

Congressman Sparkman Says There May Be Slight Advance In Duty on Vegetables.

That Florida, and South Florida particularly, will be amply protected in the new tariff bill which is the especial matter to be considered at the special session of Congress next Monday, is the gratifying intelligence brought home by Representative S. M. Sparkman, who returned to the city last Sunday night. Mr. Sparkman is especially gratified at the prospect of an advance in the duty on vegetables, which means that the Cuban competition will be lessened and that the truck growers of this section of the state will have a good market for their produce.

Urbane and in good health, ever mindful of interests of constituents, Mr. Sparkman is home in excellent health. During yesterday he was called on by many of his friends, and told them of the work that he had done and hopes to do for this section. A distinct honor conferred on him was his appointment to the National Waterways Commission, he being one of the two Democratic members appointed from the Lower House.

#### Session for Tariff Reform.

While he does not believe that there will be any radical change in the tariff Mr. Sparkman says he believes, from the information he has received, that there will be many changes. These changes, however, will not be on the schedules of revenue affecting matrially Florida and South Florida. The cigar and tobacco schedules, he says, will probably remain the same. He gains this information from conversing with representatives of the several large tobacco concerns who were present at the capital, and from his fellow representatives who were interested in the tariff on these commodities.

Mr. Sparkman said that during the last few weeks the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee have been busily engaged in the preparation of the tariff bill. They have been in a caucus, and on Monday it is expected that they will submit the bill to the Democratic members for their approval or disapproval. This will be the first thing presented, although it is expected that an effort will be made on the first day to make a change in the rules.

Another matter that will come up the first day, and on which the Democrats will muster all of their minority strength is the election of a Speaker. While it is admitted that the Democrats cannot elect a hard fight will be made, polling the entire strength of the Democrats for the Hon. Champ Clark, of Missouri. This means that Mr. Clark will be the next floor leader for the Democrats, and an abler representative the party has never had.

#### Back to the Tariff.

When the tariff bill, as submitted by the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee has been considered, according to Mr. Sparkman, the five-minute rule will more than probably be adopted. This will mean that the entire week, and perhaps longer, will be given up to debate on the matter.

While Mr. Sparkman is not in a position to speak positively on the various schedules affecting Florida and South Florida commerce, he is in possession of a sufficient amount of information to say that there will be no change in the tobacco and cigar schedule or in the citrus fruit schedule. There will be a change, he believes, in the vegetable schedule, as this is an

item on which a hard fight has been made. The lumbermen, he says, are hopeful that there will be no reduction, but from telegraphic information from Washington last night, it is learned that there will be a reduction of one-half the tariff on this.

#### To Maintain Channel Here.

Congressman Sparkman stated that there is a sufficient amount carried in the rivers and harbors appropriation bill, small as it is, for the maintenance of the channel to Tampa. This was placed in the bill at the solicitation of Mr. Sparkman. Although the launch Hillsboro has been taken out of commission, Mr. Sparkman stated last night that he did not believe that this is necessary, as there will be ample funds to carry the expense of the engineer's office and its appurtenances until the next appropriation is made.

#### On Waterways Commission.

A deserving honor bestowed on Mr. Sparkman was that of a member of the National Waterways Commission. This commission consists of twelve members, eight Republicans and four Democrats. Two Democrats were chosen from the House and Mr. Sparkman has the honor of being one of these.

This commission is designed to investigate all of the numerous surveys that have been ordered by Congress during the last few days and make a report back on them. The idea is to ascertain the most urgent needs and to provide a general plan for the betterment of the waterways of America, as especially regards their relations to railroad traffic. The commission will not only investigate the actual work of improving the waterways, but will go still further into the advantages to be derived by commerce, the effect that improvements will have on terminals and the amount of expense that should be borne by individuals.

It may be necessary for the commission or at least a number of the members, to visit Europe and inspect the internal waterways there. This will be one of the most important features of the work of the commission. In this work the commission will ascertain whether or not the lock dam system or the cable hoist system is the most advisable for inland waterways, and will make other recommendations from their observations of the highly developed state of the foreign inland waterways.—Tampa Tribune.

#### PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT.

Ethel's father would not be described, even by those most intimate with his many good points, as a handsome man. The Apollo Belvedere had nothing to fear from him in a beauty contest. His homeliness was the matter of jesting remarks recently and the little girl took it all in.

"Papa," she asked the next day, "God made you, didn't he?"

"Yes, dear," replied her father.

"And did He make me, too?" she questioned father.

"Certainly," was the reply, as he turned back to his book.

"Well," commenced Ethel, as she looked in the mirror, "I guess He must be doing better work now!"—Philadelphia Ledger.

#### CONTAGIOUS.

An Ohio preacher has issued an ultimatum that there must be no more hugging and kissing in his church during services. It is said that if the parson's orders are carried out, it will break up the congregation.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

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