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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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Week ending Tuesday, July 13, 1909.

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### The Tariff Bill in Congress.

After the adoption of the resolution for amending the Constitution so as to assure the Constitutionality of income taxation irrespective of the population of the several States (pp. 658-59), the Senate inserted in the tariff bill on the 5th a clause for the creation of a customs court, composed of five judges, to supersede the United States Circuit Courts in the adjudication of tariff questions except in criminal cases.

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On the 6th the Senate in committee of the whole completed its work on the tariff bill and reported the bill back to the Senate as amended; and on the 8th at 11 at night, after sharp debates between upward revisionist and downward revisionist Republicans, the amended bill was put upon its passage. Only one Democrat voted for it. He was Senator McEnery of Louisiana. The Republicans voting in the negative were Beveridge, of Indiana, Bristow of Kansas, Brown and Burkett of Nebraska, Clapp and Nelson of Minnesota, Cummins and Dolliver of Iowa, La Follette of Wisconsin, and Crawford of South Dakota. The vote stood 45 for the bill as amended in the Senate, and 34 against it. Immediately upon the official declaration of this vote, Senator Aldrich, the upward-revision leader, made an unprecedented motion. Instead of sending the bill back to the House for concurrence in the Senate amendments, his motion simply declared that the Senate disagrees with the House on its tariff bill and invites a conference. Senator Bailey protested against this novel procedure, but unavailingly; and the Vice-President appointed the following conferees in behalf of the Senate: Senators Aldrich, Burrows, Penrose, Cullom, Hale (Republicans), and Senators Daniel, Money and Bailey (Democrats). All the Republican conferees are upward revisionists, not one of the 10 downward revisionists having been appointed; and of the three Democratic conferees, Senator Daniel is a declared Protectionist.

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The bill was taken up in the house on the 9th. After a brief debate the House voted non-concur-

rence in all the Senate amendments and referred the whole subject to conferees without instructions, by a vote of 178 to 151. One Democrat voted for this uninstructed reference, and 18 Republicans voted against it. The bolting Democrat was Broussard of Louisiana; the bolting Republicans were Davis of Minnesota, Good of Iowa, Gronna of North Dakota, Haugen of Iowa, Hinshaw of Nebraska, Hubbard of Iowa, Kendall of Iowa, Kinkaid of Nebraska, Lindberg of Minnesota, Madison of Kansas, Miller of Minnesota, Morse of Wisconsin, Murdock of Kansas, Nelson of Wisconsin, Norris of Nebraska, Pickett of Iowa, Poindexter of Washington, and Woods of Iowa. The conferees in behalf of the House, appointed on the 9th by Speaker Cannon, were Representatives Payne of New York, Dalzell of Pennsylvania, McCall of Massachusetts, Boutell of Illinois, Caldehead of Kansas, and Fordney of Michigan (Republicans); and Clark of Missouri, Underwood of Alabama, and Griggs of Georgia (Democrats).

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On the 12th the House passed the Senate joint resolution for amending the Constitution relative to income taxation (p. 659) by a vote of 317 to 14.

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### The Cleveland Traction Fight.

The referendum campaign on the Schmidt ordinance in Cleveland (p. 660) grows in intensity. Mayor Johnson and the other supporters of the ordinance, including Newton D. Baker, Peter Witt and Harris R. Cooley, are now campaigning in two large tents, with frequent meetings, and an overflow attendance. The meetings are devoted to explaining the issue and answering questions. One opposition tent has been set up personally by the only Democratic alderman who opposes the Schmidt grant. The Chamber of Commerce committee, which is committed to the Tayler ordinance (now conceded by the Plain Dealer editorially in its issue of the 8th, to be seriously defended by no one, because "its defects are patent and vital") has decided not to begin a speaking campaign until the 19th.

