

THE HIGH TIDE OF INVESTIGATIONS

Chief Features of a Great Inquiry Movement That Has Struck All Classes and Nearly Every Section of the United States.

What the Allds-Conger Probe Has Already Uncovered -- The Disclosures in Ohio -- High Prices Inquiries in Full Blast

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

THIS is the year of investigations. Heaven knows there are enough people need investigating, and a few of them are getting it. In Washington it is Ballinger and Pinchot; in Albany, Allds, Conger and several dead men; in Jersey City, cold storage and the beef trust; in Columbus, Slater and all ex-officials that look apprehensive; in New York city, the Stock Exchange; in the south, the Cotton Exchange, and in the country at large, the food trusts, the tariff, 700 varieties of graft and high prices.

The inquiry fever has struck all classes and well high every section. Congress looks like one huge question mark. The refrain of present day magazine literature is, "Where did he get it?" One high financier is already in the penitentiary, and others fear they would be there if the public knew about them as much as they know about themselves. Grand juries and legislative commissions are the order of the day, and the lobbyists are talking to the tall grass. If the mania continues it will end in congress investigating itself, and that would use up all the whitewash in the market.

How far is President Taft behind these various inquiries? It is known that he insisted on a thorough house-cleaning in New York and Ohio, that he gave word for the senate high prices inquiry to be made broad and thorough, that he at least assented to a congressional investigation of Ballinger and that he urged proceedings against the beef trust. Earlier in his administration he backed up the quar-

rel payment on false bills, in which the state was defrauded of thousands of dollars. The uncovering of Slater is only a part of the work done by the Beatty statehouse probers, who are still going into various departments in a way to give present and former officials the jumps.

If there are side eddies of investigation at Albany and Columbus, however, one must go to Washington for the main stream. There everything not nailed down is out on the inquiry current and is being tossed about like a house in an Ohio river flood. Here goes Ballinger, there is Pinchot, with high prices, cold storage, the tariff and the beef trust bobbing along closely in the rear. I believe there are in Washington alone four different inquiries into high prices that are already in full blast or are projected. This takes no account of the tariff commission, the Waterways commission, the immigration commission, the army and navy commission, the interstate commerce commission, the monetary commission, the government business methods commission and scores of other commissions, each carrying on its own little investigation and each determined to find out something, even though it is nothing more than how to cover the trails and fool the people some more.

Start Something.

If you have anything to investigate you will never have better time to start it. If you have probes, prepare to use them now. Everybody is at it, and you may as well be one. The inquiry bug has bitten us all, and the resultant fever is at its most acute

produced results. Hereby it may be that the American people will learn a lesson. Whenever they get ready to move in a body they will accomplish things. Whenever they are sufficiently in earnest to meet in their town halls and in their schoolhouses and in all other available places and investigate for themselves they will get somewhere. Most important of all, when they secure information let them act on it. Deeds are the things that count in this world--d-e-e-d-s--deeds! Bear down on that word and emphasize it. The only forward steps in the world's history have come by deeds. The only freedom that ever arrived to bless a people was won by deeds. The common sense of the world has acclaimed one axiom true--If you want a thing done, do it yourself. It applies to the people as well as to individuals. If they want a thing done, let them do it themselves. The politicians and confidence men may tell you something else, but don't believe them. You know better. Do it yourselves.

Hope For the Future.

I seek in nowise to minimize the inquiries that have been ordered. They may agreeably surprise us all and actually bring facts to light. Legislative investigations are under just a decision in this country, however, these present ones will receive public commendation only when they earn it. Let us suppose that they will earn it. Let us have faith that they will not waste the public money in mere futurity or in downright efforts to conceal or conceal the truth. But in the meantime let us seek the facts ourselves and accept no sophistries or excuses as to the logical conclusions deducible from the facts we find.

Already the secretary of agriculture has carried on an inquiry into high prices and has come to the conclusion that the food trusts are chiefly responsible. The District of Columbia committee has looked into the cold storage question and has brought out some rather suggestive testimony about overripe cuts and putrid meat. The house of representatives is contemplating an inquiry by the ways and means committee and the senate by a select committee headed by Senator Lodge. It was this committee that was charged by Senator Elkins, the author of the resolution which gave it existence, with being a frame-up to shield the tariff.

Hard on the heels of the high prices inquiries comes the prosecution of the beef trust. In Chicago the federal grand jury is investigating, and in New Jersey indictments have been brought, but the meat barons have contemptuously defied notices to appear.

In New York city and New Jersey has been carried on an inquiry into the milk trust that has resulted in several indictments. In New York state Governor Hughes has ordered an investigation of the purchase of forest reserves, concerning which there has been some scandal in the public press.

Possible Wall Street Probe.

Following the collapse of the Hocking pool in Wall street, the Stock Exchange has carried on an investigation of its own and has suspended two brokers. Jim Keene, the head of the pool, has been questioned, but could not remember anything and left the impression that his office boy was to blame.

