

BRIEF REPORT OF THE DAILY WORK OF NATION'S LAWMAKERS

Washington, May 12.—Representative Stanton Warburton, of Washington, would put sugar on the free list, at the risk of utterly destroying the beet-sugar industry of the United States. In fact Warburton would welcome the destruction of this industry if its maintenance is to cost the people of this country from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000 in tariff duties each year. All this he said in a speech which he delivered in the house of representatives Friday.

"Sugar in this country costs at least \$1.90 a hundred pounds, the present tariff, more than it would cost if we bought our sugar in the markets of the open world," declared Warburton. He pointed out that under the McKinley law the government paid out bounties of approximately \$9,000,000 a year to the producers of beet-sugar. The Wilson law repealed the bounty provision, and the duty ultimately was fixed by the Payne-Aldrich bill at \$1.90 per hundred. "Our sugar cost us during the four years the McKinley act was in force \$36,000,000 more than it would have cost had we purchased it in the open market. During the three years of the Wilson law it cost an extra \$144,000,000 on account of the tariff, and under the Dingley and Payne-Aldrich laws, up to June 1, 1910, \$1,444,718,583 more than if bought in open market free of duty."

"What have the people of this country to show for this enormous sum of money they have expended to promote the culture of beet sugar? In 1890 we raised cane and sugar beets aggregating 306,000,000 pounds and consumed 3,192,000,000 pounds. In 1910 we raised in this country 1,775,000,000 pounds and consumed 7,360,000,000 pounds. By taxing the consumers of this country \$1,600,000,000 from 1890 to 1910 we have increased the production of sugar in this country 1,400,000,000 pounds; we have been able to foster the beet sugar industry in this country to the extent of increasing our production one pound for every four pounds of our increased consumption. Will any one contend that on this showing, even if we maintain our present enormous tariff, there is any hope or prospect of supplying our present home market with home-grown sugar? On the contrary, does it not show our utter failure to promote the sugar beet industry by this frightful tariff? While our enormously heavy tariff has failed wholly in the prime object for which it was created, it has succeeded in building up one of the greatest and most greedy monopolies that this country has ever known. "A brief study of the cost of production of sugar here and elsewhere will show clearly that we can hope, even under the enormous tariff we now have, to produce but a small fraction of the amount we consume. The American farmers receive \$5 per ton for their sugar beets at the plant. The owners of the factories say they cannot afford to pay more at the prevailing price of sugar. Sugar beets produced in this country averaged about 250 pounds of sugar for each ton of beets. If a farmer received \$5 per ton for his beets he received about \$2.18 for every 100 potential pounds of sugar in the beets."

"Beet sugar can be produced in Austria-Hungary for \$1.85 per hundred and in Germany for \$2. Two dollars per hundred is what England pays for her sugar and that is what we pay for the 4,000,000,000 pounds we import. Then we add to that the customs duties, and we have 4 cents, the prevailing market price in New York. If we remove the duty, instead of sugar retailing on the Pacific Coast for about 10 pounds for a dollar and retailing in New York for 16 to 20 pounds for a dollar, sugar would retail in the United States for about 40 pounds for the dollar. In fact, we can buy our sugar and do buy our sugar in the open markets of the world for a less amount of money than the farmers get for the potential sugar in the beets. The manufacturer of the sugar beets insists that, if he pays \$5 per ton for beets, he cannot sell the manufactured sugar for less than 4 cents per pound. Then, on what theory do we expect successfully and economically to produce sugar in this country from sugar beets?"

Warburton said the farmer would not raise beets and sell them at less than \$5 per ton; land will not depreciate in value; labor will not be cheaper, and we can never hope to raise beets as cheaply as they can be grown abroad. "We cannot economically make our own beet sugar when we can buy sugar abroad for the same price that the American farmer gets for his beets delivered at the sugar factory."

Dam Sites Are Inspected.

Washington, D. C.—Engineers in charge of the Umatilla irrigation project report that all field work in connection with the proposed West extension will be completed by the end of May. Investigations at various dam sites indicate that with reasonable economy the structures can be built providing rights of way are not exorbitant.

Washington, May 10.—Two resolutions for important investigations were agreed to by the house of representatives today.

A investigation of the Postoffice department, proposed by Saunders, of Virginia, to determine whether political influences were operating in the department, whether the employees are discharged for political reasons and covering other features of postal operations was authorized by the adoption of one resolution.

The other, that of Hardwick, of Georgia, provides for a sweeping investigation of the American Sugar Refining company to determine what influence it has had or is having on the prices of sugar or the control of competition.

