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FREE COAL.

Should the provision of the Payne Tariff bill putting bituminous coal in the free list be finally approved, and if thereafter Canada should respond by the repeal of the Dominion coal duty, there would be great reciprocal advantage for both countries. The Pennsylvania and West Virginia mines would be able to supply with coal a large area of Canadian territory fronting on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Canadian producers would obtain counterbalancing advantage by being able to sell Nova Scotian coal in New England and coal from British Columbia to American consumers on the Pacific coast. Such Canadian coals would be assured of a market because of facilities of cheap water transportation.

There may be opposition to a repeal, both of our own and of the Canadian tariff duty, at the hands of producers who find narrow and local advantage in a restriction of free intertrading; but the benefits of repeal are so obvious and so widely distributed that we cannot doubt of final reciprocal action. It will be some time, however, before such mutual arrangement, if agreed upon, can become operative.

—Phila. Record.

DIRECT TAXATION.

The proposal to put a tariff duty on coffee and tea in order to meet the exigent need of the government for more money arouses an instant remonstrance from consumers. This is readily explained. Such taxes would be instantly added to household expenses and recognized as a continuing additional burden. Yet the consumer will go on paying without murmur more grievous taxation on his food, clothing, shelter, medicine, tools and machinery because he does not pay these taxes so directly. He does not recognize the extended hand of the government nor the plucking he gets when he buys himself a coat or builds himself a house. He also fails to remember that the coffee and tea taxes go straight into the Treasury, very little of the money being dissipated in the cost of collection, whilst the tax on his coat and his house is largely diverted to the pockets of favored parties among his fellow-citizens who are authorized to tax him for their own emolument.

The coffee tax is a fair tax; but it would be unpopular because its burden would be recognized. The 100 per cent. tax on wool and woollens is an abomination; but it is paid without remonstrance because it is paid without knowledge; the substance of the tax payer is drawn away from him as the vampire sucks the life blood of its sleeping victim.—Ex.

Little Barbara's Complaint.

Four-year-old Barbara went to church with her two sisters and came home crying.
"What is the matter, dear?" inquired her mother.
"He preached a whole sermon about—M-Mary and Martha," sobbed Barbara, "and never said a word about me."
—April Lippincott's.

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 22, 1909
The Democrats in the House seem determined to punish Representative Fitzgerald for his bolt from their ranks on Monday. A minority caucus was held in the hall of the House on Tuesday, and after a lengthy debate a resolution was adopted appointing a committee of fifteen to frame rules for future caucuses, and at the same time determine what shall be done to Fitzgerald, and with the committee assignments not approved by Champ Clark, the new minority leader.

Democrats and Republicans alike were delighted with the message of President Taft, and at the conclusion of its reading, which took hardly five minutes, the Democrats in the House joined in the loud and prolonged applause. Just twelve years ago President McKinley sent to Congress a message three times as long when he called Congress in extra session on March 15, 1897, to pass a new tariff bill.

The Democratic members of the full committee on ways and means made every effort during the hearings which preceded the deliberations of the Republican members, to bring to light every important fact regarding the articles named in the tariff which are produced in the South, though the Southern States are not represented on the subcommittee which framed the tariff bill. In fact the securing of protection for the industries in the southland formed one of the features of the hearings, and sugar, peanuts, lumber, mica, clays, rice, Sea Island cotton, southern fruits, were all subjects for interesting discussion and all seek protection at the hands of the government.

It is estimated that there will be fifty-six car-loads of government exhibits taken to Seattle for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exhibition, including the mint and life-saving service outfit, and the work of loading these exhibits has already begun. The official of the Treasury department, in charge of the shipment, said yesterday that he expected to have all the government exhibits in place by the time the exhibition opens, June 1st, next.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is unusually active these days and color is given to the belief that the new tariff bill will contain clauses reenacting the stamp taxes, levied during the Spanish-American war period, by the fact that machines are being installed for the printing of stamps, and the entire printing force is working overtime. Millions of stamps for future sale have been printed within the last ten days, and the belief obtains that the bureau officials have received an intimation from the Treasury Department that the task to produce adhesive stamps for use on proprietary medicines, perfumery, chewing gum, on checks, notes and other commercial paper, will fall on the bureau.

