



TARIFF CONGRESS

National Convention at Indianapolis In Session.

FOR NONPARTISAN COMMISSION

Speakers Declare That the United States Lingers Decades Behind Scientific Methods of European Countries.

Indianapolis, Feb. 17.—The first national tariff commission convention, whose delegates hope to point the way for the establishment of a permanent tariff commission, held a rousing session here, at which speeches were made by Henry S. Towne, president of the Merchants' society of New York; Senator Brown of Nebraska, Representative Fowler of New Jersey and ex-Governor Gull of Massachusetts.

Men of opposing political parties whose views on the construction of a tariff differed widely sat side by side as delegates and joined in tumultuous applause as speaker after speaker vigorously denounced the present tariff and the method of its construction.

That the present tariff system has been outgrown and that the United States lingers decades behind the scientific methods of European countries was repeated almost as often as a new speaker addressed the delegates. The speakers declared that the prompt establishment of a nonpartisan tariff commission was the only remedy for present conditions.

On the nature of the commission, whether it should be a permanent bureau and an adjunct to the department of commerce and labor, an appointive commission, one composed of experts only or a body of business men, no controversy was opened.

Manufacturers, who were permanent chairman of the gathering, urged the first enthusiasm by asserting that the tariff must be taken out of partisan politics, and Congressman Fowler of New Jersey, who is sponsor for the Beveridge commission bill now before congress, caused a demonstration when he asserted that the tariff must cease to be the football of political parties.

Mr. Van Cleave's emphatic declaration that the convention was not interested in the raising or lowering of any particular schedule and that President Elect Taft was in line with the purposes of the gathering preceded a vigorous dealing with the question of the necessity for a tariff commission and was loudly cheered.

Representative Charles N. Fowler of New Jersey addressed the tariff convention in advocacy of a bill outlined by himself which proposes the creation of a tariff commission of fifteen members at a salary of \$10,000 per year each.

Mr. Fowler recommended that every commercial body in the United States be organized into a campaign club and "through the sheer force of voting power compel your members of congress to commit themselves to the program."

"Neither the house nor the senate," he declared, "will yield an atom of its power or prerogative any more than the kings of England did unless driven to do so by an overwhelming, consuming public sentiment, which you alone can create."

"The voluminous litigation growing out of customs disputes, which keeps an army of judges, lawyers and government officials constantly busy, has cost million of dollars to the government, many more millions to the people directly interested therein and in the end must come from the pockets of the members of the bar hardly a single class in this community has been benefited by this unproductive waste of time and money. During the last current year 55,798 classification protests were received and 25,785 were decided, while the suspension files now number 60,303.

"Every large business in the United States has a body of expert men, costing as much as an expert commission would cost this government, doing nothing but reducing every factor of the business to a certainty and refining every differential to a thirty-second or a sixty-fourth of 1 per cent.

"Our import and export trade has passed the \$3,000,000,000 mark. It is high time we should reduce our foreign trade to an approximate science, as all the nations of Europe have done."

New York Soldiers Dine Governor. Albany, N. Y., Feb. 17.—Governor Charles E. Hughes will be the guest of honor at the national guard dinner here tonight.

NEAR TRAGEDY IN HOUSE.

John Wesley Gaines' Gesture All but Falls Texan.

Washington, Feb. 17.—With no malice aforethought, Representative John Wesley Gaines of Tennessee came near landing on the Roman nose of Representative James L. Slayden of Texas in the house.

Mr. Gaines had worked himself into a fury over the inquiries of the Republican party, and his arms were moving through the air at a frightful velocity when Mr. Slayden moved down the aisle. He was paying no heed to the gentleman from Tennessee, who was taking advantage of an opportunity to make a speech.

Mr. Slayden came to his senses, however, as he felt a strong arm grasp his brow, and he ducked in time to save his nose. If John Wesley Gaines had landed the outcome might have been serious. Mr. Slayden is from Texas.

