

THOS. H. TONGUE ON THE PORTO RICAN QUESTION.

Continued from First Page.

people have lived under different laws. The are not adapted to our laws, or our laws to them. The tax levied upon the manufacture of tobacco in the United States, wealthy corporations turning out immense quantities, is a small affair. The tax upon some of our magnificent retail dealers is not a serious thing. The internal revenue stamps required upon cigars is reasonably light upon that class of our population who indulge in those luxuries. In Porto Rico the manufacturer is frequently also a retail dealer in a small building, doing a small business, in both making and selling cheap cigars. To compel him to pay a manufacturer's tax, a retail dealer's license, and in addition the stamp duties upon his product, would drive him out of business, and his family to starvation. I merely allude to this as the one instance, showing that it will require time for the people to adapt themselves and their business to our laws, and for us to adapt our laws to the condition of the people. Under these circumstances, how could revenue be raised for the necessary support of governmental institutions in Porto Rico? It was a condition to be met, not a theory to be wrangled over. It pressed for immediate solution. There was an empty treasury, officers unpaid.

General Davis further states: "The municipal governments are many of them prostrate, the police cannot be paid, the pri ones cannot be fed, and the schools must be closed if not wholly supported from insular treasury." If direct taxation could have been paid by the people of the island, the Federal Government is possessed of no machinery to assess or collect. But with the conditions above described, such measures would have been useless. But money must be procured from some source, and it could be procured only by taxing somebody and somebody's property. How could this be done? Now it appeared to the committee on ways and means that there was one simple way that would work no oppression or hardship. It concluded for the present, therefore, to abandon the attempt to collect internal revenue taxes, or to levy direct taxation upon the property of Porto Rico. It found that it would be impossible for Porto Rico to perform the "plata duties" to the Federal Government in the manner performed by other states. It believed that the retention of a small duty upon the commerce between Porto Rico and the United States, which would fall almost wholly upon sugar and tobacco, the industries best able to sustain it, and apply all the money so collected toward paying the expenses of Porto Rican government, for the present, at least, and until some other measures, better and more effective, could be devised for raising this revenue, was the best policy to adopt. It was for these reasons the bill was introduced and finally passed. The 25 per cent duties were lowered to 15 per cent, in order to prevent any appearance of an attempt to protect the growers of American sugar and American tobacco, from the insignificant competition with the production of these islands. The Government has all the necessary machinery to collect these taxes, and it will fall upon the people best able to bear it.

General Davis says: "The sugar industry has suffered much less than the others." The sugar planters of Porto Rico have paid their employees about 20 cents a day, have rich soil and excellent climate, and have marketed about two-thirds of their product into the United States, paying full duties, and yet remained reasonably prosperous. As this bill removes 85 per cent of these duties it will certainly improve their condition, enhance their wealth, and not be considered an oppression."

Malapringing of This Bill. Here is the entire malapringing of this legislation. In passing this law, Congress, ignoring all other questions, has simply endeavored to solve one problem, achieve one result, meet one condition and answer one question—how best under the present unusual conditions, and in the most humane way, can necessary revenue be raised to support government in Porto Rico?

Unfortunately, at the time the first bill was introduced, it came very much as a surprise. People had read the message of the president referring to our "plain duty" toward Porto Rico. The report of General Davis was not published until long after the writing of that message, and few, if any, members of Congress had read it. The testimony of General Davis was, of course, given before the committee and its contents known practically to no one but the members of the respective committees. The bill as drawn did not disclose the real purpose. It was susceptible of misconstruction and was misconstrued. There was an outburst of indignation against it, in Congress and out of it. It was some time before the members of Congress, eager for information, could ascertain the real existing conditions, and the underlying necessities for passing the bill. Outside of Congress, wild conjecture, absurd rumor, unreasonable motives were chasing each other through the air. Newspaper correspondents, with that peculiar enterprise born by the late exciting months in our history, and wearied with the apparent dullness of Con-

gress, used their imaginations, conjectures and manufactured reasons before they were able to realize the truth. The country has not yet escaped first impressions produced by those means. While writing this letter I have received the first request from Oregon for information for copies of the bill. Evidently the public is beginning to investigate real conditions, and in the end will know the facts.

