. The fourteen examiners of the office who have been investigating on the Chippewa Indian lands at \$6 per day each, and twelve mineral land commissioners in Idaho and Montana, drawing \$2,500 per annum each, were ordered dropped from the rolls. The order takes effect the 20th inst.

Judge Storrow Dead.

Washington, April 19.—Judge Jas. A. Storrow, a lawyer of Boston, dropped dead while at the congressional library today. Judge Storrow took an important part in the proceedings incidental to the arbitration treaty between the governments of Great Britain and Venezuela for the settlement of the boundary dispute.

The common mushroom attains its greatest size in less than twenty-four hours.

THE FLOOD DISTRICT.

A Serious Break Has Occurred in the Louisiana Levee.

Vicksburg, Miss., April 19.—The levee at Biggs, in Madison parish, four and a half miles below Delta, La., broke at 10 o'clock tonight. The crevasse was 120 feet wide twenty minutes after it gave way. Delta is directly opposite Vicksburg. The Queen & Crescent route train dispatchers' office reported the break at 12 o'clock tonight. The news was sent to Delta at once, the operator being roused out of bed, and the message of warning sent along the line of the railroad. The levee is a great one, and has been engaging special attention of the authorities for weeks. Several hundred convicts have been employed upon it in addition to other laborers, and so greatly had it been strengthened that only today the belief was confidently expressed by men living beside it that it would hold. The disaster will be a great one.

The situation along the Louisiana levees across the river for fifty miles above and below this city dwarfs every other feature of the flood problem into temporary insignificance. The rise shows no sign of diminution, and the remaining levees are actually in danger of being overtopped by the water now pouring out of the Yazoo basin in a sheet twenty-five miles wide for a distance of ten miles opposite this city.

In spite of the evident danger and of the repeated warnings of the weather bureau, very few persons are removing stock to the highlands, though 100 head of mules were brought to this city tonight from Sparta plantation, in Louisiana, ten miles above here. At several points the water has reached the top of the levee and is being held back by sacks and lumber.

THE WOOL SCHEDULE.

Western Senators Combine to Secure Important Changes.

Washington, April 19.—Western senators, after several conferences, have reached an agreement to stand together for important changes in the wool schedule of the Dingley bill. The senators most prominently identified with the movement are Messrs. Mantle, Carter, Shoup, Warren and Burrows. They have not only agreed upon a line of amendments, but have decided to insist on their inclusion in the bill. The meetings have also been attended by many prominent woolgrowers.

The proposed amendments are directed mainly to closing the many loopholes for evasion and fraud which wool men agree abound in the Dingley law, and were also found in the McKinley law. An amendment was agreed upon providing that an additional duty of 4 cents a pound should be levied upon skirted wools and wools, as imported in 1890, and prior to that time.

The principal change, however, to be proposed is upon wool and camel's-hair of the third-class. The Dingley bill proposes an ad valorem duty of 32 and 58 per cent, respectively, upon wools of this class valued under and over 13 cents per pound. It is proposed now to strike out the Dingley bill clauses relating to third-class wools and to insert instead the following:

"On wools of the third-class and camel's-hair of the third-class, the value of which shall be 8 cents or less per pound in the wool markets of the United States, the duty shall be 5 cents per pound, and on all wool and hair of this class, the value of which shall not exceed 8 cents per pound in the general markets of the United States, there shall be an additional duty of one-half of 1 cent per pound for each increase of 1 cent per pound in the value thereof."

SPAIN FORCED TO GIVE UP.

Withdrawal of Her Army From Cuba Will Soon Begin.

Washington, April 19.—According to information received from trustworthy sources here the withdrawal of at least a part of the great army Spain has maintained for several years in the island of Cuba will begin when the rainy season sets in within a few days. The initial movement will be the departure of 10,000 Spanish troops from Havana for Spain, and within a short time 30,000 troops, it is understood, will withdraw. The Spanish insist positively that it means only that little or nothing of the insurrection remains; that Gomez has only about fifty or 100 followers, and to watch these under conditions in which the campaign has been necessarily conducted, a few thousand are quite as effective as the 180,000 men now in Cuba.

