

Practical Tariff Talks

The woolen schedule in the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was apparently based upon the old theory that what one doesn't know will never hurt him. When a witness was before the ways and means committee of the house testifying that many a man was wearing a cotton shirt under the impression that he had on a woolen one, Congressman Crumpacker, of Indiana, one of the right-hand men of the Cannon organization, sneeringly asked:

"What's the difference if they don't know it?"

The ultimate consumer, however, will have some difficulty in reconciling himself to the doctrine that there is nothing immoral or wrong about cheating a man if he never discovers that he has been defrauded. Yet the ultimate consumer is due to encounter a number of experiences he may never know about fully while living under the new tariff law.

For instance: Most men who purchase ready-made clothing have a price limit beyond which they rarely go. Thus, a man who has been paying fifteen dollars for a suit of clothes will be puzzled by the fact, after reading about the advances of wool cloth, to discover that his clothier is still selling apparently as nice-looking and serviceable suits for the same old price. Very few men are judges of the quality of cloth or even of the worth of the workmanship. Yet this is what happens this spring when the retailer goes to the manufacturer to place his fall orders: He will tell his suit-maker that he desires so many suits made that he can sell for standard prices, \$12, \$15, \$18 or \$20, and still retain his usual measure of profit. The manufacturer will pass the word on to the man who makes the cloth from which he moulds his suits that he must have cloth at a price that will enable him to make his customary profit. Thus each person in the transaction suffers no loss of profit on the fifteen dollar suit of clothes until it reaches the purchaser, who receives for that sum what twelve or thirteen dollars would have purchased a year ago.

The same thing is true of the underwear, hosiery and other textile goods in which wool has heretofore been used. The truth is that the sheep-raising business in this country has not kept pace with demand for wool in the industries, notwithstanding the enormous protection, for a number of reasons not specially germane to this story. The heavy tariff compels the Australian wool-grower to seek more favorable markets, and the American manufacturer, finding wool scarce and the price advancing, has had recourse to several expedients. One of these expedients has been to reduce the amount of wool in his cloth. Nowadays it is not infrequent to find nine-ounce cloth made up into light-weight suits. For many years in the cloth making business the light weight standard was sixteen ounce cloth and the heavy weight standard was twenty ounce cloth. At present sixteen ounces is regarded as the standard weight for heavy cloths and from nine to twelve ounces for the light weight. In order to make up the lost weight heavier lining, cotton wadding or some such substitute is used.

Another expedient is to make what is known in the trade as cotton worsted, which masquerades to the retailer as almost all wool. In truth it is 50 per cent wool and 50 per cent cotton, alternate threads of each. The hosiery manufacturer has clipped off some from the length of the stocking and substituted cotton for half the wool threads. Much underwear that passes as wool is made almost wholly from Peruvian cotton, which cannot be told from wool by the average person. C. Q. D.

AT THE ALAMO

The 20,000 troops ordered to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Tex., are on the historic spot where the battle of the Alamo was fought. There a small force of American pioneers of the southwest fought against overwhelming odds until death gave the Mexican army a temporary victory. The stronghold whither they are bound bears the name of the general who brought independence to the Lone Star state.

Thermopylae had its message of defeat. Alamo had none.

This inscription ascribed to Lord Macaulay is engraved on a monument in the grounds of

the Texas capital at Austin in commemoration of the garrison, all of which died fighting against overwhelming odds in the battle of the Alamo, which ended March 6, 1836.

Americans in Texas rose in rebellion against the government of Mexico in 1835. Early in 1836 the rebellion grew into warfare. The Texans were under the leadership of the bluff General Sam Houston as president of the new republic of Texas and as commander-in-chief of their little army of volunteers.

It was a daring undertaking for a scant 2,000 men to attempt to wrest the state from Mexico with its 15,000 drilled troops. But the Texans, headed by Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, William Travis and John Haydon, feared no failure.

The Mexican General Santa Anna set out from the Rio Grande northward to quickly conquer and punish rebellious Texans. His army of 6,000 men, after a march of nearly 600 miles across a desolate country, reached San Antonio, confident of capturing that town and moving on to the new capitol at Washington, Tex.

The garrison at San Antonio was unprepared for Santa Anna's coming. The first tidings of his approach was given by the sentinels posted on the roof of the Alamo, which was an abandoned Franciscan mission, built in 1723. It numbered about 185 men, under command of Colonel William Travis. When the news of Santa Anna's approach reached Travis he determined to make good its defense until reinforcements could arrive. With him was Colonel James Bowie, whose name was always associated with his famous knife, and Davy Crockett, the frontiersman and hunter of history and romance. They had a few pieces of artillery, little ammunition, ninety bushels of corn and thirty beef cattle, which were hurried within the inclosure.

Santa Anna demanding immediate surrender. Travis returned a defiant refusal, emphasized by a cannon shot. A blood red flag, signifying no quarter, immediately was raised above the Mexican camp, and their batteries opened upon the garrison.

Meanwhile, Travis had dispatched messengers to Houston and Washington, Tex., ninety-five miles away, appealing for assistance.