U. S. SENATOR UNDER PROBE.

Stephenson of Wisconsin Questioned as to \$107,000 Primary Fund.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 17.—United States Senator Isaac Stephenson submitted to a searching examination extending over four hours by the Wisconsin legislative committee, which started a probe of the United States senatorial primary of last fall.

Stephenson told the story of his expenditure of more than \$107,000 dur-



SENATOR ISAAC STEPHENSON.

ing the campaign. The money, he said, was spent through his agents, who called upon him whenever they needed money. Stacks of paid checks were placed in evidence.

Checks for sums totaling over \$50,000 were issued to J. A. Van Cleave of Marinette, one of his managers, and \$50,000 was placed in a Milwaukee bank for the use of his manager. Payments by checks for various other small amounts were acknowledged by the senator "for work done."

Many of the expenditures were belittled by the senator. He did not keep a memorandum of everything he spent, saying, "I keep them in my head."

Mr. Stephenson said that the statement of expenditures was prepared by his managers, and he signed it.

188 KILLED IN MINE.

Explosion Followed by Fire in a Colliery in England.

Newcastle, England, Feb. 17.—Later reports show that 188 lives were lost by the explosion in the colliery at West Stanley, which employs 400 men.

Nearly 200 of the men were in the pit at the time, and none of them have come to the surface, although rappings have been heard, and it is supposed that these are from some of the miners who escaped death from the explosion and the fire which followed it.

Almost immediately after the explosion flames burst through the shaft, scorching the workers at the pit head and blowing out the fencing and apparatus at the entrance to the mine.

The flames spread rapidly, and it was impossible for the rescuing party to descend into the workings.

Thousands of anxious people gathered at the mouth of the pit, but for hours the fire burned furiously.

An explosion resulting in the loss of twelve lives occurred at the same colliery in 1882.

CUTTING GOES TO TANGIER.

New York Millionaire Named For Legation Secretary.

Washington, Feb. 17.—President Roosevelt sent to the senate the nomination of W. Bayard Cutting, Jr., the New York millionaire, to be secretary of legation at Tangier, Morocco.

W. Bayard Cutting, Jr., is the son of W. Bayard Cutting of New York and nephew of R. Fulton Cutting. At present he is United States vice consul at Milan. During the period after the Messina earthquake he had charge of much of the American relief work in Sicily. He was married some years ago in England to a daughter of the Earl of Desart.

VENEZUELA SIGNS PROTOCOL.

President Gomez Embraces United States Commissioner Buchanan.

Caracas, Feb. 17.—The signing of the protocol in settlement of the matters in dispute between the United States and Venezuela by President Gomez and William I. Buchanan, the special commissioner representing the United States, was attended by an impressive ceremonial.

President Gomez, with the members of his cabinet, received Commissioner Buchanan at the palace, where the signatures were affixed. After this was done the president embraced the American representative, saying, "As this question has been solved happily and honorably to both countries, we should seal it with an embrace."

The protocol stipulates that within six months each government must name one arbitrator. Within two months after that the cases will be presented, and the two arbitrators will choose a third. Four months are allowed for the preparation and presentation of counter claims, and the tribunal will then meet to hear arguments. It is expected that two months will be occupied in this hearing, and two months will be given up to the formulating of a decision. The protocol recommends the arrangement of a general arbitration treaty.

Commissioner Buchanan will sail hence today for Cuba on board the cruiser Des Moines.

FAMOUS TENOR TO WED.

Burgstaller Goes to Europe and So Does Wealthy Mrs. Hexamer.

New York, Feb. 17.—Alois Burgstaller, the famous Wagnerian tenor, who created the role of "Parsifal" in America, has sailed unexpectedly for Europe on the steamship Kronprinzessin Cecilie.

On the same vessel went Mrs. A. P. Hexamer, wife of the proprietor of a riding academy in Hoboken, who said before she left that she was to marry Mr. Burgstaller in Germany. She has a private fortune of \$500,000 in her own right.

Mrs. Hexamer started divorce proceedings against her husband several months ago, but she has since then been living with him.