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Herman J. Schmidt explained on the 6th his plans with reference to the relation to his ordinance (to be voted on on the 3d) of investors in the old low fare companies who exchanged for or bought stock in the Cleveland Railway Company, upon the settlement of a year and a half ago. Following is his statement as abstracted by the Plain Dealer:

Herman J. Schmidt yesterday announced his plan to protect the interests of persons who put money into the building of the Forest City Railway Co.

lines and of those who invested in Cleveland Railway Co. stock through the Municipal Traction Co. He announces he has organized the Cleveland Traction Co., in order to hold to the stockholders "the advantage they already have." Schmidt says he will assign all his franchise rights and holdings to the new company. Persons who purchased stock in any of the low fare lines are given the option of depositing the same with Otto Lelsy, D. C. Westenhaver and C. W. Stage, as trustees. At the same time the Cleveland Traction Co. will deposit an equal number of shares. The stockholders have the right, under the plan, to exchange their holdings for Cleveland Traction Co. stock deposited with the trustees. The new company reserves the right to acquire any of the Cleveland Railway Co. stock deposited with the trustees at the rate of \$110 a share and accrued interest from Oct. 1 last year. A stipulation is made that while the stock is in the hands of the trustees, they will have full power to vote it. The trustees also reserve the right at any time to turn over to the Cleveland Railway Co. all the stock in their hands as payment for the restoration of the property of the Forest City Railway Co. now in possession of the Cleveland Railway Co.

The plan was subsequently explained at a tent meeting by Mayor Johnson, who said, as reported in the Press of the 10th:

Herman Schmidt is preparing to have trustees take care of this stock, giving certificates for each share. If the Schmidt grant goes through, the stockholder has the choice of taking back his Cleveland Railway shares or receiving stock in the new company. He has no chance of losing, and his option enables him to get either.

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#### Chicago School Board.

On the seventh day of his illness from an operation for appendicitis, Mayor Busse made school board appointments (p. 531) for submission to the City Council at its meeting of the 6th in order to fill vacancies, six of which occurred on the 7th, one of which occurred last October, and one of which occurred last May. The new appointees are as follows:

Frank I. Bennett to succeed Louis F. Post; Dr. J. H. Walsh, to succeed P. Shelley O'Ryan, who died last October; Dr. John Guerin, to succeed himself; Rev. Dean Walter T. Sumner, to succeed R. A. White; Julius F. Smietanka, to succeed Raymond Robins; J. M. Kralovec, to succeed Mrs. Evelyn A. Frake, who died last May; Dr. James B. McPatrick, to succeed Wiley W. Mills; George F. Koester, to succeed John J. Sonstebly.

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The new members of the school board took their seats on the 7th. It was at a meeting continued by adjournment from the regular meeting of June 30th, at which the "Busse" members had arranged that there should be no quorum in order that the "Dunne" members might be prevented from trying to substitute the Sonstebly minority

report on the school book trust in place of the majority report on the same subject, the latter being favorable to the trust. As soon as the new members had been installed on the 7th, the majority report was adopted without discussion. Messrs. Sumner, Smietanka and Koester passed their votes on the ground of unfamiliarity with the subject. The Sonstebly minority report, adverse to the book trust, was then referred to the committee on school management, also without discussion; and at the meeting of that committee on the following day it was without discussion laid upon the table.

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This first meeting of the new board—all appointees of Mayor Busse—was described by the Tribune as "a love feast"; but on the 8th persistent rumors were in circulation to the effect that a factional fight of unprecedented bitterness had developed over the presidency. It seems that a combination of the steel trust, railroad, and beef trust interests had been formed to oust the present president, Otto C. Schneider, a close personal friend of Mayor Busse's, by electing in his place Alfred R. Urion, the attorney for Armour. On the 12th it was reported that the movement for the election of Mr. Urion had been headed off by orders from Mayor Busse; but a caucus of the members later in the day failed to adjust the factional differences, and at present the breach does not appear to have been healed. Part of the difficulty relates to the choice of a superintendent for the vacancy which has now existed some four months; and it is surmised that the Urion faction are planning, through this contest over the presidency, to secure the return of the former superintendent, Mr. Cooley. The book trust interests also are reported to be involved.

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#### Rapid Recovery of Mayor Busse.

Mayor Busse's recovery from a surgical operation for appendicitis (p. 661) has been extraordinarily rapid, according to the newspaper bulletins obtained from time to time at Mercy hospital. The operation was performed on the 29th in the evening. At 11 o'clock at night on the 30th the patient had improved after an experience which made the surgeons fear that his case might prove fatal. At that hour—less than thirty-six hours after the operation, and very soon after his case had seemed extremely critical—he was sitting in a chair sleeping, having been lifted into the chair because his great bulk made it difficult for him to breathe in bed. On the 2d he had completely passed the crisis. Late in the morning of that day he was sitting up in a chair smoking a cigar, and in the afternoon he was again placed in the chair and wheeled to an open window where he watched the passing automobiles until he fell asleep. At 11 that night his temperature had fallen to 99, and