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 Box 896 SEATTLE, WASH.**

# PRESIDENT TAFT EXPLAINS VETO OF TARIFF MEASURE

President Taft last week made his position clear on the tariff question and incidentally exposed some of the fallacies of the bills which he vetoed at the special session of Congress. He said in part:

"I am fully committed to the proposition that we ought not to have any revision of a schedule of the tariff without accurate information as to the operation and effect of the proposed changes. In this view I have had in the past the hearty support not only of the regular Republicans, but also, and even with more emphasis, those who call themselves Progressive Republicans.

I also wish to point out that all Republicans of whatever shade are committed to the maintenance of our protected industries to the point of retaining duties on imported articles which shall equal the differences in the cost of production at home and abroad. Except for the extra session called only to pass upon the reciprocity bill, the first time that the Sixty-second Congress could consider and pass upon tariff schedules would be in December, and at that time its predecessor, by consent of both parties, had fixed as the proper time at which a full report as to the most objectionable schedule ought to be reported. With the money granted me by Congress I had provided a board, non-partisan, and with the same personnel as the statutory board would have had, to make a report not only upon wool but also upon cotton.

Although many of the Democrats had assisted in the support of the statutory Tariff Board bill and had advocated such a means of securing accurate information in respect of the probable operation of the proposed revision, the House began at once to make a record for political purposes by passing three tariff bills, the wool bill, the free list bill, and the cotton bill. They gave no public hearings of any kind on either of these bills and they presented no satisfactory information upon which the effect of any of them upon the industries involved could be judged. Their investigations may have been sufficient to satisfy the conscience of a tariff for revenue man, who believes in any reduction, however great, of existing duties, but for one pledged as I am to maintain a tariff high enough to enable existing industries to live, the case is different.

### Wool Bill in Three Forms

The wool bill proposed a revenue duty of 20 per cent upon raw wool in stead of 11 cents a pound, a reduction of considerably more than 50 per cent of the present duty, and an average duty of 50 per cent on woolen cloth and manufactures. This was avowedly a tariff for revenue and was not drawn for the purpose of protecting the industries. It passed the House and went to the Senate, where an insurgent Republican Senator proposed a substitute in which the duty on wool of the first class was fixed at 40 per cent, and of the second class, or carpet wools, at 10 per cent, and the average per centage on the woolen manufactures was made 60 per cent ad valorem. It was claimed by its author to be a protection bill. It was never submitted to a committee, no evidence was ever taken in regard to it, and it was evolved from the independent investigation of a single Senator. A majority of the insurgents and Democrats in the Senate compromised on a wool bill which made the tax on raw wool, first class, 35 per cent; second class 10 per cent; and the average duty on woolens 55 per cent. The bill, against the vote of nearly all of the regular Republicans, passed the Senate and was sent to conference, where a bill was agreed upon in which the duty was 29 per cent on raw wool, and an average of 49 per cent on woolens. This bill had the effect of raising the duty on carpet wool, as fixed in the Senate, 19 per cent, and by fixed in the House, 9 per cent. Here was the first case presented to me. There was nothing in the record in either the House or Senate from which I could obtain any information as to the effect of this bill upon the wool and woolen industry of this country. I submit that the history of its making shows no principle whatever in the bill, except a compromise between the two opposing principles for the purpose of passing the bill, without any indication as to its effect on the industry to which it applies.

### Opposed Hasty Revision

The bill reduced the duty on wools to an average of 49 per cent, with a duty on the raw material wool of 29 per cent. The Wilson bill, passed in 1894, had reduced the duty to 10 per cent with no duty on the raw wool at all, a much more favorable arrangement on the manufactures than in the present bill, and yet the years of the Wilson bill were years of disaster to the woolen manufacturers. It may be that other causes than the tariff contributed to the failure of woolen mills in the time of the Wilson bill, and it may be well that conditions in the woolen business have changed so that it does not need as much protection as then; but I had no adequate information, and had been furnished none, upon which I could say that the bill presented to me was in accord with the Republican platform of protection upon which I am in honor bound to square my official act and policy. In the absence of such adequate information, and with the prospect of securing it in three months, it became my bounden duty to withhold my approval of the bill. What was the necessity for such great haste in passing the bill at an extra session called for another purpose? The bill as it passed the House provided it should go into effect January 12, 1912. The bill as it passed the Senate contained a similar provision. When the bill went into the conference, I am informed that the suggestion was made that the date of January 1, 1912, for its taking effect would furnish strong argument for delaying its passage until after December 1, when the Tariff Board could report. The date of taking effect was thereupon changed

to October 15, 1911. Such care was not taken with the free list bill or the cotton bill, both of which were made to take effect January 1, 1912.

