

confirmed the process and discarded the Constitutional or popular method of amendment.

VI.

The old age of Jefferson was full of the cup of bitterness in personal discomforts which the neglect of his own affairs for those of mankind had brought him; and in the University of Virginia, to which he was a father in every sense, he drank deep of solace and encouragement.

In the latter part of June, 1826, he became too feeble to leave his bed. He was calm, almost cheerful, at the realization that he was to be released from his suffering. But he expressed the wish to live to see the dawn of the fiftieth anniversary of Independence. When he awoke that morning, he said, his face lighting up: "It's the Fourth of July!"

His last wish had been granted and he murmured as he died: "Nunc dimittis, Domine." (Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.) The birthday of the nation he labored so mightily to cement in liberty, the day consecrated to his deeds, was by a kind Providence solemnized with his death.

STERLING E. EDMUNDS.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AN ACTUAL CONVERSATION.

New York, April 3, 1909.

"How does the proposed tariff measure strike you?" I asked an importer of foreign wall papers the other day.

"Fine," he replied. "It will raise the duty on our goods five cents on the dollar over what it is at present."

"Where do you come in on that?" I inquired. "I thought you were howling for a reduction of the duty."

"So we were," was the answer; "but this is better. We will now have a good argument for raising the price fifteen cents on the dollar to the dealers. Foreign wall paper would cost more than the domestic product anyway. It is a comparatively high class article and the demand for it in this country is chiefly the result of the special styles which are produced in England and Germany. These exceptional patterns are but poorly imitated in this country and therefore in our special field we have little real competition. On the present basis we are doing a gross business of \$300,000 a year and making a gross profit of about \$135,000 a year. This is good enough for us. If the duty were taken off we would have to cut prices to the dealers from thirty to fifty per cent. We might do more business, but in the aggregate we would probably make little more money, and life would be far less serene than it now is.

"We have thought all these things out, and realize that after all a stiff tariff is the best asset of a business like ours. We would not have complained

if the duty had been left on the old basis, but the scheme in the Payne bill for raising it five cents on the dollar on the theory that foreign wall paper is a 'luxury' will mean big new money in our pockets. We have been converted to a profound belief in the blessings of protection, old man, and don't you forget it."

"But," I exclaimed, "where does the consumer come in?"

"Where does he come in? Why, he comes in with the 'dough,' of course. Every roll of paper that goes up on a wall will cost him from thirty to fifty per cent more than it does today. And if the paper hangers do not add a few cents for labor when handling imported goods they are bigger 'chumps' than I ever dreamed them to be."

"Which means," said I, "that you will pay \$1.05 for goods where you formerly paid a dollar; the dealer, who formerly paid you \$1.45 for goods which formerly cost you a dollar, will now pay you about \$1.60 to \$1.65 for the same goods; while the consumer, who formerly paid the dealer from \$2.00 to \$2.25 will now pay for the same goods from \$2.60 to \$3.25; and the paper hanger, if he is not a 'chump,' will add for his labor from three to five cents on every roll he hangs, on the plea that expensive paper is more difficult to hang. Is that the idea?"

"Exactly," replied the importer. "Free trade is an exploded theory. Come and let me buy you a good fifty cent cigar."

JOHN MOODY.

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THE END OF THE GREAT STRIKE.

Etaples sur Mer, France, March 26, 1909.

For eight days Paris had been practically cut off from communication with the rest of France, or with outside Powers, because of its lack of postal, telegraphic and telephone service.* For eight days there had been what all Parisians love an abundance of—"manifestations." At the beginning of the great movement when outsiders began to say "C'est la grève" (It is the strike), the functionaries concerned stood with their calmly folded arms and gravely remarked, "No, it is only that in manifest." And so they continued to "manifest" all through the eight days of the strike. They "manifested" first and all the time their intense dislike of the person and autocratic rule of Mr. Simyan, the under secretary of posts and telegraphs. They manifested it by their words and actions when he was present, and by their total disregard of him and his office when they carried their grievances past him to Mr. Barthou, the minister of public works, and to Mr. Clemenceau, the premier. Finally after numerous interviews with these great ones, and innumerable meetings of the employees' unions and their accredited delegates and representatives, everything is amicably settled and the great strike of government employees is brought to a successful issue.

