

# WASHINGTON NEWS

The American Economist, an organ of the Protective Tariff league, charges that Mr. Stimson, the new secretary of war, is a free trader.

Congressman Pujo has announced his candidacy for senator from Louisiana. Governor Sanders and Congressman Broussard will also be candidates.

Mr. and Mrs. Taft issued more than 3,000 invitations to their silver wedding anniversary, which was celebrated June 19th.

Attorney General Wickersham reported that no criminal prosecutions had been prepared against the Tobacco trust and Representative Byrns, of Tennessee, introduced a concurrent resolution directing Mr. Wickersham to proceed at once against these officers under the criminal section of the anti-trust laws.

Disregarding the plea of counsel for the American Sugar Refining company that a recital of certain facts might prove prejudicial, the house "sugar trust" investigating committee compelled Acting President E. F. Atkins to tell all he knew regarding the conduct and organization of the American Sugar Refining company.

Senator Lorimer has announced his intention to remain in Washington until a vote is taken on his case, following the reinvestigation of his election.

A United Press dispatch, under date of Washington, June 14th, says: For the first time in its history the house of representatives today heard socialism expounded by one of its exponents—the first member of that party who ever sat in the national legislature. It was the debut of Representative Victor L. Berger of Wisconsin.

He pledged his support to the democratic wool revision bill "because it was in line with social and political evolution; because it tended to destroy the old tariff superstition and break down the barriers between nations."

Berger denounced the protective tariff principle as a "fallacy." He declared there was no such thing as protection for labor in the tariff bills.

"That pretense was simply an after-thought because the workingmen have votes," Berger added.

"If the workingman wants to be protected he must commit a crime. He must steal or get drunk and disturb the peace, or become a vagrant. Then he gets the protection of the jail or penitentiary.

"Labor has protected itself by strikes and boycotts, which have been declared illegal by the United States supreme court. I hope labor will continue to use them to resist the forcing down of the standard of the bulk of our population to a Chinese level.

"The average of wages, the social privileges and the independence of wage-earning and agricultural population, when compared with the increase of wealth and social production, are steadily decreasing. Some day there will be a volcanic eruption. A fearful retribution will be enacted on the capitalistic class as a class, and the innocent will suffer with the guilty."

When Berger concluded there was a burst of applause and a number of representatives, who sat near him, crowded around to congratulate him.

Kahn (rep., Cal.) asked to be allowed to question him and for fifteen minutes Berger stood with folded arms under a rapid fire of questions from all sides of the hall.

An Associated Press correspondent said: "Intimation of doctoring the now famous Day portrait voucher, a consequent lively colloquy between Secretary Knox and Chairman Hamlin, of the house investigating committee, and testimony of Disbursing Officer Morrison's white messenger that he found the voucher on the floor near Morrison's desk after the archives had been ineffectually ransacked, featured in a state department investigation.

"Correspondence between Secretary Root and Consul General Michael at Calcutta indicated that the mysterious difference between the amount of the voucher and the actual amount paid to the portrait painter was applied to emergency accounts, probably Chinese matters, according to Mr. Michael.

"The exchange between Mr. Knox and Mr. Hamlin was brief and the feeling manifested subsided quickly.

"The sudden discovery in the state department of the Day portrait voucher, found a week ago on the floor of the office of Disbursing Clerk Morrison, was not cleared up by Mr. Knox.

"The secretary explained to the satisfaction of the committee the payment of \$5,000 to Frederick Hale, son of former Senator Eugene Hale, of Maine, for services in connection with the Canadian boundary negotiations. Mr. Knox produced the sections of the treaty in 1908 which authorized negotiations with Canada to establish the line through Passamaquoddy bay. Mr. Hale was employed for this work, performed his duty to the satisfaction of Secretary Root, and Secretary Knox approved his bill of \$5,000 a few weeks after coming into control of the state department."

Senator Pomerene of Ohio delivered a speech in the senate in which he demanded that the attorney general prosecute the heads of the Oil and Tobacco trusts.

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington, dated June 15th, says: "How the sugar interests combined in first one form and then another and how the American Sugar Refining company achieved power in the sugar world was the theme of the story to which the house sugar investigating committee listened today. In point of interest the story was rivaled in the day's proceedings only by the refusal of the committee to excuse Joseph F. Smith, head of the Mormon church, from responding to the subpoena to testify before the committee. Mr. Smith must appear next week.

"By far the most important witness before the committee today was Lowell M. Palmer, director of the American Sugar Refining company from 1899 to 1905, and head of its traffic department for years preceding that.

"At the outset of his testimony, Representative Madison of Kansas, who conducted the examination, introduced as a basis of his questions a page from the minute books of the company's board of directors.

"It bore the date of September 6, 1898, and its paramount feature was the authorization of a committee to buy outside refineries. It read:

"On motion a special committee

consisting of the president, vice president and Mr. Thomas were appointed to fix the price of refined sugars; they were authorized, in their discretion, to make the price of granulated sugar not less than 3/4 above the price of centrifugals at 96 test; other refined sugars to correspond. They were authorized and empowered to purchase for account of the company or hold any portion of outside refineries at a price and upon terms to be fixed by them in their discretion."

"With this as a basis from which to get at the policy of the American Sugar Manufacturing company, Judge Madison questioned the witness about the first combination of sugar refineries in 1888 and combinations or acquisitions during the period Mr. Palmer was a director.

"Incidentally the witness told of the rebates received by the company, claiming it merely had got its share of the rebates in the days when such were in fashion. He also defended as legitimate the company's lighterage charges on shipments of sugar in New York harbor."

Joseph F. Smith, head of the Mormon church, has been summoned to tell the sugar trust committee what he knows of the formation of the sugar company in Utah.

Frank B. Kellogg, special counsel of the department of justice in the prosecution of the Standard Oil company, and known as the "trust-buster," told the Stanley Steel trust investigation committee that he had for years been the special counsel of subsidiary companies of the United States Steel corporation in Minnesota, and that he had no apologies to make for it.

An effort to recall the joint resolu-

tion providing for direct election of senators, in order to have another vote upon it, was lost in the senate, 33 to 33. The democrats hoped to be able to reverse the vote, because it included the Bristow amendment for federal supervision of election.

The house of representatives in approaching the election of senators by the people passed a constitutional amendment, first providing for the election of senators by the people and then amending section 4, article 1 of the constitution to put the times and manner of holding the senatorial elections under the control of the legislature of each state. The Bristow amendment cuts out this provision and leaves the section as it stood before, as follows: The times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof, but the congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to places of choosing senators.

An Associated Press dispatch, under date of Washington, June 16th, said: The story of the birth of the American beet sugar industry, its trials and temptations ever since and how the Oxnard brothers were enriched by more than half a million dollars through "the little transaction" of selling their cane sugar refinery in Brooklyn to the first sugar "trust" in 1887 were the features in vestigating committee. Mr. Oxnard gave today to the house sugar investigating committee. Mr. Oxnard was on the stand all day and will be followed Monday by James H. Post, president of the National Sugar Refining company.

Mr. Oxnard assigned his reason for attempting to introduce the making of beet sugar in this country and the

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