A Wall street inquiry by the New York state legislature is possible. At least Assemblyman Frederick R. Toombs has introduced a resolution to that effect.

As to the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation, the committee has already been in session several weeks and is hardly through with the examination of one witness, L. B. Glavis. Perhaps the most sensational testimony given by Glavis was that the Cunningham interests had left James R. Garfield out of the Taft cabinet.

One interesting and unexpected side light on the Alaskan coal claims, around which much of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy has raged, was furnished by two agents of the Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate in their testimony before the senate committee on territories. This evidence clearly established the facts that a trust exists, that J. P. Morgan is connected with it, that there are 50,000,000 tons of coal in the trust's Alaskan mines and that the entire Bering river coal district contains 500,000,000 tons with a net value of \$200,000,000 and a gross value of \$800,000,000.

Let the investigations go on. The people cannot know too much about how their business is being conducted. And now that the inquiries have started let those in charge be given to understand that the American people will be satisfied with nothing less than the whole truth.

ALTERNATE TO WEST POINT

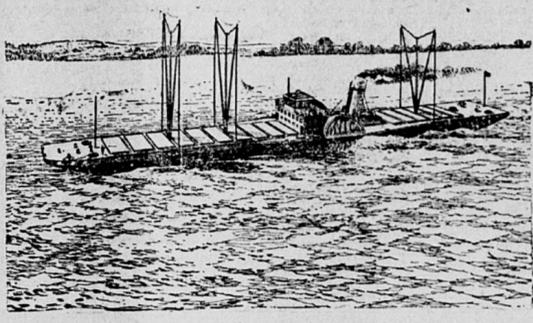
O. R. Smith, Negro Candidate For Army, Athlete and Broncho Buster.

Ollie R. Smith, the young negro who has been named as the alternate for the next Wyoming senatorial vacancy at the Military academy at West Point, N. Y., is one of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Simon R. Smith, pioneer residents of Cheyenne, Wyo., who are well to do. He was born twenty-one years ago in Cheyenne and was educated there, graduating from the Cheyenne High school, class of 1908. He is six feet tall and weighs 170 pounds. He has regular features and is of light color. He is a regular attendant at church.

As an all-around athlete young Smith has few peers in Cheyenne. He is a good runner, a fine swimmer and a crack oarsman. He is an expert boxer and one of the finest horsemen in Wyoming, having won many prizes in "broncho busting" contests. Army officers who conducted his physical and mental examinations say he is physically perfect and of a high order of intellect.

Young Smith expresses confidence in his ability to go through West Point should he gain the appointment. Captain Young of the Ninth United States cavalry, stationed at Fort David A. Russell, near Cheyenne, also a negro, has been coaching young Smith.

Fast Package Freight Boat For Mississippi



Among the many innovations introduced to the river by the Mississippi Valley Transportation Company not the least remarkable is the new package freight boat which has been designed for them by Mr. E. E. Groom, engineer at St. Louis for the American Bridge Company.

The new boat is designed to fill the need for a vessel to carry high grade freight rapidly between terminal points and to make the trip more frequently and more speedily than is possible with the barges and towboats.

For his model Mr. Groom has gone to the great lakes, and has succeeded in producing a steamboat, which has the advantage of the great lake freighter in that its entire cargo can be stowed and handled thru hatches in the deck, and she has the additional advantage of the great lake whaleback in that her bow is built with a long rake, yacht-

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Clarksville.

Charles Miller, aged 18, while loading baled hay into a car here fell and broke his leg at the hip and his arm at the wrist.

Dougherty.

Excitement reigns here over the rumor that the Great Western railroad will build a branch line from Hampton to Charles City to establish connections with the Illinois Central and Milwaukee and thence on to Osage to connect with their own line at the latter point. This town and Marble Rock are on the line between the two points and information is given out that the grading will begin early this spring.

Waterloo.

By resolution the city council sitting as the city board of health condemned the Rock Island passenger waiting station as unsanitary, and wholly unfit for accommodating the general traveling public, by reason of the same being so small that the large number of people boarding and leaving trains are not adequately cared for. The resolution provided that the city council shall direct the railroad company to take such steps as are necessary to place it in a better sanitary condition and accommodate the people.

Manson.

The farmers in this vicinity have been making pretty thorough tests of their seed corn during the past month, and the results have been far from encouraging. Very few report a higher average than 75 per cent, and the majority of them report an average of less than 50 per cent. One farmer had tested 100 ears of fine looking corn that had had the best of care, and found only one ear in the hundred that would count in a test.

Bellevue.

Ben Yeager, one of the best known and most esteemed residents of this section of the country passed away at his home after making a hard fight for his life as the result of a runaway automobile encounter by him ten days ago. It will be recalled that the team which Mr. Yeager was driving on Sunday, a week ago, became frightened and ran away, throwing the driver out. He sustained severe injuries, and although it was thought for a while that he would recover, he died last night. He was sufficient to withstand the shock, and death resulted.