Behold, then, Paris once more placarded with posters. At the head of each one in the largest possible letters is the word "Merci." Then follows the following temperate and modest declaration:

"Driven to extremes by the ill will, coarseness and extreme autocracy of Mr. Simyan, we were compelled

*Public of March 19, page 277, and Public of March 26, page. 301.

to quit our work. Today disciplined and devoted to our functions as we were yesterday, we have decided to resume our daily labor. We no longer recognize Mr. Simyan as our chief. We have been promised that his evil work will disappear. It is legitimate that right should rule instead of might. Our first duty is to warmly thank our fellow citizens for the priceless support that they have given us. Forgetting the loss and inconvenience that we were compelled to cause, the public has been almost unanimous in approving our attitude. For its good will, for the marks of sympathy that it has given us, we say most sincerely:

"Thanks" (Merci).

"By our zeal and our devotion to work we shall continue to merit the esteem of our fellow citizens. The postal service, the telegraph and the telephone should be administered as business enterprises. Resolved to take issue with the bureaucratic system, we shall steadily work for the improvement of the service, in view of giving increased facilities to the 'clientèle' and favoring the development of the public wealth. We are not machines. We wish to be able to love our work which ought to assure to us well-being and liberty.

"To Work" (Au Travail).

If one can believe the Paris newspapers, and they practically agree, the strike was from beginning to end marked by moderation and order. The most impassioned speeches were doubtless made in the Chamber of Deputies, where the situation was discussed at length and the final decision taken that just now in the midst of the strife was not the time to demand the resignation of Mr. Simyan. It could not for one moment be admitted that the head of the service was under the control of his subordinates. Nevertheless, everyone knew, as they called out in the Chamber, that sooner or later he must be sacrificed. Therefore Messrs. Clemenceau and Barthou absolutely refused to discuss with the syndicate's delegates the question of the dismissal of Mr. Simyan. Nevertheless, they assured them that all their grievances would be redressed; and it was with light hearts that the delegates returned to those who had sent them and reported in their expressive language, "On ne connaît plus M. Simyan." (Mr. Simyan is no longer recognized.)

The "manifestation" preceding the final posters was the return to work "en masse." The ranks of the strikers formed into columns at their several headquarters and marched along the city boulevards to the central offices. Every man had a flower in his buttonhole, and every woman flowers in her corsage, and there was joy on every face, while all the route was black with spectators and the quiet procession was loudly cheered.

Let all who love democracy and the rights of men rejoice, for we chronicle another victory.

IDA FURSMAN.

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The Republican explanation of the treasury deficit is that the outgo is larger than the income. Some years ago the same Republicans explained it on the ground of "Democratic extravagance and incompetency."—The Commoner.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, April 6, 1909.

The Tariff Question.

The debate in Congress on the Payne tariff bill (p. 319) continued until the 5th, when a rule was adopted closing general debate and requiring the House to "resolve itself into committee of the whole on the state of the Union for the consideration of said bill for amendment under the five minute rule." The rule provides that committee amendments to any part of the bill shall be in order at any time, and also that preference shall be given to amendments to the paragraphs on lumber, hides, barley and barley malt. It also requires that an amendment shall be voted on the oil clause to strike out the proviso and insert as a new paragraph the following: "Crude petroleum and its products, 25 per cent ad valorem." The specified amendments are by this rule to take precedence of committee amendments. In its further provisions the rule requires that "consideration of said bill for amendment shall continue until not later than Friday, the ninth day of April, at 3 o'clock p. m., at which time the said bill, with all amendments that shall have been recommended by the committee of the whole House on the state of the Union, shall be reported to the House and the previous question shall then be considered as ordered on said amendments and said bill sent to its engrossment, third reading, and final passage." A separate vote is to be allowed "on the amendments relating to hides, lumber, oil, barley, barley malt, tea, and coffee, or any of them, irrespective of their adoption or rejection in committee of the whole," but "the vote upon all other amendments" is to be "in gross." The last provision heads off a record vote on gloves, hosiery, wall paper, etc., so that the votes of Congressmen on these questions cannot be officially disclosed to the public.

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Champ Clark, the Democratic leader, opposed the rule, arguing that every member should be accorded the right to vote on each item; but Mr. Payne, the Republican leader on this question, replied that the Republican party will be held responsible by the country for the tariff bill as it passes. The vote on the adoption of the rule was