

WASHINGTON NEWS

President Taft has signed the reapportionment bill increasing the house membership from 391 to 433 with two more for Arizona and New Mexico when admitted.

General P. H. Barry, of Greeley, Neb., has been appointed a member of the board of trustees of the national soldiers' home.

Senator W. P. Frye died at his home in Lewiston, Me., aged seventy-nine. He began service in the senate in 1881 and his present term would have expired in 1913. Governor Plaisted, democrat, will appoint a successor.

The steel trust investigating committee has asked Mr. Taft for more documents in the steel trust case. George W. Perkins, director of the steel trust was a witness and was asked about the trust contributions to the republican campaign fund. He refused to answer and Chairman Stanley threatened him with contempt decision. It was later decided to abandon this on the theory that the committee did not have authority to press contempt proceedings.

An Associated Press report says: Charges across the committee table that technical questions were being raised to keep back evidence in the investigation of the Dr. Wiley case, created excitement in the house committee on expenditures in the agricultural department during the further examination of Solicitor McCabe of that department. Solicitor McCabe admitted to the committee that in officially publishing for the department of agriculture a court decision in a Missouri pure food case, he had changed several words in the judgment of the court. The change eliminated benzoate of soda from the decree holding certain substances deleterious. Solicitor McCabe admitted that William H. Harris, a coffee expert, is employed in the bureau of chemistry under terms exactly similar to those in the case of Dr. Rusby, which McCabe refused to sanction and which brought about the charges against Dr. Wiley. McCabe insisted there was a difference in that Harris was the only coffee expert the department could employ.

An Associated Press dispatch says: The investigation of the "Wiley incident" in the department of agriculture revolving around the charges that Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, as chief chemist, employed an expert scientist at an illegal rate of payment, reached an acute stage in the Moss committee of inquiry of the house of representatives. Evidence showing that words "benzoic acid" and substituted the word "caffein" before circulating a judgment rendered against a food manufacturer in a Missouri court, was only one incident in a session full of lively clashes between members of the committee and attorneys.

An Associated Press dispatch said: Oakleigh Thorne, president of the Trust company of America, which became involved in the financial panic of 1907, the affairs of which have been linked with the taking over of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company by the United States steel corporation during that crisis, followed George W. Perkins as a witness before the house committee of inquiry into the affairs of the steel corporation. Mr. Thorne forcibly declared, contrary to the testimony

given by Mr. Perkins and many other witnesses, that the Trust company of America was not the "chief sore point" of trouble at the time it was necessary to save the brokerage firm of Moore & Schley. He surprised the committee with the declarations that he was certain undue attention had been directed toward his company in that crisis, and he denied any knowledge of the agreement testified to by Mr. Perkins, that the taking over of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company by the steel corporation to save Moore & Schley from ruin, was dependent upon the bankers of New York raising money to save the other horn of the dilemma, the Trust company of America and the Lincoln Trust company.

The New Mexico and Arizona statehood bill passed the senate by a vote of 53 to 18 after rejection of the Nelson amendment which proposed striking out of the Arizona constitution its judiciary recall provision. The bill compels Arizona to submit the recall proposition to the voters for final decision as to whether it shall remain in the constitution. It is freely predicted that President Taft will veto the bill.

Senator Bailey, of Texas, has resigned from the national monetary commission. He said that he would have objected to the majority report, but if the commission is to be discharged December 4 he would not have time to prepare his minority report.

Senator Cummins of Iowa says the monetary commission is a piece of useless extravagance.

The house has passed the senate bill relieving homesteaders in Nebraska, South Dakota, Colorado, Oklahoma, North Dakota, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Washington and Oregon from residence and cultivation on their lands was passed in the house. The president will undoubtedly sign the bill when he returns from Beverly.

IT IS NOW UP TO MR. TAFT

The conference committee agreed August 11th on the wool bill and farmers' free list bill. The Associated Press report of the conference proceedings follows:

The bill was so amended as to require that the proposed law shall take effect October 1 instead of January 1, as provided in the senate and house measures. The conferees hope to have the report adopted in both houses tomorrow and the bill quickly started on its course to the white house, where the president is expected to veto it.

The free list bill was under consideration for about fifteen minutes, but the conflict between the representatives of the two houses was so pronounced that it became necessary to postpone action until tomorrow afternoon.

After fixing 29 per cent ad valorem as the duty on raw wool, and changing the wool classification so as to conform to the language of the house bill, the agreement on other features became a matter of detail. At times there were sharp differences of opinion, but at no time was a disagreement on that measure threatened.

The change of classification has the effect of fixing a flat duty on all wools, and while it reduces the rates on ordinary wools from 35 per cent, as provided in the senate bill, and

increases those of the house bill from 20 per cent it also increases the rates on carpet wools from 10 per cent, as provided in the senate bill, to 20 per cent fixed by the conferees.

In most respects the duties on the manufactures of wool were increased over the rates of the house bill and reduced below those of the senate bill so as to make them correspond with the raw wool but in some instances they were made higher than those of either measure.

A rate of 29 per cent on nolls and wastes was agreed to while a rate of 35 per cent was determined upon for combed wool and tops, including roving and roping, and of 39 per cent on yarns.

