

# THE TARIFF IN CONGRESS

Woolen company, organized and developed under the Dingley law. Managing this great corporation, reaping the advantages which that law gives to worsted mills, what are his present views as to the revision of that law? Instead of a frank statement of reasons for his course, it is silence as to his letter of 1897, a more or less secret working agreement with William Whitman, and this disingenuous statement to the public:

"I ought to say that the American Woolen company, for fear of being misunderstood, as it has often been regarded as a trust, has nothing whatever to do in influencing the present tariff. We have studiously kept away, and although we have been invited to send a representative, we declined to do so, being satisfied to leave it to the other woolen manufacturers of the country, believing that they were competent to take care of the situation, and whatever would be to their advantage would certainly be to ours."

"Both sides to the controversy agree on the merits of the question. There can be no disagreement. The right is clear. The difficulty is in getting the people's representatives to act in accordance with the facts."

## VETO THE WOOL TAX

Following is a special dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald:

New York, July 18.—Asking him to veto the tariff bill unless lower rates be made in the wool schedule, the National Association of Clothiers, of which Marcus M. Marks of New York City is president, has sent a letter to President Taft which in part follows:

"The National Association of Clothiers have already filed with you their objections to the wool schedules embodied in the tariff bills now in conference between the houses of congress. Practically no change from the Dingley bill has been embodied in the new tariff, and we must therefore assume that no relief from the present unfavorable conditions can be had save through your intervention.

"Eighty million wearers of woollens are paying yearly much more than the total value of the domestic wool clip to afford excess profit to a comparatively small number of sheep raisers and worsted yarn spinners.

"We are not opposed to a reasonable protection for the wool grower and to the domestic manufacturer, but from our practical experience we know that the Dingley bill, through the unjust discriminations against the lower and cheaper grades of wool, has created a condition which has decreased the weight and durability of the clothing worn by the masses of the people and unduly advanced the price of the depreciated cloth. Should present tariff conditions continue the situation will grow worse and the burden on all woolen clothing will become extremely heavy."

Fourteen thousand merchants throughout the United States have been asked to appeal to their senators and representatives in behalf of reductions in the wool schedule.

## A CHALLENGE TO OPEN THE BOOKS

In a letter to Senator Lodge, W. C. Hunneman, a manufacturer of carded wool, challenges the republican managers to make public the contributions which the woolen interests made to the republican congressional campaign fund. "If you will not make the demand that the list be published, why not?" asks Mr. Hunneman of the senator from Massachusetts.

It was inevitable that this question would be raised sooner or later in the tariff fight. Although the republican national committee, through the influence of Mr. Taft, made public its contributions and expenditures, there was no publicity in regard to the money collected by the congressional committee.

Here was the same old opportunity for barter and trade, the same old secrecy under which the republican party for years has trafficked in tariff schedules and other special privileges.

Mr. Hunneman's suspicions may be ill-founded, but when a Roosevelt is found to have dealt with a Harriman, when the Standard Oil company contributes \$100,000 to elect a Roosevelt, when the life-insurance companies turn over \$150,000 of their policyholders' money to the republican campaign fund, secrecy always justifies further suspicions.

Now that a crisis has been reached in tariff revision, with Mr. Taft and the people on one side and the republican reactionary leaders and the protected interests on the other, what must be thought of the republican congressional committee if it flouts the challenge to open its books?—A New York World Editorial.

**Excessive duties, many of them higher than the Dingley rates and bearing especially on the clothing of the poor, are to remain in the bill and are not even a subject of controversy between the two houses or between the conferees and the president.—Special Dispatch to Philadelphia North American.**

The Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia North American (a republican paper) wired to his paper under date of July 18, as follows:

The effort to show that when President Taft signs the Aldrich tariff bill it will represent a satisfactory revision downward in accordance with the pre-election promise of the president himself, and also with his statement of last Friday, is now being given full force:

From the conference committee of the two houses, dominated by Senator Aldrich, and from the White House the statement has been sent forth that President Taft is to obtain what he wants, and that if necessary the house of representatives, controlled by that patriot and public-spirited statesman, Joseph G. Cannon, will engage the senate in furious combat should the senate resist the demands of the president.

The intimation is made as strong as it can be that the president will have won a notable victory for tariff revision over the high protectionists, and that the latter, headed by Senator Aldrich, will have been forced to humble themselves in the dust before the triumphant forces of the administration led in person by Joseph Cannon; also that Cannon will be compelled to exercise great self-restraint if he refrains from planting his foot firmly upon the neck of the prostrate Aldrich.

In the reflected glory of this splendid forecast, the net results of what Mr. Taft will get in the way of revision downward are described in such glowing terms that the public can not fail to be impressed and gratified.

