

Taft Gives Views on The Year's Campaign

Still Defends the Tariff Law, but Will Help Revision of Some Schedules.

HIS LETTER TO M'KINLEY

New York, Aug. 29.—The letter of President Taft to Chairman McKinley, of the republican congressional committee, on the issues of the fall campaign, was made public at the New York headquarters of the committee yesterday. It is as follows:

I assume that when this letter is given publicly the lines will be drawn, the party candidates will have been selected, and the question for decision will be whether we shall have in the House of Representatives a republican or a democratic majority. The question, then, will be not what complexion of republicanism one prefers, but whether it is better for the country to have the republican party control the legislation for the next two years and further redeem its promises, or to enable a democratic majority in the House to interpose a veto to republican measures, or to formulate and pass bills to carry out democratic principles. Prominence has been given during the present canvasses just to the differences between republicans; but in the election such differences should be forgotten. Differences within the party are indicated in the two sessions of the present congress, and yet never in its history has the republican party passed and become responsible for as much aggressive legislation. While issues will undoubtedly arise between members of a republican majority as to the details of their legislation, the issue as a whole will show itself in the future as in the past, practical and patriotic in subordinating individual opinions in order to secure real progress. Hence the republican candidates have been duly and fairly chosen, all republicans who believe in the party principles as declared in the national platform should give the candidates loyal and effective support. If this is done, there will be no doubt of a return of a republican majority.

Democratic Repudiation.

The only other alternative is a democratic majority. It is difficult, very difficult, to state all the principles that would govern such a majority in its legislative course; and this because its party platforms have presented a variety of planks not altogether consistent, and because the present congress, in its legislative course in the Senate and the House have not hesitated to repudiate certain of its party pledges and to deny their binding character. We may reasonably assume, however, that a democratic majority in the House would reject the republican doctrine of protection as announced in 1888. What, therefore, a republican who believes in protection, but objects to some rates or schedules in the present tariff act, to hope for from a democratic majority which would attack the protective system, and halt business by a threatened revision of the whole tariff on revenue basis, or to hope that the executive would merely do nothing?

Such a legislative program as that set forth in the republican platform of 1896 could not be carried out in full by one congress. Certainly if all its promises are executed in one administration, it will be with a republican majority. If congress has not only fulfilled many party pledges, but it has by its course set higher the standard of party responsibility for such pledges as it has made in the history of American parties. Hereafter those who would catch voters by declarations in favor of allying remedial legislation with the tariff, should have more care as to the possibility of its enactment. In view of the history of the present congress, the return of a republican majority in authority in the future will inspire confidence that the pledges still unredeemed will be met and satisfied.

The Tariff.

Let us consider, summarily, the promises made and the legislation enacted by the present congress. The most important measure is the promise to revise the tariff in accordance with the rule laid down in the platform, to-wit: "That the tariff on imports shall be equal to the difference between their cost of production abroad and that cost in this country, including a reasonable profit for the domestic manufacturer." The investigation, full, at least, as such investigations have been conducted in the past, was made by the ways and means committee of the House, which has reported 1,159 articles. The tariff on 624 of these was amended in the Senate, but the proportion of increases to decreases was maintained. The president here incorporates the memorandum on articles which he accompanied his approval of it, and contains:

"This fairly states the effect of the bill. The bill has been criticized for certain of its rates and schedules. Some of the criticisms are just and some are wide of the mark and most unjust. The truth is that under the old protective idea the tariff was made too high to protect the industry. The excess of the tariff over the difference in the cost of production here and abroad was not objectionable because it was supposed that competition between those who enjoyed the high protection would keep the price of the goods at a reasonable level. The evil of excessive tariff rates, however, showed itself in the temptation of manufacturers to combine and protect their interests well when to maintain the prices so as to take advantage of the excess of the tariff rate over the difference between the cost of production abroad and here.

The Payne tariff bill is the first bill passed by the republican party in which the necessary steps to avoid this evil have been recognized, and it is therefore a decided step in the right direction and it ought to be accepted as such on the whole. It was done in a particularly important article of necessity and on raw materials. The actual figures on the first year's operation of the law demonstrate this. It must also be remembered that the tariff rates in the new law on imported liquors, wines and silks were increased substantially and the duty rates, because these were luxuries and it was intended to increase the revenue.