There was a compromise in the matter of classification on cloths, dress goods, clothing, webbings, blankets and flannels. In the house bill these subjects were covered in five paragraphs, whereas Mr. La Follette in the bill as adopted by the senate embraced all in one paragraph.

As the subject will be covered in the conference report, blankets and flannels will be treated in one paragraph, with a rate of 30 per cent, the house rate, while the other articles are made dutiable at the rate of 49 per cent, which is an increase over the house rate of from 4 to 14 per cent, and a reduction from the senate rate of 6 per cent. This paragraph will cover cloths, knit fabrics, unwoven felts, women's and children's dress goods, coat linings, ready made clothing, shawls, webbings, founcings, fringes, laces and embroideries.

A similar compromise was effected on carpets, resulting in the fixing of three classes, instead of one, as in the senate bill, and nine classes in the house bill.

Class one of today is compromise and includes Aubusson, Axminster, Moquette, Chenille, Saxony, Wilton, Tournay, velvet carpets and oriental, Berlin and similar rugs and the rate is fixed at 50 per cent, which is 15 per cent higher than the senate rate and 10 per cent higher than the house rate on most of the articles.

On the second class of carpets the rate was made 40 per cent. It includes Brussels carpets and velvet and tapestry velvet carpets against 30 and 35 per cent in the house bill and 35 in the senate bill.

The third class rate of 38 per cent is made to cover tapestry Brussels, treble ingrain, druggetts and carpetings not otherwise provided for. These are the cheaper carpets, and the house bill fixed a rate of from 25 to 30 per cent on them while the senate rate was 35 per cent.

After the disposal of the wool bill the free list bill was laid before the conference. Mr. Underwood announced the absolute refusal of the house to accept the senate amendments confining the free admission of meats and cereals to those coming from countries with which the United States has reciprocal trade agreements, which would confine the free importation of those articles to imports from Canada. He stated also that the house would insist upon adding lemons to the free list. "I will never sign a conference report on those lines," said Senator Bailey, almost before the chairman of the house conferees had opportunity to complete his outline of the house position.

With this decided difference of opinion, which marked the expressions of all the conferees, making agreement impossible at the time, Mr. Underwood made an effort to obtain the consent of all parties to report a disagreement. Mr. Bailey was again obdurate.

"I am frank enough to say," said he, "that I am never going to agree to a disagreement unless I am sure

that we can sustain ourselves in the senate."

Soon after the conferees met it was learned definitely that Representative Underwood and Senator La Follette, the sub-committee in conference, had been only 2½ cents apart on raw wool. Mr. Underwood held out for a duty of 27½ per cent ad valorem, while Mr. La Follette insisted on 30 per cent. The full committee split the difference and compromised on 29 per cent.

The free list bill, it was said, could be agreed on in short order, but there seemed to be a disposition in the conference to hold it back until an agreement was forced on wool.

At the beginning of the conference Mr. La Follette urged 30 per cent on ordinary raw wool. Mr. Underwood would not consent to a higher duty than 27½ per cent. Ultimately Mr. Bailey suggested a compromise of 28½ per cent. Mr. Underwood said he would accept 29 per cent if the house classification should prevail. Mr. La Follette agreed to this.

In the absence of Senator Penrose Senator Cullom presided and for the first time in history of the conference was, on motion of Senator Bailey, opened to the press.

Continuing its work, the conference fixed the rate on wool wastes and shoddies at 29 per cent to correspond with the rate on regular wastes. This was an increase over the house rate, which was 20 per cent. It was also a practical increase over the senate rates, which ranged from 25 to 30 per cent, but the change was made to meet a suggestion of Mr. Underwood that a rate lower than that fixed on wool itself would result in flooding the country with wastes.

At this point a recess was taken until 2:15 p. m.

Confidence was expressed that a complete agreement would be reached on both the wool bill and the free list bill in time to report them tomorrow, thus insuring action early next week.

Today's action is expected to effect earlier adjournment.

President Taft has indicated that he would veto any wool bill growing out of the conference.

No doubt is expressed in either house of congress regarding the acceptance of the conference report on the wool bill. Members of the ways and means committee of the house say that no other meeting of that body will be necessary, as Mr. Underwood has authority to close the negotiations.

The eleven insurgent republican senators who voted for the La Follette bill originally and who heretofore have held out for not less than 30 per cent, will accept 29 in view of the increase made on waste and carpet wools.

Most senators and members are counting confidently on a final adjournment of the session late next week.

IN THE SWIM

A reviewer in the New York Nation illustrates his own comments on a certain new volume of essays by a story that is worth putting into circulation. Three hearers, he says, of the admired Dr. X., were talking in the vestibule after the sermon. "We must admit," remarked the first, "that the doctor dives deeper into his subject than any other preacher." "Yes," said the second, "and stays under longer." "And comes up drier," added the third.—Western Christian Advocate.

A LOVING CHILD

Pupil (to schoolmaster)—"Sir, would you mind taking great care how you draw up my report? My parents suffer dreadfully from nerves."—Fliegende Blaetter.