

The President Signs New Tariff Law

CHRONOLOGY OF THE NEW TARIFF

	Under-wood Bill 1913.	Payne Bill 1909.
Introduced	Mar. 17	Apr. 21
Reported to House	Mar. 17	Apr. 22
House debate began	Mar. 19	Apr. 23
Passed the House	Apr. 9	May 8
Referred to Finance Committee	Apr. 9	May 12
Reported to Senate	Apr. 12	July 18
Recalled by House	Apr. 12
Amended by House	Apr. 12
Returned to Senate	Apr. 19
Referred to Finance Committee	Apr. 19
Reported to Senate	Apr. 19
Senate debate began	Apr. 20	July 18
Passed Senate	July 18	Sep. 9
Conferees appointed	July 8	Sep. 11
Conferees reported	July 30	Sep. 29
House adopts conference report	July 31	Oct. 1
Reports sent to Senate	Aug. 2	Oct. 1
Senate adopts report	Aug. 5	Oct. 2
Presented to President	Aug. 5	Oct. 3
Signed by President	Aug. 5	Oct. 3
Bill became law	Aug. 6	Oct. 4

Following is a special telegram to the New York Times, dated, Washington, Saturday, Oct. 4.—The Underwood-Simmons tariff bill is now a law. President Wilson signed the measure at 9:10 o'clock last night, and it went into effect one minute after midnight. It is the first tariff law placed on the statute books by the democratic party in nearly twenty years.

The signing of the measure was made the occasion of considerable ceremony. Although the bill had reached the White House from the capitol with the signatures of Speaker Clark and Vice President Marshall attached early in the afternoon, its approval by the president was purposely postponed until 9 o'clock at night. President Wilson had said that he would sign the bill the minute he received it. But he explained to the assembled crowd of interested onlookers that in deferring immediate action he had followed the advice of Attorney General McReynolds that it would be well not to take any chances of putting the law in operation until all the custom houses of the country had been closed for the day.

In attaching his signature and the words "Approved 9:10 p. m., Oct. 3, 1913," to the bill the president used two gold pens, one of which he gave to Representative Oscar W. Underwood, chairman of the house committee on ways and means and father of the tariff measure, and the other to Senator Furnifold M. Simmons, chairman of the committee on finance, who engineered the bill through the senate.

At the time fixed by the president for the ceremony of signing those who had been invited to witness the event and who had previously assembled in the office of Joseph P. Tumulty, secretary to the president, were ushered into the oval room in the executive offices which the president occupies while attending to public business. A few minutes thereafter President Wilson came into the room and began chatting with some of the public men who were there. He seemed to be in no particular hurry, but after a while he went over to his desk, where the official engrossed copy of the tariff measure printed on parchment paper was lying, with the last page arranged on top ready for his autograph.

FIFTY WITNESSED SIGNING

In the group surrounding the president's desk were fifty or more people, making a big crowd for the little room. Most of them stood in the space in front of the desk, while behind the president were the cabinet members and the men who had most to do with the enactment of the tariff legislation. The cabinet officers present were Secretary Bryan, Secretary McAdoo, Secretary Garrison, Attorney General McReynolds, Secretary Daniels, Secretary Houston, Secretary Redfield, and Secretary Wilson—all, in fact, except Postmaster General Burleson and Secretary Lane.

Among those behind the president were Joseph Wilson, the president's brother, Senators Thomas, Hughes and Gore, who are members of the committee on finance; Representatives Hull, Kitchen, Rainey, Hammond, Garrett, Garner, Dixon and Collier, members of the committee on ways and means; Senator Kern, democratic leader of the senate; Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy; Dudley F. Malone, third assistant secretary of state; Secretary Tumulty, Rudolph Forster, executive clerk of the White house staff; Thomas J. Pence, secretary in charge of the democratic national committee headquarters in Washington; South Trimble, clerk of the house of representatives; Thomas W. Brahaney, chief clerk to the president, and a large representation of newspaper correspondents.

The chatter and laughter among the crowd ceased as President Wilson stood at his desk with the tariff bill before him. Mr. Wilson wore evening clothes with a dinner coat. He looked very happy and smiled at his audience before beginning to speak. But before he opened his lips those in the room broke into a round of hand-clapping that continued for nearly a minute.

EXPLAINS DELAY IN SIGNING

"I have delayed signing the bill," he said, "until this hour on the advice of the attorney general, who thought it might interfere with business to sign it sooner, as most of its provisions go into effect immediately. I understand that it is now after five o'clock in San Francisco, and I presume the ordinary business transactions of the day have been closed."

Then the president smiled again as he said: "I'm not going to say what I think about this bill until after I have signed it."

"You might change your mind," came from some one in the crowd.

"Well, I'm not going to take any chances," responded the president. "The bill might get away from me."