The Cuban contingent, on the other hand, insists that the Spanish financial resources are exhausted and the troops are to be withdrawn because of lack of money to keep them in service.

Chinese "Actors" Will Be Admitted.

Washington, April 19.—Secretary Gage has instructed customs officers at Pembina, N. D., to admit the 150 Chinese who are en route to the Nashville exposition. This action is taken on instructions of the director-general under their admission is necessary, under concessions made to exhibitors and others.

Struck for More Wages.

Patterson, N. J., April 19.—Having been denied an increase of wages, 500 employes of the Kearney Foot File works struck today.

England Heeds Our Warning.

London, April 19.—Gerald B. Hampton, with Professor Thompson, went to Behring sea in 1896, to inquire into seal life, has left England again on a similar mission. The report made to the foreign office in January set forth that the effect of pelagic sealing is not nearly so serious as the Americans have stated, but the commissioners favored some common measure between the two governments for the preservation of the seals.

BRIEF PACIFIC COAST NEWS

A Resume of Events in the Northwest.

EVIDENCE OF STEADY GROWTH

News Gathered in All the Towns of Our Neighboring States—Improvement Noted in All Industries—Oregon.

A baseball association has been organized in The Dalles.

The woolgrowers of Grant county will meet at Mount Vernon the first Saturday in May.

The steamer Arcata took out from Coos bay on her last trip more than 2,500 sacks of potatoes.

Eastern Oregon hills will rejoice in a fine crop of bunchgrass this year, owing to abundant moisture.

The Columbia county court has extended the time in which taxes may be paid to June 15. No penalty will be added before that time.

A proposition to bond the Eagle Point, Jackson county, school district for \$1,000 was defeated last week by a vote of forty-five to thirty-four.

The Huntington Herald says that a Cuban officer, traveling incognito, and engaged in secret revolutionary work, passed through that town last week.

The firemen of Baker City have already begun to work to make a great success of the firemen's tournament, that will be held in that city June 8, 9 and 10.

The students of the Normal school in Drain planted twenty graceful trees on Arbor day. The senior class planted an elder, which gives every promise of thriving.

Goose lake, in Lake county, is much higher this spring than it has been for a number of years. A number of houses and haystacks are completely surrounded by water.

A chamber of commerce has been organized at Marshfield with purpose "to assist in the establishment of industries and to encourage all enterprises that will be a benefit to the community."

Judge Fullerton has announced that he will issue no order restraining the county court of Coos county from ordering the building of the new courthouse till both sides have had a full hearing.

A weekly shipment of sturgeon is being made from Huntington, and some good-sized fish have been brought in lately. Fish weighing between 200 and 300 pounds are not an uncommon thing there. They are taken from Snake river, near Old's Ferry.

A farmer of Yamhill county last year raised four or five tons of flaxseed, which he ground into feed after a great deal of experimenting and adjusting of his self-made grinder. He sold his product at a good profit to produce dealers and druggists of McMinnville. The ground flaxseed sells for feed at 3 cents a pound, which is about an average return of \$40 per acre.

Washington.

There is talk of building a telephone line from Thorp to Ellensburg.

The bridge across the Colville river at Kettle Falls has been finished.

The fees received by the county clerk of Cowlitz county, last month, exceeded the clerk's salary by \$35.

The Chuckanut stone quarries have received orders to get out stone for the government lighthouse at Coos bay.

There were 60 births in Whitman county during the first quarter of this year. 30 boys and 30 girls. There were 46 marriages and 25 deaths.

The Thurston county commissioners counted over the funds in the treasurer's office last week and found \$9,447.76 in warrants, and \$12,652.21 in cash.

A cloudburst last week flooded all of the gulches leading into Russell creek, in Walla Walla county. A few of the farmers' houses were flooded, but not much damage was done.

The printing of the session laws for the legislative session just closed is all completed, with the exception of the index, which is now being pushed day and night, and will soon be done.

The Spokane land office has decided that a woman who has been divorced from her husband cannot maintain any homestead rights accruing to him, on account of prior marital relations with him.