In view of the fact that the War Department is simply deluged with applications for headstones for graves of soldiers, the quartermaster general of the army has made an effort to obtain from the commissioner of pensions information as to the death rate of civil war soldiers and others whose graves are entitled to be marked at government expense. In many instances, of course, the headstones furnished by the government are never applied for, but some idea of the demands upon the department may be obtained from the fact that there are destined to be somewhere in the near neighborhood of 23,000 applications for headstones during the present fiscal year, about 7,000 more than can be purchased out of the funds available for such purpose. In view of the increasing demands for headstones, about \$75,000 will be required to meet them during the next fiscal year.

Tentative plans for the two new battleships authorized by the last Congress have been completed and the department is making every

effort to complete the plans and specifications with the least possible delay, that contracts may be placed within the next three months. It is believed that if bids are called for soon enough there will be sharp competition, with better prices, as there is great slackness of work in the private shipyards at present. Bids will be called not only for the two battleships, but also for the five torpedo destroyers and the collier, authorized by the new law. Wyoming and Arkansas have been selected for the names of the two battleships, and this leaves only two states, Nevada and Oklahoma, for which battleships or armored cruisers have not been named.

No Coal Contracts for April Delivery.

Coal for April delivery is now being shut off by the coal-carrying companies. This refusal is to contract for April coal at any price, whether the customary April reduction of 50 cents a ton is granted or not.

There has been a noticeable increase in the demand on dealers for immediate deliveries at the present prices, many householders having been convinced that it will not do to take chances and put off buying until the possible wage war has actually broken out.

The representative of a large coal house in Philadelphia explained that the demand for domestic coal has been exceptionally light this year, presumably because of the hard times and the warm winter, which fell together. These economies, he suggested must have so exhausted the stock of the householders as to create a rapidly increasing demand for coal for several months to come.

If there is a strike it will be begun and ended, in his opinion, within a few weeks, since the operators are forcing the fighting. Their declarations that their will be a lockout April 1 if there is not a strike then, he said, will start trouble at once, if it is to come, and get it over.

One curious development of the situation is that dealers are now buying certain grades and sizes of coal from one another, very much as grain is traded in on exchange. This traffic, which has, of course, not yet reached any considerable importance, usually follows upon an important disturbance in the trade, such as the threat of a big strike.

Every effort, it is declared, will be made, however, to prevent speculation in the coal which is already mined and stored above ground. There is an enormous amount of coal in these storage piles, estimated as aggregating from 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 tons. This however, is really not a very large quantity in the whole bulk of traffic, as it would furnish only about two or three months' supply to the trade in normal times.

Ticket Agent Fatally Injured.

Albert E. Shure, of Northumberland, Slipped from Car Step at Station.

Albert E. Shure, night ticket agent for the Pennsylvania railroad at Northumberland received injuries early Saturday morning while at work from which he died at the Mary M. Packer hospital at Sunbury.

Mr. Shure had an errand to do a short distance from the station shortly before seven o'clock and as several cars which were being shifted were passing the platform he jumped on one of them to save himself the trouble of walking. He slipped from the step and was rolled between the platform and cars for two car lengths.

Badly crushed and almost unconscious from his suffering, he was placed in a box car and taken to Sunbury. At the Market street crossing he was placed in an ambulance and taken to the Mary M. Packer hospital, where he died a few hours later.