Then the president sat down at his desk and took up one or two gold penholders that he had purchased for the occasion. Looking around at the crowd he remarked:

"I am going to sign this bill with two pens, and give one to Mr. Underwood and one to Senator Simmons," and, after a slight pause, he added:

"And I am also going to mark the time on it." Taking his watch from his waistcoat pocket, the president glanced at it quickly, after replacing it, began writing the indorsement that made the new tariff bill the law of the land. With one pen he wrote "Approved," and the date and hour, and the name "Woodrow." Then he took up the other pen and wrote "Wilson."

Rising quickly, the president handed one of the pens to Mr. Underwood, who smilingly accepted it, and murmured, with a choke in his voice:

"I thank you very much, Mr. President, for this souvenir."

What Senator Simmons said as he took his particular pen from the president's hand could not be heard in the room, but it was apparent that Mr. Simmons was very happy.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

The president went back to his desk and in an easy conversational way began a little speech that lasted nine minutes. In it he told of his gratification over signing the bill and said that "something like this" had been in his heart ever since he was a boy. He spoke regarding the accomplishment of his tariff legislation as an event that would set the country free from monopolistic conditions, but he insisted that the journey had been only half completed and declared that currency legislation was now necessary. He expressed the utmost confidence that the senate would pass the currency measure sooner than some pessimistic individuals believed.

There was another round of applause as the president finished. Vice President Marshall was the first to shake Mr. Wilson's hand in congratulation. Mr. Underwood had been seized with a fit of coughing while the president was speaking and was obliged to leave the room, but he returned in time to hear the conclusion of the president's remarks, and was the second of those to offer his congratulations.

The custody of the tariff act was given to Ben G. Davis, the chief clerk of the state department,

as soon as the ceremony was over. The official copy will be preserved in the archives of the department. The careful Mr. Forster, who has been a White House official for many years, got a receipt from Mr. Davis before he handed over the bulky document.

FINAL STAGES IN THE HOUSE

Speaker Clark signed the bill at 1:25 o'clock in the afternoon and Vice President Marshall signed the measure at 1:34 o'clock. Within an hour afterward the engrossed copy, printed on parchment paper, bound in blue leather and gilt edged, was on its way to the president's office at the White House.

The bill was received from the senate immediately after the house met at noon, and would have been signed almost as soon as it was presented but for a wrangle over a parliamentary tangle into which the house was involved by a point of order raised by Representative Asher Hinds of Maine. It involved the question whether it was necessary for the house to take any further action with respect to the proposed cotton tax amendment from which the senate receded yesterday. Mr. Hinds was formerly the parliamentarian of the house and is the author of "Hinds' Precedents."

Mr. Hinds raised the point of order that there was nothing before the house to be considered, so far as the cotton tax amendment was concerned; that since the senate had receded from its own amendment it was not necessary for the house to take any further action in the matter—in fact, impossible for the house to do anything but accept the decision of the senate.

Chairman Underwood and other democratic leaders insisted that since the house had receded from its first disagreement to the Clarke amendment and then concurred in the senate amendment in the nature of the Lever-Smith substitute, the action of the senate yesterday did not finally adjust the matter, and that the house must concur in the action of the senate.

An hour and twenty minutes was given to the discussion of the parliamentary point raised by Mr. Hinds, and for a while the house became so involved in the tangle that many members found it difficult to fathom the situation. Chairman Underwood insisted that it was necessary for the house to take some action which would place it in complete harmony with the action of the senate on the cotton tax proposal, and for that reason he moved that the house concur in the senate's action of yesterday, wiping the whole matter from the bill.

While it was only a parliamentary matter, Mr. Underwood insisted that the house would make a mistake if it left open the way for raising any question in the courts that might attack the validity of the new tariff law. Mr. Underwood said he was not desirous of quibbling over parliamentary points, but he did not intend to have the bill passed in any fashion that would leave any shadow of doubt hanging over its validity.

The chair finally held that the point of order raised by Mr. Hinds was not well taken, and the house then voted unanimously to concur in the action of the senate, which wholly eliminated the cotton tax matter from the measure.

This finally assured the tariff legislation for which the democratic party has been working since the extra session began last April, and when Speaker Clark signed the bill the democratic side went almost wild with enthusiasm, rising in a body and cheering and clapping their hands. Chairman Underwood was soon surrounded by a large crowd of members of the house, who formed in line, and as each man passed him he congratulated the leader on the passage of the bill, which will go into history bearing his name. Republicans and progressives joined the democrats in offering congratulations to Mr. Underwood.

WANTED—A POLITE SYNONYM FOR LECTURE

A public official can practice law without offending the plutocrats—his fee is a retainer. A public official can even write for the newspapers and magazines and still be respectable—his compensation is described as an honorarium. Give us a word, please, which will mean the same as lecturing but will not grate on the sensitive nerves of the subsidized press!

Well, the income tax law, aside from serving other useful purposes, will enable constituents to find out the incomes of their public servants. They can then inquire, "Where do they come from?"