The log drive of the Palouse Lumber Company has ended, the logs now being in the boom at the mill in Palouse. Mr. Cold has a drive of 1,500,000 feet on the way down the Palouse river to Colfax.

Hon. B. F. Barge and Judge Goodwin, Indian commissioners, are expected to return to North Yakima the latter part of this month and resume negotiations with the Yakima Indians, looking to the opening of the reservation.

A corporation has been organized in Davenport, with a capital stock of \$4,000, the object of which corporation is to build a two-story building, the upper part of which will be used for lodges and the lower part for a public hall.

Whatcom county has more miles of plank road than any other county in the state, and proposes to continue to network the county with these useful highways of commerce, having just awarded a contract for seven miles to be built for \$11,716.

The receiver of the First National bank, of Olympia, has received information from Controller Eckles that a dividend of 30 per cent has been declared in favor of the creditors of the bank. The dividend will be payable in about thirty days.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Downing, Hopkins & Company's Review of Trade.

There was a good trade and active market in wheat during the past week, fluctuations covering 7 1/2 range. Operations were somewhat enlarged, and towards the end of the week orders from the country more numerous. The feeling developed was stronger and higher prices ruled, all of which was maintained, and the close shows an advance of 7 1/2 c, with final trades in May at 73 1/2 c and July 73 1/2 c. The holiday on Friday had a tendency to curtail operations during the middle of the week, but commencing with the first lap of the bell on Saturday there was a good general trade and the largest gain for a single day in the week was scored on that day, May advancing from 59 3/8 c at the opening, to 73 c at the close. Heavy short traders were the principal buyers, but they were first goaded into action by some energetic buying for long and foreign accounts. In the midst of rejoicings over their recent series of brilliant victories, the bears seemed to forget their experience of only two years ago. On April 9 of that year, May wheat sold at 54c, but then began to climb, and the market scarcely halted until 85 3/8 c was reached on May 29 the same year. A great many bruins were hurt in that 30 5/8 c rise. The visible supply was in that year, on March 1, 78,762,000; April 1, 74,308,000 bushels against 37,706,000 bushels at present. Chicago stocks April 1, 1895, were 26,454,000 bushels against present stock of 10,000,000 bushels. Nor was there at that time any shortage in the wheat crops of other countries, and no one was reading a column a day about "the war in Crete." The 30c rise came "just the same." We are not called upon to state whether or not such an advance will occur during the same period this year. We do know, however, that it has been many years since domestic supply has been so low as at present, and about as long since the world's supply has been down before where it is now.

Market Quotations.

Portland, Or., April 20, 1897.

Flour—Portland, Salem, Cascadia and Dayton, \$4.00; Benton county and White Lily, \$4.00; graham, \$3.40; superfine, \$2.75 per barrel.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 74@75c; Valley, 76c per bushel.

Oats—Choice white, 38@40c per bushel; choice gray, 37@39c.

Hay—Timothy, \$14.00@15.00 per ton; clover, \$11.50@12.50; wheat and oat, \$10.00@11.00 per ton.

Barley—Feed barley, \$17.50 per ton; brewing, \$18@19.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$14.50; shorts, \$16.50; middlings, \$26.

Butter—Creamery, 35c; dairy, 25@27 1/2 c; store, 17 1/2 @30c per roll.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 55@65c; Garnet Chilies, 65@75c; Early Rose, 80@85c per sack; sweets, \$2.75 per cental for Merced; new potatoes, 30c per pound.

Onions—\$2.50@3.00 per cental.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.75@3.25; geese, \$4.00@5.00; turkeys, live, 11@12c; ducks, \$6.00@7.00 per dozen.

Eggs—Oregon, 11c per dozen.

Cheese—Oregon, 10c; Young America, 12 1/2 c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 12c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 6@8c.

Hops—9@10c per pound.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.00@3.50; cows, \$2.25@3.00; dressed beef, 4@6c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$3.50@3.75; dressed mutton, 6c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice, heavy, \$4.00@4.25; light and feeders, \$2.50@3.00; dressed \$4.50@5.25 per cwt.

Veal—Large, 5@5 1/2 c; small, 6@6 1/2 c per pound.

Seattle, Wash., April 20, 1897.

