

Salient Features of the New Tariff Bill.

(Continued from page 2, Col. 6.) Items show reductions on cotton thread from 31.54 per cent to 19.29 per cent, on spool thread from 22.95 per cent to 15 per cent, on cotton cloth from 42.74 per cent to 26.69 per cent, on water-proof cloth from 50.56 per cent to 25 per cent, on ready-made clothing from 50 per cent to 30 per cent, on collars and cuffs from 64.03 per cent to 25 per cent, on plushes from 51.40 per cent to 40 per cent, on handkerchiefs from 59.27 per cent to 30 per cent, on stockings from 75.38 per cent to 50 per cent, on gloves from 80.17 per cent to 35 per cent, on underwear from 60.27 per cent to 25 per cent and on cotton damask from 40 per cent to 25 per cent.

Linen. Schedule J, dealing with flax, hemp and their products, has been similarly dealt with. Raw flax and raw hemp have been reduced from \$22.40 and \$22.50 per ton respectively to \$11.20 each, jute yarns have been cut from 26.90 per cent to 15 per cent, cables and cordage from 6.43 per cent to 4.35 per cent, oilcloths for floors from 44.29 per cent to 15 per cent, handkerchiefs from 50 per cent to 35 per cent.

Wool. Schedule K, dealing with wools and woolen manufactures, has been the center of criticism for many years, and the committee has given it very careful study. The result has been to make raw wool free of duty, to reduce yarns from 79.34 per cent to 20 per cent, blankets from 72.69 per cent to 25 per cent, flannels from 93.29 per cent to 25 and 35 per cent, dress goods from 99.70 per cent to 35 per cent, clothing from 79.56 per cent to 35 per cent, webbing, etc., from 82.7 per cent to 35 per cent, and carpets from rates ranging from 60 per cent to 82 per cent to rates ranging from 20 per cent to 35 per cent.

Silk. In Schedule L, relating to silk and silk goods, it has been sought to convert the schedule previously almost wholly specific in an ad valorem basis, thereby placing it upon an equality of treatment with the other schedules allied to it and eliminating the possibility of concealed protection. Inasmuch, however, as silk and silk goods are distinctly to be classed as luxuries, it has been deemed wise to make only very moderate reductions in the rates of duty. Partially manufactured goods have been cut from 21.01 per cent to 15 per cent, spun silk yarn from 37.09 per cent to 35 per cent, sewing silk from 35 per cent to 15 per cent, silk goods from 52.38 per cent to 50 per cent, silk handkerchiefs (plain) from 50 per cent to 40 per cent, ribbons from 50 per cent to 40 per cent, artificial silk yarns from 41.70 per cent to 35 per cent, and braids, embroideries and the like of artificial silk from 68.49 per cent to 60 per cent.

Paper and Books. Schedule M, which deals with paper, books and allied articles, has been subjected to the general operation of the same principles that apply throughout the tariff. Print paper, whose cost of production is as low in this country under favorable conditions as it is anywhere in the world, has been transferred to the free list when worth less than 2 1/2 cents per pound, while the higher grades have been given a tariff of 12 per cent in place of 15.90 per cent. Copying paper has been cut from 42.32 per cent to 30 per cent, bag envelopes, etc., from 49.92 per cent to 35 per cent, parchment papers from 47.92 per cent to 35 per cent, in photographic paper from 28.99 per cent to 25 per cent, writing paper from 45.13 per cent to 25 per cent, common wrapping paper from 35 per cent to 25 per cent and books from 25 per cent to 15 per cent.

Sundries. Schedule N, which deals with a variety of sundries, calls for comparatively little comment, except to say that the general principles of tariff reduction have been applied to each of the items carried in the schedule according to the peculiarities of each. Thus, trimmed hats are given only a moderate reduction, being cut from 50 per cent to 4 per cent, while brooms are substantially reduced, being cut from 40 per cent to 15 per cent. Jewelry has been but slightly reduced, falling from 75.74 per cent to 60 per cent. A good illustration of the attitude adopted with respect to the application of the tariff is seen in the item, precious stones, uncut, which are given a rate of 10 per cent, notwithstanding they were on the free list under the act of 1909.

Changes in Classification. Few changes have been made in classification. Ad valorem rates, however, have been substituted for specific rates and for the complicated and cumbersome compound rates of the Payne law. This is particularly true of the textile schedules—cotton, flax, silk and wool—in which the present classifications depend upon various conditions, such as the count of the thread, the condition of the yarns, the weight and value of the fabric.

The classifications by values of articles has been eliminated as far as possible. It was found necessary in a few instances in order to place a low rate of duty on a common or cheap article of ordinary use, to make the classification dependent upon the value and place a higher rate upon the more expensive article of the same character and description. This is true in the paragraphs providing for guses and gelatins, that providing for pocket-

knives, blankets and for jewelry.

