

Where the Old Ship is Leaking

The Taft republicans of South Dakota have organized for a fight. A Huron, S. D., dispatch carried by the Associated Press and referring to the Taft republican convention, held February 1, says: "The stalwart leaders declared that there will be stalwarts to fight every progressive office-seeker at the June primaries. Ex-Governor Samuel Elrod probably will be the stalwart candidate for governor. Ringing resolutions endorsing President Taft's policies and those of his predecessor, President Roosevelt, were adopted."

The developments of the Ballinger investigating committee are told in a Washington dispatch to the Chicago Tribune (rep.) in this way: Washington, D. C., January 30. —(Special.) —The administration is considerably worried by the trend of developments in the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation.

It had been believed that the charges against the secretary would prove so indefinite as to convince the people that there was no justification for the controversy which Gifford Pinchot had precipitated by his policy and resignation. The evidence given by Louis R. Glavis, former special agent of the land office, to the joint committee of the senate and house, however, has furnished some precise allegations, and others are to be made by Mr. Pinchot when he goes on the witness stand this week.

Before the investigation began Secretary Ballinger decided that an attorney was unnecessary. Now, however, his friends are urging him to employ a lawyer, and it will not be long, it is believed, before he will be represented before the committee. The sessions will be resumed tomorrow.

The charges Glavis has made have been thus summarized:

1. Ballinger advised his clients in the Wilson Coal company case to defraud the government through perjury.
2. Ballinger, as commissioner of the land office, sought to help defraud the government by ordering the clear listing of the Cunningham claims upon an old report of Special Agent Love, who was prejudiced.
3. Ballinger acted improperly in accepting employment as counsel for the Cunningham claimants after retiring from the commissionership of the land office.
4. Ballinger was behind the Pierce decision, which, if sustained, would have sent the Cunningham claims to patent, but which was overruled by the attorney general.
5. Ballinger was misleading in his published statements that he has had nothing to do with the Alaska claims since becoming secretary of the interior and in his declaration to President Taft in reference to his connection with the Alaska claims.
6. Ballinger asked Glavis to delay the examination of the Alaska claims that he might have a better chance to get campaign contributions.

Washington, D. C., February 2.—Acting upon the suggestion of Senator Nelson, chairman of the Ballinger-Pinchot congressional investigating committee that the "other side" should be represented by an attorney who would take upon himself the task of cross-examining witnesses, it was announced today that at the future hearings of the committee either H. H. Swartz, chief of the field service, or Fred Dennett, commissioner of the land office, would be represented by counsel.

At the close of the investigating committee's session Monday afternoon Senator Nelson said the cross examination of Louis R. Glavis had proceeded "feebly" because of the lack of counsel.

Washington, February 1.—The republican insurgents in the house will support the administration program on the subjects of railroad legislation, conservation, postal savings banks and anti-injunction. Unanimous decision to do so was reached at a meeting held last night. Representatives Gardner of Massachusetts and Hayes of California were authorized to so inform the president.

The action was taken, it is stated, in order to give definite assurance to President Taft and to the country that "the insurgents" were unanimously in favor of all progressive legislation advocated by the president.

It is a conspicuous fact that the ship subsidy

and federal incorporation recommendations of the president were not included in the list, and it was stated by one of the "insurgents" that there had been no endeavor to reach an agreement on these subjects.

The Taft forces are determined to fight for Iowa. Following is an editorial in the Sioux City (Ia.) Journal:

"L. H. Mayne, editor of the Emmetsburg Reporter, has decided to stand as a candidate for the republican nomination for congress in the Tenth district. The district is now represented by Frank P. Woods, whose home is at Estherville, Emmet county, which lies north of Palo Alto and borders on the state of Minnesota. The Tenth is the largest Iowa district, with Crawford, Carroll, Greene and Boone as its south tier of counties. The district has fourteen counties, and the population under the last census was given at 253,350. The Eleventh district is the next largest in the state, with thirteen counties and a population of 245,011. In the last primary election Mr. Woods defeated Judge J. P. Conner, of Crawford county, who had represented the district since the promotion of Mr. Dolliver to the senate. Mr. Woods is an insurgent, and Mr. Mayne is a regular. Mr. Mayne will enter the contest as a supporter of republican principles and of the Taft administration; and as such he will make an active canvass of the district. The district is understood to be as strongly insurgent as the Eleventh; and no doubt that is Senator Dolliver's understanding. It is the senator's home district, and probably his view of the situation is entitled to weight. But Mr. Mayne proposes to try it anyway. No mention as yet has been made of a democratic candidate."