Wheat—Chicken feed, \$27 per ton. Oats—Choice, \$23@24 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, \$20 per ton.

Corn—Whole, \$20 per ton; cracked, \$20@21; feed meal, \$19@20.

THE COAST VICTORIES

TARIFF BILL GRATIFYING TO WESTERN REPUBLICANS.

Fruits, Wool and Other Farm Products Being Especially Cared For—Japan's New Financial Departure.

E. F. PARSONS, Special Correspondent.

Washington, D. C.—Pacific coast representatives are generally well pleased with the new tariff bill. It gives to the products of their section such full protection that they feel well satisfied with the work thus far, though they will ask for an increase in one or two features of the fruit schedules, and are very hopeful of success. They find the agricultural element of the country and the employes of the manufacturing establishments generally delighted with the bill, and that the only serious opposition comes from the foreigners who want to send goods into this country, and the importers who want to make money by bringing them in.

Mad as "Wet Hens."

The importers of the country are mad as so many wet hens. They expected to make millions out of their excessive importations prior to the final enactment of the Dingley bill, but the retrospective clause introduced at the last moment and passed by the house has upset their plans completely. Their hope of being able to import hundreds of millions of dollars worth of goods during the discussion of the bill in the senate is gone, and they will not be likely to add materially to the enormous stocks of goods which they had already brought in to escape payments of increased rates of duties.

Pushing for Prompt Action.

The demand for prompt action by the senate on the tariff bill grows apace. Members of that body are receiving communications from Republicans and Democrats alike urging prompt action. The finance committee, which expected to put a couple of months on the bill, expects to finish it in a couple of weeks, and the plans for elaborate discussion in the senate are being materially reduced.

Earners and Workmen Frame Tariff.

"The farmers and workmen have had their way," said one of the framers of the tariff bill, talking to your correspondent about that measure recently. "People who assume that the workmen and women of the United States are not pleased with the Dingley bill show that they know very little about what has been happening in this country in the past few weeks and months. No class of citizens was so widely represented and so fully heard by individuals or representatives before the ways and means committee as the workmen, unless perhaps it may be the farmers. Those two classes of the community not only had their say but had their way, and the free traders who are throwing stones at the bill now, in the attempt to create dissatisfaction with it among the voters of the country, show very poor judgment, and are paying anything but a compliment to that class of citizens."

"Do you find any opposition or protests against the bill, now that it has been thoroughly digested by the public?"

"Yes. Solemn protests are being filed with both committees by the importers and such other people as the importers can influence. And that is all. The importers are against the bill, for it will cut down their business and start the factories of this country to work. As a result of this they are fighting it by every process. Each separate interest is working its separate class of citizens. The tobacco importers for instance, have sent out ready made protests to the manufacturers of the country, and in this way are getting certain workmen who have had an opportunity to personally examine the situation, to sign these formal protests. It is so apparent, however, that these people are being 'worked' for the benefit of the importers that the effect is not appreciable and there is little prospect that the bill is going to be materially changed. Of course there will be minor changes, but the thoroughly protective features of the bill for which the workmen in the manufacturing and fields have asked are going to be retained and even strengthened."

Two Classes Who Do Not Prosper.

Two classes of people have failed to prosper since the election of McKinley. One of these classes is composed of silver advocates, the other the trusts. The election of McKinley and the rejection of the free silver proposition started similar action by some other nations which had been looked to as supporters of the silver theory, and the friends of free coinage have witnessed with dismay the transfer of Japan, Russia and China to the gold standard column. The trusts have also fared as badly. The railroad combinations, the sugar trust, the Standard oil trust, and many minor organizations of this character have received stunning blows within the few months since the election of 1896, and will suffer still more when the new tariff law goes into effect and deprives them of the advantages which they have enjoyed under the Wilson law.

The South Joins Hands With the West

No tariff bill ever passed in congress received as many Southern votes as did the one which has just passed the house. Twenty-five Republicans, five Democrats and one Populist, from the South, supported the Dingley bill in the house, and the other Populists from that section declined to vote against it. Protection in the South has made wonderful strides in the last few years and will continue in the same line.