### His Praise for Reciprocity

The free list bill was called the "farmers' free list," for the purpose of giving an impression that it was passed to compensate the farmers for some sort of injury supposed to be done by the Canadian reciprocity treaty. This reason was finally repudiated by the leader of the Democracy on the floor of the House of Representatives, and is giving an impression that it is certainly not true. There was nothing in the Canadian reciprocity bill that required any compensation to the farmers, for in a very short period after actual operation it will appear that they as well as every body else, have been improved in condition by our larger trade relations with Canada. But the bill was framed and came to me in a form calculated to mislead as to its effect. In the first clause all agricultural implements were declared to be free, and a great many were named. These same implements were named in the Payne bill, and were made free in that bill from any country which permitted our agricultural implements to enter it without duty. This opened to England the market of the United States for agricultural implements. As a matter of fact, the price of agricultural implements in America is cheaper, as shown by a report of the bureau of trade relations of the State Department, to the American farmers than to any farmers in the world. England is the one country that exports agricultural implements to any great extent and so successful is the competition against her in this country of America agricultural implements that practically very few have come in from England. This first clause, therefore, of the free list bill offers no boon to the farmers at all, although apparently drawn for the purpose of inducing them to think so. It does contain some very general words at the close of the clause which might be taken to include 150 different articles used on the farm, but used in other vocations also. And these articles—the hammers, the tools, the cutlery, and the machinery of various kinds—are now dutiable under the metal schedule. To admit them under this clause would be to destroy entirely the symmetry of the metal schedule and produce such a confusion as seriously to interfere with the administration of the tariff act.

### Free Barbed Wire

An other clause provides for the admission of barbed wire fencing free, and then all the wire and other material which could be used for fencing, and includes wire rods and wire rope. To let in barbed wire fencing alone would be unimportant to producers, but the framing of the amendment is such that if it were to go into law it would have a serious effect upon the metal schedule and would utterly destroy the principle which was followed in its framing and would make free of duty, some of the most highly wrought articles under the metal schedule not used by farmers at all. Then there is a clause admitting jute and cotton burlap free, and materials from which made, which would allow common cotton cloth to come in free for any purpose, although under the cotton schedule, even as proposed to be amended by this congress, cotton cloth is to pay a certain amount of duty. The bill also puts boots and shoes of all kinds on the free list, except some kinds of leather, the materials which went into shoes. In other words, it put on the free list the finished product and continued the tax on raw materials.

### Meat and Flour Schedules

Finally, the free list has two clauses affecting meat and flour. As they went through the House they put meat on the free list and flour on the free list. In the Senate, however, an amendment was put limiting the operations of these two clauses to imports from those countries with which we have reciprocal relations and which admit certain agricultural products of ours free. This limitation made Canada the only country which would be affected by the provisions of the clause. Now, in our negotiations with Canada for reciprocity we attempted to secure free meat and free flour. Canada would not consent to this, because she feared the effect of our competition with her meat and flour. This showed that importations of meat and flour from Canada without duty would not have any effect to lower the price in this country of either in normal times. But this free list bill was giving to Canada something for nothing. This congress at the close of the act approving the Canadian reciprocity agreement directed me to continue negotiations and extend its terms, and yet in these provisions it is proposed to deprive me of using the concessions of free meat and free flour to secure concessions from Canada. Thus the bill was so loosely drawn on such a wrong principle, and with so little information, and it purported to do so many things which it did not do that I had no hesitation in vetoing it.

Finally, the cotton bill came to me. This bill differed from the others in being a bill for which the Democrats alone, and not the insurgent Republicans, were responsible.

One Senate amendment cut down the metal schedule by a sweeping reduction of 30 per cent, and the other was an amendment of the chemical schedule with a purported reduction ad valorem of 25 per cent.

So hastily was the bill thrown together, so little attention was paid to the consideration of it in the Senate, especially in the chemical schedule, that the most ludicrous results were reached.

Al Roberts has accepted the agency of the noted Lamm clothing, and has just received samples of all the latest weaves, which he is now displaying.

## ASSISTANT FOREST RANGERS' EXAMS

Washington, D. C., October 2.—The Civil Service Commission will hold an examination for Assistant Forest Ranger on October 23-24, 1911. The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 400 eligibles will be needed during the field season of 1912. Assistant Forest Rangers are paid an entrance salary of \$1,100 per annum.

The law requires that, when practicable, Forest Rangers must be qualified citizens of the State or Territory in which the National Forest on which they are appointed is situated. Since the list of local eligibles must be exhausted before eligibles in other states can be appointed, the chance of citizens of outside States who go to the National Forest States and take the examination to secure an appointment is small.

The requirements and duties of Forest Ranger are thus described in "The Use Book," which contains the regulations and instructions for the use of the National Forests:

"A ranger of any grade must be thoroughly sound and able-bodied, capable of enduring hardships and performing severe labor under trying conditions. He must be able to take care of himself and his horses in regions remote from settlement and supplies. He must be able to build trails and cabins, ride, pack, and deal tactfully with all classes of people. He must know something of land surveying, estimating and scaling timber, logging, land laws, mining and the livestock business.

"The examination of applicants is along the practical lines indicated above, and actual demonstration, by performance, is required. Invalids seeking light out-of-door employment need not apply. Experience, not book education, is sought, although ability to make simple maps and write intelligent reports upon ordinary forest business is essential.

"Where saddle horses or pack horses are necessary in the performance of their duty, rangers are required to own and maintain them. The Forest Service furnishes no personal or horse equipment."

The examination is under the control of the Civil Service Commission, and not of the Forest Service. Information in detail regarding it, including the names of the places at which it will be held, will be sent to anyone applying to the United States Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

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