

THE U.S. TARIFF REVISION BILL.

Washington, March 18.

The Tariff Committee laid the Tariff Bill before the Senate yesterday. The Chairman enumerated the several new positions, and went on to explain that the Committee had removed some articles from the free list and raised the dues on others, with the sole object of increasing the revenue. Most of the articles on which the duties had been raised were articles of luxury: such as perfumery, toilet requisites, biscuits, feathers, and spices. On account of insufficient protection, the duties had been raised on aniline dyes, paper manufactures, and lithographic productions. The rates had been reduced, in some cases very considerably, on chemicals, oils, colours, delf, sponges, iron, steel goods, machinery of all kinds, cotton, farm products, meat, flax, hemp, jute, wool, leather, shoes, and agricultural implements. The following had been placed on the free list: iron ore, hides, and works of art that were twenty years old at least. The duty on pig iron and specular iron had been reduced from four dollars to two and a half dollars per ton. The reductions considerably exceeded the increases in the duties. The protective duties had been reduced by 40%, and the duties on other wares, as for instance on leather goods, in a corresponding degree. The duty on refined sugar had been reduced to the twentieth part of one cent per pound, that on chloride of potash to two cents per pound. The duty on wool for clothing was almost unaltered, that on wool of an inferior quality had been lowered. Furs had been subjected to a duty equal to 27½ per cent of their value. The Tariff Bill provides for minimum as well as for maximum rates which, on the average, are 20% higher. The minimum tariff would apply to all countries that give most-favoured-nation privileges to America. Existing commercial treaties are to be denounced so far as their specific provisions are concerned.

THE MURDERED DETECTIVE.

POWER OF THE MAFIA.

The Rome correspondent of the *Globe* has had an interview with a high police official, who informed him that the murdered American police agent Petrosino had rendered invaluable help to the Italian authorities during his short stay in Italy, having given them important information respecting more than 600 criminals.

It would be exceedingly difficult, the official said, to track the murderers, since the members of the Mafia constituted a population by themselves. In spite of everything that had been done, the Mafia retained its power, its ramifications, its statutes, and its courts, before which the ordinary civil and military authorities were impotent.

Signor Leonardi, the Director-General of Police, it appears, strongly advised Petrosino not to go to Sicily, but he declined to abandon his mission.

The writer of an article in the *Times* on the Black Hand gives an interesting glimpse of the workings of the organisation.

An Italian prisoner before a New York court in 1907, who had been convicted of kidnapping but had not been sentenced, conceived the idea that if he testified against his accomplice, whose trial was to follow, he might be let off with a lighter penalty. He therefore made it known to the gaol attendant that he was prepared to tell the whole story. He was led into court a second time, and kissed the book.

Before he uttered a word in evidence he happened to glance across at his confederate, and immediately turned deathly pale. The confederate, looking straight at the prisoner already convicted, had placed the forefinger of his left hand on each temple successively, and had then, quick as a flash, drawn his right hand across his throat. "He has given the death sign," exclaimed the prosecuting counsel. "I saw it," said the Judge from the bench. The witness refused to utter a word.

THE BLACK HAND.

In our age of progress even the "Black Hand," the Italian band of blackmailers in New York, makes use of the most modern appliances, as the following incident which took place in Upper New York, shows. A pedlar, named Merino, a man 40 years old and in good circumstances, who had received many threatening letters from the "Black Hand" but had attached no importance to them, was standing one day in front of his house when a pitch-black motor car dashed up, a man with a black beard sprang out, approached Merino, and whispered something in his ear. The latter shook his head several times, whereupon the other jumped back into his car. The next instant three shots aimed at Merino rang out, and then the car dashed off at lightning speed. Passers-by hurrying to the spot

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WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute. Moderate easterly winds, bright and dry, frost at night but rather warm by day.

