

ported, while last year there were but 430. In order to still further entrench the trust in its position, the tariff bill provides that no sugar may be imported unless it is of a certain standard color, which means that it must be in a certain state of rawness that renders it unsalable except to the sugar refiners. This is important because three-fourths of the sugar we consume is imported. So important is it that the price of all sugar is based upon the price of this "Dutch standard" in New York.

An examination of the sugar schedule proves the truth of the contention of Senator Clay of Georgia in his recent speech, when he said that the tariff is so adjusted that for every dollar collected in duties, the trust can and does exact more than a dollar of profit from consumers.

Here is how the tariff on sugar, a necessary of life, affects price: The average wholesale price in Hamburg in 1908 was 2.64 cents; in New York it was 4.96. The trust has frequently sold sugar for export, its surplus, for three cents a pound, because the tariff shut out the foreign refiner from the home market and enabled the trust to compete elsewhere. That the trust gets the greater part of the tax is proved by this computation: There are approximately 90,000,000 persons in the United States, each of whom consumes eighty-one pounds. The average difference in price of sugar between Hamburg and New York for ten years has been 1.89 cents a pound. Multiply this by the amount of sugar consumed and it means a difference of \$136,000,000 a year. Of this sum the government collected and received by reason of the tariff \$53,000,000. The other \$83,000,000 was taken by the trust as its share of the tariff loot. Stated in other terms if the tariff were removed entirely, it would cheapen the cost of sugar to every consumer nearly 2 cents a pound and deprive the government of but \$53,000,000 of revenue. If the schedules were fixed upon a strictly revenue basis, sugar would be reduced about 25 per cent in price. Protection to the extent of \$83,000,000 a year is given the trust, which stands convicted of robbing its benefactor by short weights. The schedules as now arranged give it the lawful right to exact that amount in tribute from the consumer and its character as a monopoly makes it possible for it to decide how much of that amount it will give the cane and beet growers.

—C. Q. D.

THE MULE AT HOME

Major Minnamascot, the famous democratic mule, is now enjoying himself at his new home in Goldfield, Nevada.

After shipping the Major, Charles W. Bryan, publisher of *The Commoner*, wrote to Hon. Jack McLaughlin, chairman of the democratic committee at Goldfield, a letter from which the following is taken:

"We hope that the mule shows as much appreciation of his new masters as we feel of the interest and good work done by the democrats of Esmeralda county. This mule was presented to Mr. Bryan by the state fair association of Minnesota, and was purchased by the state fair association in Missouri. The mule's pedigree, therefore, is without flaw, other than the cloud cast upon it by the state of Missouri going republican at the recent election, but we believe that the mule will be able to live this down, and that the next campaign will see Missouri take her place in the democratic column."

Chairman McLaughlin replied as follows: Goldfield, Nevada, May 31, 1909.—Mr. Charles W. Bryan, The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb. My Dear Mr. Bryan: Your favor of the 24th inst. at hand, and I have the honor and pleasure of stating that Major Minnamascot arrived in Goldfield the morning of the 28th, and was delivered to me, as chairman of the democratic county central committee, by Mr. C. L. Swanson.

I am pleased to say that the Major arrived in the best of condition and very evidently was given the best of care and attention enroute.

The arrival of Major Minnamascot created considerable excitement and aroused much enthusiasm among the faithful. We have established him in the best quarters obtainable in the Palace stables, Main street, where he is receiving the best of care and much admiration by the many persons who daily visit him. In order to satisfy a general demand by the ladies of Goldfield, the Major was placed on free exhibition at the Lyric theatre.

It has been decided to make a general celebration for Major Minnamascot, and on Flag Day, June 14, the Major will have the place

of honor in the parade and be given a real Goldfield public welcome to his new home.

Permit me to assure you that the gift of Major Minnamascot to the democratic county central committee of Esmeralda county, Nevada, is highly appreciated by them and every democrat in the county and state.

From the way the Major has been behaving since his advent in Goldfield I fully believe he appreciates his new home and is rather glad that he escaped from Missouri.

With kindest regards from myself and the committee, I remain.

Very truly yours,
JACK McLAUGHLIN.

PAYING POLITICAL DEBTS

The following editorial from the *Western Watchman* (St. Louis) a Catholic paper edited by Rev. D. S. Phelan, would indicate that Mr. Kerens was to be rewarded for important political work during the recent general election:

"When the result of the late election in this state was made known we, in common with thousands of democrats in the state, were astonished, not to say dumfounded at finding that we had elected a republican governor and that Mr. Taft had captured the state's electoral vote. No one had expected it; least of all the republicans themselves. But there was one republican in the state who believed that his party could win and he devoted his time and means and ability to that end. That man was R. C. Kerens. For five months the democrats of the state have been trying to find out what had hit them. They could not believe the returns. The thing was simply impossible. But there stood the figures made out by democratic officials. A republican had been elected governor and the republican nominee for the presidency had won Missouri's eighteen electoral votes. The great and heretofore unconquered democracy of the state has discovered just how it happened. 'It was R. C. Kerens that did it.' We were disappointed at the result of the election as regards Missouri; but we never lose much time grieving over spilt milk, and the very week after the election we asked Mr. Taft in all fairness to recognize the splendid services of Mr. Kerens by appointing him to a first-class ambassadorship. We stated at the time that we were voicing the sentiments of that multitude of Catholic democrats who had voted for Mr. Taft, and that they would not be satisfied with anything less for the noble old soldier who 'kept the bridge alone.'