For Coughs and Colds

Troubled with a cough? A hard cold, bronchitis, or some chronic lung trouble? There is a medicine made for just these cases—Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Your doctor knows all about it. Ask him what he thinks of it. No medicine can ever take the place of your doctor. Keep in close touch with him, consult him frequently, trust him fully. No alcohol in this cough medicine. J.C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

Ayer's Pills. Sugar-coated. All vegetable. Act directly on the liver. Gently laxative. Dose, only one pill. Sold for nearly sixty years. Ask your doctor about them.

New Spring Suits!

Spring Suits have arrived! There's magic in that simple announcement — for where's the woman who is not all eyes to see the new garment fashions?

The New Spring Suits Are Low Priced.

A most remarkable feature about these handsome new models is their extremely low prices. Your spring outfit will give you a better service—a much finer appearance and yet cost you a small price. Catering to every taste we've gathered an assortment of choicest correct styles. Prices \$10 to \$35.

Spring Suits Regularly \$20.00 \$17.50



Suits of hard twisted serge and striped worsted in black, blue, green, tan and gray. 36 inch hipless coats; slashed back, patch pockets, self button trimming, full satin lined; satin collar and cuffs; Skirt is Demi-Princess with self covered buttons down the front. All sizes up to 42.

SUIT at \$12.75—Of shadow stripe chiffon panama in navy blue, elect blue, green, tan, ashes of roses and gray. Coat 40 inches long, semi-fitting hipless cutaway front forming points on the sides, new small sleeves, lined throughout with satin; gored flare skirt with trimming of straps and self covered buttons.

SUIT at \$26.50—A 4 button cutaway coat 40 inches long of striped worsted, slashed back and sides, inlaid bengaline silk collar; large flap pockets, trimmed with buttons, lined with taffeta silk; plain 11 gore demi-Princess skirt.

At \$6.00 to \$14.00 Junior Suits for the little Misses in sizes 11, 13, 15 and 17 years. Made of shadow stripe panama and fine serge in navy blue, gray and green, semi-fitting hipless coats, gored and pleated skirt.

SUIT at \$27.00—A strictly tailored suit of French Serge; 4 button cutaway; single breasted (just a slight cutaway effect); lined with taffeta silk; new small sleeves; Demi Princess Skirt with inverted plait at sides.

SUITS at \$20.00—Of chiffon panama in blue, green and black; graceful semi-fitting hipless coat 36 inches long, single breasted, new small sleeves and trimmed with satin piping; gored flounce skirt.

F. P. PURSEL.

BLOOMSBURG, - PENN'A.

JUST A REMINDER!

Here is a list of some of the printed goods and blank stock that can be obtained at the

Columbian Printing House

Perhaps it may remind you of something you need.

ENVELOPES All sizes, Commercial, Professional, Insurance, Baronial, Pay, Coin.

HEADINGS Letter Heads, Note Heads, Bill Heads, Statements, in many grades and sizes.

CARDS Business, Visiting, Announcement, Admission, Ball Tickets, Etc.

CARD SIGNS No Admittance, For Rent, For Sale, Post No Bills, Trespass Notices, Etc.

IN BOOKS Administrator's, Executor's, Treasurer's Receipt Books, Plain Receipts, with or without stub, Note Books, Scales Books, Order Books, Etc.

HAND BILLS Printed in any size from a small street dodger, up to a full Sheet Poster.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS WILL BE PLEASED TO SHOW SAMPLES OF THESE AND ALL OF OUR WORK.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Our Stock Includes:
Cut Cards, all sizes, Shipping Tags
Round Corner Cards, Manila Tag Board,
Card Board in Sheets, Bond Papers,
white and colors, Ledger Papers,
Name Cards for all Secret Societies, Cover Papers,
Window Cards, Book Papers.

Folders for Programs, Menus, Dances, Societies and all special events.
Lithographed Bonds and Stock Certificates Supplied.
Wedding Invitations and Announcements, Printed or Engraved.

Visitors are Always Welcome. No Obligation to Purchase.

We Do All Kinds of Printing

Columbian Printing House,

BLOOMSBURG, PA.