Pringhar.

Sheriff Geister returned today from Bowman, S. D., with A. D. Rozovonn, who was sentenced a year ago to a term of five years at Fort Madison, for changing his name on butter. He forfeited a bond of \$1,500 for running away. His case was tried in the supreme court and was decided against him. He was located at Bowman yesterday by Sheriff Joe Moore, who held him until the arrival of Geister. He returned here and given over to Deputy Sheriff H. W. Geister, who at once started with his prisoner to Fort Madison.

Sioux City.

In fear and trembling, and so nervous and frightened he could scarcely speak, John Davis, a fisherman and boat builder, by trade, rushed into the police station yesterday and asked for protection against three brothers named Ziemann, whom he claims have been bothering him for a long time, and Tuesday capped the climax by shooting at him three times with a shotgun. Davis said the boys had been watching for him all day Tuesday and after they had shot at him and missed he was afraid they would try it again with more successful results.

Cedar Rapids.

Alfred Peterson, a schoolboy, had the thrilling experience of being knocked down by a Northwestern passenger train at a crossing, being rolled over several times and escaping without serious injury. The school was going home from school in the afternoon and failed to see the fast train coming into the station until it was almost upon him. The pilot caught him and rolled him over and over but finally pushed him clear of the wheels. He was taken to the hospital where it was found that his only injury was a scalp wound and he was able to go to his home unaided.

Waterloo.

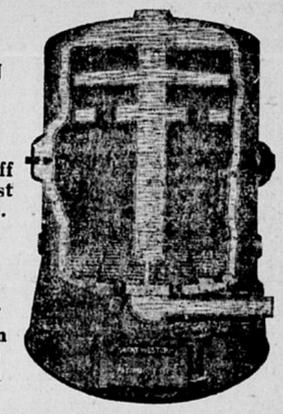
By pigeon-holing the communication of the Corn Belt Telephone Company twice and the prospective deliberate action that the council will take on the question of granting that company the privilege of consolidating their exchanges by constructing a man-hole at the corner of Sycamore and East Fourth streets by means of which the

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Steel Farm Wagons and Trucks

The growing scarcity of oak and hickory wood stock suitable for making farm wagon gears led to the introduction of the New Bettendorf. There are many specially good points claimed for this steel wagon, among which are the following:

Bettendorf steel axles can not be worn, as they are protected against wear by removable sleeves, and hence the original carrying capacity is never decreased. Steel front bolster. Steel rear bolster. Steel rear hounds. Steel sand board. Nobolts to lose or get loose. No wood parts to shrink. No checking of wood parts. No question of proper seasoning of wood stock. No trouble from climate conditions. It is never too wet or too dry for the Bettendorf steel gears.

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PROMINENT PARTICIPANTS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS NOW BEING CONDUCTED.

trust prosecutions and the cleaning out of the New York customs house, which have already resulted in several men going to prison and in scores of others losing their positions. If the present investigations result in like vigorous measures the grafters and food trusts have rather uneasy times ahead.

Trail of the "Black Horse Cavalry."

The Allds-Conger inquiry in New York has already uncovered enough devious doings to shock the state and has suggested more than it has disclosed. While in theory it has been confined to the one charge that the recent president of the state senate received when floor leader of the assembly a \$1,000 bribe for billing certain bridge legislation, it has in reality gone much further, involving the name of a former chairman of the Republican state committee and casting a cloud over the names of a dead speaker of the house and of former members of the assembly.

The net results of the Allds inquiry up to date are not very tangible. An indignant public throughout the state, the resignation of the president pro tem of the senate, against whom the charges leading to the inquiry were made; the suggestion of other instances of bribery compared with which, as "Deacon" Moe, chief prosecuting witness, expressed it, the case in hand is but "a flea bite"; an insistence by President Taft, Governor Hughes and the press that the investigation go to the bottom, a refusal by the state assembly to adopt the Chandler resolution calling for such broad and thorough investigation and an apparent uncertainty on all hands as to what next step will be taken--these seem to constitute the only visible outcome as yet.

Buckeyes Also at It.

The Ohio situation is analogous to that in New York. The similarity goes even to the names by which the legislative traffickers of a few years ago were known. In New York they were "the black horse cavalry," in Ohio "the black dragons." Earlier disclosures in the Buckeye State have made public the extravagances, to use no stronger term, in the office of a former state treasurer and involving other officials. The present crisis concerns the indictment and arrest of Mark Slater, former printing supervisor. The charges against Slater are somewhat similar to

The Meat Boycott.

As for high price inquiries, they are blossoming out all over the land. Every housewife has constituted herself a committee of one to discover the malefactor responsible and stop trading with him. She has not waited on Senator Lodge or the ways and means committee or anybody else. She has found out what she could and, if that was little, has gone ahead on suspicion. At any rate, she has acted. That is the great point. And her action has been the one effective thing in the entire procedure. The meat boycott has