Customs Administrative Changes.

The customs administrative situation has long been unsatisfactory under existing enactments and is regarded as being of primary importance, for the reason that rates of duty in themselves are not conclusive until they have been interpreted and applied to actual importations through classification and appraisalment. The tariff act of 1909 made considerable changes in the previously existing system of administration and abrogated a number of useful modifications which had been introduced into previous practice as a result of the commercial agreements negotiated during the second Roosevelt administration. It, however, failed to substitute a more satisfactory system of classification and appraisalment, and defective methods have continued to prevail ever since. How bad the situation has been is indicated by the recognition of enormous customs frauds in the federal service, these being corrected only after a lengthy delay, in which tardy reparation was made to the government for what it had lost. That these frauds extended almost throughout the whole range of trades is a startling fact, to which witness has been borne not only by the secretary of the treasury, but by many others whose official duties gave them knowledge of the situation. Two commissions appointed under the last administration to examine into customs administration conditions have detected great evils and have made extensive recommendations for improvement, none of which, however, has been carried out, except the removal of two members of the board of appraisers at New York city.

That it is necessary to take steps to strengthen the administrative features of the customs laws has been recognized by the treasury department, and two commissions have already been appointed and have made reports in this connection. The president of the United States appointed a committee to inquire into the practice of procedure and the administrative methods of boards of general appraisers. The secretary of the treasury appointed an appraisalment commission "to investigate and report on both the principles and practices of the appraising work of the government."

The reports of both of these commissions were before the ways and means committee and were given careful study. The provisions recommended follow in a large measure the changes suggested in one or the other of the reports referred to. These reports were made by officials of the government charged with the collection of the customs and represent the views of persons of experience. To their conclusions we have given much weight.

Maximum and Minimum. Paragraph A of this section takes the place of section 2 of the Payne bill, which provides for a minimum and maximum tariff for the United States. Section 2 is repealed, and Paragraph A reads as follows:

That for the purpose of readjusting the present duties on importations into the United States and at the same time to encourage the export trade of this country the president of the United States is authorized and empowered to negotiate trade agreements with foreign nations wherein mutual concessions are made looking toward freer trade relations and further reciprocal expansion of trade and commerce, provided, however, that said trade agreements before becoming operative shall be submitted to the congress of the United States for ratification or rejection.

The minimum and maximum tariff provisions adopted in the Payne bill have not been productive of any effective expansion of our foreign trade and commerce. The conventional tariff being the minimum rate and the president being authorized to enforce the maximum rate against foreign nations resulted in an attempt to expand our commerce by force. We want to the nations of the world with the demand that they stand and deliver, or we would punish them. Many years ago this system of expanding trade and commerce was abandoned by the enlightened nations. The only true course that can be pursued to expand our foreign trade along rational lines is through mutual concessions that may prove beneficial to both of the contracting parties, free from coercion. Under the proposed substitute the president of the United States is authorized to enter into these trade agreements without limitation on his authority to do so, except that such agreements as he enters into must be ratified by the congress before they shall become effective.

This legislation is new and somewhat along the same line as the reciprocity treaties that were authorized under the Dingley tariff law, the difference being that the reciprocity treaties were required to be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the United States senate, whereas the trade agreements now provided for will only require a majority vote of both houses. As the senate is not directly representative of the majority of the people of the United States it is deemed more in accord with the progressive tendencies of our people that such agreements should be ratified as far as possible by the representatives of a majority of the American people.

The Sugar Schedule.

Here is the sugar schedule in the new bill:

"Sugars, tank bottoms, sirups of cane juice, melada, concentrated melada, concrete and concentrated molasses, testing by the polariscope not above 75 degrees, 75-100ths of 1 cent a pound, and for every additional degree shown by the polariscope test, 20-100ths of 1 cent per pound additional, and fractions of a degree in proportion; molasses testing not above 40 degrees, 18 per cent ad valorem; testing above 40 degrees and not above 55 degrees, 2 1/2 cents per gallon; testing above 55 degrees, 4 1/2 cents per gallon; sugar

drawings and sugar sweepings shall be subject to duty as molasses or sugar, as the case may be, according to the polariscope test, provided that three years after the day when this act shall take effect the articles hereinbefore enumerated in this paragraph shall thereafter be admitted free of duty."

Maple sugar, maple sirup and refined sirups are taxed at 3 cents per pound, glucose or grape sugar at 1 1/2 cents a pound and sugar cane in its natural state or unmanufactured at 15 per cent ad valorem. At the end of three years the articles in this paragraph also shall be admitted duty free.

A duty of 65 cents per pound is provided for saccharin. Sugar candy and all confectionery valued at 15 cents per pound or less have a duty of 2 cents per pound, and valued at more than 15 cents per pound the duty is 25 per cent ad valorem.

