

PRESIDENT TAFT REFUTES CONTROLLER BAY CHARGES

Message to the Senate Fully Explains the Transaction and Denounces the Attack on Chief Executive and His Brother as Wilful and Malicious Falsehood.

Washington.—President Taft sent to the senate Wednesday a message that recalled some of those received from his predecessor. It was in reply to a resolution of the senate requesting the president to transmit to the senate all the documents relating to the elimination of the Chugach national forest, in Alaska, of land fronting upon Controller bay. Mr. Taft seizes the occasion to make a vigorous defense of his own honor and that of his brother, Charles P. Taft, against the attacks made in relation to this Controller bay "scandal."

The president sent in all the documents asked for, and more, and quotes the executive order in question, by which 12,800 acres were eliminated from the national forest. His message describes the importance of Controller bay as a railway terminal and relates the operations of the Copper River railroad, owned by the Morgan-Guggenheim interests, whose terminal is at Cordova.

Ryan's Application Investigated.
In December, 1909, Richard S. Ryan applied for the Controller bay elimination, afterward granted, stating that he represented the Controller Railroad and Navigation company. Mr. Taft tells how this application was referred to the district foresters at Portland, Ore., and in Alaska and was approved by Chief Forester

tributed to a newspaper correspondent that in an examination of the files of the interior department a few weeks ago a postscript was found attached to a letter of July 13, 1910, addressed by Mr. Richard S. Ryan to Secretary Ballinger—and in the present record—urging the elimination of land enough for terminals for the Controller Railway & Navigation company. The postscript was said to read as follows:

"Dear Dick: I want to see the president the other day. He asked me who it was I represented. I told him according to our agreement, that I represented myself. But that didn't seem to satisfy him. So I sent for Charlie Taft and asked him to tell his brother, the president, who it was I really represented. The president made no further objection to my claim. Yours, DICK."

Uses Strong Language.
"The postscript is not now on the files of the department. If it were, it would be my duty to transmit it under this resolution. Who is really responsible for its wicked fabrication if it ever existed, or for the viciously false statement made as to its authenticity, is immaterial for the purposes of this communication. The purport of the alleged postscript is, and the intention of the fabricator was, to make Mr. Richard S. Ryan testify through its words to the public that although

the latter was away for his vacation for two months, must impress everyone.

Places the Blame.
"The person upon whose statement the existence of what has been properly characterized as an amazing postscript is based, is a writer for newspapers and magazines, who was given permission by Secretary Fisher, after consulting with me, to examine all the files in respect to the Controller Bay matter—and this under the supervision of Mr. Brown, then private secretary of the secretary of the interior. After the examination, at which it is alleged this postscript was received from the hand of Mr. Brown, the correspondent prepared an elaborate article on the subject of this order and Controller Bay, which was submitted to Mr. Fisher, and which was discussed with Mr. Fisher at length, but never in the conversation between them or in the article submitted did the correspondent mention the existence of the postscript. Mr. Brown states that there was no such postscript in the papers when he showed them to the correspondent and that he never saw such a postscript. Similar evidence is given by Mr. Carr and other custodians of the records in the interior department.

"Stronger evidence of the falsity and maliciously slanderous character of the alleged postscript could not be had. Its only significance is the light it throws on the bitterness and venom of some of those who take active part in every discussion of Alaskan issues.

Scandal-Mongering Denounced.
"I am in full sympathy with the concern of reasonable and patriotic men that the valuable resources of Alaska should not be turned over to be exploited for the profit of greedy, absorbing and monopolistic corporations or syndicates. Whatever the attempts which have been made, no one, as a matter of fact, has secured in Alaska any undue privilege or franchise not completely under the control of congress. I am in full agreement with the view that every care, both in administration and in legislation, must be observed to prevent the corrupt or un-

DECIDED NOT TO DIE

Poet Declines to Part With Work Unfinished.
Supposed to Be on His Deathbed, Joaquin Miller Says He Will Live to Finish Life Record Volume.

