

now, although we have done absolutely nothing to merit it, excepting to oppose Cannon and the house machine.

"The president is aiding Cannon. There is no other construction that can be placed on this move of the administration.

"I want to say that this effort to defeat us by starting fights against us at home is open to vigorous criticism. I have no objection to Speaker Cannon or any of his supporters coming to Nebraska and making any kind of a fight on me they wish to make, but I do deny that the republican congress has any honorable right to attack me. It is unjust and unfair.

"The fight of the insurgents in the house will continue against Speaker Cannon and the house rules, which he personifies. We will not, however, oppose any policy of the president so long as it is republican doctrine."

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Washington, January 5.—While no formal statement was forthcoming at the White House today there was no attempt in administration circles to deny that President Taft is withholding certain customary congressional patronage from those "insurgent" senators and representatives who, the adherents of the president say, show no disposition to support administration measures.

President Taft is reported as taking the attitude that if an obligation rests upon him to give certain patronage to a representative of his party there is a reciprocal obligation upon the representative to support the president.

A number of the "insurgents" were out in interviews today saying that they heartily agreed with the president's legislative program and asserting that instead of using the "whip" on them, the president should use it on those leaders who in the past had opposed the Roosevelt policies which Mr. Taft is seeking to enact into law.

On the part of the president, it was said today that the withholding of patronage does not apply to the "insurgents" and has absolutely nothing to do with their fight against Speaker Cannon or the house rules.

Victor Rosewater, republican national committeeman from Nebraska, one of the insurgent states, saw President Taft this afternoon and in an authorized interview said:

"The president said to me that he wanted me to help correct the reports that are being circulated to the effect that he is using the patronage club to whip so-called insurgents into line. The president says that there is a well-founded custom that has become almost a rule that in making certain appointments, such as postmasters, the president should act on recommendation of the members of congress in whose districts the appointments lie, if reported by a member of the same political party. This obligation resting on the president, however, is reciprocal, he feels. The republican congressman, he declares, is under a similar obligation to support administration measures recommended by the president to carry out platform pledges on which both were elected.

"The president says he has not turned down recommendations of insurgent congressmen, but is simply preserving the status quo to impress them of their obligation.

"Many of the insurgents have frankly told the president that they would support him in his legislative program, which already has been pretty definitely outlined. They declare themselves to be republicans first and last, and they say they will support measures framed to carry out the platform.

"There are still a few of the insurgents, however, who seem disposed to carry on an absolutely independent attitude and who are generally against everything that the leaders of the party are for. To make their position stronger, they are willing to ally themselves with the democrats. It is against these 'recalcitrants' that the no patronage order has been issued and so far as President Taft is concerned it will stand until the members see fit to subscribe to the principles of the party's legislative program."

THE PLOT THICKENS

It will be remembered that Louis R. Glavis was chief of the field division of the general land office and was dismissed at Secretary Ballinger's instance, it is said. It is now given out by the administration that Attorney General Wickersham made the report which resulted in Glavis' discharge. In this report recently made public the attorney general says that Glavis has

a bad case of "megalomania," which interpreted means "a wholly exaggerated sense of his own importance." Following is a summary of the attorney general's report:

First—The insinuations or charges of improper action on the part of Secretary Ballinger, Assistant Secretary Pierce, Commissioner Dennett, or Chief of Field Division Schwartz are, in my opinion, entirely disproved.

Second—The suggestion that it was unlawful for Mr. Ballinger to have any professional relation with these claimants because of his previous incumbency of the office of commissioner of the land office is, in my opinion, unsound.

Third—The Cunningham locations were made in July and August, 1904. All but three of them proceeded to entry prior to May 1, 1907, and the remaining three in October, 1907, payments aggregating \$52,800 being made and covered into the treasury. Instead of hampering or interfering with Glavis, every facility was given to him by the interior department, and, with one or two immaterial exceptions, every request for assistance was promptly granted. Had the department desired to improperly pass the claims to patent it might have done so in January, 1908, by simply acting on the favorable report of Special Agent Love, without notifying Glavis that the claims had been clear listed; or, when the fieldwork was redistricted, these claims might have been left in charge of the new chief of field division at Portland when Glavis was transferred to Seattle.

Fourth—Glavis' claim that he prevented the government from being defrauded by procuring a reference to the attorney general of the questions of law involved, and the overruling by him of an opinion written by Assistant Secretary Pierce, which would have enabled the Cunningham claimants to procure patents on their claims is absolutely disproved by the record.

Fifth—The intervention of the forestry bureau, procured by Glavis, is shown by the record to have been entirely unnecessary to the protection of the interests of the United States.

Sixth—Glavis' "report" and summary abound in contradictions and misstatements. They omit to a degree that amounts to absolutely suppression letters, telegrams and other documents, some of which were in his possession, and others which were available to him and which completely rebut inferences he seeks to have drawn from those which he does submit.