Representatives of the farming interests of the country appeared today before the senate finance committee to oppose the Canadian reciprocity bill. It was contended that the agreement, unaccompanied by a free-list measure, was a direct blow at the farmer and without benefit to the consumer. Representative La Follette today introduced bills appropriating \$150,000 each for public buildings at Ellensburg and Wenatchee, Wash., where the government now has sites, and the same sum for a building and site at Colfax.

Nine hours of continuous pounding by the Republican minority of the house of representatives failed to make a change in the first Democratic tariff bill—that placing on the free list agricultural implements, meats and many other articles.

The bill passed the house by a vote of 236 to 109, the Democrats voting solidly and mustering 24 Republicans with them.

This came after the Democrats had voted down or ruled out of order more than 100 amendments and had demonstrated again that the Democratic majority was a compact and smoothly working machine for the enactment of legislation. Mann, the minority leader, offered amendment after amendment, but those that were not ruled out of order were cheerfully voted down by an almost solid Democratic vote. An attempt by Mann to recommend the bill to the committee on ways and means was tabled.

Washington, May 9.—Farmers from the Canadian border states, supported by those from states farther removed, made protest today to the senate finance committee against the Canadian reciprocity bill. They were preceded by a delegation of manufacturers of book paper, who likewise objected to the bill.

One witness today referred to the potash lands in Idaho.

"They have all been withdrawn from entry," said Heyburn, of that state.

"If they had not been, the trusts would have them gobbled up long before this time," flashed Senator La Follette.

Heyburn retorted that the government's course had the same effect as a trust, to which La Follette replied that the farmers did not object to that kind of a trust.

Ex-Governor N. J. Bachelder, of New Hampshire, master of the National Grange, denounced the bill as a violation of the pledge of the national platform of 1908 to maintain protection to the country's industries equal to the difference in cost of production at home and abroad.

"Are cattle, sheep and hogs, wheat, oats, butter, eggs and potatoes controlled by trusts?" asked Bachelder of the Democratic senators, as he referred to the Democratic platform.

"If not, why put them on the free list, instead of on a revenue basis, as your platform demands?"

Bachelder presented tables to show that articles used by the American farmer bore an average tariff tax of from 20 to 35 per cent more than that paid by the Canadian farmer. He concluded from this that the American farmer could not compete with the Canadian on an equal basis. Robert Eaton, master of the Illinois State Grange, and W. N. Giles, secretary for the New York State Grange, both warned congress not to discriminate against the farmers.

"You'll hear from us farmers if you do," said Mr. Eaton.

"Lower the tariff equally, if too high," said Mr. Giles, "but do not discriminate against the farmer. We are going to hold somebody responsible if this bill passes."

"That will be the president, for he negotiated the treaty," suggested Senator Bailey.

Widows' Pension Asked.

Washington, May 11.—Pensions of \$5,000 a year each for Francis Cleveland, widow of President Cleveland, and Mary Lord Harrison, widow of President Harrison, are provided in a bill introduced in the senate today by Senator Root. The bill was referred to the committee on pensions.

FIERCER BATTLE IS FOUGHT.

Rebels Control Most of Juarez, But
Federals Do Not Give Up.

El Paso, Tex., May 10.—What was perhaps the fiercest battle of the Mexican revolution was fought at Juarez, across the Rio Grande.

The rebels claim the town tonight, and actually control the more territory, but the position of the Federal forces is extremely well fortified.

Tonight both Federals and insurgents are resting on their arms ready to resume at daybreak.

At least five persons have been killed on the American side of the line since the skirmishing began yesterday, and about 15 wounded, while the loss on the battlefield is variously estimated at from 30 to 60 dead on both sides and about 75 to 100 wounded. Fifteen of the insurgents wounded already have been brought to the American side, but more are believed to be lying far within the town.

General Navarro at 7 o'clock agreed to stop the firing while the insurgents wounded were being removed. The Federals have adequate medical facilities and are caring for their wounded within the town.

All day long the battle raged, with the insurgents swarming through the streets of Juarez and meeting the heavy fire of the Federals with equally vigorous volleys of musketry.

The rebels are scattered. In battle formation they probably could storm the Federal strongholds, as they apparently consist of just six places—the barracks, the church, the theater, the schoolhouse, a hotel and the custom house. But the insurgents suspect that a detachment of nearly 300 Federals with a machine gun is concealed somewhere in town and they are hesitating to advance too close for fear of a rear or flank attack.

The rebels forced the fighting today in the face of a deadly fire from Federal machine guns. They dared not gather in too great numbers because the artillerymen of General Navarro many times demonstrated the accuracy of their range, while they shelled adobe houses behind which the insurgents had sought protection a half mile from Juarez while skulking along the river front. General Navarro also is said to have mined most of the houses in Juarez, and the insurgents are naturally reluctant to occupy any of them in force.