San Francisco.—Joaquin Miller, the poet of the Sierras, sits once more on the doorstep of his cabin on The Heights, his wild, mountain estate across the bay from which he overlooks San Francisco and the Golden Gate, and to name which he coined a new-spelled word. To see and talk with him today makes the statement that he is a septuagenarian and was pronounced but recently afflicted with an incurable illness seem impossible. For Joaquin Miller today is every whit as much "the grand old man of the mountains" as he was twenty years ago, when he earned the appellation from Queen Victoria on his one and only visit to England.

"Why I Decided Not to Die" might well be the title of an additional volume to the set of the six which the poet has been spending the last three years in preparing. For his own tale of his fight with death, as he told it to a reporter recently, is altogether as romantic and as virile in its significance as anything this civilization-hating writer ever penned.

"The Heights" is about as accessible as Mount McKinley. Its ascent involves toiling up an almost precipitous trail which winds about the mountain for a full three miles from the end of the car line below. Joaquin (no one who ever met him could call him Mr. Miller) has no love for visitors, particularly eastern tourists who consider "The Heights" in the same class as Golden Gate Park and Chinatown, and who invariably attempt to make the trip. At numerous points along the trail are rudely let-

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Deacon—Well, yes, though we never said anything to the last preacher about it. I'll show you where it is, and get you a key, but I tell you you'll have to be just as careful about using it as the rest of us!—Puck.

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Quarters and Halves.
George Ade, at the recent Lamb's Gambol in New York, objected to the extravagance of the modern wife.
"It is true that the married men of today," he ended, "have better halves, but bachelors have better quarters."

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In the Office.
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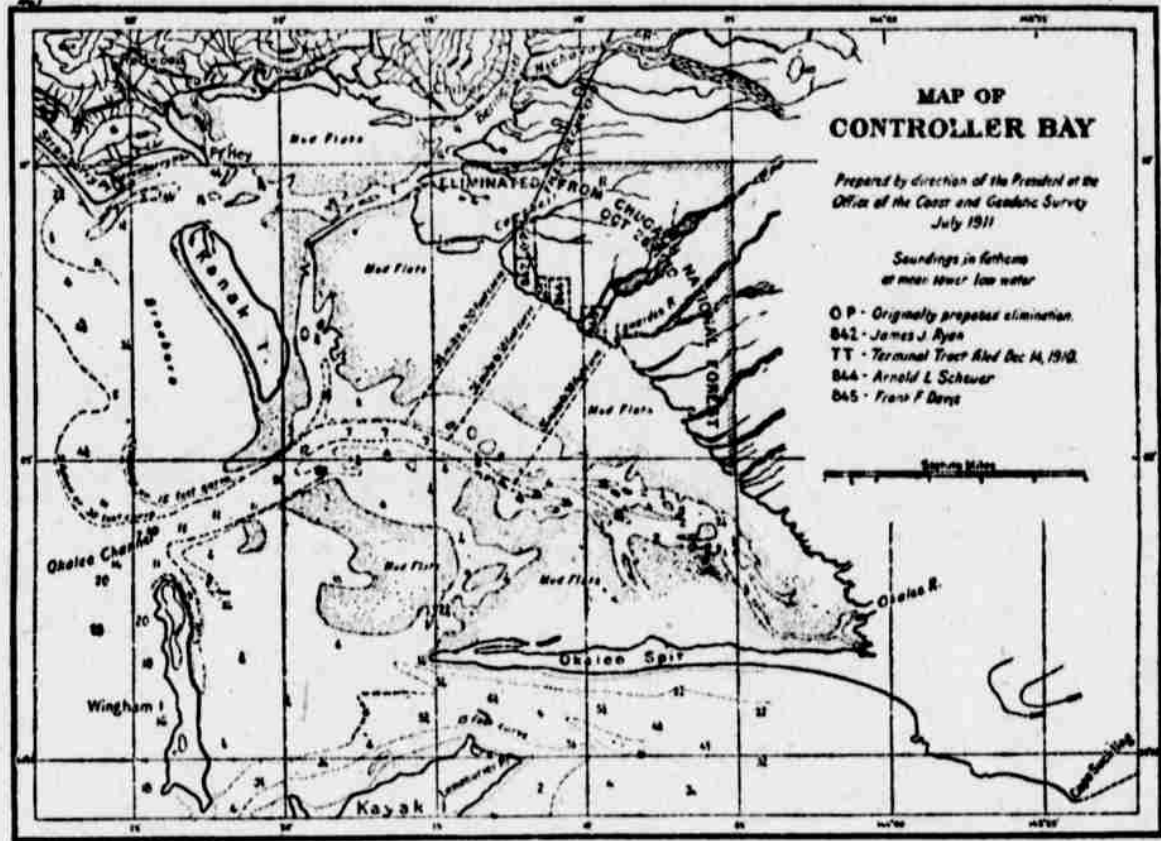
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Cover for Bathtub.
Many housekeepers spend a lot of time cleaning their bathtubs. Here is a way to make the work less strenuous: Cut a piece of unbleached muslin the size of the tub and round off the edges to fit it, a bias facing is then stitched round the cover, and through this a piece of tape is run. When the tub is not in use the cover is put on and tape drawn tightly under the edge. It is easy enough to wash, and spares an incredible lot of wear and tear on bathtub.