An interesting question has arisen. How much, if any, of the sugar tax will be borne by the people of Porto Rico, and how much by the trusts? It has been repeatedly stated on the floor of both the House and Senate that practically the entire crop of both sugar and tobacco is in the hands of the great trusts of New York. There has been some feeble attempt to deny this. It is claimed that General Davis telegraphed that this story was a pure fabrication. Diligent inquiry among Cabinet and Army officers and members of Congress fails to find any such dispatch from General Davis. But not come forward Mr. Finley, the English Vice-Consul at San Juan, with the explicit declaration that, at least so far as sugar goes, it will not make the slightest difference to "the trust" what action on the tariff is taken. There is, he asserts, no basis for the reports about large quantities of sugar in the island awaiting shipment. "On the contrary," the Vice-Consul explains, "all the sugar in Porto Rico was exported long ago. We had no sugar to supply the local demand, and it was imported from the United States for that purpose. It brought, for local consumption, 7 cents a pound. The United States troops going to Porto Rico took their sugar with them, because it could be purchased in the United States cheaper than in Porto Rico."

This gentleman, by the way, still a British subject after over 30 years residence in Porto Rico, has made immense wealth in that island and owns a great number of plantations. But his statement proves too much. If there is not much of it anyhow, why all these "tears"? Why has that gentleman remained so long in Washington, according to Mr. Dooliver, the most persistent lobbyist that ever appeared before congress, if there is no sugar for this tax to be levied upon? On the contrary, Mr. Dooliver has stated that this gentleman admitted that if the free-trade bill was passed, he would clear \$100,000. We modestly submit that he should be content with the \$85,000 and allow the other to go to support the government of the people among whom he has lived so long and who have helped him to make his wealth. But if, as he states, this year's crop was exported long ago, where is it? In what warehouse? But, more important still, who is the owner of it? Or that there can be but one answer. There is but one purchaser in the United States of unrefined sugar, and that is the Havemeyer-Seares Company, of New York, commonly called the sugar trust. Whether a part of this sugar is owned by such a wealthy gentleman as Mr. Finley or by the sugar trust, it ought to submit to and can submit to this slight duty, to be used for the government of Porto Rico. It is much better, it is much wiser, to attempt to collect this tax from this class of people than it would be to attempt to collect it from those whose industries have been destroyed by the recent storms. This is the whole question presented by this bill. The only issue is whether we shall attempt to collect this tax from the wealth of Porto Rico or from its poverty. By this test the justice of this bill must be judged. Should this law continue in force more than the present year, it is conceded that this taxation would fall upon the sugar and tobacco planters. Whether it is to continue or not is a matter to be determined entirely by the people of Porto Rico themselves. If these gentlemen are so anxious to escape this slight taxation in this form, let them make prompt application to the Porto Rican legislature. They may not be so successful in deluding a Porto Rican legislature as they have been in deluding a great many of the people of the United States in the belief that they oppose this bill only because it is enacted in their own interests. I predict now that the Porto Rican legislature will make no haste to terminate the operation of the bill and that it will be in operation the two full years.

Not Pleasant to Vote So. Mr. Editor, it has not been pleasant to vote against what seemed to be the apparent sentiment of my neighbors and friends. The only reward I hope for in public life, in addition to the approval of my own conscience, is to be able to retain and be worthy of the respect and friendship of my friends and the approval of the people who favored me with their support and whom I have the honor to represent. The pleasantest thing I could do would be to obey their wishes in all matters of policy and matters affecting their interests; their matured opinions will have a controlling influence with me. There is sometimes a temporary opinion, not formed deliberately, but too hastily, on insufficient information, that it becomes the duty, the painful duty, it is true, but nevertheless the duty, of a true representative, who has fuller means of information, to resist. I have had this duty to perform before. A hastily formed public opinion seemed to demand that the re-election passed in congress declaring war with Spain should be based upon revenge, not grounds sustained

by international law. It seemed to demand that we must recognize the independence of the so-called Cuban republic and go into the war against them as the servants or allies of General Gomez. These sentiments seemed very strong; the air seemed filled with them. Many able and dignified men of both branches of the national legislature were carried away with them. It required cool judgment, courageous leadership, to prevent disastrous effects. On those matters I acted as my conscience and at judgment led me to believe was right. A more matured public opinion has approved of this course. In this Porto Rican matter, all the clamor about members being whipped into support of this bill is mere rot. No man has instructed or requested me to vote for it, and no man in high authority, the president, speaker or any one else, has urged or requested my support of this bill. I supported it believing that, under the circumstances, it was the best, wisest and right thing to do. I believe confidently that the people of the State of Oregon, upon careful consideration, will accord me at least sincerity of purpose and in the end will approve my judgment.

