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There is nothing like keeping such a delicate thing as the promised investigation strictly in the family. And Senator Jones submits to the senate a letter from his friend, Ballinger, in which the secretary demands that the investigation, if it is had, cover the entire subject, including the forest service, which he charges with "pernicious activity."

There is the "stinger." Pinchot is to be made to walk the plank for "pernicious activity."

And there, too, is the beginning and the ending and the entire contents of the whole trouble. There has been too much "pernicious activity" on Pinchot's part, just as there was on Glavis' part, and on the part of other faithful, lonesome, feared and detested left-overs of the Roosevelt administration! The administration doesn't like it, Ballinger doesn't like it, the honorable senate doesn't like it, the Guggenheims don't like it. It has "interfered with business," and besides it threatens "party solidarity." And there is nothing under the shining sun so important as "business," especially "big business," and party solidarity. Those who, by their pernicious activity in investigating and uncovering fraud and graft and monumental theft, interfere with these sacred gods of the republican party, must be made, soon or late, to feel the full weight of that party's con-dign displeasure.

It is an audacious program; audacious, no matter how many high sounding words and fervent assurances that "we are going to go to the bottom of this thing regardless of consequences" are used to gloss it over. It will not be so easy to fool an aroused and intelligent people. True it is that the republican party has succeeded, time and again, in pulling the wool over the eyes of the public that it is betraying. But there is an end of all things and the time is right now at hand when the people of these United States will no longer be content with an east wind diet.

NEWSPAPER OPINIONS ON BALLINGER CASE

Washington Star (Ind.): Mr. Hitchcock is a democrat. Mr. Ballinger mentions the fact in his interview. But it need cut no figure in this controversy. It would be better to assume that the Nebraska representative is not inspired by partisan considerations; is not moving for the purpose of providing his party with campaign material. If the contrary should appear as the investigation proceeds; if he has adopted a weak case in a spirit suggesting mere partisanship, so much the greater will be his discomfiture in the end. Mr. Ballinger has been less than a

year in office. The office he holds is one of the most important under the government, and its importance will grow as the policy of the conservation of the country's national resources grows. He has more than three strenuous years before him, and wants the full confidence of the public in all he does. By setting promptly at rest, therefore, this charge against his official conduct, his friends will do him a service, and add to his usefulness as a member of the Taft administration.

Washington Times (Ind.): The anxiety to avoid an investigation of the Alaskan situation is one of the least prepossessing aspects of the situation. No good reason has been presented in opposition to investigation, and everything that has been placed before the public indicates the need of it. Why not have it, and let the authorities get the benefit of a conclusive vindication, if there is nothing they have to fear?

Chicago News: Congressman Hitchcock, having sounded Speaker Cannon's committee on rules with a perfectly good resolution for an investigation of Secretary Ballinger, reports that he found no bottom.

Springfield, Mass., Republican: The house democrats would naturally raise the Ballinger-Pinchot issue, in view of the fact that all of the attacks upon the secretary of the interior have come from republican sources or from within the administration itself. It were too much to expect the democrats to leave the republicans to settle their administration quarrels without democratic assistance, and Congressman Hitchcock's slashing assault upon the interior department and especially the government land office was legitimate partisan politics. A congressional investigation of the entire subject can hardly be denied to the democrats, and the administration should assume the attitude of courting the utmost publicity and the closest scrutiny.

Denver Post: Following the Collier's articles, and lending to them an undeniable emphasis, was that indictment upon the administration of Mr. Ballinger, made in the house by Representative Hitchcock of Nebraska. Mr. Hitchcock is an educated and traveled man. He is deliberative in his judgments and conservative by instinct. When he said that Glavis had been discharged by Ballinger because he had shown too much zeal in protecting the government against fraud Mr. Hitchcock was echoing a sentiment which, rightly or wrongly, is today very prevalent. And, when he suggested congressional investigation of the land office, he came close to what will be something of a certainty unless the Ballinger-Pinchot question is cleared up in a final and effective way. For the impression is still widespread that Mr. Pinchot is emphatically on the side of the plain people.