The charge that the present tariff is responsible for the increase in rates in respect to many facts which he learns, to exercise his best judgment in reaching a conclusion. The commission, however, selected and at work, is a commission of disinterested persons who will ascertain the facts, not in a hostile or unbecomingly examination and cross-examination of witnesses, but by the kind of investigation that statisticians and other investigators use. When the commission completes its work, either on the entire tariff or on

any of the schedules in respect to which issue has arisen, and the work of the commission is to present a tariff which is wrong and should be changed, I expect to bring the matter to the attention of the congress with a view to its amendment in that particular. Of course, this will be impracticable unless congress itself shall adopt the parliamentary rule, as I hope it will, that a bill to amend one schedule of the tariff may be subject to a motion to amend by adding changes in other schedules.

Results of Payne Law.

One great virtue in the new tariff law, in the opinion of the commission, is the reduction of the current effort of the administration, to keep down or reduce governmental expenditures and to reform the methods of collecting the customs revenue. It has, by its revenue producing capacity, turned a deficit in the ordinary operations of the government of \$3,000,000 for the year ending June 30, 1897, to a surplus in the first full year of the law, ending August 5, 1910, of \$25,000,000. From the present standpoint, then, there is no controversy over the effectiveness of the new law. Increased revenue indicates increased imports, and an examination of our imports during the past year will disclose a most substantial increase in manufacturers' material, from which, in the making of finished products, the exportation of home consumption, has come a larger volume of employment for our wage earners, a larger purchasing power and greater demand for the products of our farms and fabrications of our factories. So far, then, as such importations as displace home production, they must be of benefit to all. Generally speaking, a full measure of industrial activity in production, transportation and distribution is the result of operation of the new law. Under the maximum and minimum provisions we have concluded treaties with all foreign nations, gaining the best possible terms for entrance to their markets without sacrificing our own. By the Payne tariff act we have secured justice to the Philippines by allowing the producers of those islands the benefits of our markets with which limitations to prevent injury to our home industries.

Interstate Commerce.

The next most important work of the present congress was the passage of an amendment to the interstate commerce bill. The republican platform favored amendment to the interstate commerce bill, and the republican majority in the House favored such national legislation and supervision as would prevent the future over-issuance of stocks and bonds by interstate carriers. After the adjournment of the congress at its extra session I invited two of my cabinet and a member of the interstate commerce commission and a member of congress to make recommendations as to the needed amendments to the interstate commerce act. These gentlemen returned to me, and in September, 1897, in a speech in Des Moines, I forecasted their recommendations as I intended to make them to the congress. The amendments were introduced in the House, and were in accordance with the text of the republican platform. Subsequently, bills were drawn embodying these amendments, and legislation on the subject, while the principle was maintained, there were limitations introduced, as justice suggested, after a conference with the carriers interested. The bill was submitted to the congress and after a great deal of discussion both in the House and the Senate it was enacted into law with many amendments which did not materially change the effect of the recommendations except to strike out the provisions promised in the republican platform, to permit traffic agreements between railroads in spite of the interstate commerce act, to permit a company to acquire stock in a competing company, and to secure supervision of the interstate commerce commission of stocks and bonds by interstate railroads.

For this last was substituted a provision authorizing the appointment of a commission to consider the evils arising from the over-issuance of stocks and bonds, and the methods of preventing such evils by the direct primary law affecting an entire state to be held in the east.

Postal Savings Bank.

The postal savings bank bill has a similar history. It is one of the great congressional enactments. It creates an effective system of thrift which works effectively to promote thrift among

the poor, by providing a depository for their savings which they properly may consider absolutely safe, and will also turn into the channels of trade and commerce a large volume of money which otherwise would be idle. The bill provides that it will stimulate the investment of savings in government bonds of small denominations, for which the bill provides. Like the revenue bill, the bill passed, but was put through each house of congress by a republican majority, and was signed by the president.

Future Legislation.

A number of other promises remain to be kept. I have already alluded to the provisions to regulate the issue of stocks and bonds by interstate commerce railroads, to which the democratic minority in the Senate gave its solid opposition on the ground that the central government has no constitutional power to make and enforce such regulation. In addition to the promised procedure to determine how preliminary injunction shall issue in cases involving the enforcement of an amendment to the existing law which would create a privileged class of lawless persons, to which the republican majority of the courts of equity to do justice. There is the measure to promote the merchant marine engaged in foreign service, to which the republican majority of the democratic party has always opposed an almost solid front. There is the measure to secure further safety appliances on the railroads, to which the republican majority of the democratic party has always opposed an almost solid front. There is the measure to secure further safety appliances on the railroads, to which the republican majority of the democratic party has always opposed an almost solid front.