The Metal Schedule.

The metal schedule provides a duty of 8 per cent ad valorem on iron in pigs, wrought and cast scrap iron and scrap steel. All iron in slabs, blooms, loops or other forms less finished than iron in bars and more advanced than pig iron, except castings, also is taxed 8 per cent.

Beams, girders and joists and all other structural iron and steel are rated at 12 per cent; boiler or other plate iron or steel, 15 per cent; iron or steel anchors and forgings of iron or steel, 15 per cent; hoop band or scroll iron or steel, 12 per cent; railway fish plates, 10 per cent; all iron or steel sheets, plates or strips and all hoop bands or scroll iron or steel when galvanized, 20 per cent; steel ingots and sheets and plates made by the Bessemer, open hearth or similar processes not containing alloys, 10 per cent, and with alloys, 15 per cent; round iron or steel wire, 20 per cent; bolts, with or without threads or nuts, 15 per cent; cast iron pipe of every description, 12 per cent; chain or chains of all kinds of iron or steel, 20 per cent; table, kitchen and hospital utensils, 25 per cent; rivets, studs and steel points, 20 per cent; screws, 25 per cent; copper in rolled plates, sheets and rods, 5 per cent; lead bearing ores of all kinds, one-half cent per pound on the lead contained therein; lead dross and lead bullion, 25 per cent; nickel, 10 per cent; in sheets or strips, 20 per cent; quicksilver, 10 per cent; watch movements, 30 per cent; steam engines and steam locomotives, 15 per cent.

The Agricultural Schedule.

The agricultural schedule provides the following rates: Cattle, 10 per cent; horses and mules valued at \$200 or less per head, \$15; sheep, 10 per cent; barley, 15 cents per bushel; barley malt, 25 cents per bushel; buckwheat, 8 cents per bushel; oats, 10 cents per bushel; rice, cleaned, 1 cent per pound; rye, 10 cents per bushel; bread, wafers and cakes, when combined with chocolate, nuts or fruits, 25 per cent; butter and butter substitutes, 3 cents per pound; cheese and substitutes thereof, 20 per cent; beans, 25 cents per bushel; vegetables, if cut or sliced, 25 per cent; pickles, 25 per cent; cider, 2 cents a gallon; eggs, 2 cents a dozen; hay, \$2 a ton; hops, 16 cents a pound; straw, 50 cents a ton; fish, packed in oil, 20 per cent; apples, peaches and other common fruits, 10 cents per bushel; figs, 2 cents a pound; lemons, limes, oranges, grapefruit, 18 cents a package, which is about half the duty of the present law; poultry, live, 1 cent a pound; dead, 2 cents a pound, as compared with 3 and 5 cents under the present law; vinegar, 4 cents a gallon.

Under Schedule J, flax, not hackled or dressed, is taxed one-half of 1 cent a pound, which is just about cut in half; cables and cordage one-half cent per pound, as compared with three-quarters of a cent per pound under the present law; hemp cables are taxed 1 cent a pound, compared with 2; floor matings 2 1/2 cents per square yard, as compared with 3 1/2; carpets of flax and hemp or other vegetable fiber, 35 per cent ad valorem; linoleum, 30 per cent; plain and 35 inlaid; oilcloth, 15 per cent; shirts, collars and cuffs, 30 per cent.

Under Schedule K raw wool is on the free list, combed wool or tops is taxed 15 per cent, yarns 20 per cent, cloths and knit fabrics 35 per cent; blankets and flannels, 25 per cent; women's and children's dress goods, 35 per cent; clothing, ready made, 35 per cent; webbing, suspenders and braccings, 35 per cent; autobus, axminster, moquette and chenille carpets, 35 per cent; saxony, wilton and tounray velvet carpets, 30 per cent; Brussels carpets, 25 per cent; velvet and tapestry velvet carpets, 30 per cent; Venetian carpets, 20 per cent, and Dutch wool and two ply ingrain carpets, 20 per cent; mats and rugs are taxed the same as carpets of like character.

Silks and Ribbons.

Under Schedule L, silk goods, silk partially manufactured, 15 per cent; spun silk, 35 per cent; silk handkerchiefs and mufflers, 40 per cent; ribbons, 40 per cent; chiffons, clothing ready made and articles of wearing apparel of every description, 50 per cent; woven silk fabrics, 45 per cent; silk yarns and threads, 35 per cent.

Under Schedule M sundries and buttons are taxed at 10 per cent; dolls, 35 per cent; feathers, 20 per cent; human hair, 20 per cent; hats and bonnets for men and women, 40 per cent; jewelry and precious stones, 60 per cent; diamonds, 20 per cent; bags, baskets and satchels, 30 per cent; gloves, men's and women's, \$1 per dozen pair, which is 25 cents less than the present rates; musical instruments, 35 per cent.

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