Many feats of bravery on the part of the insurgents were plainly visible from the American side of the line and in street fighting they more than held their own.

The sun was hot and late in the day a fire started by the insurgents filled the streets with clouds of suffocating smoke. Tonight flashes of light from the ruins gave the rebels an occasional view of the church where the Federals are cooped up, and the cracking of rifles followed each such glimpse.

Later—Fire threatens to wipe out the city of Juarez, and the rebels have renewed their attack upon the Federals, who are still barricaded in churches, the custom house and other buildings.

The Mexican Northwestern freight depot, the Mexican Central passenger depot and the city market place are burning. The whole town of Juarez seems to be in flames.

Red Cross physicians have returned from the insurgent stronghold, having been informed that the battle would be renewed. Five physicians of this city have telegraphed President Taft asking for an appropriation to establish a Red Cross hospital for the insurgents and Federal wounded soldiers, also to take care of people who have been hurt by bullets from the other side of the international border.

Holy Land Thefts Denied.

London—In an interview here one of the leaders of the British expedition which has been making excavations at Jerusalem, emphatically denied charges of theft of ancient treasures. "All the relics we found," he said, "have been left in the hands of the Turkish government." One result of the excavations, he said, was the discovery of absolute proof that the ancient City of David was not on Mount Sinai but on Mount Orphel. He said the work had been carried on with the consent of the government.

Colonel Higginson Dies.

Cambridge, Mass., May 10.—Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, historian and author, minister and soldier, and one of the last of the famous scholars and abolitionists of a half century ago, died here tonight aged 87 years. Colonel Higginson had been ill 10 days. A general breakdown due to old age was apparent, but he was not considered seriously ill until today.

Rain Extinguishes Fires.

St. Paul, May 10.—Reports from those sections of the Northwest where forest fires have been burning for several days and threatening towns and much valuable property, say the danger is mostly over. Heavy rains throughout the Canadian Northwest and Northern Minnesota have put the fires out.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

PROTECTING OUR FORESTS.

Oregon's Four Hundred Billion Feet
of Timber Worth Saving.

By G. W. Peavy, Professor of Forestry, O. A. C.

By the passage of a carefully prepared forestry law, backed by an adequate appropriation, the last legislature of Oregon took the first effective step for the preservation of one of the state's largest natural resources. According to the old saw, "It is the wise man who looks the table before the horses are stolen." It is quite evident from the great losses of the past few years that Oregon cannot claim credit for having acted to the fullest degree the part of the wise man in the matter of guarding her timber, yet there is still some stock in the stable which is well worth protecting.

A conservative estimate places the timber resources of Oregon at 400 billion feet board measure of merchantable timber. About one-third of this amount is within the national forests. The remaining two-thirds is in private holdings. The state holds practically no stumpage, having sold nearly all of its grant lands. Figured on the basis of \$1.50 per thousand feet board measure the stumpage of the state represents a property valued at \$600,000,000. Estimated on the basis of a manufactured value of \$12 per thousand feet, the timber in the state has a value equal to \$4,800,000,000.

When it is understood that the timber supply of other parts of the country is being rapidly exhausted and that as a result there will soon be vastly greater demands made upon the timber supply of the Northwest it is very certain that the figures quoted above do not fully represent the economic importance of the forest crop to the state.

To any one who has seen a forest fire in action it is very clear that the individual is powerless against it. Organized effort is necessary in order to combat it successfully. This organization should be in the hands of the state. It is true that many organizations for preventing and fighting forest fires exist among the counties and the timber owners of the state, but at the same time a central organization is necessary to give a head to the whole system. That is just what the forestry law passed by the last legislature does. It binds together all agencies within the state for effectively preventing and fighting forest fires. It makes it certain that the small timber owner and the rancher will each receive the same consideration from the state as does the larger timber holder.

Under the provisions of the forestry law the state forester is empowered to require timber owners to burn slash or debris whenever, in his judgment it is a menace to adjoining property. Fire wardens will be appointed who will be peace officers, with power to arrest for any violation of the forest laws.

The period between June 1st and October 1st is declared to be a closed season, during which it is unlawful to set out fire in any slashing, woodland, or brush land without written permission from a fire warden. This provision of the law does not apply to burning brush heaps, log piles or stumps in small quantities and under close supervision. However, if fire should get away when burning of this character is done without permission, and damage results, the one setting the fire is regarded as guilty under this act, and is subject to a fine of not more than \$500 or to imprisonment for a term not to exceed three months.