Conservation.

One of the great questions which has been made a national issue and aroused public interest through the assistance of President Roosevelt is that of conservation of our natural resources. In the federal standpoint, this concerns the preservation of forests, the reclamation of arid lands of the government and the removal of obstructions to navigation of government coal lands, phosphate lands, oil and gas lands, and of the lands known as water power sites, and the points on the great waterways of the country converted in order to be useful. During Mr. Roosevelt's administration millions of acres of land in the western states were withdrawn in the United States proper and in Alaska, in order to await proper legislation. Doubt arose as to the executive power of withdrawal, and therefore as to their legality, should they be contested in court. The present administration continued the withdrawals, and there is no doubt that it is a matter of wise precaution, securing from congress express power to make them. By republican majorities in both houses a bill was introduced in the House, enacted, and now over 70,000,000 acres have been re-withdrawn of lands included within the classes described. Much of the land withdrawn is for use in agriculture, and therefore congress adopted an entirely feasible and useful plan by which the homestead laws were applied to these lands. The law was enacted, and in the ground is still reserved as the property of the government. This is a new departure in our laws, and is highly commended. In view of this, it was deemed necessary, in order that certain reclamation projects of the government be carried out at a reasonable time, that an issue of \$20,000,000 bonds should be authorized with which to secure water for the settlers upon government lands. The law was enacted, and the bonds to be redeemed by the water rents for the service rendered. In this way hundreds of settlers who have been patiently waiting for the completion of the projects and suffering great privation will be rehabilitated. At the same time, the law authorizing the bond issue was amended to provide that the proceeds of the bonds in any of the projects until a board of army engineers shall report the same as worthy and feasible. Moreover, the law provided that the money made in the appropriation laws for money with which to carry on surveys of unreserved public lands, a crying need in our country, should be used in the same way, and in Alaska, that it is not too much to say that most important steps have been taken toward the proper conservation of our natural resources. It remains to be considered and settled the question of the method of disposing of the direct primary law affecting an entire state to be held in the east.

Other Pledges Redeemed.

The republican platform promised that it would take the territories of New Mexico and Arizona, and the promise has been redeemed with suitable

provisions for securing good and safe constitutions of the states by requiring their adoption in advance of the election of state officers, and their submission to congress for consideration, and possible approval by one of the republican majorities. All this long list of useful enactments was promised in the republican platform and has been put through by republican majorities.

Congress has also enacted into law, in accordance with the promise which I made as a candidate for president, a bill requiring the publication of the financial statements of the money received by them and the money expended by them in the political canvass of each congressional candidate. In addition, the presents congress has appropriated \$100,000 to enable the executive to investigate and make recommendations as to the methods by which the cost of running the government may be reduced. I regard this last as one of the most important parts of the administration's policy. I am confident that if full opportunity is given, and a republican congress is elected to assist, the cutting down of the national expenditures by the adoption of modern economic methods in doing the business of the government will result in saving many millions. It is impossible to approximate at this time. The problem before the administration is to get full value for every dollar it disburses.

More Failures in August Than in Any Month Since Last March.

New York, Sept. 6.—Bradstreet's Saturday said: Best reports as to fall jobbing trade still come from the leading western cities, and there is apparently a fairly free movement of staples and an appreciable improvement in collections in the centers feeling the impetus of the unexampled movement of grain to market. At a few southern centers, too, there is a trifle more activity, but from some southwestern points advices are given that buyers have not yet come and that house trade is quieter. There were more failures in August than in any preceding month since March. The total, 934, was 3 per cent larger than in July this year, or than in August last year, though 7 per cent smaller than in August, 1909. Liabilities aggregated \$11,933,579, an increase of 42 per cent over August last year, but 53 per cent below August, 1908. New York city has 23 per cent more failures than in August a year ago. Business failures in Canada for the week ending with Thursday last number 25, which compares with 35 for last week and 33 in the like week of 1909.

Officers Detain Cherokee Suspect.

