

Where the Old Ship is Leaking

Washington, February 16.—In effect President Taft said to some of the senate leaders whom he called to the White House today:

"Why don't you push measures to redeem party pledges while the house is dealing with appropriation bills? You are moving too slowly."

It is said he exhibited extreme impatience with the degree of progress made thus far toward the enactment of administration bills.

By way of result the senators were able to announce tonight that this program had been inaugurated:

The almost hopeless tangle in which the Root and Smoot amendments have ensnared the postal savings bank bill will receive attention at a conference to be held tomorrow in the rooms of the finance committee, of which Senator Aldrich is chairman. When whipped into shape, the postal savings bank bill is to displace the Alaskan legislative council bill as the unfinished business and the latter is to be laid aside as involving problems that can not be solved at the present session.

The administration railroad bill is to be perfected by a special committee of western senators, appointed today by Chairman Nelson from the membership of the committee on public lands and these measures are to be reported to the senate as rapidly as completed.

The anti-injunction bill is to be considered by the judiciary committee at its meeting next Monday.

Statehood legislation, which has already been reported from the committee on territories, is not to be permitted to lag, and probably will receive attention as soon as the postal savings bank bill is out of the way.

This program includes neither the federal incorporation bill nor ship subsidy legislation, although the latter is likely to pass the senate without much debate. It will meet difficult hurdles in the house. Senators Carter, Borah and Beveridge carried to the capitol President Taft's views of the delays encountered by the bills contained in his program. They reported that there could be no mistaking the president's temper.

The postal savings bank bill gave him the most concern, it was said, because the opposition that had developed to such legislation did not appear to him to be based on sound principles.

When the senate adjourned today after a brief session the postal savings bank bill was in such a tangle that no one was willing to prophesy its outcome. In truth, the adjournment was brought about chiefly because the senate was not ready to face the situation in reference to this bill and there was nothing else that could be considered, as the Alaskan bill was in a snarl even more inextricable.

All afternoon senators were seen entering and emerging from Senator Aldrich's room. As a result of these visits, it was arranged to have a conference of wider scope tomorrow.

GLAVIS MAKES TROUBLE

Lewis R. Glavis is making a lot of trouble for the republican members of the Ballinger investigation committee, and these gentlemen seemed to show on every occasion their bitter feeling towards the distinguished witness. An Associated Press report says:

A brief executive session preceded the resumption of the hearing this afternoon. Mr. Vertrees began immediately to question Mr. Glavis as to the alleged necessity for a field examination of the Alaska coal claims prior to his making final reports. Mr. Vertrees and the witness had a long argument as to the value of the affidavits taken by Glavis and his assistants from the coal claimants and the use to which these could be put. The attorney and Glavis soon got into a wrangle.

"You just answer my questions and we'll get along better," commanded Mr. Vertrees.

"It seems to me you should answer the questions," directed Chairman Nelson.

"I think that there is too much lecturing of the witness," interposed Representative Graham (dem.)

"I am not aware of that fact," remarked the chairman.

"It strikes me differently," replied Mr. Graham.

"I am sorry to differ with you," sharply retorted Senator Nelson.

Mr. Vertrees complained that Glavis tries to lug in an argument to countervail any state of facts he thinks I may be developing.

DEMOCRATS HELP GLAVIS

The appearance of counsel for both sides has tended to enliven greatly the proceedings and has also tended to bring about some pretty lively discussions among the members of the committee as to the admissibility of testimony and regarding protests from Glavis that Mr. Vertrees cut off his answers before he is fairly started with them.

Mr. Vertrees disclaims any such intention but asserts that instead of directly answering him the witness branches off into an argument or into an expression of opinion as to what he considers right or wrong. In these committee discussions the democrats thus far have always been found on the side of the accusing witness. Mr. Madison, the insurgent member from Kansas, also has taken up with the defense of Glavis.

These little incidents, as well as the apparent general temper of the committee, have led a number of persons who are following the case already to predict that the final outcome will be a majority and minority report, one by the republicans, one by the democrats and possibly a third and individual report by Mr. Madison.

SAYS SOMETHING MUST BE DONE

Washington, February 15.—Senator Crawford today addressed the senate in support of the contention that instead of wasting months and years in an investigation of the causes of increased prices for the necessities of life, congress should devote itself to devising a remedy. He attributed the rise in the cost of living to the rapid increase of the gold supply and the corresponding increase of the per capita circulation in the United States.

Senator Crawford declared that the investigations of the bureau of labor has been sufficient to establish the facts relative to the increase and he therefore urged that further inquiry would be useless.

He failed to find cause for regret in the situation, he said, except insofar as it affected wage earners, saying that there had not been a corresponding increase in wages. He declared that public opinion should compel such increase, thus placing the wage earner on an equal footing with the producer in the enjoyment of good times.

A "FRAME-UP" ON GLAVIS

Washington, D. C., February 14.—The Ballinger-Pinchot congressional inquiry began to bristle with interest today when John J. Vertrees, counsel for Secretary Ballinger, undertook the cross examination of Louis R. Glavis, principal witness for the "prosecution."