THOMAS H. TONGUE. UNFASHIONABLE HORSES. Good Sellers That Do Not Come From Fancy Families. The Western Horseman commends the unfashionable trotting bred horses, those animals that possess good size, good looks, good style, sound legs, good feet, are long lived and sell for the high dollar regardless of the fact that they are not bred in lines pleasing to the light harness horse connoisseur. They are not confined to any one state or any one section of some particular commonwealth, but are met with wherever man has been breeding the light harness horse. Some of the best selling horses on the Chicago market since 1890 trace to these unfashionable families. Only a short time since two of a four-horse band that sold for "big money" were grandsons of Governor Sprague, and that is practically unknown to horsemen of the last decade, though a most perfect trotting machine, a game race horse, a good looking stallion and a sire whose worth has not been properly recognized. Sprague, a son of Governor Sprague, has been represented in the sales of high class harness horses during the past ten years by a great number of sons and daughters that sold for prices not reached by 95 per cent of the fashionable bred stock sold during the same period. Scattered all over the United States are representatives of unfashionable families that are attracting the eye and dollars of those buyers that are looking "for more horse and less pedigree." A dash of the blood of Edwin Forrest, Daniel Lambert, Green's Bashaw, Mike Logan, Harry Pulling, Governor Sprague, Royal Fournaght, Hecard, Simpson, Blackbird, Western Chief, Mastordillo, Magna Charta, Golden-bow, Morrill, the Morse Horse, Hamlin Patchen and numerous other stallions that might be mentioned is not to be despised when one is looking for superior market animals. Too many of our fashionably bred trotters possess so little substance and individual merit that they are practically worthless when their racing days are over. Breeders should remember the experience of the past decade, when "the real sort, the right sort," of horses have sold for remunerative prices while all other classes went begging for buyers and "govern themselves accordingly."

Dry Cured Meats. The writer of this is The Farm, Stock and Home, happens to know by personal experience that the most delicious hams, bacon and dried beef are cured by the dry process or without brine. Take one part brown sugar to ten parts salt and one ounce of saltpeter to each 100 pounds of meat. Pulverize the salt finely and mix all together thoroughly. Lay the meat on a bench or table where it will not freeze, but will be cool. Rub the preparation all over each piece and pile the pieces together, but not over four high. Some liquor will gather and drop from the table, and provision should be made to catch it in a pail. In the interest of neatness, in a week or ten days more the pieces are ready for the smokehouse. The beef should be smoked a little only or much less than the pork. Such meat is sweet, juicy and will tickle any palate and will be such a marked contrast to the salted and brined meat of commerce that it will tempt consumers to pay a good price for it. Meat so cured will keep well—such good stuff can be kept in the average family—until warm weather and even well into summer if kept where flies cannot get at it, as in paper bags and buried in oats, bran, salt or wood shavings.

Toxaline Treatment. "Will the toxaline treatment, recently announced by a European scientist, do all that is claimed for it by authorities on 'parasites in sheep,' who have tested and commended it?" This question is being asked by sheepmen everywhere, says The Sheep Breeder. We are pleased to report that in no case has the treatment failed to kill the stomach and lung worm. We are receiving many letters from flock masters asking about the treatment. The discoverer of toxaline claims it to be a specific only. It will destroy parasites of the stomach and lungs, but cannot prevent reinfection from the millions of germs that abound on farms or ranches where the disease has obtained a foothold. Certain seasons are more productive of the pests than others. This is especially true in a wet season, or where sheep have free access to stagnant water. Flock masters must remove the cause if these pests are to be kept from the sheep. Preventives in the form of any of the standard worm powders or tonics should be kept and freely used on lambs run on infected farms or pastures.

Curious Incident. A curious incident was recorded a few years ago by a Dorsetshire horse owner, says the London Live Stock Journal. His horse, while standing with the harness on waiting to be put into the shafts, suddenly fell flat on his side with a groan or grunt and was promptly scrambled on to his feet again. The horse, a 14-year-old bay, was in perfect health, so far as could be ascertained, fed well, had a good coat and was always fit and up to his work in the department. When he got up,

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