Burgstaller was already famous at Baltimore when he came here. His success was instantaneous, and it lasted until this season, when the German opera casts were selected and Burrian began to sing "Parsifal" in his stead.

Burgstaller is a young man of striking personality and beauty of voice. He is a graduate of Frau Cosima Wagner's school at Balreuth and has sung the leading roles in all the great Wagnerian productions.

NEW RECORD BY MAURETANIA.

Cunard Turbine Makes 671 Knots in a Day's Run.

New York, Feb. 17.—Another big record has been made by the turbine liner Mauretania, which is now bound for this port from Liverpool and Queenstown. According to cable messages received at the Cunard office, the liner covered 671 knots on the third day out.

The best previous record was 650 knots, held by the Lusitania.

The best day's run the Mauretania had to her credit before this was on her last westbound trip, when she logged 636 knots. Her best figures for the transatlantic trip were established last June—4 days 20 hours 15 minutes from Queenstown to Sandy Hook.

FOR FLEET IN PACIFIC.

Senate Provides That One-half of Navy Be Kept There.

Washington, Feb. 17.—One-half of the United States navy should be kept on the Pacific coast at all times, in the opinion of the senate.

An amendment to the naval bill was agreed to providing that in the discretion of the president one-half of the navy shall be kept in Pacific waters, so far as practicable. The president already has the authority to so divide the fleet, but the amendment amounts to an expression of congress in favor of such action.

WIRE COILED IN HIS AORTA.

California Patient Recovering From Delicate Operation.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 17.—Richard Wheaton, a retired British soldier, was admitted to the hospital suffering from an aneurism. In the aorta the wall of the artery was so thin that pressure of the blood had all but blown it out.

The doctors cut down to the artery, and twenty feet of fine silver wire were passed through and curved around and around, forming a spiral and bridging the enlarged space. He is recovering.

Colonel Killed by Train.

Penn Yan, N. Y., Feb. 17.—Colonel M. S. Ellsworth was almost instantly killed by falling in front of a passenger train about to stop here.

"RIPPER" IS ACTIVE.

Nine More Women Slashed in Berlin Streets.

MAKES THIRTY IN FOUR DAYS.

Thousands of Soldiers and Police Patrol German Capital Day and Night Without Capturing the Assailant.

Berlin, Feb. 17.—Nine more young women have been attacked and slashed with a knife or awl by the so-called "ripper" within the last twenty-four hours, making thirty victims within the last four days. Seven of the women have died of their injuries.

Although thousands of soldiers and police patrol the streets at every hour of the day and night, they have never been on the spot when any of the attacks were made and are apparently no nearer to catching the assailant than they were before.

The feeling is that the police are powerless to deal with this unidentified assailant, who deals his blows in the open and always reappears just when the police think that they have caught the guilty man.

The attacks have been made altogether in the meaner quarter of Berlin. The women who were the victims came of various classes. Many of them are very poor, but some are the wives of small storekeepers or men of moderate means. Practically all of them are of unquestionable character.

The Berliners connect the present series of attacks with the very similar "ripper" murders of 1907 and 1908, when scores of very young girls were atrociously slain in hallways. The present "ripper" like the unknown perpetrator of the crimes a year ago, is a man who has a degenerate mind.

The assailant is a man who is very tall and thin, with a very long neck, and who is dressed in a dark suit and a top hat. He is a man of about 35 years of age, and is of a very fair complexion.

Neither during the February assaults nor during those of 1907 was the attempt made to kill for the sake of taking life. Mutilation was invariably the insane object, and it did not seem to matter to the "ripper" whether his victims died or not. This trait marked him as a creature of a very different type from the Whitechapel "ripper" of 1888, who first killed, then partly dissected the body.

The present perpetrator is rather a slasher than a ripper in the sense usual in such aberrations. He never stabs or seems bent on intentionally penetrating the abdomen, but seems inspired with the desire simply to inflict a broad shallow surface wound or mark. The great keenness of his weapon and the excessive strength in his blow cause the dangerous wounds that have so often resulted fatally.

