

COTTON MILL MEN GREATLY AROUSED

Action of India in Placing Protective Tariff is the Cause for Alarm Now.

FOUR PER CENT PROPOSED

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

London, March 25.—The world's greatest cotton manufacturing community, Lancashire, is tremendously aroused by the action of the government of India in placing a protective tariff on cotton goods. The spokesmen for the cotton interests call it a disaster and declare that it will prove the worst hardship the industry has suffered since the blockade of the southern states during the American civil war. Entirely without warning to them came the announcement by Sir William Meyer, the financial secretary of India, of a straight-duty of 4 per cent which operates against other parts of the British empire as well as against foreigners.

That the object of this increased taxation was to cover the contribution of 100,000,000 pounds which India will make toward the war expenses of the United Kingdom does not seem to soften the blow. Sir William Meyer announced that this step had been taken with the approval of the home government and when members of the House of Commons proposed delay Austen Chamberlain, the secretary for India, informed them that the new rate had already gone into effect.

Cotton a Great Asset.

The Indian cotton trade is one of England's most important and most carefully nurtured commercial assets. Lancashire imports yearly some £70,000,000 worth of cotton from America in normal times and its mills turn out about £170,000,000 worth of finished fabrics. In the last year before the war £37,000,000 worth was absorbed by the Indian market. China has been Lancashire's second best foreign customer, but Japanese competition has been steadily absorbing the Chinese markets during the last few years and has also been gaining ground in India. Lancashire's chief rival has been the cotton mills of Bombay, but for twenty years the Lancashire exporters have enjoyed practical free trade with India. To insure this situation and at the same time produce revenue the Indian tariff of 3½ per cent had been balanced by an excise tax of 1½ per cent on domestic goods, which left the Indian product without any advantage over the imported. Now the government of India by raising the tariff to 7½ per cent, without any increase of the excise taxes, gives the native factories a protection of 4 per cent.

Through this reversal of policy the Lloyd George government and the government of India, between them, have set ablaze a controversy smouldering for many years which concerns the basic principles of British colonial rule and have kindled it at an hour when tariffs are political firebrands.

Justifies the Duties.

Mr. Chamberlain in the House of Commons justified the new duties by India's decision to contribute £100,000,000 to the costs of the war. The Manchester Chamber of Commerce replied immediately by passing resolutions which applauded the Indian contribution to the war, but asked for the postponement of the tariff question until after the war, or until the forthcoming imperial conference has considered the fiscal policy of the empire. All the other organizations are following its lead. The Employers' Federation of Bleachers, in resolutions, "learns with alarm" of the tariff and urges the Chamber of Commerce to oppose it unless a corresponding excise duty be placed upon Indian manufacturers."

Meantime the new tariff is the law and it is not likely to be repealed. The cotton manufacturers of Lancashire, as well as those of Japan and of the United States, whose interest is not small, will probably have to accept the fact that the Indian mills have 4 per cent protection and make their business arrangements accordingly.

Civilians on Canal Zone Volunteer for Its Defense

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

Panama, March 6.—Civilian employees of the Panama canal have initiated a Plattsburgh idea movement at Gatun. Instruction in elementary tactics is being given by officers of the Thirty-third infantry, stationed there to guard the locks and spillway of Gatun lake, and this work is to be supplemented by a series of popular lectures on various branches of military activity.

The civilians of the canal zone have generally shown a great deal of interest in arrangements for the defense and many have volunteered for field service. In case of need they will probably be placed on guard duty, relieving the regular soldiers, to occupy the trenches well beyond the limits of the canal.

Italian Provinces Now Issue Bread Tickets

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

Rome, March 31.—The government is now organizing a system throughout Italy for the distribution of the necessities of life by means of tickets in order to suppress the inequalities which heretofore have existed in the sixty-nine provinces of the kingdom. In the province of Mantua each individual has been allowed to have less than two ounces of sugar every ten days, while in the neighboring province there is no limitation on the purchase of sugar.

Sharks' Skins Excellent Substitute for Leather

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

Mexico City, March 30.—Mexican consuls in the United States have sent advices to the Department of Fomento urging that shark fishing in Mexican waters be given special encouragement. They report the skins of sharks are in great demand among shoe manufacturers in the United States, where the scarcity of leather is being keenly felt and that the skins command an excellent price. Sharks are plentiful off both Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Mexico.

HIGH SCHOOL

Activities Among Student Societies and Clubs on Hill Top.



HARRY DISBROW.