The Mexican batteries attempted a breach in the stone walls of the mission at dawn, February 26. For hours every day the Mexicans continued the siege.

In a hot fire which was opened upon the garrison on the last morning in February, some of the bombs fell close to the spot where Davy Crockett lay. He sprang up and made his way to the ramparts just as the Mexican gunner was reloading and before he could fire again shot him. A comrade caught up the match and ran to the touchhole.

But already a fresh rifle had been handed the Tennessean and he picked out the second gunner as he had the first. Three more Mexicans made the attempt and met a like fate and for a time the gun was silenced.

Colonel Travis called the garrison about him on March 3. He made a brief talk telling his comrades that longer hope for assistance was useless. He said that the Alamo should be surrendered or it should be defended until the last man was dead. He drew a line with his sword on the adobe floor and said:

"I propose to stay here until I am killed. All who will be with me will come to this side of the line; all who wish to surrender remain on that side."

Davy Crockett leaped across with a triumphant wave of his cap. Every man in the file joined him. It was a grim decision; the garrison lessening in number every day, the food supply was almost exhausted and only a few rounds of ammunition were left for the survivors.

Bowie, almost from the beginning of the siege, was ill with typhoid. In a little adjoining room he lay on a rude bed attended by a Mexican woman.

Hearing the speech of Colonel Travis he feebly called to his companions and begged them to pick up his cot and carry it over the line. A few hours later he became delirious and never recovered consciousness.

The morning of the final attack was a warm, bright Sunday. Colonel Bowie died about 3 o'clock. Death had become so common that no one paid any attention to the dying pioneer. They were blackened with gunpowder; they looked wild from lack of sleep and food; they seldom spoke and all their words and acts were

those of men most terribly in earnest. The sole idea of each was to sell his life as dearly as possible.

Santa Anna determined to take the Alamo by assault. The band struck up "Duguelo" (assassin), and amid a boom of cannon ladders were brought, the walls of the building were scaled by 2,000 cavalymen, while battering rams beat in the doors.

The Texans ran to the roof, where several cannons had been stationed. As fast as the Mexicans mounted they were stabbed and the ladders overturned.

Meanwhile, the Mexican riflemen on the ground shot down the Texans on the roof, and the battle raged with the few Texans who stayed on guard behind the barricade.

After an hour the Mexicans had overpowered the Texans and were swarming to the roof. The defenders retreated down the stairs, fighting every inch of the way. Then the doors below were beaten down with huge timbers, and with a yell the frenzied soldiers poured in the opening.

The little band of Texans was pitifully insignificant against the horde of Mexicans. There were yells, and gunshots and groans, in one long hideous chorus. Not one of the Texans sank to death till he had exhausted all his strength.

Colonel Crockett stood in the corner of the main room, and with a cutlass slashed all who attacked him. His shirt was soaked with blood and a bullet had pierced his cheek. Shot by a man in front of him, he lunged forward, selling his life as dearly as possible.

Colonel Travis was shot through the head while defending the stairs.

No one was spared, and every one of the Texans sank to the floor fighting. So ended the Alamo.

Nearly all the information that historians have concerning the events inside the Alamo during the siege has come from Senora Dona Andrea Castarion de Dillaneuda, the nurse of Colonel Bowie and the sole survivor.

The state of Texas pensioned her for forty years.

From that day the words, "Remember the Alamo!" were the slogan of the campaign throughout Texas.

In less than two weeks more than 600 frontiersmen, maddened by the massacre, joined Sam Houston's army.

A month later Houston, with a force of 700 Texans, faced Santa Anna, with 2,000 soldiers, on the banks of the San Jacinto. The battle was only an hour long.

The Texas force, with a mighty and exultant yell, "Remember the Alamo!" routed the enemy and captured Santa Anna, who barely escaped death.

Texas independence was then established.—Omaha Daily News.

THE FOE WITHIN

Solomon enriched ethical literature with a multitude of wise sayings, but it is doubtful whether he ever expressed a great truth more strongly than he did in the thirty-second verse of the sixteenth chapter of Proverbs: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taken a city." Self control is the most important element in strength—without it strength is impossible. He has little prospect of commanding others who can not control himself. The proverb says that "the man who is slow to anger is better than the mighty;" he is not only better measured by a moral standard, but he is greater in any conflict between the two. When a man loses his temper he gives his adversary a great advantage.

There is a very comforting thought embodied in the assurance that it is better to rule one's spirit than to take a city. With the coming of that universal peace which all must desire the opportunity for taking a city or for winning distinction by arms will disappear, but there is an unending conflict in which every human being must engage from the time he reaches the years of accountability until he dies, that conflict between man's better impulses and his lower nature. Here victory is all-important, and it is encouraging to know that a triumph in this arena is not less glorious than a triumph characterized by slaughter and bloodshed. Few—a rapidly diminishing few—can hope to lay siege to a city, but everyone can declare war against the foes within, and battle with the enemies that are to be found in his own flesh.