

World and the grand jury investigation now in progress in this city and in New York, Mr. Rainey said:

"If we are to carry this project through to a successful finish we must avoid graft. It is not the part of wise statesmanship to dispose of resolutions asking for an investigation of any phase of the canal question with the sweeping and unsupported official declaration that there is nothing to investigate. It is not the part of sound statesmanship and true patriotism to attempt to revive the obsolete common law customs of two hundred years ago, and to employ all the agencies of the government in attempting to crush newspapers which have had the courage to call attention to a questionable transaction in connection with the canal."

He submitted for record extracts from papers and documents in support of his allegations.

Mr. Rainey was particularly bitter in his denunciation of Mr. Cromwell, general counsel for the new French Panama Canal company and counsel and a director of the Panama railroad, which is owned by the United States government. He charged that "through the manipulations of Mr. Cromwell the French Canal company was permitted to steal from the

United States government three or four million dollars" and that after he "had become an officer in fact of the United States, he became a party to an attempt to collect from the United States a fraudulent claim on the part of the canal company of \$2,200,000."

He also was unsparing in his attack upon Don Jose Domingo De Obaldia, president of Panama, who he said, represented, "as no other Spanish-American statesman in his generation, all that is corrupt in Spanish-American politics."

"Without Obaldia," he stated, "Cromwell's career would have been impossible. Without Cromwell, Obaldia would have been impossible."

Against President-elect Taft, now enroute to the canal zone, Mr. Rainey directed the accusation that on the occasion of his last trip to Panama in May "he did nothing on the isthmus except to openly push the candidacy of Obaldia for the presidency." He asserted that a very thinly veiled threat to seize the republic if Obaldia was not elected was contained in a letter written by Mr. Taft to the then President Amador, and that to prevent this Arias, Obaldia's opponent, withdrew.

Reference to President Roosevelt's attack on Senator Tillman was made by Rainey in asserting that Senator Lodge of Massachusetts was responsible for the expenditure January 1 last of over one million dollars for the purchase of the steamships Shawmut and Tremont for the Panama railroad company, which the canal commission did not want and did not need, but which were bought because the constituents of the senior senator from Massachusetts wanted to sell them." He said that for some weeks the secret agencies of the government had been at work investigating the senior senator from South Carolina. "They have," he said, "discovered that he used his frank inadvertently in private correspondence and so deprived the government of revenue to the amount of two cents and the matter was considered important enough to be embodied in a special message from the president to congress. The senior senator from Massachusetts, I believe, is still invited to the White House dinners, is the president's friend and adviser, and the cabinet-maker for the incoming president. I have not heard of any secret service agents disturbing the senior senator from Massachusetts, and yet he is directly, individually and solely responsible for the fact that there was taken out of the treasury of the United States over one million dollars.

"A year or two after the independence of Panama," continued Mr. Rainey, "the officials of the little republic commenced to absorb ideas of patriotism peculiarly distasteful to Mr. Cromwell. Mr. Cromwell determined to displace Dr. Amador and other leaders of the constitutional party of Panama and put in as president some more pliant person, less devoted to high ideals and of course in such an emergency as that his attention was directed to his old friend and ally, Obaldia. He was a man after Cromwell's own heart. So he determined Obaldia was to become president of Panama. Cromwell and his friends had developed certain methods for robbing the little country and they did not propose to be interrupted in any way by the awakened public patriotism and honesty of Dr. Amador and his friends. "Subsequently," he said, "Obaldia's opponent withdrew on account of the interference of Secretary Taft in the elections and Obaldia was elected."

In President Amador's farewell message to the general assembly, said Mr. Rainey, he directly charged



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Mr. Taft with forcing the election of Obaldia.

"The plan of Mr. Cromwell and his associates," he declared, was to "absolutely appropriate to their own use the revenues of the service and to steal the forests and the public lands. The necessity for Mr. Taft's interferences and for the election of Obaldia becomes now as plain as day."

Mr. Rainey referred to the fact that there was pending in the general assembly of Panama, "the most infamous railroad proposition ever submitted to any government, by which Randolph G. Ward of New York was to be largely the beneficiary." He called attention to what he said was the failure of Arnold Shanklin, the American consul general at Panama, to make a report requested by the bureau of forestry last year because "he evidently feels he owes his position there to William Nelson Cromwell," and charged that certain interested parties were seeking to levy tribute upon the peo-

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