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OUSTED SPECIAL AGENT GALVIS FIERCELY ATTACKS SECRETARY BALLINGER.

Declares Secretary Ordered Cunningham Claims to Patent, Knowing Under Suspicion.

Annals of Iowa.

As the special agent of the United States land office, recently summarily dismissed by Secretary Ballinger, in an article in the current issue of Collier's Weekly makes charges of the most sensational character against his former chief.

The article deals exhaustively with the now famous Cunningham land claims in Alaska. The writer asserts in the most direct and positive fashion that the land office when Secretary Ballinger was commissioner, ordered the Cunningham claims to patent without due investigation, and when Commissioner Ballinger knew they were under suspicion. He also declares that Ballinger urged Congress to pass a law which would validate the fraudulent Alaskan claims. The article in part follows:

From 1902 to 1909 I was in the field service of the general land office, for the last two and a half years as chief of field division. In September, 1909, I was summarily removed from my position without a formal hearing by Richard A. Ballinger, secretary of the interior, by authorization of the president of the United States. That removal was accompanied by the publication of a letter of the president to Mr. Ballinger. I believe that my removal was unfair. I believe the president's letter was grievously unfair, because in it the president gives weight to a charge against me which I never had the opportunity to see or answer. The president states in his letter that I withheld from him information favorable to my superiors. I do not know of any such information withheld by me, nor am I conscious of doing my superiors injustice. Nevertheless, I should not now make any public statement of the matter were it not still possible to save for the government many thousands of acres of coal lands which I believe the land office may in the near future grant to fraudulent claimants. The hope of that statement will help to arouse public sentiment, and that this danger to the national resources may be averted, is what actuates me. This statement will simply give facts and leave to the judgment of those who read whether or not the land office has been zealous in the public service.

The Facts Are These.

The coal lands of Alaska owned by the government amount to over 100,000 acres. They are the future coal supply of the nation, of almost incalculable value. Possession of them by private individuals means great wealth—a monopoly of them would mean a national menace.

On Nov. 12, 1906, President Roosevelt withdrew all coal lands in Alaska from public entry but previous to that time there was about 900 claims filed, covering about 100,000 acres (nearly the whole of the coal fields). The law attempts to prevent monopoly of such claims by limiting the amount of each claim and providing that each claimant must take up the land in his own interest and for his own use. This law has been interpreted by the supreme court of the United States to forbid speculating in coal lands before entry—either by dummy entries or by previous agreements to consolidate claims after entry. Of these 900 claims to Alaska coal lands—among them the so-called Cunningham group—the majority are fraudulent.

As to the action of the land office on these claims, I assert that the land office ordered the Cunningham claims to patent without due investigation when Commissioner Ballinger knew they were under suspicion; that while in office Commissioner Ballinger urged Congress to pass a law which would validate fraudulent Alaskan claims; that shortly after resigning from office he became attorney for the Cunningham group and other Alaska claimants; that soon after he became secretary of the interior his office rendered a decision which would have validated all fraudulent Alaska claims. A reversal of that decision on every point was obtained from Attorney General Wickersham's decision, every fraudulent Alaska claim would have gone to patent. I assert that in the spring of 1905 the land office urged me to an early trial of these cases before the investigation was finished, and when Secretary Ballinger, as the president has stated, knew that the Cunningham claims were invalid, when I appealed to Secretary Ballinger for postponement, he referred me to his subordinates. The department of agriculture intervened. I was superseded in the charge of the cases, and the man who superseded me endorsed my recommendations, and the postponement was granted. Immediately thereafter I made my report on the Cunningham cases to President Taft, and was dismissed from the service for insubordination.

First Suspicion of Fraud.

The first official communication to the land office which suggested that some one or all of the Alaska coal claims were fraudulent was made by Special Agent H. K. Love in October, 1905. In June, 1907, Special Agent Horace T. Jones was detailed by Mr. Fred Dennett, first assistant commissioner of the general land office, to make a complete investigation. Subsequently Jones was instructed by Mr. Ballinger to make the report a preliminary one. Jones reported on Aug. 10, 1907, requesting further investigation "by an experienced and

GRANDMOTHER'S MEMORIES.

By Helen A. Hyrom

Grandmother sits in her easy chair, In the ruddy sunlight's glow; Her thoughts are wandering far away In the land of Long Ago. Again she dwells in her father's home And before her loving eyes In the light of a glorious summer day

The gray old farm-house lies.

She hears the hum of the spinning-wheel

And the spinner's happy song; She sees the bundles of flax that hang

From the rafters, dark and long; She sees the sunbeams glide and dance

Across the sanded floor; And feels on her cheek the wandering breeze

That steals through the open door.

Beyond the flowers nod sleepily

At the well-sweep, gaudy and tall; And up from the glea comes the musical roar

Of the distant waterfall. The cows roam lazily to and fro

Along the shady lane; The shouts of the reapers sound faint and far

From the fields of golden grain.

