

farmer, the small business man more than it would the great business man. But it would affect the latter, too.

"Therefore, I hope and believe that all far-sighted citizens who wish to see this country prosper in material things will support Mr. Taft. But above all I ask for support for him because he stands for the moral uplift of his nation, because his deeds have made good his words and because the policies to which he is committed are of immeasurable consequence alike to the honor and the interests of the whole American people. Very truly yours.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

#### MONETT'S STATEMENT

Concerning Mr. Monett the Associated Press says:

Columbus, O., September 23.—"If I charged Governor Charles N. Haskell wrongfully, it was because Charles B. Squiers gave me his name." Frank S. Monnett, former attorney general of Ohio, today made this statement on the private car of William J. Bryan, en route from Prospect, O., to Columbus. Mr. Monnett declared, however, that he could not exonerate Governor Haskell from the charges that had been made, that he was a party to the \$500,000 bribe fund of the Standard Oil company, nor could he condemn him.

"All that I have against Governor Haskell," he said, "is hearsay evidence, and I have suggested that if the case were presented to a grand jury, it would be shown whether Governor Haskell has been wrongfully accused."

Mr. Monnett denied that he had made speeches in Oklahoma exonerating Governor Haskell, but that in fairness to the governor he had stated the facts as they had come to

him and said that if the charges were proved, he would return to Oklahoma at his own expense and denounce him.

In justice to Governor Haskell, Mr. Monnett stated that the governor had repeatedly asked an opportunity to disprove the charge, and had been subpoenaed before the examiner who was taking testimony in the Standard Oil hearing, but that he did not so appear because the court had ordered the quashing of the testimony.

"I threatened to arrest Mr. Squiers if he did not give me the names of the parties to the bribery proposition, whereupon he mentioned Frank Rockefeller, Fred B. Squiers and Charles N. Haskell of New York."

#### MR. HASKELL'S STATEMENT

On September 23, Governor Haskell gave to the Associated Press the following statement:

"To the Associated Press: President Roosevelt's letter is before me, and while this is the first time in my life I have been made the subject of a cabinet meeting, I am thankful for the distinction, and I wish to express my high regard for the office of president, and my profound respect for the wisdom of our fathers in making it possible to change the occupant of that high office every four years without the right granted to a crown prince to succeed the king.

"I assert that it is fair for me to assume that if my case was to be dignified by an all-day cabinet meeting, that, beyond question, Mr. Hearst and his campaign associate, President Roosevelt, left no stone unturned to blacken my character. That being true, they certainly raked Ohio fore and after, concerning the Ohio Standard Oil cases of 1899, and,

finding absolutely nothing reflecting on me, the president tried to waive his charge of last Monday aside by saying he 'will make no allusion to that.' He drops this subject because his original statement was untrue, and he must know from what he and Hearst tried to find in Ohio and failed, that I spoke the truth when I said that never in all my life had I any interest in connection with or service for that company.

"I say the president knows now that he tries to brush it aside without doing me candid justice. Were I to adopt the character of language so commonly used by the president I would spell it in fewer letters than falsehood.

"Mr. Roosevelt, I hope to speak in Ohio soon. May I hope to divide the time with some partisan of yours or 'Prince William,' who will defend your action in this instance?"

"President Roosevelt comes to Oklahoma and finds a substitute for his Ohio failure. Does he mean in the case of the state against the Prairie Oil and Gas company, which he complains I compelled to be dismissed?"

"Yes, I did have it dismissed. Yes, we all know that the Prairie company is a Standard Oil company offspring, and don't forget the president claims to have known this also, and I charge that the present allies, Hearst and Roosevelt, know I have acted honestly.

First, the Prairie Oil company got its franchise in our state, not from me, but from Roosevelt's secretary of the interior, long before the state had begun and had its main line built and operating, and congress, in our statehood bill, was careful to declare that our new state when organized must respect all such vested rights and existing franchises. That was all I did and the federal courts stood ready to call me down if I violated the Roosevelt territorial franchise.

"Now, Mr. President, why did your secretary of the interior grant what you knew to be a Standard Oil pipe line franchise in our then helpless territory and fasten it on our new state by a provision of the statehood bill? Will Mr. Hearst or the president please answer?"

"I will also remind the president that the company tried to enlarge its rights so as to include a gas as well as an oil privilege. This I defeated, and even last April, Mr. President, your secretary of the interior tried to help the Standard Oil gas privilege against my protest by actually granting them a franchise to lay an interstate gas line also. I notified the secretary that since statehood your days of giving valuable franchises in our state had passed, and I would resist laying the pipe line only after you canceled your unlawful act.

"I assert again that my act in that case was not only required by what federal authority had bound us to do but that the public interest of our own people, based on conditions growing out of your original special favor to the Standard Oil company in granting that franchise required me to pursue that policy in the case you criticize.

"The president comes to the local affairs of our state and assails me for vetoing a child labor bill. True, I did so, simply because the bill went too far and included things not desired by our people. Union labor representatives approved my veto. I hope the president will survive this veto of a local bill and permit us to run our local affairs.

"The president complains that we removed certain professors from our state normal schools and preparatory school in violation of civil service rules. That is, the president, in his usual impetuosity and reckless disregard of others, misstated the facts. Less than one-fifth of the

faculties are changed. All changes were for good cause other than politics, and done by boards of regents and not by the governor.

"The president complains that there are several suits pending against me to reclaim Creek Indian lands. The president should have gone farther and said that I was not a dealer in Indian land and only came in as a subsequent purchaser and only incidentally a party without personal interest at all and especially he should have said that it is quite apparent that those who are being sued in those land cases claim to be and apparently are, the victims of political chicanery which the president can better explain than I. In short, the president and Mr. Hearst picked the wrong man, and are now driven into ward politics rather than to surrender like men.

"The president assumes that all Oklahomans are grafters, just because his territorial associates justified the name; that all ex-railroad

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