The climax of the day was reached late in the afternoon session, when Mr. Vertrees announced that a box belonging to Mr. Glavis, and left in the grand jury room at Seattle, had been broken open a few days ago and that a number of letters missing from the files of the land office in Seattle, copies of which have recently been published in a weekly paper, were found therein.

Glavis angrily declared that if any letters had been found in his belongings a "frame-up" had been prepared against him. His denunciation of federal officials who would stoop to such a trick to secure the favor of their superiors called out a demonstration of applause from the spectators, which caused Chairman Nelson to announce that a repetition of the outburst would result in the room being cleared.

Throughout the hearing the sympathies of the spectators, a great majority of whom were women, have clearly been with Glavis, and they have laughed with satisfaction as he has made points against his questioners, who in the past were members of the committee and today were counsel for Mr. Ballinger.

SHAW DENOUNCES CENTRAL BANK

Philadelphia, February 12.—"I do not think there can be any doubt in the minds of anyone who studies the question in the light of admitted conditions, that if a central bank is established in this country it will be owned, or at least controlled, by the Standard Oil company," said Leslie M. Shaw, former secretary of the treasury, today at a meeting of the Pennsylvania Bankers' Association in this city. His topic was "The Central Bank." He said in part:

"It was charged, and as vigorously denied, that the affiliated banks of New York during the panic of 1907 simply withdrew credit from the group of men who controlled the Tennessee Coal and Iron, called their loans and finally adjusted the matter by taking over the property at a

fraction of its admitted value, and paid for it in United States steel securities, without the exchange of a dollar in money. Assuming the charge to be libelous, it still illustrates what could be done were a group of men possessing the requisite disposition to be in control of the central bank.

"I thoroughly believe that the Standard Oil company and the United States Steel corporation could afford to pay the national debt for such a charter, and I say this independent of whether such a bank would be independently profitable or otherwise. The control of it would be valuable beyond the power of man to conceive to any group of men who had independent financial interests large enough to justify it and the ability necessary for its operation.

"We all remember that the control of a certain life insurance company with a capital of only \$200,000 sold a few years ago for \$9,000,000, when the maximum dividend was fixed in the charter at 7 per cent, or \$14,000. Certainly that vast sum was not invested expecting returns of only \$14,000 per annum, when the same amount in government bonds even would yield \$180,000. No; the company had assets approximating \$500,000,000, and the control of such a volume of trust funds, if honest and wise, is very profitable. It has recently changed hands, and presumably at a yet higher price.

"Taking the price paid for the control of that life insurance company as a measure of value, I do not think I overstate the fact when I say that the two largest corporations in the world, interested, as they are, directly or through their affiliations, in nearly every line of business and owning or controlling probably in excess of one hundred of our largest financial institutions, with, I suppose, \$2,000,000,000 in assets outside of their own capitalization, can afford to pay the national debt for a perpetual charter for a central bank."

NOW THEY ARE ALL SCARED

President Taft held a long consultation with Governor Hughes and leaders of the republican organization, and an effort was made to prescribe a cure for the ills from which the party is suffering in New York state.

The political physicians agreed that the patient is in dangerous condition, but they were not united on the treatment to be applied. Some favored mild tonics and trusting to nature; others insisted upon the application of surgery, even if it is found necessary to amputate some of the political limbs.

The Allis-Conger scandal was the subject discussed. One view presented was that the party must follow every scandal clew brought out to its end, no matter where it may lead and regardless of whether it results in the loss of the next state election. They were for purging the party at all costs. Others advised moderation and that the disclosure be confined to the Allis affair without trying to turn up any more scandal.

LAYING IT ON TO UNCLE JOE

(Special to the Record-Herald.)

Washington, February 14.—Speaker Cannon took one of his oratorical rambles this afternoon. He unburdened himself of some of the things that have been on his nerves for a long time, which are not new to those who have listened to him in the privacy of his office at the capitol. The significance of his talk, however, is to be found in the fact that at last he has given his troubles public utterance.

And what is it that has got under the skin of the venerable Danville gentleman with the avuncular title and the bucolic countenance? Public sentiment, to bring it down to the "last analysis," a term the speaker much delights to use. But as the speaker tells it, he is the victim of the metropolitan press, which must sell its wares, and probably would have hard sledding should he pass from the stage and cease to be an object of attack.

To many the speaker's plea for the machinery that will allow majorities to rule, coupled with his tirade on newspapers and magazines—although he always professes to have no personal grievance against these agencies of information—sounded like a swan song.

"Uncle Joe," said one, "has been bluffing for a long time about not caring what the country says. But he does care. He knows he is on the rack, and that his tenure and the rules under which the game has been played are in great jeopardy. Maybe he will fight to continue, and maybe he won't. Realizing the situation at present, he may quit gracefully. It certainly is a change from the old order of things to find him opening on the defensive."