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VETERAN CABINET MEMBER STEPS DOWN AND OUT

W. O. Smith Leaves the Cabinet.

RETIRE YESTERDAY A. M.

Gives His Reasons Briefly—A Day's Political Sensation.

William Owen Smith, who has been Attorney General here since the 17th day of January, 1893, is no longer connected with the Government. He retired from the Cabinet of President Dole yesterday morning. The resignation has been accepted. Mr. Dole, Mr. Smith and Capt. King are the only men who have been continuously in the Executive Council since the day the Provisional Government was organized. There have been three Ministers of Foreign Affairs and three Ministers of Finance.

The Board of Health is also without a President. Mr. Smith was a member by virtue of his office as Attorney General and had been placed at the head of the body.

In the middle of the forenoon it was known down town that Mr. Smith had left the high and honorable post which he had reached in the service of his native land. That it had long been his intention to retire to private life was well known, but the seeming suddenness of his leaving was rather a surprise. Mr. Smith had always said that so soon as annexation had been accomplished he desired to return to his law practice and his business interests. It was his wish to take this step in August last, but he was prevailed upon by his colleagues and citizens who appreciated the value of his work, to remain till the change had been completed—that is until laws for the government of the Islands under the new relation had been enacted at Washington. Within a fortnight he had expressed the purpose of departing from the Executive Building at the end of this month.

The matter of the quick change in the Cabinet was gone over about town to the exclusion of the news brought by the Australia, talks on stock deals or even the war in the Philippines. Men who had been either openly or covertly opposed to Mr. Smith as a publicist were among the first to regret that the country was losing the labor of one so capable and energetic. Mr. Smith has been at the head of the Police Department for more than six years and his work here tells for itself. He has been the attorney in chief for the people throughout the whole group and has been a most successful prosecutor.

The Attorney General was asked why he resigned. Mr. Smith replied that while he had contemplated retiring from office for some time, and in fact his resignation had been in the hands of President Dole since last August, that his retiring abruptly at this time was due to an unfortunate condition of affairs which had arisen among the members of the Executive Council.

The unwarranted attack which had been publicly made upon himself and other members of the Council by another member, was so unjust that under the circumstances he deemed that he could not consistently with self respect and due regard for the public interests, remain in office.

Mr. Smith said that he was unwilling to enter further into details, but spoke of the great gratification he felt in regard to the manner in which the integrity of the Government had thus far been maintained. His thoughts seemed to turn back to the earlier periods of the Provisional Government and the Republic and the trying times through which the community had passed and spoke of how much it was a matter for congratulation that the high standard of public spirit in the community had



WM. O. SMITH.

enabled those responsible for the conduct of the Government to administer its affairs as successfully as they had. He added that he believed he could safely say that heretofore no person in high office since the establishment of the Provisional Government had been controlled by motives of self-seeking, but that the guiding principle had been that only which would conserve the public interest.

Mr. Dole was asked if he desired to say anything about Mr. Smith's resignation.

He replied that Mr. Smith had sent in his resignation on August 13th, but would not press its acceptance if it would put the Government to much inconvenience. Mr. Smith had asked positively yesterday for its acceptance, and it would be accepted. He did not desire to say anything more on the subject.

He was also asked if he had the power, under existing conditions, to appoint an Attorney General. He said that he had instructions from Washington to fill any vacancies in the event of death or resignation.

In all of Mr. Smith's labors he has been earnest and indefatigable. He has brought the Board of Health to a remarkably comprehensive and efficient standard. If it is possible to say that such a tremendous and intelligent worker will be missed more in one place than in any other, it can be said that the heaviest loss falls on the Board of Health. He has had the deepest sense of the responsibilities which his Cabinet position carried and has not been content to depend upon office work wholly. He has not been above walking or driving about all parts of Honolulu and suburbs and by personal visits he is the best known Cabinet officer in the other Islands. His energy has been no less marvelous than his insight into the future and he has been a constant advocate of the construction of roads everywhere and the opening of wild lands for settlement. In all things he has been able to maintain a happy medium. While called aggressive and while acknowledged as a positive identity, he has always been considered safe and entirely careful. That Mr. Smith loves his country is but natural. He has planned for its future and he has put his shoulder to the wheel in efforts for its best interests at all times. A pleasant gentleman in private life, as a Cabinet Minister he has always been approachable. Decision was a marked point in his work of administration. He had a good legal training—has a good legal mind and is rapid in reaching conclusions.

