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WASHINGTON NEWS

A thorough investigation of the charges that government reports on Florida everglade lands were suppressed by officials of the department of agriculture at the instance of land speculators and that the department engineers were dismissed because of controversies in this connection, has been determined upon by the democratic members of the house committee on expenditures in the department of agriculture.

An Associated Press dispatch, under date of February 6th, follows: Another investigation of the department of agriculture, involving orders of Secretary Wilson and Solicitor McCabe, similar in many respects to the recently concluded McCabe-Wiley

controversy, but which embraces charges of suppressed reports and influence of land speculators over government officials, is to be instituted by the house committee on expenditures in the agricultural department. Circumstances, smoldering for months, relating to exploitation of Florida everglade lands, millions of acres of which have been sold throughout the country by syndicates in the last few years, burst into a flame before the committee today, following the summary dismissal from the government service by Secretary Wilson, last Saturday, of E. C. Elliott, chief engineer of the drainage division of the department, and Assistant Engineer A. D. Moore-

house, and the suspension of F. E. Singleton, an accountant, on a technical charge of transference of public funds.

Representative Frank Clark of Florida and E. R. Bathrick of Ohio, who have instigated the investigation, charged before the congressional committee today that officials of the department of agriculture had been influenced by Florida everglades land promoters in the suppression of a report on the condition of the lands made by the drainage department; that Chief Engineer Elliott was threatened by agents of the land promoters unless he would revise a circular letter to the public which did not contain laudatory references to the lands they were selling and that upon his refusal the circular and a subsequent fuller report were suppressed by the order of Secretary Wilson and that later Engineers Elliott and Moorehouse were removed from office.

Solicitor McCabe, who was called before the house committee, of which Representative Moss of Indiana is chairman, denied today that the dismissal of the employees was in any way caused by the Florida land case, and asserted that the action was taken following charges that the dismissed men had misapplied funds. All the papers relating to this feature of the case he turned over to the department of justice for possible prosecutions.

In this connection it is charged by Representative Clark that Elliott was assured that there would be no prosecution of the charges against him "if he would keep still" about the actions in the department about the Florida land investigations.

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Washington, Feb. 7.—An investigation of the "money trust" was ordered by the democrats of the house in caucus tonight after the Henry plan for a special committee had been defeated, 115 to 66. The caucus then instructed the standing committees of the house on banking and currency, judiciary, interstate commerce and elections to proceed with the inquiry.

This action was taken after a spirited debate, a feature of which was the reading of a telegram from William J. Bryan to Representative Henry of Texas, who led the fight for investigation by a special committee. The telegram was as follows:

"I regard the caucus on the money trust inquiry as a crisis. Its results will largely affect our chances in the coming campaign. Please say to anyone who values my judgment that I am heartily with you in a demand for a special committee. There are many objections to an investigation by regular committees but it is enough to know that Wall street prefers regular committees. We can not afford to allow accused parties to select this jury. Success to you. If our party is afraid to offend the powerful financial interests that have fought us since 1896 we can not expect public confidence.

"WILLIAM J. BRYAN."

The democrats adopted the plan offered by Underwood, the majority leader, as a substitute for the special investigating committee asked for in the resolution submitted by Representative Henry of Texas. Sharp criticism of William J. Bryan for his imputations that the banking and currency committee of the house leaned toward the financial interests and the passage of a resolution expressing confidence in that committee characterized the debate.

The caucus was the liveliest the democrats have had in years, and certainly the most spirited since the party has been in control of the house. From the beginning there

was a fight between the Bryan and the anti-Bryan democrats.

Chairman Henry, in urging the appointment of a special committee to investigate "the money trust" made a vehement appeal for the adoption of his plan. Mr. Henry denied he was inspired by Mr. Bryan to demand a special committee. He emphasized the influence of the "money trust" over the capital of corporations, railroads and banks and its influence in national elections and in legislation.

Majority Leader Underwood made a powerful appeal for the adoption of his substitute for the Henry resolution. His plan, which eventually was adopted, set forth primarily that all matters of legislation and investigation of the character proposed should be confined to the standing committees of the house, and provided specifically that the subject suggested for inquiry in the Henry resolution be referred, respectively, to the committees on banking and currency, election of president, vice president and representatives in congress, and foreign commerce and judiciary. Mr. Underwood pointed out that the integrity of the house should be guarded against interference, though his talk was entirely impersonal.

Representative Pujo of Louisiana, chairman of the committee on banking and currency, frankly declared that he never was a Bryan democrat, although he had voted for him. Representative Hardwick of Georgia, a member of the rules committee criticised Chairman Henry for taking initiative action in the matter without consulting his colleagues on the committee. Others who declared they "would not put on the Bryan yoke" were Representatives Stevens of Mississippi, Glass of Virginia and Garner of Texas.

Ollie James of Kentucky, senator-elect and long time friend of Mr. Bryan, was Mr. Henry's chief lieutenant in the debate, and followed Mr. Underwood in closing the discussion. He urged the necessity of a special investigation.

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Washington, Feb. 8.—Representative Pujo, of Louisiana, chairman of the house committee on banking and currency, to which the democratic caucus last night referred the proposed investigation of the "money trust," declared today that he would introduce a resolution to provide his committee with plenary powers to learn if there is a money trust in the United States.

San Benito, Tex., Feb. 8.—"I fear the investigation will prove a farce. If the banking committee begins at once and makes a prompt and thorough investigation I shall be both surprised and delighted."

So declared William Jennings Bryan today in commenting on the result of last night's democratic caucus over the proposed investigation of the so-called "money trust."

"Misled by Wall street," "under the control of predatory interests" and "democrats whose sympathies are with the money trust," were some of the terms used by Mr. Bryan in his statement, which ends with praise for R. L. Henry, of Texas, the house member, whose proposal to investigate the "money trust" by a special committee was voted down by last night's caucus.

Mr. Bryan said:

"It is the misfortune of the party to have some members who can be misled by Wall street and still greater misfortune to have members who are as completely under the control of predatory interests as any of the republicans.

"If the banking committee begins at once and makes a prompt and thorough investigation, I shall be both surprised and delighted. Congressman Henry has made a splen-