Special Dispatch to the New York Evening Post: Washington, D. C., December 17.—Republican leaders of congress today began casting about for a line of defense against the attack begun by Representative Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska on the administration of the department of the interior and the land office. The speech is regarded today as the opening gun in congress of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy. It is realized by the republican leaders that the conflict is not to be avoided, and that either a complete defense of Mr. Ballinger and his subordinates must be forthcoming from republican orators, or the investigation asked for by Mr. Hitchcock must be had. Incidentally, it was learned today that Mr. Ballinger and Mr. Dennett are not averse to a congressional investigation of their respective jurisdictions. Mr. Dennett stated that he would be glad to have such an investigation if congress thought it necessary. That the attack on Mr. Ballinger should come from democrats was not expected by the republicans at the opening of the session, but their opportunity of making a political issue is appreciated by Mr. Ballinger's friends. It is believed by them that, both in the house and the senate, the issue will soon be raised, hence the determination of the republican leaders to take time and prepare themselves. Just who will make the reply to Mr. Hitchcock has not been decided.

Sioux City Tribune: The Hitchcock resolution would have been more effective as administering deserved rebuke to the president and to the whitewashing Attorney General Wickersham, if it had been offered and courageously defended

by Congressman Kinkaid of Nebraska, a republican, who has not yet particularly identified himself as an active insurgent or as a wide-awake defender of the public interests. To reach for Ballinger as a squanderer of the public domain, was an opportunity for the republican congressman from the Big Sixth in Nebraska, where there is still much public domain to defend, and where land-grabbing and the tolerance of it by the government has been a matter of scandal during these last few years while Kinkaid has been in congress. The conservative congressman, afraid to attack the powerful wrong-doer for fear of defeat, tip-toeing his way cautiously, dodging the contending issues at Washington, purring softly between the promised postmasters and the appointing power, is not particularly useful as a defender of the public in times like these. A Nebraskan without courage is out of place in either the house or senate at this time. The interests of Nebraska people are not included in the Ballinger program and the Nebraska congressman or senator who is afraid of Ballinger loses opportunity that may never come to him again. Credit Hitchcock with the Ballinger resolution and charge Kinkaid with one lost opportunity.

Chicago Record-Herald: Such an investigation is a hundredfold more important than the proposed congressional investigation into the sugar frauds. The fact that the president, the secretary of the treasury and the attorney general are going thoroughly into these frauds removes the need of a congressional investigation. Indeed, both the president and the attorney general say that activity by congress would do more harm than good at this juncture. Congress might properly have investigated customs frauds at an earlier period, but it would not. It could properly now investigate the whole subject of tariff abuses, but it will not. Such investigation in this broader field as we are to get will come through the broad interpretation President Taft gives to the powers of the three tariff experts he has appointed upon the commission congress has authorized. The sugar scandals, in connection with which congress can do no good, should not be permitted to intervene and distract attention from the land scandals, in connection with which the work of congress is plainly cut out for it—Speaker Cannon notwithstanding.

Baltimore Sun: This is a very serious matter which involves a member of Mr. Taft's cabinet. Does not the president owe it to his administration to ask for an investigation by congress which will clear up the whole matter?

Washington Dispatch to the Philadelphia North American, Rep.: From the standpoint of progressive members of congress the investigation of Ballinger and the administration of the land office, both while he was commissioner and since he became secretary of the interior, is of chief importance as such investigation, it is believed, would reveal the connection with land frauds of such other men as might be implicated. Whether this investigation will be had is a question that is becoming more and more important every day.

New Orleans Times-Democrat: The president's skill as a holder-down of "lids" seems in fair way to meet its most severe test in the matter of the charges against Secretary Ballinger. His letter from Beverly last summer denouncing the Glavis indictment as cruel and groundless failed to silence the hostiles. The summons of reinforcements in the shape of an indorsement of Mr. Ballinger by Attorney General Wickersham likewise proved futile. His effort to compromise the difference between Messrs. Pinchot and Ballinger, if it has had any effect whatever, merely smoothed over the surface of things a bit. The secretary's own defense, with his protestations of sincere devotion to the cause of conservation, has neither conciliated nor silenced his opponents. In the current number of Collier's Weekly, which early took a hand in the fight, is published with a wealth of detail, a fresh attack on Mr. Ballinger, which purports to show forth his intimate professional relations with the group of westerners who have been busy with the exploitation of natural resources in Alaska and the far west. The controversy is no longer confined to the Cunningham claims. The field has been vastly broadened. Collier's latest article involves others high in the public service. On Thursday the subject was forced upon the notice of the house by Representative Hitchcock of Nebraska, who demand-