



ARIZONA'S GOVERNOR.

Grave Charges are Pending Against Him in Washington.

The Whole Political History of Hughes Has Been Investigated by a Special Agent.

Governor Hughes of Arizona is on trial for his official life. The conduct of his case at the interior department will probably be the most interesting event of this Washington week. This is a very ugly story, in fact quite a splotch upon the present administration, and one which has been gathering in intensity and bad odor so long that its concentration now and its full opening by executive authority will probably make a very unwholesome story of government in the far west.

Charges of various kind have been filed against the governor of Arizona ever since his appointment. They began at once after he took the oath of office, and were so violent and so frequent that the president and secretary of the interior merely concluded them to be only the outcome of political disappointment. For the past six months, however, the charges have come so directly, have been made so persistently, and in such large numbers, that the administration has been forced to take official notice of them. About a month ago the secretary of the interior dispatched his most dependable secret agent to the territory in order that a thorough investigation of the case could be made.

This has been concluded and a report of Special Agent Olive's finding is now in the hands of the secretary. Mr. Olive himself will be a principal witness in the case, and he has been necessarily called to Wisconsin, and pending his arrival in Washington the case has been delayed.

Governor Hughes is evidently alarmed at the situation. He has been bold heretofore, and has laughed all of his accusers away. This time, however, he is evidently displeased with the turn taken by the Olive investigation and has come to Washington to appear in his own behalf before the secretary.

Special Agent Olive began work at the beginning and sent back as the result of his work an enormous bundle of charges made and looked into. Mr. Olive did

not, however, render any verdict in the case, and it is presumed that he has reserved this for his personal interview with the secretary.

A most complete list of the various accusations made against the territorial executive will probably be found in the sworn charges made by the chairman of the territorial democratic committee. This organization has ever since the last general election been out after Hughes with a vengeance, and, determined to secure his removal. They claim to begin with, that their action results from the governor's open coalition with the republicans in the last congressional election, which resulted in the sending of N. O. Murphy as delegate to congress, in place of John C. Herndon, the democratic nominee. But in the charges made and sworn to by these leading democrats of the territory, the history of the governor begins at a very early date. It seems that he was appointed as a republican by President Grant, to be attorney general for the territory in 1874, under Governor Safford. He did not long retain this office, however, but was soon engaged in a controversy with the governor, and was removed from the office and his commission revoked. There seems some doubt as to the cause of his removal, but Governor Hughes' accusers charge that he was removed by the governor on a charge of blackmail, wherein he attempted to extort money from the Lesinsky Bros., at that time owners of the Clifton copper mines. The charge is that this removal was made a matter of public record in the territory, but since Governor Hughes came into authority, these records have been removed from file or destroyed.

A letter written by the governor, however, during the controversy to the Tucson Citizen, which has been resurrected, contains this charge in full. It was at this time, and as a result of this controversy that Hughes became a democrat. The next charge made is that while running a democratic paper he turned it over to mining people in Tombstone, against the principles and position of his party, in the interest of the repeal of the laws placing a tax on bullion, and, as a result of this work, openly received half of the \$2,000 lobby fund raised by the mine owners. He is next charged by affidavits from Bob Paul, a republican, with trying to extort money from the republicans in return for the support of

their party nominees. T. E. Farish, also a republican, writes an open letter, making the same charge.

One of the most startling accusations, and one which was recently aired in court, is that Hughes was instrumental in bringing to Arizona an eastern woman and marrying her to an insane man, Judge D. E. Walker by name, of large property, for the purpose of defrauding his heirs. It is these heirs who recently brought about the court trial, and at this trial, it is said that the governor refused to answer certain questions put to him on the ground that he might make himself liable to criminal prosecution.

Another trouble in the territorial courts was the suit brought by the attorney general of the territory last winter to restrain the territorial treasurer from paying certain warrants for claims which the attorney general held to be illegal. These were principally claims against the funding commission fund. In this suit the governor intervened and allowed the warrants to be paid. As the auditor for the territory is a brother of the governor it is claimed that all kinds of criminal complicity can be found in the expenditure of territorial moneys.

The federal grand jury of last winter had under consideration the misappropriation of federal money. J. K. Lutgarding, a well-known democrat, was a member of this jury. Lutgarding testified before Special Agent Olive that the governor only escaped indictment through the efforts of the republican members of the grand jury, one whom was Frank K. Wightman, secretary of the republican county committee of Yuma county. After the adjournment of the grand jury the governor appointed Wightman to a position at the territorial prison, paying him \$100 per month.

W. T. Smith of the Gazette and L. J. Walfery of the Republican newspapers, testified that the governor combined with these papers to print the reports of the territorial commissioners and of various state institutions in advance of the meeting of the legislature, and before any appropriations were made. He agreed to recommend the appropriation of \$4,000 for such services, which amount is said to be largely in excess of its value. This agreement is said to have been made with the understanding that the money should be divided between Hughes' paper, the Star, and the Gazette and Republican. In this claim was a