"At the time there was talk of giving Mr. Kerens a cabinet position. We did not favor that as much as a foreign appointment, for several reasons. Mr. Kerens has been doing the work of a dozen men for many years and he needs a rest. There would be only an increase of labor and responsibility for him in the cabinet. Then we had Mr. Kerens' family in view. They would enjoy a few years in diplomatic society abroad, where their accomplishments and wealth would do honor to the American name. Mr. Kerens is the head of a poliglot family. Scarcely any of them can speak less than three or four languages. It would be a fitting rounding out of a splendid political career for Mr. Kerens to spend some years with his family at a foreign court.

"We are informed that Mr. Taft fully recognizes the debt he is under to the Catholics of the United States. This being so, we can assure him that he could do nothing that would better please that great body of loyal citizens than appointing their honored fellow Catholic to a distinguished foreign post. There is not a Catholic in the land, from Cardinal Gibbons down to the altar boy in his parish church who would not feel personally complimented in any honor bestowed on Mr. Kerens. For this reason we repeat the suggestion made in these columns at the close of the late presidential election, and ask President Taft to send our noble-souled townsman to represent the country at a foreign court. And in urging the appointment we are candid enough to admit that a refusal to do so on the part of Mr. Taft will be regarded by us all as a rebuff, which even in politics leaves unpleasant memories in its wake."

EAGER FOR INDEPENDENCE

A press dispatch from Manila (Philippine Islands) dated May 20, leaves no doubt that the Filipinos desire independence. The general assembly has just closed and its last act was a re-iteration of the petition of the people of the islands for independence.

According to the dispatch: "The last formalities with the Philippine commission had been

exchanged, and the statutory hour of adjournment had passed when the question was presented by Speaker Osmena. He said the policy of the assembly was to work in harmony with and support the government in all measures calculated to advance the interests of the Filipinos. Nevertheless the members had not abandoned their original aspiration for independence, and therefore he moved that the Filipino delegates to the congress of the United States be instructed to present the question to that body whenever an opportunity was offered. The members of the progresista, or minority party, asked permission to abstain from voting, which was granted. All the nationalists then voted in favor of the resolution."

There was a time when some of the republican leaders were bold enough to declare that the Filipinos were so enamored of "benevolent assimilation" that they desired to remain under the control of the United States. Such a claim was so contrary to history and to human nature that it ought not to have deceived anyone, but it did deceive many. Mr. Taft made a similar claim last fall, but this was immediately answered by a denial from the Filipinos. No matter how grateful the Filipinos may feel for favors received from our country, they think that they have a right to independence, and rights are more precious than favors. We might as well understand that nothing that we can do will ever make the American yoke acceptable. Love of self government is written in the hearts of men, and the Filipinos would be less than human if they did not long to control their own affairs. The more we educate them, the more clearly will they see the injustice of a carpet bag government and the inconsistency of the American position, and the more forcefully will they present their demand for an increasing voice in their own affairs, with a view to ultimate independence. The sooner we recognize the situation and promise independence, the easier will be our work in the islands.

It is strange that it does not occur to the advocates of a big navy that it would require a smaller force to protect the independence of the Filipinos than it will be to protect them as a colony, for under independence the Filipinos would be fighting for themselves and would thus relieve us of an enormous burden, whereas they can never fight for us with any heart so long as we deny them the rights which our constitution guarantees to Americans. It will not be difficult to secure the neutralization of the islands by treaty, but until that treaty is secured, it would be much easier to protect them from outside interference as the free citizens of a Filipino republic than it will be to protect them as sullen subjects.

CLAUDE KITCHEN—DEMOCRAT

Hon. Claude Kitchen, member of congress from North Carolina, has won the right to be called a democrat by his speech on the tariff question. Answering the taunt of a southern representative who was pleading for a tariff on lumber, he said:

"I am not responsible for the gentleman's failure to understand my position. I have tried to make myself plain; that I do not advocate a thing as proper and right because it is 'down south' and oppose the same thing as improper and wrong because it is not 'down south.' (Applause.) In the matter of legislation which affects a whole people, I want to look beyond my district, beyond my state. I want to look at 90,000,000 American people; and, sir, if the people of my district wish their representative to vote for a measure which will take, not by labor, not for value received, but by the dry, naked law, millions of dollars from all the people and put it into the pockets of a very few of my people 'down south,' I would say to them that they ought to send here not me, not a democrat, but a republican from my district. (Applause.) I wish to ask you, can you, as a democrat, justify your position in advocating protection on lumber because it is your home industry? Does not the gentleman from Pennsylvania, in asking for a tariff upon the steel trust articles, put it upon the ground that it is his home industry? Do not the representatives from the woolen trust districts come here and ask protection on woolen goods because it is their home industry? Does not every member from the districts of the trusts put their demands upon the ground that it is their home industry?"

The election of Lorimer in Illinois is one of the best arguments ever submitted in favor of popular election of senators.