

## Where the Old Ship is Leaking

James Wickersham, delegate in congress from Alaska, called upon Secretary of War Dickinson to order out of Washington and back to Alaska, or to military duty, Major W. P. Richardson, chairman of the Alaskan road commission. Delegate Wickersham charges Major Richardson with exercising undue influence on congressional commissions. He claims that Major Richardson is in Washington claiming to be the adviser of the Taft administration on all matters relating to Alaska, but that he is, in fact, lobbying for special interests, although he holds an office created by the Alaskan legislative council at a salary of \$7,500 a year. Delegate Wickersham tells the secretary of war that he was met by Major Richardson as he came from the committee room and in an angry tone threatened by the army officer for what he had said to the committee. Speaking of the encounter, Mr. Wickersham said: "He says that only his position as an officer in the army and my position as a delegate in the congress protects me. I shall perform my duty as a delegate in congress from Alaska without fear of assault from Major Richardson, but I most earnestly protest against being threatened in the capitol by an officer of the army for daring to perform my duty. It is bad enough to have him lobbying around the corridors in an effort to impose himself as a part of a military legislature upon helpless and law-abiding people, draw his own salary and evade his duties in the army, without having him threatening the representatives of those people for performing their congressional duties, and I protest against his violence and his insolence." Mr. Wickersham charged that the passage of the legislative council bill would in effect create a military legislature in Alaska, since no part of its membership would be elected by the people. He charges also that Major Richardson is lobbying in favor of other legislation to which Mr. Wickersham says he is opposed as inimical to the people of Alaska.

The Ballinger-Pinchot congressional committee of inquiry began its public sessions at Washington January 26. Louis R. Glavis whom Mr. Taft has discharged from the public service because of his activity against Ballinger was the first witness. Mr. Glavis was represented by Louis D. Brandeis of Boston. The Associated Press report says:

Glavis is the dismissed field agent who preferred charges against Secretary of the Interior Ballinger in connection with the Cunningham coal claims in Alaska. He sent the charges direct to President Taft, and the latter, after considering them, wrote a long letter to Mr. Ballinger, declaring he had been unjustly attacked and that Glavis should be immediately separated from the service. Since his dismissal Glavis has carried on an unrelenting campaign against Secretary Ballinger by means of interviews and signed articles in various publications.

It was in connection with the preparation of the Glavis charges against Secretary Ballinger that Gifford Pinchot was drawn directly into the controversy. Mr. Pinchot directed Associate Forester Price and Assistant Law Officer Shaw of his bureau to assist Glavis in framing the charges. These facts, proclaimed by Mr. Pinchot in a letter to Senator Dolliver, together with the letter itself, led to the dismissal of Pinchot, Price and Shaw from the forestry service.

Glavis being the man around whom the greater part of the tempest has turned, his appearance on the witness stand naturally tended to center interest in the inquiry from the very start, and although the proceedings were not scheduled to open until 2:30 p. m. a demand for seats in the big room in the senate building where the sessions are held, set in early in the forenoon.

Mr. Glavis announced that he would be represented throughout the hearing by two attorneys, Louis Brandeis of Boston, and Joseph B. Colton of New York. Messrs. Pinchot, Price and Shaw are collectively represented by George W. Pepper, an attorney of Philadelphia. Mr. Pepper and the Glavis attorneys will co-operate regarding the conduct of the investigation.

Senators Nelson, Root and Sunderland and Representatives Olmsted and Madison were the more active of the committee in plying the witness and his attorney with questions and many

times they referred to Secretary Ballinger's denials and sought explanation of what they considered discrepancies in statements.

The democratic members of the committee were not much in evidence today. Representative James asked only a question or two, and in each instance only to clarify some points at issue. Representative Graham, the other democrat, took issue with Senator Nelson during the final minutes of the hearing and declared in a certain instance the burden of proof was upon the secretary of interior rather than upon the accusing witness.

Delegate Wickersham appeared before the senate committee on territories and renewed his charges. He asserted that certain legislation favored by Major Richardson and former Governor Hoggart was in the interest of the Guggenheims and that President Taft and former President Roosevelt were responsible for their presence in Washington. Senator Beveridge, chairman of the committee, rebuked the witness, saying: "A witness would not be permitted to make such a reflection upon motives of the president of the United States in any committee of which I was chairman, even if that office were filled by William Jennings Bryan or a prohibitionist or a socialist."

Former Governor Hoggart charged that Delegate Wickersham was angry because Hoggart had forced his resignation as United States judge in Alaska.

On Monday, January 24, the newspapers announced with authority that the Taft administration would proceed against the beef trust. One Washington dispatch said: "President Taft and Attorney General Wickersham are planning to bring before the bar of justice all corporations, big and little, regardless of all alliance, which the department of justice is convinced are doing business illegally. It was announced today that the prosecution of the beef trust is but the forerunner of other prosecutions."