The Athenian Debating society of Central High school gave its annual banquet at the Rome hotel Thursday night. More than thirty members attended. J. G. Masters, principal; J. F. Woolery, vice principal; Miss Belle von Mansfield, Mr. Orchard, members of the faculty, and others, gave short talks. John Talafaro, former president of the society, and other members were present. Mr. Talafaro spoke on the benefits of societies to High school pupils. Meyer Beber, president, was toastmaster.

A joint program was held of the Central High School Literary societies in which the Priscilla Alden, the Lininger and the German societies took part. Frances Bringle of the Lininger society gave a vocal solo and Hannah Somer of the same society a recitation, "How Gentlemen Are Made." The German society presented a one-act playlet, "German Eight," a take-off on school life. The cast was composed of members of the senior class.

The Priscilla Alden society gave a novel act entitled "Living Songs in Living Pictures." Charlotte Johnston, president of the society, sang and other members posed in costume. The following took part: Helen Cain, Omaha High school; Alice Day, "Alice Ben Bolt"; Georgiana Steel, "Sweet and Low"; Lillith Roberts, Gypsy love song; Thelma Black, "Old Oaken Bucket"; Ruth Swenson, "The Rosary"; Frances Hodgin, "Three Blind Mice"; Carolyn Cain, "Mother Machree"; Maude Amsmussen, "Juanita"; Margaret Peters, "Last Rose of Summer"; Eunice Kelley, "Annie Laurie"; Elsie Hurl, "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes"; Ruby Swenson, "Lind of the Sky Blue Water"; Marguerite Miller, "Dixie"; Mildred Johnson, "Minuet"; Helen Leach, "America."

London and Petrograd Will Be Two Days' Nearer

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

Stockholm, March 30.—Plans for bringing London and Petrograd two days nearer together by the establishment of a train ferry across the Gulf of Finland have been approved by the Swedish royal commission. The ferry will run between Kapellskär, Sweden, and a Baltic port near the mouth of the Gulf of Finland. It will involve an initial expenditure of about \$5,000,000. The distance to be traversed by the ferries is about 150 miles.

Hundred Villistas Captives Killed by Carranza Troops

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

Juarez, Mex., April 20.—One hundred Villa followers were hanged, 200 others killed and wounded and a quantity of ammunition and horses captured yesterday when fighting between the Villa forces and the command of General Francisco Murguia was resumed at dawn in a rugged canon in the Babicora district of western Chihuahua, according to an unofficial report received here tonight from General Murguia's base at Casas Grandes.

Big Increase in Earnings of the New York Central

New York, April 20.—An increase of \$33,672,115 in gross earnings and a gain of \$13,163,599 in operating income was reported by the New York Central Railroad company in its annual statement made public tonight. The surplus earned from dividends was \$45,659,217, equal to 18.3 per cent on the \$249,590,466 capital stock outstanding, compared with 11.1 per cent earned in 1915.

Guardsman Shot in Leg as He Is Patrolling Idaho Bridge

Spokane, Wash., April 20.—Charles K. Overton, a member of Company C, Idaho National Guard, was shot in the leg tonight while patrolling across a Great Northern railroad bridge. Overton ordered the man to halt, according to word reaching here, and received two shots as an answer, one of which entered the leg. The shooter escaped.

Bicycles Very Popular With the Boys and Girls

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

More bicycles are being used by girls and boys this season than ever before says Victor H. Roos, the local Harley-Davidson cycle dealer. The outdoor air and promote this influence on the desire to get in healthful pastime which is most beneficial in building up a sturdy body. Spirit of patriotism seems to have

Root Probably Will Head U. S. Commission to Russia

Washington, April 20.—President Wilson has almost completed the selection of a commission to be sent to Russia to co-operate with the new provisional government on methods by which the United States can be of assistance. The party is expected to leave for Petrograd within two weeks. Elihu Root will probably be chairman.

Population Trebles in District of Arsenal

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

London, March 30.—The population of Woolwich, the London borough which contains the great Woolwich arsenal, has nearly trebled since the beginning of the war, and is now about 140,000.

Obituary Notes

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

CHARLES HANLEY, civil war veteran and for many years a prominent Omaha grocer, died Thursday night.

Battle Mountain sanitarium, Hot Springs, S. D., of alimentary disease at advanced age. Mr. Hanley was 74 years old, born in County Meath, Ireland, March 25, 1843. Surviving him, besides his wife, are three sons, Charles J., James W. and Thomas F.; two daughters, Mary C. and Mrs. Carl E. Smith; a brother and nephew, George and Charles T. Hanley of Oakland, March 25, 1843. Surviving him, Sunday morning, the body will be brought to the home, 3910 North 36th street, Omaha. The funeral will be held at 9 o'clock Monday morning from the residence to Sacred Heart church, where requiem high mass will be celebrated. Interment will be in Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

SINGS IN CANTATA AT THE BOYD SUNDAY.

