

MILES TO FORAKER

The "American Industries" prints the following letter written by the chairman of the tariff committee of the National Association of Manufacturers to Senator Foraker.

New York, August 23, 1907.—Hon. Joseph Benson Foraker, Cincinnati, Ohio.—Dear Sir: I see by the public press that you object to the position taken by Secretary Taft in his speech at Columbus, Ohio, and by the National Association of Manufacturers in declaring for tariff revision without backing up their position with full particulars as to the industries whose schedules should be revised and the reasons therefor. I trust you have read the report of this tariff committee as approved by our association, copies of which are in general circulation.

We hold, as quoted by Secretary Taft and previously stated by President Roosevelt, that "the minimum measure is the difference in the cost of production in this country and abroad." The protective schedules thus figured must carry with it a very ample margin for safety; it must make full allowance for the possibility of hard times abroad and good times here, for dumping, and all other contingencies. This done, it is truly protective and it is only so as it covers these features and nothing more.

Standing on this platform, ABOUT FORTY PER CENT OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF OUR ASSOCIATION, WHO HAVE BY CORRESPONDENCE PRONOUNCED FOR REVISION, DECLARE IN THEIR LETTERS THAT THEIR OWN SCHEDULES MAY PROPERLY BE REDUCED FIFTY PER CENT OR MORE WITHOUT HURT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE INDUSTRIES OR TO THE COUNTRY AT LARGE. Others name a less amount, while only a few declare for no reduction. The letters in satisfaction of this statement are on file in the office of the president of the association in St. Louis, and are known to the managing officers of the association. This in itself, as stated by Secretary Taft, should be sufficient for initial action on the part of congress.

We have divided our membership into twenty-seven different industries, out of which a majority in it of fifty-six industries voted for revision, representing 1,510 members. Sixteen industries voted against revision, representing 102 members. When on the above basis an association of the experience and standing of ours makes this statement and you ask for further particulars, it seems to us entirely proper that we return to our demand, which is the bone and marrow of the present contention, that a tariff commission high-minded, semi-judicial and impartial be established by congress early in the coming session to investigate and report upon the situation, and not one uninformed upon the subject who merely collects the definition of President Roosevelt, of ourselves and others who have studied the question that the measure of protection should be as above defined.

The proof upon which the schedules will be made under this definition, you must allow, should not be spread abroad in the public prints,

for the truth is found in the cost books of our companies. Those books should be required by the commission, they should not be required by you for general publication. Establish a semi-judicial tribunal. It is a matter of surprise that one of your experience and opportunity should evidence any uncertainty as to the correctness of our statements. The public need not question for a moment that we, who are particularly interested in and desirous for protection, that we who in great measure depend upon it and that the great president of the United States and Secretary Taft could make the statements we had without having ourselves most adequate information upon which to found these statements. The evidence is immediately at hand and it is past explanation why a great and experienced senator of the United States should ask for it, or if he does ask for it, should ask that it be given to him publicly. I suppose you do it partly because no tariff has ever been determined by such semi-judicial, entirely honorable and accurate investigation and proof as we would call for. Quite the opposite methods have prevailed. —A majority of the members of congress knowing this, privately declare for revision and of course, do so upon good information. Of this we have knowledge. Establish a semi-judicial tribunal before which we are to appear, it being determined in advance that we shall have such protection as we can qualify for before such a tribunal and that the moneys of the public, which after all belong to the individuals who compose that public, shall not be taken from those pockets for our benefits except as we justify in full judicial manner, and we are satisfied. Not otherwise. Secretary Taft calls for such an investigation. President Roosevelt best of all defined the need of it in his message to congress in 1902 when he said: "A commission of business experts can be appointed by congress after a deliberate and scientific examination of the various schedules as they are affected by the changed and the changing conditions. The unhurried and unbiased report of this commission would show what changes should be made in the various schedules and how far these changes could go without changing the great prosperity which this country is now enjoying and upsetting its fixed economic policy."

It is everywhere conceded that the revision must come at latest immediately after the next presidential election. It can only be "unhurried and unbiased," without changing the great prosperity which this country is now enjoying. It can only be a real protection, protection without graft, and with equal justice to all through the previous investigation and labors of such a commission. This would be a reflection upon American commonsense to question the honesty of our securing the establishment of such a commission this coming winter. Very truly yours,

H. E. MILES,
Chairman Tariff Committee National Association of Manufacturers.

Washington Letter

Washington, D. C., September 16.—The president is very busy preparing his seven or eight addresses he will deliver on his western trip. These speeches will, in all probability, be mere reiterations of policies already announced in the president's former addresses. The Provincetown speech, in fact, added nothing, unless it be denunciation to former presidential proposals; and it is extremely doubtful if the speeches at Canton, St. Louis, Cairo, Memphis, Vicksburg, or Nashville, will disclose anything new or startling. At least that is the opinion of keen political observers in Washington.