only heard the scornful laughter of the inmates of the car. Luckily the revolver-shots only wounded Merino slightly. This incident is typical of the foolhardiness, imperturbability and cold-bloodedness with which the "Black Hand" commits its crimes; no less, too, of the perennial danger in which those chosen as its victims live. Recently in Broadway, at an hour when traffic is thickest, when on the side-walks of this great artery of New York crowds are jostling each other, a member of the "Black Hand" fired several shots at an Italian barber, and when the miscreant saw that his shots would not have deadly effect, he held his weapon close to his victim's forehead and once more pulled the trigger, in full view of the crowd of passers-by. So excited and astounded was the crowd when they saw the body fall lifeless in their midst, that some minutes went by before it occurred to anyone to hurry after the murderer. But several policemen were soon on his heels. He disappeared into a house, the police and several people after him. They followed him to the roof. There he stood at the edge of the roof and looked down; the roof of the next house was 30ft. below him. He looked round a moment and then jumped. When his pursuers reached the edge of the roof the murderer vanished into an attic window of the next house. No one else dared to make the jump and the murderer escaped unrecognised.

THE COMMAND OF THE SEA.

WHAT IT MEANS TO ENGLAND.

"It is one of the ironies of the problem of the command of the sea that those who appear to care least about it, and who make it almost a matter of conscience to oppose the measures necessary to secure it, are in reality the very people who rely upon it most and are most ready to invoke it. Among the Radical opponents of the big Navy are to be found the majority of those who, to their great credit, have insisted upon keeping such questions as the misgovernment of the Congo and the recrudescence of slavery in Portuguese West Africa to the front. They declare that we have no right in cases like these to say that the subject does not concern us, and that, though we may be very sorry from a humanitarian point of view, our duty is to mind our own business and not to interfere with other people. They insist in the loudest terms on Britain's right to interfere, and point with pride to what we have done in the past in the matter of the slave trade. Yet a study of history will show that Britain's capacity to put down slavery, and to interfere with the misgovernment of native races, rests without question upon sea power. If the possibility of invoking that sea power had not always existed in the background, we should have found that foreign nations would not have tolerated for an instant what they have always regarded as our hypocritical and offensive pretensions to set our neighbours right. The reason why we were able to do so much during the close of the great war and the generation that succeeded it in abolishing slavery is to be found in the fact that our command of the sea was absolute and unchallenged. Modern Radicals sometimes ask with a sense of bewilderment how 'was it that the aristocratic Governments in the 'twenties' and 'thirties' were able to accomplish so much in putting down slavery when Radical Governments are now almost impotent to make Portugal act up to her Treaty responsibilities in regard to slavery. The answer is,—sea power. If they will only look below the surface, those who desire that Britain shall continue to play in the future the beneficent part she has played in the past will find that the command of the sea is inseparable from a humanitarian policy in Africa and elsewhere. Advocates of a policy of which the Congo movement is typical must either support an invincible Navy (nothing less than an invincible Navy will do), or else abandon a course of action which, as we have said before, as a rule appears to the rest of the world a gross interference in other people's business. If we mean to challenge the right of other nations, in the old Southern slave-owner's phrase, to "wallop their own nigger," we must remember that without the command of the sea such a challenge cannot possibly be made good."—*The Spectator*.

BURY-STREET.

Bury-street will always be associated with Thackeray. On the left hand side as you go north was Mrs. Brixham's house, where, says Mr. J. Ashby-Sterry in the *Graphic*, Major Pen Dennis had lodgings, being handy for his club. Here came Pen after the close of his disastrous University career, and here was the Major threatened and insulted by his rascally valet. It is little more than a year ago since the comfortable little Georgian house made way for more palatial buildings. The quiet, old-fashioned aspect of the street is yet undisturbed, the tavern where Mr. Morgan smoked his cigar of an evening still remains, and Cox's Hotel, just round the corner in Jermyn-street, to which the Major retired, after the fracas above alluded to, continues to flourish.