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NEWS OF THE WEEK
 (Continued from Page 12)
 tonight that an offer of a cabinet position to Congressman Theodore Burton of Cleveland had been withdrawn by Mr. Taft and would not be renewed. Mr. Burton had been mentioned as the probable secretary of the treasury and it is said that the portfolio had been definitely offered to him. The statement followed a conference of Mr. Taft with several republican leaders from Ohio. Mr. Burton, it is believed, will now make an active contest in the Ohio senatorial campaign."

The United States supreme court has allowed the widow of the late Robert G. Ingersoll \$138,000 for Colonel Ingersoll's services in the famous Andrew Davis will case.

Writing in the Chicago Record-Herald, Walter Wellman says: "In addition to all his other quarrels, President Roosevelt now has on his hands something like a row with the people of Washington. The president's recommendations to congress, made in a special message today, that the government of the national capital be changed from a board of three commissioners to 'one-man power,' entrusted to a governor, is anything but popular with the citizens. For many years the commission system of government has worked very well. The people are satisfied with it. In many respects Washington has been known as having a model municipal government and has been rated as such by many students of municipal affairs. President Roosevelt's penchant for reform has in this case, the citizens believe, led him too far, and they are more discontented because they think there is a gas monopoly scheme behind the whole matter. No one believes Congress will make the changes which the president recommends. In fact, the most common topic of conversation at the national capital is the strained relations which exist between President Roosevelt and the national legislature and the apparent determination of the latter to do none of the things which the president asks them to do. This unfortunate ending of a brilliant administration is generally deplored, though great differences of opinion are found as to where the fault lies."

President Roosevelt Would Prosecute for Sedition

Special Message to Congress to Which Members Generally Refer as "Hottest One Yet," and at Which Solemn Senators Boldly Laugh

On December 15 President Roosevelt sent to congress a special message to which members refer as "the hottest one yet."

Referring to the reception of this message in congress the Associated Press said:

The president's Panama canal message was read in the senate today and its reading was received with loud laughter by some of the senators.

As the secretary read the statement that the charges were "false in every particular" Senator Bailey laughed outright as he was passing along the rear of the chamber to his seat. Other senators on both sides of the chamber joined with him, and when the reader reached the statement that a statement in a newspaper which he mentioned would not be believed there was general merriment from both sides of the chamber.

The message elicited the greatest interest in the house. The members gave close attention during the reading of the document and there was a ripple of laughter over the president's characterization of Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the New York World.

The message in part runs as follows:

"In view of the constant reiteration of the assertion that there was some corrupt action by, or on behalf of the United States government, in connection with the acquisition of the title of the French company to the Panama canal, and of the repetition of the story that a syndicate of American citizens owned either one or both of the Panama companies. I deem it wise to submit to congress all the information I have on the subject.

"These stories were first brought to my attention as published in a paper in Indianapolis, called the News, edited by Mr. Delavan Smith. The stories were scurrilous and libelous in character and false in every essential particular. Mr. Smith shelters himself behind the excuse that he merely accepted the statements which had appeared in a paper published in New York, the World, owned by Mr. Joseph Pulitzer.

"It is idle to say that the known character of Pulitzer and his newspaper are such that the statements in that paper will be believed by nobody; unfortunately, thousands of persons are ill-informed in this respect, and believe the statements they see in print, even though they appear in a newspaper published by Mr. Pulitzer. A member of congress has actually introduced a resolution in reference to these charges. I therefore lay all the facts before you."

Here the president recites the various charges, including those against Charles P. Taft, brother of William H. Taft, and Douglas Robinson, the president's brother-in-law, of participation in the \$40,000,000 purchase fund and proceeds, saying:

"These statements sometimes appeared in the editorials; sometimes in the shape of contributions from individuals, either unknown or known to be of bad character. They are false in every particular from beginning to end. The wickedness of the slanders is only surpassed by their fatuity. So utterly baseless are the stories that apparently they represent in part merely material collected for campaign purposes, and in part stories originally concocted with a view of possible blackmail.

The inventor of the story about Mr. Charles P. Taft, for instance, evidently supposed that at some period of the Panama canal purchase, Mr. W. H. Taft was secretary of war, whereas, in reality, Mr. Taft never became secretary of war until long after the whole transaction in question had been closed. Mr. Robinson had not the slightest connection, directly or indirectly, of any kind or sort, with any phase of the Panama transaction, from beginning to end. "Now these stories, as a matter of fact, need no investigation whatever.

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