

WASHINGTON NEWS

The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald said: Joseph B. Cotton, former attorney for the Duluth, Mesaba & Northern railroad, denied before the house steel trust investigating committee the charge made by C. H. Martz that he had ordered the padding of the

cost of the railroad in a report to the Minnesota railroad and warehouse commission.

Mr. Cotton submitted documents to show that the cost estimates made by Martz never were submitted to the commission. Mr. Cotton was accompanied by George Wellwood Murray, counsel for John D. Rockefeller, who provoked a colloquy with Mr. Stanley, when he sought to interpret testimony of the witness.

"I have warned you, Mr. Murray," exclaimed the chairman, "that if you have anything to say to this committee you must submit it in writ-

ing. If you have anything to say, you must go on the stand and be sworn, so that you may be cross-examined. Sit down."

Mr. Murray sat down.

The committee reviewed with Cotton the testimony of the Merritt brothers relating to the taking over of the railroad and ore properties in the Mesaba region by John D. Rockefeller and his almoner, Rev. F. D. Gates, which later were sold to the United States Steel corporation.

"Did you know that Rev. Dr. Gates, who put through the deal whereby the Merritt brothers lost to John D. Rockefeller their interest in the Mesaba mines and the railroad they created, was a minister of the gospel?" Mr. Stanley asked.

"So far as I know Mr. Gates has not occupied a pulpit for twenty-five years," Mr. Cotton answered.

"I am entirely inclined to believe you," Mr. Stanley replied.

Rear Admiral Richard Wainwright has been retired from service on account of age. He was an officer on the battleship Maine when it was wrecked in Havana harbor.

The constitutionality of the "full crew" act of Indiana, regulating the size of crews on freight, passenger and mail trains, was upheld today by the supreme court.

"The intermountain rate case," involving the constitutionality of the long-and-short-haul amendment in 1910 to the interstate commerce laws, was advanced for hearing on Monday, Feb. 19.

Congress has ratified the president's notification of the termination of the Russian treaty.

Senator Borah of Idaho delivered a speech in New York City in which he declared that lawlessness among men of wealth must cease.

The government has filed in the federal court at Philadelphia a suit against the watch case combine. It is brought under the Sherman law.

President Taft has sent a message to congress delivering the tariff board's report on schedule K of the Payne bill. The report shows that the existing duties on many classes of wool and wool manufactures are prohibitory and greatly in excess of the difference in the cost of production here and abroad. The duties are so arranged as to keep out of the United States entirely wools of finer qualities which if imported might be used to displace the cheap substitutes now employed. President Taft calls attention to these points and urges that a revision of the schedule be proceeded with at once.

He characterizes the report of the tariff board as the most complete and exhaustive statement of a difficult and complicated subject ever presented to a legislative body. He declares it a monument to the thoroughness, industry, impartiality and accuracy of the men engaged in its making. He also dwells with emphasis upon the fact that the report is a unanimous one and asserts the belief that it will convince all of the wisdom of making the tariff board permanent.

Neither the president nor the board proposes definite rates of duty, Mr. Taft holding that the function of the board merely is to present findings of fact on which rates of duty may be fairly determined in the light of adequate knowledge and in accord with the economic policy to be followed. President Taft recommends that the proposed revision adhere to a policy of protection based

upon the difference in cost of production at home and abroad.

In his message the president says: "The finding of fact by the board show ample reason for the revision downward of schedule K in accord with the protective principle, and present the data to relieve costs and prices from which may be determined what rates will fairly equalize the difference in production costs.

"I recommend that such revision be proceeded with at once."

An Associated Press dispatch says: Senator Penrose announced that he hoped the republican senate would be able to formulate a bill to comply with the tariff board's views. Representative Underwood said the president's message really pointed out the necessity of a great reduction in wool rates and that he had no doubt they would carry out the suggestions made.

"The president in his message," Mr. Underwood said, "favors placing a specific duty on scoured wool as a basis for importation of raw wool, instead of placing a duty on raw wool and increasing the duty on scoured wool. If the committee should adopt a specific rate for raw wool there might be much in the president's argument, but I have no doubt the committee will exact an ad valorem instead of a specific duty.

"The president advocates ad valorem duty on manufactured wool. In the bill passed last year the rates were ad valorem, based on import valuations in contra-distinction to the compound specific and ad valorem rates now exacted in the Payne-Aldrich law. The president says the present duty on wool and woolen manufactures in many instances are prohibitive. I have no doubt the ways and means committee will agree with him as to the necessity of a reduction. The message clearly justifies the democratic members in passing the wool bill last year that the president vetoed."

Representative Dalzell of Pennsylvania, republican leader on the ways and means committee, said the message clearly showed why it is necessary to have wool legislation other than that proposed by the democrats at the last session of congress.

"I am sure," Senator Penrose said, "that we shall have a better bill than the wool bill, which was passed during the extra session. The finance committee will take the subject up after the holidays, but whether it will be possible to bring the democratic house to the acceptance of such a bill as we might formulate, I cannot undertake to say. I believe the report of the tariff board does not indicate that the present wool duties are much too high."

Senator Bristow, who took a prominent part in the combination of insurgent senators with the democrats that forced tariff reduction bills through the senate at the extra session, said that if the president had signed the LaFollette wool bill last summer he would have corrected every abuse of which he complained and have preserved ample protective duties for every American industry. The progressive republicans, he said, would support the same tariff revision this season.

Senator Martin of Virginia, democratic leader of the senate, said he still favored lower duties on wool, "something like the Underwood bill."

LITTLE LEFT

"What's the matter here?" asked the caller, noticing the barren appearance of the house. "Sent your goods away to be stored?"

"No," replied the hostess. "Not at all. My daughter was married last week and she has merely taken away the things that she thought belonged to her."—Detroit Free Press.

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