

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

Tariff Changes Will Little Disturb Business Conditions.

Producing Interests of the Nation Can Quickly Adjust Themselves to the New Conditions—Nothing to Justify Panic.

Debate is the order in the senate on the Underwood-Simmons tariff bill. For the first time in our history a tariff bill comes from the senate finance committee with rates lower than when the bill passed the house. The senate finance committee has made many reductions and adjustments. It has transferred pig iron, ingots, and steel rails to the free list; it has adjusted the duties on the cereals; it has corrected errors in the cotton schedule. One may disagree with some of the features of the senate bill, but he will have to admit that it is an honest careful effort to revise the tariff.

Political prophets to the contrary notwithstanding, there is absolutely nothing in the bill to justify any panic talk. The country, it is true, is nervous, as is usual on the eve of tariff legislation, but our economic condition is sound. No parallel can be drawn between the situation now and that of 1893 and 1894. The Underwood-Simmons bill is in no sense a free-trade measure. If the producing interests of the nation will keep their courage and face the new situation with determination, they will quickly adjust themselves to new conditions. These being the facts, senators should choose their words in debate with care. Criticisms of the senate bill are not only not objectionable, but desirable. The bill can be improved in many places by amendment. Inflammatory speeches, however, should be frowned on and condemned. Politicians who prophesy destruction do more to fulfill their prophecy than their opponents. The psychological element in the tariff problem is always large and today is dominant. Those in power who have the public ear should calm rather than further agitate the troubled waters of our industrial life.

Defends Bryan's Absence.

When it was suggested to Joseph Quincy, of Boston, who is at the Bellevue for a day or two, that his experience as assistant secretary of state under the second Cleveland administration might qualify him to comment on the recent criticism of the secretary of state, he said:

"One would suppose from some of the criticisms that the business of the state department would come to a standstill when the secretary is out of Washington. Of course, the fact is that only large questions of policy require the personal attention of the secretary, and these questions are necessarily settled by the president, as the head of the government, after consultation with the secretary. With the secretary in easy reach of or communication with the department, no important diplomatic business need be delayed because he is not physically present at his desk."

Wool Growers Not Hurt.

Sheep owners should not be alarmed over the report that Australian emigrants are here looking over the commercial possibilities and especially congratulating themselves on the prospects of selling more wool here after the duty shall be removed. More woolen clothing is needed in this climate than the people have of late years been able to afford, and if woolen goods are cheaper more of them will be worn. As to prices, there are many varieties of wool and many of garments, and in producing the latter there are great advantages in mixtures of the former. Australian wool is largely imported for mixing with domestic, and the effect of removing the duty from foreign wool may be to increase the demand for the domestic.

President is in the Right.

President Wilson is not the man to let his better judgment be swayed by those who seek army contracts or by the amiable patriots who would have American arms invade Mexico in order that they may reap fortunes from the sale of wildcat securities issued against Mexican prospects. He will take no action toward Mexico, except such as he knows to be right, after careful discussion of the situation with his cabinet.

In whatever course he may pursue, right-thinking people of the United States, remembering the scurrilous conspiracy against McKinley, will support President Wilson steadfastly until his efforts have been crowned with success.

Mann's Approval Not Wanted.

Apparently the Wilson administration is not being conducted to suit Congressman Mann, the G. O. P. floor leader in the house. It would be a most amazing and extraordinary administration if it did—and a most disappointing one.

Bryan Welcomes Criticism.

Mr. Bryan's ready wit stands him in good stead at all times. He enjoys a fight, and lets bygones be bygones when it is over, as he put it humorously when he said: "Next to coffee, I have been roasted more than any other thing on earth, and, like coffee, I'm the better for the roasting." Such a temperament is needed in dealing with the controversies that constantly arise in the conduct of the department of state. Firmness of purpose and courtesy do not conflict.—New York Commercial.

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July 29, 1913.

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