And grandma herself, a happy girl

Stands watching the setting sun, While the spinner rests, and the reapers cease.

And the long day's work is done; Then something wakes her—the room is dark.

And vanished the sunset glow; And grandmother wakes, with a sad surprise,

From the dreams of long ago.

fearless agent." On Aug. 2, 1907, Love made a report favorable to the issuance of patents to the Cunningham claims.

My first connection with these cases was when in the fall of 1907 I discovered in Seattle, while investigating other matters, that some or all of the coal claims were not bona fide. My report of this matter to Mr. Ballinger stated that one claimant had refused me an affidavit on the ground that Mr. Ballinger himself had told some of the claimants to make no statement until the charges were made, in order that they might know what they had to meet, but that I could not believe this statement. Mr. Ballinger never commented to me on this phase of my report. In December, 1907, I was called to Washington, and explained to Mr. Ballinger, then land commissioner, what I had found out about all the claims, including the Cunningham claims. I also stated that the department of justice would know these facts and would investigate them if the land office did not. Mr. Ballinger told me he was a friend of many of the claimants, but that I was authorized to go ahead and investigate all these claims, no matter what the result. He then wrote me a letter, putting me in charge of the investigation of all the Alaska coal claims. It was agreed by Mr. Ballinger that, inasmuch as Special Agent Love was a candidate for United States marshal in Alaska, he was not in a position to make an impartial investigation. At our conference in December, 1907, the good faith of the Alaska entries was discussed by Mr. Ballinger. On Jan. 7, 1908, ten days afterward, Mr. Dennett, assistant commissioner, notified me as investigator of the whole field, that the Cunningham claims had been approved for patent on the Love report.

Three days before this a telegram, signed "R. A. Ballinger," was sent to Love in Alaska, directing him to forward the plats which the land office would require in issuing patents to the Cunningham claims. Again, on Jan. 11, 1908, a telegram was sent, signed with Mr. Ballinger's name, to Love, asking him whether he had acted on the previous telegram. Love telegraphed that he had sent the plats. The envelope of this telegram in the land office was indorsed "Hunt Carr, O. K. Carr." Carr was then private secretary to Mr. Ballinger.

Leak in the Land Office.

On Jan. 15, 1908, Cunningham, agent for the claimants, wrote a letter to the Juneau land office, in which he said:

The commissioner (Mr. Ballinger) has furnished us with copies of all the correspondence and telegrams relating to our entries between the various special agents and also with your office. Up to date everything seems to have been approved by each department chief, so now our only delay will be occasioned through failure to receive plats according to Judge Ballinger's advice."

If the Cunningham claims had then gone to patent, 5,000 acres of coal land, containing, according to Mr. Cunningham's expert, 91,000,000 tons of coal, would have gone to the Cunningham group without adequate investigation of title. When the Cunningham claims were ordered to patent, Mr. Ballinger and his assistants must have known, from the reports of Special Agent Jones and myself, the suspicious character of these claims.

Here was my first dilemma. I did not wish to protest to Secretary of the Interior Garfield during the action of the commissioner, and I did not like to see 5,000 acres of coal lands go to the Cunningham group when I believed the claims fraudulent. I did protest immediately, by telegram and letter, direct to Commissioner Ballinger, against the issuance of the patents. The order "leak listing the Cunningham claims to patent was almost immediately revoked, and, on March 1, 1908, I again took up the work on these claims. Special Agent Jones and I at Wallace, Idaho, procured affidavits of Cunningham claimants showing their intention to consolidate their claims. Then we went to see Cunningham.

Cunningham stated, that he had

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ALDRICH IN IOWA.

(From the Des Moines Evening Journal.)

Des Moines doesn't like Senator Aldrich but Des Moines likes the advertising it can get through Senator Aldrich--Sioux City Journal.

This is not putting it fairly. Des Moines likes Senator Aldrich, as well as the advertising his visit will bring, but it does not like him as the "leader of the senate" nor as the spokesman of the Roosevelt policy.

Senator Aldrich is one of the strong, self-reliant, forceful figures of our times. But when he turned the Roosevelt rate bill over to Tillman rather than have Senator Dooliver get the credit, he invited a frank expression of opinion in Iowa.

Using What She Learned.

Little Mabel had spent the afternoon at her father's business office, where the telephones were kept pretty busy. That night as she went to bed she surprised her mother by closing her prayers with: "Amen, Good-by, Ring off!"--Boston Transcript.

Find Crab Useful.

Students of the Crustacea often find the crab a useful assistant collector. Thus the circular crab seems to be a favorite food of cods and rays, and it was chiefly from the stomachs of these fish that some of the oldest naturalists obtained their specimens. Another hunting ground of the naturalist is the sailing ship which has been in foreign parts.

Ballinger Becomes Attorney.

Of that employment President Taft has said: "In the interval, when you were not holding office, one of the