He is to get free coal, free iron ore, and free oil, and hides also will be made free or the duty of 15 per cent will be cut in two. All the specifications of the fulfillment of the president's hopes coming either from the room of the conference committee or from the White House end with the enumeration of these four products.

To make them appear important, however, they are to be made the basis of whatever conflict may arise between the president and the senate.

The statement that the president will get these concessions is unquestionably true, but that they will so change the character of the tariff bill as to make it in accord with all the public had a right to expect from the promised revision of the present law, is palpably absurd.

At the present time the reports going from Washington describing the situation are, with few exceptions, colored to deceive and fool the public as to what is actually going on.

It may be unfair to the president to suggest that he is a party to this intended deception, but it is true that Mr. Taft is personally responsible for statements that the bill will be made satisfactory to him, a plain intimation that if this occurs, then the measure will be in accordance with his latest utterances in favor of general reductions.

There is everywhere shown a determination to juggle with the phrase, "revision downward." Aldrich and Lodge are already upon record as unalterably opposed to a reduction of duties, but for political purposes they are now ready to concede that the party was pledged to revision downward, and so are engaged in proving that the manipulation of the schedules by Aldrich himself has been a fulfillment of that promise.

It would not require much investigation to prove that these so-called concessions to be made to the president are not concessions at all. The truth is that the republicans in both houses are divided with respect to the question of raw materials, and a majority of them probably favor placing them on the free list.

The house without any urging at all from President Taft made them free. The senate restored them to the dutiable list, but with the understanding that this was done to placate some of the western senators like Borah, of Idaho, and Dixon, of Montana, both of whom were inclined to rebel against the excessive rates fixed by Senator Aldrich in the principal schedules of his measure.

Senator Aldrich has been embarrassed by the conflict between his promises to western sen-

ators and his desire to aid New England. In his embarrassment he decided to let the president determine which way the controversy should be settled.

It is probably true that Senator Aldrich knew full well that President Taft would decide in favor of free raw materials. It is also probable that he wanted him to decide that way. But in presenting the proposition to the president he stipulated that Mr. Taft should exert his influence to the utmost to get votes enough to put the bill through the senate.

Apparently the president in agreeing to this proposition has relieved Aldrich of much trouble. That the senate will accept the so-called concessions there is apparently little question.

It is now expected that of the ten independent republicans who voted against the bill on its final passage, four of them, Beveridge of Indiana; Crawford of South Dakota, and Burkett and Brown of Nebraska, will vote for the report. The western senators who may vote against it if hides are put on the free list do not number more than six, to which may be added Elkins and Scott, of West Virginia, who are demanding duties on coal and iron ore.

These, with the independents, would not number enough votes to defeat the measure with all the democrats opposed also.

President Taft is talking very freely regarding his purposes, and he has said that he will veto the bill unless he gets what he wants. But when there is any analysis of what the president expects, it seems, apparently, that he is determined to be satisfied with very little.

The reductions made yesterday in the wool schedule, which, the conferees declare, should be credited to President Taft, indicate how little there is in the talk of downward revision except upon raw material.

A reduction of 5 per cent is made upon women's and children's dress goods. But when this is investigated it is found that the duty as first established by Senator Aldrich was a fraction of one per cent in excess of 104 per cent, and the reduction leaves the duty still a trifle in excess of 99 per cent.

The duty on woolen tops, which is also heralded as revision downward, after all reductions have been made, remains between 75 and 100 per cent, accordingly as the value of the tops may vary.

In the Dingley law the duty on wool tops was made the same as the duty upon woven cloth and higher than the yarns which are made from the tops. It was one of the jokers in the Dingley law inserted for the benefit of William Whitman and the makers of wool tops. So it is with all the other great schedules of the measure.

Excessive duties, many of them higher than the Dingley rates and bearing especially on the clothing of the poor, are to remain in the bill and are not even a subject of controversy between the two houses or between the conferees and the president.

## A HUGE BLUFF

The following special dispatch appeared in the St. Louis Republic:

Washington, July 18.—Tariff activities in congress and at the White House are now resolved chiefly into a publicity campaign intended to convey the impression that President Taft is indeed procuring a revision down in conference. Messrs. Aldrich, Payne and Cannon are busily granting it, and assert their complete harmony with the president and their intentions to meet his wishes.

The method of this policy, of course, is found in the obvious motive to still the outcry in the country against the pending measure.

The purpose is to create the impression that the whole tariff issue—the question of the cost of living, the rock-bottom fact of the tariff drain on the pocketbook—lies in the contention remaining over free coal, free hides, free oil and free ore.

Mr. Taft is to get some reductions upon each of these items, possibly one or two will be put