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NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

Closing Debate on Tariff Bill is Marked by a Flood of Oratory

Washington.—General debate on the Democratic tariff bill in the house wound up in a final outburst of oratory. Democrats passed the day lauding the measure, while alternately Republicans and Progressives attacked its provisions.

The house, weary after a week of tariff oratory, did not produce a numerous attendance and most of the speeches of the day were made to empty benches. However, Representative Payne, of New York, the ranking Republican member of the ways and means committee and the father of the present tariff law, had a good-sized audience to listen to his denunciation of the bill. He painted a vivid word-picture of ruined industry and impoverished labor which he presented as the inevitable result of the Underwood bill.

Representative Murdock, the Progressive leader, criticized the tariff policy of both Democrats and Republicans. He said the Underwood bill was an "unreliable, chaotic jumble of inconsistencies," and urged that the tariff be placed in the hands of a non-partisan tariff commission. "If this bill passes," he said, "before Christ, its sponsors will be offering amendments."

Republican Senators Decide Policy By unanimous vote the republican senate caucus agreed there should be no general reprisal on President Wilson for the democratic holdup of the Taft nominations in the last session of congress, but that republican opposition would be shown in the following cases:

In appointments to the consular service or the minor diplomatic posts, such as secretaries of embassies or legations, where the merit system resorted to by ex-Presidents Roosevelt and Taft was not followed.

Where vacancies are created by removals from office which carry fixed tenure, unless made for cause, and particularly where removals are made from offices which require technical or special knowledge.

Expert Arraigns Forest Service A scathing indictment of the present day management of the forest service is contained in a memorandum filed with the secretary of agriculture by Daniel W. Adams, who, after five years as expert lumberman in the forestry bureau, voluntarily retired to engage in private business. Impracticability, bad business management, improvidence, and an excess of bureaucratic methods are the general charges he makes. Mr. Adams gives names, cites instances and refers to records to substantiate his charges.

Railroads Gain Point The commerce court upheld the interstate commerce commission's orders in the Shreveport, Tex., rate cases and in many respects sustained principles which the railroads are asking the supreme court to adopt in the 45-state rate cases now awaiting decision. The powers of congress and the interstate commerce commission to remove discrimination caused by a state railroad rates lower than interstate rates which have been held to be reasonable.

Value of Railroads to Be Fixed The interstate commerce commission announced that it has about completed the personnel of the board of engineers, who will place a physical value on all railroads.

Tentative values, fixed by the board, will be submitted to the railroads, the department of justice and the governors of states wherein the properties are located. If no protest is filed within 30 days the value becomes final. Where protests are filed, the interstate commerce commission will make public investigations.

National Capital Brevities Important improvements and extensions are to be made in the postal bank system, according to an announcement made by the postmaster general.

Former Governor George Curry of New Mexico, is reported to have been selected by President Wilson as the first member of the new Philippine commission.

Senator Jones of Washington has introduced in congress a bill for the direct election of United States senators in the same manner as representatives are elected. It is intended as a temporary measure to tide over until the states themselves enact direct election laws.

Republican senators have so far held up 40 of President Wilson's nominations for small postoffices. They are planning to make their hardest fight against W. J. Harris of Georgia for director of the census. The president was assured, however, by senators who called upon him, that his nomination of Charles P. Neill to be commissioner of labor statistics would be confirmed.

SALVAGE PRIZES.

Ships in Distress Are Like Treasure Trove to the Mariner.

Salvage is one of those overworked words with half a dozen meanings. In a marine sense it is indiscriminately applied to the act of saving a vessel from the perils of the sea, to claim entered and to the final monetary award. On land it is a term which, by common usage, has come to embrace the recovery of goods, of whatever nature, that have been placed in jeopardy.

One thing is certain—there are but few words that awaken keener anticipation in the minds of those who traffic on the deep than the term salvage when applied to the rescue of vessels floating helpless or abandoned upon the waters. In sea parlance the term has much the same significance as the word "treasure trove" has ashore.

There are but few mariners who put to sea without the hope that they may some day be fortunate enough to pick up a valuable craft in distress and share in the resultant salvage award.

Salvage is interesting from a legal standpoint, from the fact that it is probably the only case in law where a person may become liable to a claim upon him for services rendered to his property without his consent, expressed or implied. It also takes priority over all other claims. The amount is determined by the admiralty court and is dependent upon the peril involved, the nature of the service and the value of the property saved.

A curious point of law, long observed, has but little weight today in determining salvage awards. This ruling was that as long as any domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat or pig, remained alive on a derelict the craft was not called abandoned, and the salvage award was materially affected by the circumstance.

The origin of this ruling is obscure, but the view probably taken in such a case was that if the weather conditions had been exceptionally severe after the abandonment of a vessel all life would have perished before the arrival of the salvors.

Seeking for a disabled vessel when its location is not definitely known is much like the proverbial "hunting for a needle in a haystack." Within recent years as many of the fat salvage prizes along the north Pacific coast have gone to tramp steamers that happened along at the opportune moment as have fallen to the numerous tugboats that spend much of their time cruising off shore.

Of the causes that place a vessel in such a predicament that it becomes an object of salvage, first and foremost, of course, must be placed the force of wind and wave. No matter how large the vessel, it can never afford to bid defiance to the elements, for without warning something may happen to send it to the bottom or leave it floating a helpless derelict upon the face of the waters.—James G. McCurdy in Wide World Magazine.

Rocking Stones.

Rocking stones are numerous in all countries, some of them apparently natural, others seemingly artificial. The famous Logan rock near Land's End in Cornwall, which weighs seventy tons, was wantonly displaced by Lieutenant Goldsmith and his boat crew of nine men in 1842. He was obliged to replace it at a cost of \$10,000. In Ireland the rocking stones are frequently to be found, and one in County Antrim is popularly believed to rock in an excited way at the approach of malefactors.

A Chinese Chair of Repentance.

The knife chair is an instrument of torture used in certain Taiping religious ceremonies, which takes the form of a straight backed arm-chair furnished with long blades wherever the body and limbs touch the chair. On the back the knives are placed horizontally; on the seat, as well as at the base for the feet to rest upon, vertically, while each arm is made of a similar blade, along the edge of which the sitter's arm rests.

A Warning.

Clara—I have been to the theater every night this week and had a different escort each time.

Fred—You should be more cautious, my dear Miss Clara.

Clara—Cautious!

Fred—Yes; or ill natured people will be saying that you can't get the same man to go with you twice.—London Answers.

Use Found For It.

"Do you believe that music prevents crime?"

"To a certain extent," replied Mr. Sinnick. "When a man keeps both hands and his breath busy with a cornet, you know he can't be picking pockets, attempting homicide or slandering his neighbors."—London Stray Stories.

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