CHILD HACKED TO DEATH.

Body Bore Twenty-eight Knife Wounds and Scars of Burns.

Marseilles, France, Feb. 17.—The discovery of a revolting crime, recalling in details a case which occurred in Paris in 1907, has caused a sensation here.

The body of an eight-year-old girl torn by twenty-eight knife wounds and further mutilated by burns has been found in a populous quarter of the city. A man who had been living with the girl's mother, who is a widow, has been arrested.

Favorable Report on Earl Today. Albany, N. Y., Feb. 17.—The senate finance committee today reported favorably to the senate the nomination of Robert Earl as Democratic member of the state highway commission.

No Boys at Races or Cockfights.

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 17.—The assembly passed Grove L. Johnson's bill making it a misdemeanor for a minor to attend a cockfight, prizefight or horse race.

SUICIDE LEAGUE IN RUSSIA.

Epidemic of Self Destruction Among St. Petersburg Society.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—Neurasthenia is claiming an ever increasing number of victims in all sections of St. Petersburg society. A surprising number of people, tired of life, seek death by various methods.

Persons of fashionable society journey to Finland and fling themselves into the romantic Imatra rapids. Strange clubs and societies are in existence. One of these is styled "Tiger and Hunter." Two members draw lots to decide who will be the tiger and who the hunter. A silver bell is hung around the tiger's neck, and the hunter is given a loaded revolver. Both enter large darkened rooms, and the spectators take refuge in safe corners.

The hunt begins. The hunter's eyes are bound. He is allowed six shots, guided by the sound of the bell. If he fails to hit the tiger the roles are reversed, and the hunter becomes the tiger. This continues until blood flows.

Another society has "champagne evenings," where one among twenty bottles is drugged with morphia. Sometimes in a single night there are numerous secret suicides, for which there is no plausible explanation, giving rise to the suspicion that the victims belong to the same league of self destruction.

SUFFRAGETTE UP IN BALLOON.

Woman Agitator Falls in Plan to Overawe Parliament.

London, Feb. 17.—The militant suffragettes, who hitherto have found the ranks of the police invulnerable to their assaults by either land or water, decided to frustrate these guardians of the law by approaching the houses of parliament from above by means of an airship.

When the airship appeared above the heads of the legislators their surprise was great to see on the gas bag printed the words, "Votes for Women," while forty foot streamers bearing various inscriptions floated in the wind.

Miss Matters, one of the heroines of the "chain and grille" incident in the house of commons, was to occupy the airship, accompanied by an experienced aeronaut who would guide the vessel along the route of the royal procession and halt it over the houses of parliament.

When it was halted Miss Matters, armed with a megaphone, was to shout down words of defiance at the astounded commons and shower down handbills on their heads.

The airship rose all right, but it never reached the houses of parliament. It went astray and finally descended at Coulsdon, Surrey, fifteen miles from London.

FOR JEWS IN RUSSIA.

Move to Get Equal Rights For Americans in Czar's Land.

Washington, Feb. 17.—A joint resolution presented by Representative Goldfogel of New York designed to get better treatment for American Jews traveling in Russia was reported favorably by the house committee on foreign affairs.

It calls upon the president to enter into arrangements with Russia by treaty or otherwise "in order that all American citizens shall have equal freedom of travel and sojourn in Russia without regard to race, creed or religious faith."

The resolution is the outgrowth of many complaints that Russia has refused to recognize American passports held by Jews. The matter has been made the subject of diplomatic exchanges of notes between the two governments, but without results satisfactory to Jewish travelers. A treaty covering the point is contemplated.

WIRELESS FOR SHIPS.

House Passes Burke Bill; Senate Likely to Concur.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Vessels engaged in the coastwise trade of the United States and foreign vessels touching at American ports are required to be equipped with wireless telegraphy under the terms of the Burke bill passed by the house.

As to the coastwise trade, the bill applies only to vessels carrying fifty passengers or more between ports 200 miles or more apart.