The president, however, might well make his Canton address an occasion for some explanations to which the public would give more than a ready hearing. He might explain how his administration presents the fulfillment of his solemn promise to carry out the policies of President McKinley. He might explain whether he still considers that his having been president for three-fourths of the period of President McKinley's second term binds him to bow to the spirit, if not to the letter, of our third-term tradition. The people are at present far more interested in some presidential remarks along

these lines than to any lengthy reiteration of President Roosevelt's already too-often repeated plans and policies. The people are anxious to know if the president is going to adhere to the measured words he uttered on the eve of his election in 1904 when, with full knowledge of their meaning, he said: "Under no circumstances will I be a candidate for, or accept another nomination."

Ordinarily, such words coming from as distinguished a public man as Theodore Roosevelt would be accepted as final. But the president has a reputation in Washington, if not elsewhere, for taking frequently the woman's privilege of changing his mind. Controversies with his presidential opponent, with Harriman, with Whitney, with Chandler, Tillman and Bailey; numerous tilts with sometime friends resulting in repeated elections to the Ananias club have not strengthened popular belief in the sacredness of Theodore Roosevelt's word. Added to this are the persistent and repeated assertions of his closest adherents that the president will accept another nomination if it is forced upon him. And these assertions have gained a double credence because of the continued Roosevelt silence and the "Barkis is willin'" attitude the president has assumed.

The president seems to be reticent upon but one subject, and that is his nomination for a third term. His silence in this respect to say

the least is significant. In January of this year a Roosevelt third term league was established in Chicago, and a magazine called "Limelight" was brought out in the interest of the movement. The platform of the league calling for the re-election of President Roosevelt was widely circulated, published and commented upon. The president was silent.

Representative James F. Sherman, chairman of the republican congressional committee, and a constant counsellor of the president has stated repeatedly his "unqualified conviction" that Roosevelt must be nominated in 1908. Senator Elkins of West Virginia, has declared for a third term; Senator Warner of Missouri, a close friend of the president's, said that the republicans of Missouri were merely waiting for the word from Roosevelt to fall in line for the third term. Representative Hull of Iowa, saw the president, and declared that no man could get the delegates from that state until the people were absolutely sure that the president was not in the running. The governor of Iowa, a presidential possibility himself, said that the people of the west will insist upon Roosevelt's nomination, and he must accept. Eben W. Martin, until last March a congressman from South Dakota, saw the president before going home, had a long talk with him, and then gave out an interview favoring the chief executive for four years more. "The republicans of the country will nominate Roosevelt and he will accept," said Senator Hansbrough of North Dakota, after an interview with Roosevelt. Senator Burkett, of Nebraska, visited the president, and an hour later gave out an interview favoring him for a third term. Senator Bourne has visited the president and his secretary fifty times in the last few months, and yet he comes out after each consultation with the president in more thrilling interviews for the third term. Senator Beveridge about to start for Europe says that the issues of the next campaign will be "Roosevelt." In July Judge Selden P. Spencer of St. Louis gave out an interview saying that he had been to Washington "on matters political, and in conference with persons authorized to speak for the president," and that he was "in a position to say that President Roosevelt had decided that he could not decline the nomination if tendered to him unanimously. These are but a few of the statements given out by friends of the president. If Theodore Roosevelt has any influence with his friends, and that is one thing that all men give him credit for having, and if he was seriously desirous of not being nominated for a third term, why does he continue to receive these friends and send them away from the White House door more persistent and enthusiastic third-term boomers than ever. If he can't persuade them to respect his wishes in this matter, why is he so silent when they assume to speak so authoritatively in his behalf? It does look very much as if the president was winking at a renomination, and that like Barkis he "is willin'."

Numerous newspapers throughout the country have conducted canvasses of the political situation, and the more the matter is canvassed among the republicans the more it is considered by republican state chairmen, and the republicans in state legislatures, the more it becomes evident that there is a movement to force the nomination upon Mr. Roosevelt. The recent action of nearly a score of chairmen of state committees, following resolutions passed by more than a dozen state legislatures, of which the action by the Michigan legislature is especially pronounced, it is difficult to see how the president can remain silent if he really does not desire a re-nomination.

The movements of the president's cabinet and their published interviews at the end of each new trip is a suspicious circumstance that lends color to the assertion that the president is really seeking to have the nomination forced upon him, and this fact should urge him to make some definite announcement in regard to the matter. Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock made two trips throughout the south ostensibly on official business, but upon his return on each occasion it was noted that his interview consisted entirely of the announcement that the south insisted upon the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt. The president's private investigator, James B. Reynolds, toward the end of April, made a suspicious investigation in New York state as to the sentiment there for Roosevelt, and letters were published marked "confidential" which had been sent out by an organization with which Reynolds was connected inquiring into this matter. Fred Kracke, a naval officer of the port of New York, and one of the right hand men of Timothy Woodruff, the leader