W. J. Hunter is held by Sheriff Pending Investigation of His Movements.

News Brevities

COLUMBUS, OHIO—A Leonard avenue car Saturday ran over a half-pound stick of dynamite on Jefferson avenue, near the Columbus barracks. For some reason it did not explode. The dynamite was turned over by a soldier to Chief Carter, who carried it into the Scioto river. A dozen cases of shooting at and from cars was reported but no one was hurt.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—For the last 20 years the liquor question has been more or less the dominant issue in South Carolina politics. In the democratic primaries, to be held throughout the state Tuesday, the issue is clear cut as between state wide prohibition and the present local option law, under which 37 of the 44 counties in the state have prohibition. In the six wet counties liquor is sold under a county dispensary system, with strict regulations.

BOSTON.—The political attention of the country gradually is being focused on New England where, early in September, the first measuring of strength between the republican and democratic parties in the state elections of 1910 will be direct primary law affecting an entire state to be held in the east.

CHICAGO.—Charges that the Pullman company is adding the defense of Lee O'Neill Browne, minority leader of the Illinois legislature, in his trial on the charge of buying votes to elect William Lorimer to the United States Senate, were made in court Saturday by State's Attorney John W. Wayman. The charge was followed almost immediately by subpoenas for the appearance on Tuesday before a special grand jury of numerous officials and clerks of the Pullman company, including John C. Patterson, division superintendent.

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA.—Jose De los Rios, to whom President Madrid had granted the concession for the Nicaragua government before fleeing the country Saturday, retired from the presidency in favor of General Luis Mena, who was designated by the senate as president of the republic. The change of administration was in accordance with instructions from Estrada's brother, General Juan J. Estrada, the head of the provisional government and leader of the successful revolution against Madrid. General Mena immediately took possession of the presidential mansion.

A Near Neighbor.
From Life.
"Was your husband kind to you during your illness?"
"No, indeed, ma'am. Mike was more like a neighbor than a husband."

BRADSTREET AND DUN REPORT ON BUSINESS

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Head Man in Philippine Uprising, Simeon Mandac, Now in Hands of the Law.

Manila, Sept. 6.—The uprising in Nueva Vizcaya led by Simeon Mandac, former governor of Ilocos Norte, collapsed today when Mandac, who had been held by the rebels, was taken to a place among whom he had sought to stir up trouble, was turned over to the constabulary.

A few of Mandac's right hand men also were arrested and his other followers were dispersed. It was learned that the band of outlaws originally numbered 500, but it dwindled soon to 200, and these had but few arms.

Hobble Skirt May Be Cause of a Fatality.

New Girl, Wearing One, Falls Down and Has a Brain Concussion.

New York, Sept. 6.—Suffering with concussion of the brain as a result of a fall while wearing a hobble skirt, Marion Stone, a girl in her teens, is in a critical condition today in a local hospital.

Miss Stone, who is a member of a theatrical company giving performances in an uptown theater, stumbled while descending a flight of stairs leading from her dressing room in the theater late last night. She fell nearly the entire length of the staircase, striking on her head at the landing below. Her recovery is doubtful.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Approximately 679,555 acres of land in Arizona and New Mexico, eliminated from the national forests by President Taft as being chiefly valuable for agricultural purposes, have been opened to settlement under the homestead laws by authority of the secretary of the interior. The lands will become subject to settlement November 22, but not to entry until December 21.

LABOR UNIONS ARE SEEKING BY C. W. POST

Injunction Asked For to Stop Agreement with the Buck Stove Company.

St. Louis, Sept. 6.—C. W. Post, of Battle Creek, Mich., today filed suit in the United States circuit court for the eastern district of Missouri against the American Federation of Labor and the Buck Stove & Range company, of St. Louis, to restrain the officers of the latter from carrying out an alleged tentative agreement with officers of the former to make the St. Louis institution a closed shop.

The case is a suit in equity, and includes among the defendants Samuel Gompers, president; John Mitchell, vice president; Frank Meador, secretary and other officers of the federation and some 50 others prominently identified with union labor in America. The injunction feature of the case will be heard by Judge Smith McPherson, in chambers at Red Oak, N. Monday morning.

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Indian exports in 1910, fiscal year March 31, amounted to \$630,000,000 and her imports to \$50,000,000, a total overseas trade of \$1,150,000,000, an increase of \$12,000,000 over 1909.