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record votes on the schedules of the new tariff bill which affect hides, bituminous coal and lumber. The republican members, who are opposed to the changes which the Payne bill makes in these schedules, have had several meetings. They believe that the placing of hides on the free list, the reduction of 50 per cent in the duties on lumber and the reciprocity provision for free bituminous coal are not desired by a majority of the members. There are probably as many mem-

bers who want a vote on the proposition to place lumber on the free list as there are members who desire to test the feeling regarding the retention of the present lumber duty. The latter sentiment is particularly strong on the democratic side. Those who desire the present duty of 67 cents per ton on bituminous coal retained declare that the placing of this article on the free list will not reduce the price to the consumer. They attack the reciprocity provi-

sion in the Payne bill which declares that bituminous coal shall only be admitted free when imported from any country which imposes no tax or duty on coal imported from the United States. The argument presented is that this arrangement would permit the entry of coal free of duty from Canada should that country repeal its import duty on coal.

In the event of the latter case, it is contended, the American coal dealers of Pennsylvania and Ohio, who control a large Canadian market, would add to their pockets the amount of the duty repealed by Canada. The British Columbia coal, which would come in free of duty, it is said, would compete with the great quantity of coal from the American government's coal lands in southwestern states, reducing the price which the government receives for this coal.

THE DUTY ON GLOVES

In a letter written from New York and printed in the Omaha World-Herald some light is thrown on the duty on gloves. The letter follows:

New York, March 22.—To the Editor of the World-Herald: A statement has just been made by a responsible business man of this city, which raises a serious question concerning the motives of the majority of the ways and means committee, in providing in the Payne tariff bill as reported a surprising increase of duties on an important article of general use. If the facts are as suggested by the statement, the affair is nothing less than a national scandal, and should be thoroughly investigated and made known to the people in all parts of the country.

The occasion which brought out this statement is the provision in the Payne bill for a heavy increase in the tariff on gloves, instead of the reduction which was looked for in many quarters. Gloves, of course, are a necessity of civilized life, and are of especial importance to women, who must, even at the cost of actual privation, provide themselves with the gloves which style and custom call for, in order to maintain comfort, self respect, and social standing. Under the present Dingley tariff, the glove duties are much too high, exceeding all difference in cost of production here and abroad, and according to the declarations of the republican platform and President Taft, ought to be reduced. But the Payne bill provides for an extraordinary increase in the duty on gloves used by women and children of moderate means, so that the specific duties imposed, with the special cumulative duties compounded with them, carry the rates to very high figures.

As to this proposition, Mr. F. W. Larom of the firm of Mills & Gibb, New York, said, in an interview in the New York Journal of Commerce on March 20: "It is openly charged and generally believed that the action of the committee on ways and means in singling out this particular schedule for an enormous increase in the rates of duty, was part of a bargain under which Mr. Littauer agreed to use his influence with the independent republicans who were opposing Speaker Cannon's re-election, in return for higher protection to his industry. On no other grounds can there be found an explanation of the amazing increase in the tariff on these particular articles."

Mr. Littauer referred to is L. N. Littauer, one of the most prominent glove manufacturers in the country, who has acquired great wealth in the industry, and was for a number of years a member of congress from this state. He is known to have great personal influence among congressmen. But it is intolerable that his influence, no matter how serviceable to Speaker Cannon, should be permitted to add a heavy burden to the living expenses of all our people, in order to fatten an already prosperous and too much favored industry.

JAMES G. PARSONS,
Secretary Tariff Reform Committee of the (New York) Reform Club.

AN INDIGNANT REPUBLICAN

The editor of the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal (rep.) is indignant. He prints this editorial:

Chairman Payne of the ways and means committee, stand up. Day before yesterday you told the house of representatives that your new bill revises the tariff downward except for luxuries. Now tell us, are cotton stockings luxuries? Are lambskin gloves luxuries? On the other hand, are kid gloves necessities, also silk stockings? If not, how are you to explain your 100 per cent increase on cotton stockings and 55 per cent increase in women's cheap gloves, while silk stockings are increased not at all and fine kid gloves only 15 per cent? But for the women we might not have noticed these peculiar schedules. The changes are a special menace to their sex and the women's clubs of Chicago have already sent their protests to Washington. The case is a serious one, for as Jacob Schiff points out,

the increase in duty will put stockings beyond the reach of the poor, leaving them no recourse but to paint their legs.

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