

and, obtaining recognition, reiterated his protest against the provision inserted in conference. Another sensation was created when he declared that the friend in need had told him during the conversation of May 6, that a member of the senate committee on Indian affairs and a member of the house committee on Indian affairs were interested in these contracts. Mr. Gore said he had just seen Mr. Tawney, one of the house conferees, and asked him who had suggested the provision which was substituted for the original measure, and Mr Tawney called the very same representative who was mentioned to me on May 6, as being interested in these contracts, 'exclaimed the Oklahoma senator. 'I understand that this member of the house and Mr McMurray practically live together in the same hotel in this city.' Senators looked aghast when the first disclosures were made by the Oklahoma member. The charges, which had been mild at first, piled up in such an alarming manner that even the last days of the session was not sufficient to minimize the genuine interest displayed. The chamber was filled when Senator Bailey, the first time giving vent to his feelings, exclaimed: 'I think the senator from Oklahoma owes it to himself and to the senate to give the name of the senator who was represented to him as being interested in these contracts.' Mr. Gore declined, however, to give any names, but said he hoped that there would be an investigation of the whole matter, in the course of which he might make the disclosures. It is known that Mr. Gore mentioned to some of his colleagues the names of persons involved in his charges, but said that he did not care to have them appear in debate for the reason that they should be brought out on a congressional inquiry. The bill was then returned to conference. Mr. Gore had prepared a resolution providing for an investigation, but he withdrew it upon assurance being received by Mr Hale that the interests of the Indians would be properly safeguarded. It was brought out in the speech by Representative Murphy that the McMurray firm would receive 10 per cent of the tribal money of the Choctaws and Chickasaws under the terms of their contracts with the Indians in the event these contracts were approved. According to Representatives Madden of Illinois, and Carter of Oklahoma, there are 450,000 acres of coal lands in Oklahoma worth \$160,000,000, of which the attorneys were getting \$16,000,000 under the existing contracts. Mr. Carter said a similar contract had been disapproved by President Roosevelt and 'they had come to President Taft and he had refused to approve it.' 'This is one of the biggest steals ever attempted to be put through congress,' said Mr. Murphy. After naming Mr. McMurray as the man who had been trying to put the alleged scheme through, he said Mr. McMurray had been ably assisted by Cecil Lyon, chairman of the republican committee of Texas and national republican committee-man from that state. These gentlemen have traveled over the Indian territory and have procured contracts from the Indians individually. You are giving to these men who are holding these contracts \$3,000,000 to \$16,000,000 and presumably more, and they have done nothing worth a single dollar for it.' Mr. Murphy, who was once at attorney for the Creek Indians, figured at \$20,860,000 the ultimate amount that would accrue to McMurray and those associated with him under the 10 per cent contract. 'This,' said Mr. Murphy, is under the geological survey and is exclusive of the percentage they would get from the

pine lands which are reserved from allotments."

Representative Martin of Colorado, who has been agitating the sale of the Philippine friar lands to the sugar trust has won his point. The house committee on insular affairs has recommended the appointment of an investigation committee. Mr. Martin's charges are to the effect that the sugar trust, through E. L. Poole, leased a large tract of land in the Philippines and that the deal was made possible through a decision of Attorney General Wickersham requested by the firm of Strong & Cadwalader, of which firm the attorney general was a former member and the president's brother, Henry W. Taft, is the present head.

The Scott anti-option cotton bill passed the house by a vote of 160 to 41.

Representative Dalzell succeeded before the Pittsburg convention in his efforts to prevent the recount of the ballots on the late republican primary where he was renominated for congress.

Secretary Knox kept out of the contest for the republican gubernatorial nomination in Pennsylvania at the request of President Taft who acted, it is said, on the suggestion of Penrose.

The house committee on elections has voted to unseat Edward W. Saunders, democrat, of the Fifth Virginia district and to give his seat in the house to J. M. Parsons, republican. This gives the republicans two out of the ten Virginia members.

The senate will investigate Mr. Lorimer's election and has appointed the following committee: Burrows (rep.) Michigan; Dillingham (rep.) Vermont; Gamble (rep.) South Dakota; Heyburn (rep.) Idaho; Frazier (dem.) Tennessee; Paynter (dem.) Kentucky; Johnston (dem.) Alabama.

Mrs. Hattie Gorman, widow of the late Senator Gorman of Maryland, died at her home in Washington, aged 75.

By a vote of 44 to 24 the senate concurred in the house amendment to the postal savings bank bill. Senators Bristow, Cummins and LaFollette cast their votes with the democrats against the bill. Senator Chamberlain was the only democrat to vote for the measure. Mr. Simmons denounced the bill as "an abject and humiliating surrender to the banks" and predicted that before the end of the next campaign the bill would be the most unpopular law ever passed by the republican party, "not excepting the spurned, rejected and trampled upon Payne-Aldrich tariff law." Declaring that the house had rejected every feature for which the senate had made especial endeavor, Mr. Hughes read articles from newspapers declaring that the president had threatened to veto the river and harbor and public buildings bill if the house postal savings bank bill should fall of acceptance by the senate. He demanded to know whether the contents of the pork barrel should be more potent in influencing senators than the requirements of the constitution.

President Taft has issued the following public statement: "I am elated at the legislation which has been enacted by this congress. It has fulfilled the pledges of the party. It is a great satisfaction to me that we have accomplished so much. It has been the custom in the past to try to fulfill party pledges during the

term of the president elected; we have secured what we set out to get during the first regular session of congress. We now have the best railroad regulation law we ever had. The provisions for the supervision of capitalization were omitted but this does not mean that they have been abandoned. Renewed efforts to enact them will be made at the next session. I think the party in power has enacted legislation which will inure greatly to its benefit. It has kept its contract. The congress which is now closing its first regular session has done what it promised the people to do, and the republican party has a good record to take to the people in the coming elections."

An Associated Press dispatch, under date of June 22, follows: "Democratic members of the committee on public lands were aroused today over the bill which, on recommendation of President Taft, was introduced yesterday by Representative Mondell (rep.) of Wyoming and Senator Nelson to provide for an appeal in land cases from the decision of the secretary of the interior to the court of appeals of the District of Columbia. After an inspection of the bill, they expressed the opinion that it might have the effect of clearing the famous Cunningham group of claims in Alaska—the mov-

ing cause of the Ballinger-Pinchot difficulties. The bill was considered nearly all day in the committee and finally reported with a favorable vote, after having been amended to suit the wishes of the democrats and other objecting members of the committee. The bill originally provided that appeals from the decision of the secretary of the interior should be had only on question of law, but amendments were accepted providing that appeals should be had also in disagreements of fact. The amendments were offered by Representatives Robinson (dem.) of Arkansas and Volstead (insurgent rep.) of Minnesota. Assistant Attorney General Oscar Lawler was before the committee and explained the necessities for the proposed law. Mr. Lawler offered no objections to the amendments offered by the committee. He denied that the bill, if enacted into law, would make any difference in the settlement of the Cunningham claims. Representative Robinson urged the committee to delay action on the bill until next session, saying it was too important for hurried action. On final vote, Representative Robinson and Representative Smith of California voted against the bill. There is little likelihood of its reaching a vote in the house, as a special rule would be required for the purpose, and the



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