W. O. Smith was one of the active men in defending the country in 1893. He assisted materially in the formation of the Provisional Government and was firm and courageous in all the trying situations of 1893-4. There were many dark days when the best of them were puzzled, but Mr. Smith was one of the few men always standing by the guns uncompromisingly. Mr. Smith could be the diplomat on occasion, for it was he more than any other man who handled numerous local as-

saults upon the Provisional Government. In the uprising of 1893, the elements of leadership in Mr. Smith were brought out. He spent his time between the capitol building and the police station, though frequently in the field during the days of shooting. He was always in demand for advice and he labored incessantly night and day till the disturbance was concluded. No one can know what a great strength he was in many quarters during that trouble.

Mr. Smith is a man just on the threshold of middle life. In fact he is a young man. He was born on the Island of Kauai and was educated partly here and partly abroad. He has been in the law almost from his boyhood. He is not a wealthy man, but will command a practice that will return him a handsome income.

To the very last the thoughts of Mr. Smith were for the people at Molokai, in whom he has taken the deepest interest. Every man, woman and child in the Settlement calls him friend. He has put the Settlement on a basis that few ever believed it could reach. The newest improvement is the installation of an enlarged water system.

It was the aim of Mr. Smith to improve himself for the fulfillment of his duties. He is probably the best posted man in the Islands on the subjects of quarantine, income tax, liquor licenses and taxation and tariff in general. As a Cabinet Minister Mr. Smith has been whole-hearted in his work. His downtown office, carrying several trusts and the management of a number of estates, he placed in other hands. He devoted all of his time to his duties as President of the Board of Health, Attorney General and head of the Police Department. He speaks and reads and writes Hawaiian readily and correctly. This has been of great use to him in his office, in the way of dealing with the police officers and the district magistrates in the outside districts and in dealing with the natives in health matters. He took the helm during the cholera visitation and remained on duty day and night till the plague was driven from the shores.

The question of a successor to Mr. Smith comes up at once. There had been talk some time ago of Judge Cooper leaving the Foreign Office to become Attorney General on the retirement of Mr. Smith. Another plan broached was to offer the Attorney Generalship to A. G. M. Robertson. The names of Deputy Attorney General Dole and Marshal Brown for the At-

(Continued on Page Five.)

MORE GOOD ONES

Engagement and 250 Insurgents Killed.

NATIVES ARE TREACHEROUS

Fire From Flag of Truce—Hard Fighting Under a Hot Sun—American Loss.

NEW YORK, March 7.—A cable to the Sun dated Manila, March 7, 8:50 p. m., says: Detachments from the Twentieth Regular Infantry and the First Nebraska and First Wyoming regiments, with four guns of the Utah Light Artillery, advanced this morning on the Philippines south of the water works. The Twentieth Infantry and Nebraskans flanked the right, while a battalion of the Wyoming troops attacked them in front. The enemy were in strong force, but after two hours' fighting they deserted their trenches and retreated to the Pasig river. Captain John O'Brien and Private Joseph Sparks of the Wyoming Battalion and Private John Curran of the Twentieth Infantry were wounded. The weather was extremely hot and several of the regulars were prostrated.

The natives resumed their desultory firing in the afternoon on General Wheaton's and General Hale's brigades. Our infantry and artillery replied and soon drove the enemy from their positions. General Hale subsequently sent out a strong reconnoitering party, which examined the jungle for 500 yards beyond our lines. No live Filipinos were seen, but the bodies of many rebels were found where they had fallen in the undergrowth. It is estimated by General Hale that 250 of the enemy were killed. The village of Laguna has been burned by Americans.

Another example of the treachery of the natives was given to-day. Two flags of truce were displayed by the enemy in front of General Overton's brigade. Lieutenant Koehler and several men were detailed to advance and learn what the Filipinos desired. The Lieutenant and his party had gone about 500 yards beyond our lines when it was discovered that the flag bearers were armed and that a number of natives were concealed in the bushes with the undoubted intention of massacring the Americans who replied to the flags of truce. As soon as the danger of the situation was revealed Lieutenant Koehler and his men started to return to the American lines. They had no sooner turned than the enemy in ambush opened fire on them, but fortunately none of our men was hurt.

Later the Americans again attacked the rebels and drove them across the river, but they returned as soon as our men retired from the chase. While the Nebraskans were returning to their former position in the afternoon the rebels opened fire on them from places of concealment and killed Privates Roscoe Young and G. Walker. Captain C. H. Ough was wounded. The engagement was then reopened and during the fighting Major Bell was slightly wounded.

MANILA, March 7 (6:45 p. m.)—This afternoon General Hale's brigade continued the work of driving out the rebels from the country between the reservoir and the water works, a distance of about three miles. The country is now clear on the left of the river, but the enemy is still in front of General Wheaton's line.

Near San Pedro Macati they have been actively attempting to make the positions of the Sixth Artillery on the hills untenable, their sharpshooters

(Continued on Page Two.)

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