The same penalty applies to those who build camp fires without clearing the ground properly or who leave camp fires burning or unwatched and who permit camp fires to spread. During the closed season all engines of whatever character, which are operated in the vicinity of forests, must be equipped with effective spark arresters.

These are some of the general provisions of the law. The complete act can be had by writing to the state forester at Salem. The whole intent of the law is to protect a resource which is of immense value to all the people of the state.

Albany Egg Biggest Yet.

Albany—An Albany hen has broken all the records for big eggs boasted of in various parts of Oregon and Washington in the last two weeks. A hen belonging to A. S. Hart, of this city, has laid an egg which measures 10 inches around one way and is eight inches in circumference. It weighs seven ounces. The egg has a soft shell with an unusually large hard-shelled egg inside of it.

Halibut Caught at Astoria.

Astoria—A peculiar feature of this season's fishing was that a 50-pound halibut was caught in a gill-net that was drifting in the main channel opposite the city front. These fish seldom enter the Columbia river, but as the tides are high and there is no fresher, the water in the bay is brackish and this attracts the deep-sea fish inside.

BERRY SEASON AT HAND.

Hood River Crop Estimated at 75,000
Crates.

Hood River—The world's attention to the Hood River valley was first called by the excellent strawberries it was shipping. That was nearly 20 years ago. Shipments have gone as far as China and England, and have reached those places in good condition. The first shipment consisted of but a few crates, and was sent by the Davidson Fruit company, of this city, now shippers in carload lots.

For several years past shipments of strawberries from this city have totaled from 75,000 to 100,000 crates each year, and as high as seven and eight cars have been shipped in a single day. Shipments from the valley this season, it is expected, will amount to at least 75,000 crates which will be a little in excess of last year's shipments.

Strawberries raised in the United States that come into competition with these shipments are grown in Missouri, Arkansas and Colorado. Berries grown elsewhere are either marketed before the Hood River berries are ripe or after the Hood River berries are off the market.

It is expected that shipments will go forward this year as early as May 20, and in view of the fact that the heavy frosts in the Middle West have cut down the berry crop for this year, it is expected they will bring a very high price. The strawberry situation in the East points to a heavy crop, but this does not affect the berries grown in this section.

The strawberry fields in Hood River have never been in better condition than this year; vines and plants are in a very high state of vitality. Growers are now busy cleaning their fields and getting ready for picking.

There is but one problem connected with strawberry growing in Hood River that sometimes becomes serious from a grower's standpoint, and that is the securing of competent and sufficient help to pick and pack the crop, in view of the fact that the berries are very perishable and must be picked from the vines, packed and marketed each day.

It will require a large number of people to harvest this year's crop, and unless regiments of pickers and packers come into the Hood River valley from outside sections, the growers will be unable to cope with the situation. The Indians from nearby reservations constitute a large percentage of those who come to Hood River to pick berries, and are among the best pickers.

Heavy losses have been experienced as a result of shortage of help. From present indications there is a probability that help will be scarce this year, and growers are eager and anxious to correspond with parties who are willing to take up the work this season. This year's crop should net the growers approximately \$150,000.

All danger from frosts is now past and a large crop is assured.

"CANADA NOT SO GOOD."

Ex-Oregonian for Second Time Takes
Out Naturalization Papers.

Bend—The much-heralded Canadian homesteads have no attraction for W. J. McGillivray, of Bend, who last week at a session of the Circuit court held at Prineville, for the second time in his life secured naturalization papers.

The duplication of the experience of becoming an upholder of Uncle Sam's constitution was necessary in Mr. McGillivray's case because a number of years ago he left the United States, going from South Dakota to Alberta, where he found it necessary to swear allegiance to the crown before he could take up a homestead.

"The States are good enough for me," said the ex-Canadian homesteader, after he had been naturalized for the second time, "and Central Oregon has just as good lands as any to be found in all Western Canada. You bet I wouldn't give my papers for all the homesteads in the Dominion."

Fourth for Pleasure Only.

Pendleton—This place will have a Fourth of July celebration and most of the program will be given at Round up Park. It will not be a mercenary affair, but will be intended for comfort and the entertainment of people, especially of those who come to the city from over the county. This was the unanimous decision at a meeting of the Commercial club recently. The committee that canvassed the sentiment of the business men was headed by Mayor E. J. Murphy, and it was favorable to a celebration elsewhere than on the streets.

Cove Orchard Lands Sell.

La Grande—Unusual development of orchard lands about Cove, just across the Grand Ronde valley from La Grande, marks the beginning of the active preparations for the 1911 fruit season. Many deals are being made weekly; new men are coming in to buy fruit land, and fruit trees of all descriptions are being planted with much haste.