Soldier's Brave Deed.
Asked what was the bravest deed he had ever seen, Lord Roberts said he remembered that while he was on his way to Lucknow his force was stopped by a walled inclosure. A little soldier, a Punjabi Mohammedan, seeing the difficulty, endeavored to open the door which barred their way. When he tried to draw the bolt one of his hands was cut off by one of the enemy; but he managed to unfasten the bolt with his other hand, which was subsequently nearly severed from the wrist.

Sampson at Gaza.
A familiar story is that of Sampson pulling down the pillars of the temple of Gaza, whereby the roof fell upon the Philistines. How Sampson was able to do this is now known. Excavations on the site of Gaza show that the pillars of the temple were of wood, and rested upon foundations of stone without being fastened thereto. The strong man had, therefore, merely to push these pillars off their supporting stones, when down would come the roof of the whole building.



tered signs stuck up on trees, informing climbers that the path grows steeper and the view less interesting with every foot of ascent.
To friends the aged poet is a host of hosts. From the moment he catches sight of a friend—from his seat in the never-shut doorway of his "bedroom" cabin, where he spends a greater part of each day—until he finally permits such a visitor to leave his hospitality is comparable only to that kind which long since vanished even in this land of the far-famed Spanish hospitality. Joaquin's "bedroom" cabin, like the other six little shacks scattered at irregular intervals over an acre or two of the top of the mountain, serves only as an office. Similarly the "parlor," the dining-room and the kitchen are each individual cabins. One walks almost a mile when Joaquin shows one through his "seven-room house."
Joaquin Miller at seventy years of age and scarcely clear of the shadow of death is possessed of a sense of humor as original as those other characteristics which have won for him a reputation as being unique in this day of ready-made individualities. In keeping with his life-long habit of scorning the customary is his building with his own hands the great crematory, a pile of stones thirty feet high on the highest point of his mountain, on which his body is some day to be placed and the ashes to be scattered to "the four winds."

STUDENT HAS WON FORTUNE
Practiced 21 Professions During the Past Seven Years—Now He is Worth \$250,000.
Minneapolis, Minn.—After seven eventful years, in which he not only regained a fortune of \$50,000 lost in unwise business ventures and also added to it \$200,000, which he now expects to spend in touring Europe, Hardy Sundberg, who left Minneapolis with his patrimony in his pocket to seek his fortune, has returned. He found the fortune he went to seek only after practicing 21 distinct professions.

Seven years ago Sundberg was a student in a Minneapolis theological institution. He came directly to Minneapolis from the University of Stockholm to fit himself for the ministry. At different times, according to Mr. Sundberg, he has been real estate broker, lumberman, farmer, street car motorman, salesman, machinist, merchant, preacher, engineer, veterinarian, watchmaker, carpenter, surveyor, journalist, cook, bushelman, painter, schoolteacher, doctor, occultist and stock broker.