A Washington dispatch to the New York World follows: "The boldest political movement ever made in Washington under the shadow of the White House is the establishing of headquarters here of the National Conservation Association, just accomplished. Fired from the government service, Gifford Pinchot has described a graceful parabola and landed on his feet in the new citadel of the Roosevelt Back-from-Elba club. His present position is president of the National Conservation Association, which in future will have its headquarters in Washington. The nucleus of the organization is not insignificant. All of the members, particularly Mr. Pinchot and Mr. Carnegie, have money to spare, and the others are militant and have large influence politically. The present plan, already under way, is to form congressional district committees in every state ostensibly and primarily to carry out the conservation idea, but essentially to keep alive the Roosevelt ideas."

At Chicago Judge Kenesaw M. Landis in the United States district court dropped a bombshell. Speaking in open court and addressing the grand jury he stated that on January 20 he had notified the district attorney to begin the beef trust inquiry and was surprised to learn in the newspapers of January 22 that the government officials at Washington had started an investigation. On this point Judge Landis said: "Having in mind the duty of the district attorney I notified that officer on the 20th of the present month that on your assembling here today the court would direct your attention to the subject of the present investigation. It is a source of profound regret that two days after there began widespread newspaper publication of matter purporting to come from Washington and expressing the intention and determination of certain governmental functionaries there as to this proceeding and alleging, in that connection, their purpose with respect to certain individuals residing in this district. Without assuming here officially that there is anything behind these publications, except journalistic enterprise, I caution you to pay no attention whatever to them, as it will be your duty to conscientiously refrain from making any disclosures of matters transpiring in your jury room."

Representative Fowler of New Jersey, rep., introduced a resolution deposing the speaker from the rules committee.

The Washington correspondent for the New York Tribune says that many standpatters have arrived at the conclusion that Speaker Cannon must retire from the speaker's chair. This cor-

respondent says that when the matter was put up to Mr. Cannon he left the impression that he would not stand in the way of his party's success.

On January 25 stocks in Wall Street broke from three to seven points. An Associated Press dispatch says: "Early sales were in enormous volume and flooded the market from every quarter. Some of the severest losses were in Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, Reading, Amalgamated Copper, United States Steel and Consolidated Gas. The announcement of an extra dividend on steel common was not adopted until after the close of the market and did not affect the behavior of steel for the day. The rush of liquidation was generally conceded to be speculative, and Wall Street professed acute anxiety over the characterization which they give the attitude of President Taft and the administration's attitude toward corporations in general, both of the 'good and bad.'"

Evidently the stir in Wall Street was for the benefit of the White House and the republican insurgents. James J. Hill, the railroad magnate, paid a visit to the president and later Mr. Taft issued a statement protesting against the sensational reports of his intention to prosecute trusts and giving reassurance to the trust magnates. Following is the Associated Press dispatch on this point:

Washington, January 25.—President Taft today made public the following statement regarding the reported crusade against corporations:

"No statement has been issued either from the attorney general's office or the White House indicating the purpose of the administration with reference to prosecutions under the anti-trust law other than set forth in the message of the president January 7, 1910. The sensational statements as if there would be a departure and indiscriminate prosecution of important industries has no foundation. The purpose of the administration is exactly as has already been stated in the president's message."

The statement was issued after the president had talked with James J. Hill, the railway magnate, who had received information that prices were crumbling in New York under the various reports printed yesterday and this morning. There was no further statement from the White House. Hill said he did not pretend to speak for the president on anything he said, but that he was sure the president would not attack the corporations themselves, but the sins of the corporations. If the corporations are violating the laws of the country he supposed they would be brought to time.

On January 28, Louis R. Glavis testified that in October, 1908, while Mr. Ballinger was commissioner of the general land office, he told Glavis that he was having a hard time to collect campaign contributions for the republican party and that two men involved in the Cunningham claim, who had been liberal contributors in the past, had declined to give anything because they were angry at not being granted patents for the Alaska coal lands. Representative James of Kentucky examined Mr. Glavis at length on this point. Glavis said that Ballinger had asked him to hold up on the Alaska matters until after the election. He said he agreed to do this because he had his hands full on another case. He asserted that Mr. Ballinger hampered him in his work. At one time he said Mr. Ballinger told him to let it be publicly known that he started the investigation and that Ballinger was in sympathy with him. Glavis said he did this and for a time was happy under the impression that there was to be no scandal. In less than thirty days after he had been instructed to do this Ballinger notified him that the Cunningham claims had been "clear listed" for patent. Glavis protested by wire. Attorney Brandeis for Glavis brought in the name of Senator Heyburn. Brandeis offered in evidence the journal of Clarence Cunningham, of Wallace, Idaho, the agent in all the Cunningham claims, which contained the entry:

"Have agreed with Mr. W. B. Heyburn, in consideration for his services as attorney, to carry him for one claim of 160 acres in the coal, free of cost to him, and he agrees to do all our legal work in procuring titles, etc."

In an affidavit made subsequent to the loss of his journal Cunningham made public a letter from Senator W. B. Heyburn of Idaho, in which the senator said:

"I do not desire to participate or be interested in any manner, directly or indirectly, in acquiring public lands. Whatever services I may perform properly within my duty as a public official for yourself or any other constituent, I