COMMERCIAL WAR IS NOW TALKED

Protective Tariff and Preferential Treatment for Colonies Being Agitated.

POLICY IS OUTLINED

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

London, March 15.—Discussion of the policy of a commercial "war after the war" and of a protective tariff for Great Britain, with preferential treatment for the dominions and colonies, which had lain dormant since the Paris conference, has been revived by the report of the committee on commercial and industrial policy. This report is merely a preliminary one. It pronounces in favor of general policies, without attempting to frame details.

It recommends also that this majesty's government should now declare their adherence to the principle that preference should be accorded to the products and manufactures of the British overseas dominions in respect of any customs duties now or hereafter to be imposed on imports into the United Kingdom.

It further recommends a wider range of customs duties which would be remitted or reduced on the products and manufactures of the empire, and which would form the basis of commercial treaties with allied and neutral powers."

Challenge to Free Traders.

The pronouncement of this committee had the effect of a direct challenge to the free traders. One result of the Paris conference was the formation of a parliamentary free trade committee, with Lord Beauchamp as its chairman, to act as an organized guardian of the interests of the historic British policy.

The view which the free trade group holds of the report suggesting a policy of imperial preference, is used by the committee on commercial and industrial policy, headed by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, is that the committee was not a well balanced and impartial representative of British opinion, that it was virtually packed with protectionists, and that leaders of the free-trade faction were excluded.

The free traders say the declaration of principles is put forth at the present time for the purpose of influencing the imperial conference which will assemble in London this spring.

They aver that an attempt to com-

mit the government to the adoption of any new tariff policy at the present time is a violation of the political truce on contentious matters to which the two leading parties in parliament pledged themselves soon after the beginning of the war.

Proceedings Are Secret.

The publication of the report was followed by a meeting of the parliamentary free trade committee to consider measures, for opposition, Seventy members of parliament attended, and the proceedings were secret. Among those present were Lord Bryce, Reginald Mackenna, chancellor of the exchequer in the Asquith cabinet; Walter Runciman and Sir John Simon, prominent members of that cabinet; John Burns and others of the rank and file of the liberal and labor parties in the commons, and members of the House of Lords.

The discussion which took place gave evidence that there will be no sweeping change in the government's tariff policy while the war is in progress without a hard party fight, with straight-out protectionists,

protectionists for imperial preference only, and full free traders as the beligerents.

Of course any scheme of protective tariff would be infinitely more complicated and difficult for the British empire—with the distinct and sometimes opposing interests of the United Kingdom and of the self-governing dominions of Canada, Australia, South Africa and of India to be reconciled—than for geographically compact nations like the United States, Russia, Germany and France, which are protectionist countries. Ireland has come forward already with a plea for the safeguarding of her own special interests, and as strong an opponent of home rule as the Morning Post recognises the reasonableness of Ireland's claim.

No Definite Program.

In the Paris conference the nations of the entente committed themselves to the principles of special commercial arrangements for the period of reconstruction after the war, at least.

That policy, so far as it concerns the British people, awakened strong opposition. Even its supporters have not yet advanced any definite program.

Tentative suggestions are made for a graded tariff for the United Kingdom. Nebulous suggestions appear in the protectionist newspapers for an arrangement with "one scale of duties for the colonies, a higher one for allies, another for neutrals and a fourth for enemies." "Progressive protection," the scheme is styled by Francis Hirst's financial paper, Common Sense.

The free trade resistance by no

means portends that Great Britain is likely to maintain its old policy of wide-open and unrestricted free trade. The experiences of war have imposed upon the nation a lesson of its limitations. The lesson is that it is dangerous for any island nation to depend upon its shipping for the greater part of its rations. And also that it is equally dangerous to depend upon foreign imports for any materials necessary for carrying on a war.

American Buffaloes in Sweden Cause Comment

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

Stockholm, March 31.—A herd of nine American buffaloes, obtained from Hagenbeck in Hamburg, has just been brought to Sweden through the efforts of Prof. C. V. Hartman of the ethnographic department of the Royal Museum. They are to be released on

one of the larger islands in the Stockholm archipelago. It is intended later to attempt hybridization with native cattle. These are the first bison ever seen in Sweden.

Widow Gets Letter Telling That Husband Was Hero

(Correspondence of The Associated Press)

London, March 20.—The widow of a lieutenant in the British Royal Flying corps, killed at Salonic, has received a letter enclosing a copy of a message dropped from a German aeroplane on a British aerodrome. "The English aviators," the message read, "had been fighting bravely, but after five minutes their airplane dropped and they were killed. They died heroes. Their bodies will be buried with all military honors."

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