The agitation in congress for the compulsory equipment of passenger craft with radio telegraphic apparatus was begun as a direct result of the collision of the steamship Republic with the Italian liner Florida.

Size of Battleships Limited.

Washington, Feb. 17.—By an amendment to the naval appropriation bill adopted by the senate the size of the two battleships authorized is limited to 21,000 tons and their cost exclusive of armor and armament to \$4,500,000 each.

Weather Probabilities.

Fair; colder; moderate west winds.

BAN ON BAD PLAYS.

Theater Syndicate Heeds Protest of Ministers.

FIVE SHOWS VOTED INDECENT.

Trust Will Refuse to Allow Bookings in Its Houses to Any of the Alleged Immoral Productions.

New York, Feb. 17.—Yielding to the protests made by ministers of all denominations, in which President Burnham of the Theatrical Managers' association joined, the theater syndicate, which controls more than 90 per cent of the theaters of the United States, has put its emphatic ban on each and every one of the plays declared immoral and indecent.

In accordance with this new policy Klaw & Erlanger announced that under no circumstances would they give time throughout the country to the plays which had been criticised as immoral. The official statement was made by Abraham L. Erlanger, who, with Marc Klaw, is the head of the theatrical trust, as follows:

We are not going to book these plays in the theaters we own, control or represent. This means that the theaters controlled by the syndicate throughout the country and those operated by Klaw & Erlanger individually will not book any of the plays that have been denounced as immoral or indecent.

The contracts that have been made through us will be respected, as all of our agreements invariably are, but it is only fair to our associates and ourselves to say that no member of the syndicate has anything to do with any of the plays that are being denounced.

We are heartily in accord with the sincere clergymen and the respectable newspapers in this crusade. We are going to let the so called independents play all the attractions of this character, and, while on the subject, we want to add that we are not going to let our theaters deteriorate to the condition from which they were rescued.

We do not believe any of the managers we represent will interfere with the resolve we have taken. If they do we shall discontinue our business relations with them at the expiration of present contracts.

A little more than a week ago Charles Burnham, president of the New York Theatrical Managers' association, in an interview said, "If I had my way I would close five shows which are now running in New York on the score of immorality."

The day Mr. Burnham made this statement the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist ministers in their weekly meetings had denounced five plays then being produced at Broadway theaters as vicious, immoral and indecent, and they called on the mayor to establish a censorship of plays.

Archbishop Farley of the Roman Catholic diocese of New York preached a sermon declaring that the stage was a sink of obscenity and filth which put to shame the worst days of ancient Rome.

TO STOP FAKE BANKRUPTCY.

Woolen Merchants Open National Campaign to Check Frauds.

New York, Feb. 17.—Following the indictment of Michael Devine and Arthur Ronan, tailors, charging them with making a false statement of their financial condition in order to secure a large bill of goods from a Philadelphia merchant announcement was made by counsel for the National Woolens and Trimmings association, which furnished information against the indicted tailors, that evidence was being prepared to indict and prosecute many similar cases in the principal cities in the Atlantic and middle western states.

Counsel for the association stated that the indictment of the tailors marks the opening of a national campaign to stop alleged fraudulent bankruptcy practices. Members of the association say that mercantile houses have been defrauded out of hundreds of thousands of dollars by dishonest retailers starting accounts on falsified credit statements and then going into bankruptcy.

PLAYERS IN TRAIN WRECK.

Six Killed and Thirty-six Injured in Illinois Central Catastrophe.

Murphysboro, Ill., Feb. 17.—Four passengers were killed and thirty-six injured when an Illinois Central train bound from St. Louis to New Orleans was wrecked on a trestle by running into a broken rail near Murphysboro.

The injured include seventeen actors and actresses of the Perry Hastings show troupe.

The train was running fifty-five miles an hour as it entered on a trestle, where the locomotive hit a broken rail. The locomotive passed over the trestle safely, but the baggage car and the smoking car went off the track and threw the four remaining cars down an embankment.