Seventh—The action of each and every official of the land office referred to in Glavis' charges appears to have been inspired by the perfectly proper desire to bring to a conclusion an investigation which was prolonged beyond all reason, and which, if it had been prosecuted with due diligence, and if Glavis had properly availed of the assistance placed at his disposal by the land office, should have been completed and ready for trial not later than the autumn of 1908. Glavis' actions appear to have been founded upon a wholly exaggerated sense of his own importance, and a desire for personal advancement rather than on any genuine desire to protect the interests of the government, and this species of megalomania has finally led him to submit to you charges of improper motives and conduct against his official superiors, which, in my opinion, are so unjust and unfounded as to merit his immediate separation from the service.

NOW PINCHOT MAKES TROUBLE

Another bombshell dropped in the republican camp when Gifford Pinchot, late chief forester, addressed to Senator Dolliver a letter in which he boldly endorsed the course adopted by Glavis and intimated that the president was mistaken in permitting Glavis' discharge. Senator Hale openly rebuked Pinchot for having written the letter, calling attention to a recent order by the president directing that no subordinate officer should give information concerning the affairs of the government except to his superior officer. A Washington dispatch carried by the Associated Press says that immediately after this incident occurred in the senate the president sent out a hurry call for a cabinet meeting. The president, it seems, was particularly aggrieved because in his letter to Senator Dolliver, Pinchot described Glavis as "the most vigorous defender of the people's rights," despite the fact that President Taft has declared Glavis unfit longer to remain in the public service. This direct slap at the president and the further declaration by Mr. Pinchot that the Cunningham coal lands really were about to go to fraudulent-claimants until Glavis and the forestry bureau officials took a hand in the fight, thus impugning the intentions of the high officials of the interior department,

are said to have aroused Mr. Taft to keen resentment. The president is said to have felt for some time that Mr. Pinchot has been "defying the lightning."

TAFT FIRES PINCHOT

So incensed was President Taft by the letter which Gifford Pinchot, chief forester, wrote to Senator Dolliver that he ordered Pinchot to be immediately discharged from the public service. Overton W. Price, associate forester, and Alexander C. Shaw, assistant law officer, who were Pinchot's immediate assistants in the forestry bureau were also discharged. The president wrote to Pinchot a letter in which he charges that Pinchot asked Dolliver to read in the senate Pinchot's letter and he concludes that by his conduct Pinchot has destroyed his usefulness as "a helpful subordinate of the government."

On the same day the president removed Pinchot from the public service the house of representatives, through the votes of the democrats, the house insurgents and three of Pinchot's personal friends amended the Ballinger resolution of inquiry so as to require that the appointment of the house members of the investigating committee shall be made by the house and not by the speaker. This amendment was carried by a vote of 149 to 146. Norris, republican, of Nebraska, introduced the amendment. Representative Ames of Massachusetts and Hamilton Fish and Herbert Parsons of New York voted with the insurgents.

MR. BRYAN'S SPEECHES COMPLETE

Columbus, Neb., January 3, 1910.—Charles W. Bryan, Publisher The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.—Dear Sir: A friend sent me a set of Mr. Bryan's speeches for a Christmas present. I had thought I was quite familiar with all of the great commoner's speeches and writings but now I find I had overlooked some of his best efforts, and I give thanks to my friend for the valuable present. I began walking side by side with Mr. Bryan at the beginning of his public career. His labors of the present often carry him far from the personal touch of home-friends but I find him a close companion still whenever I take up his printed addresses. As one who loves the man and his cause, I shall hope that The Commoner will exert great effort to place copies of the speeches in the hands of the American people. Such books in any home must serve as a guide to the household upon the path of desire for better and purer governments among men, and as inspiration to every individual seeking higher paths of civic duty.

Sincerely yours,
EDGAR HOWARD.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AT STAKE

Everybody's Magazine informs its readers that "representative government is at stake." It calls upon its readers to take new interest in politics. It says:

"In the house, every insurgent who voted against the Cannon rule should be loyally and enthusiastically supported, together with every follower of Champ Clark who stuck by his party. Retribution should be meted out to the democrats who turned traitor. And before the primaries—or at least before the congressional election—every candidate should be compelled to give pledge that he will vote against Cannon for speaker, and vote for a change in the rules which will take away the speaker's power to appoint committees, substituting therefor the naming of committees by a bi-partisan committee of the whole house; thus terminating that un-American official's domination of the committee on rules. Get that pledge from your congressman. Get a pledge that will bind his action, not alone in the party caucus but, far more important, on the floor of the house. Better get the pledge in writing."

"MOST CONSIDERATE!"

President Taft held a conference with six of the railroad presidents and then announced a change of program in the sending of his message dealing with interstate commerce and anti-trust laws. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington said: "President Taft found the railroad men most considerate in presenting their views." It was very kind, indeed, for these gentlemen to be "most considerate" to the president of the United States.