NEED LOTS OF LAWYERS

Washington, D. C., February 3.—John J. Vertrees of Nashville, a leader of the Tennessee bar, a democrat and a warm personal friend of President Taft, has been asked to take charge of the case for the defense in the Ballinger-Pinchot congressional investigation, and is now on his way to Washington to consult with Attorney General Wickersham and officials of the land office. Mr. Vertrees probably will also confer with President Taft.

The local representatives of the officials of the interior department in the investigation will consist of a chief counsel and two associates. One of the assistants will be a western man, while the other resides in Washington.

In addition to the three lawyers designated as counsel Mr. Ballinger will be assisted in an advisory capacity by Albert Battle of Seattle, his former law partner, who is now in this city.

TRIES TO PLAY SENATOR

Washington, D. C., February 3.—Secretary Ballinger of the interior department was criticized on the floor of the senate today for sending a communication to the senate inclosing a bill providing for an insane asylum in Alaska.

Although Mr. Ballinger said he transmitted the measure in obedience to the direction of the president, Senators Heyburn and Bacon succeeded in obtaining annulment of reference to the bill to the committee on territories, on the ground that no cabinet officer or even the president had authority to introduce a bill in the senate.

EVEN ELKINS PROTESTS

On February 3 Senator Elkins made bitter complaint in the senate concerning the treatment of himself in connection with his resolution providing for an investigation into the high price of food products. He charged Senator Aldrich with a desire to shield the tariff law and the trusts in the inquiry, and he intimated that hereafter he might be an "insurgent" if his wishes did not receive more respectful consideration.

The discussion was precipitated by Senator Stone, who, soon after the reporting of the Lodge resolution in mock solemnity raised the question whether the committee on contingent expenses had yet reported the Elkins resolution, which had been introduced early last month.

Responding, Mr. Keen said that probably the measure would be amended and reported soon. Taking the floor Mr. Elkins complained of the fact that the finance committee had reported the Lodge resolution after a day's consideration whereas his own measure had been held up by the contingent committee for a month.

Mr. Elkins contended that many important features of his measure had been omitted from the Lodge resolution, and asserted that it had

been so framed as to avoid any inquiry into the effect of the tariff on food prices.

"Why do you want to dodge the tariff?" he asked, and added: "I am a tariff man myself, and I am not afraid to face the question in connection with this investigation."

He then referred to the participation of Chairman Aldrich of the finance committee in the preparation of the tariff bill and he declared he was quick to act in anything affecting "his child."

When Mr. Lodge read his resolution as amended by the finance committee for the purpose of showing that it proposes to include the effect of the tariff in its inquiry, the West Virginia senator was still unsatisfied, and he declared the measure as reported "a mere method of sidetracking the question, while his own method had been so manipulated as to cause it to sleep the sleep of death."

AFRAID OF THE COST OF LIVING

Washington, D. C., February 2.—Frankly admitting fear that a prolonged investigation of the increased cost of living by the ways and means committee of the house, or as provided for by any of the rival resolutions, might drag throughout the summer and work to the disadvantage of the republicans in the elections next fall, the senate finance committee formulated a program for a quick, sharp inquiry of the subject in all its phases.

This important question was considered by the republican members of the committee and as a result Senator Lodge introduced in the senate a resolution providing for the appointment of a select committee of five senators to do the work.

Suggestion was made that the proposed investigation by the ways and means committee of the house would accomplish every purpose, but after examination of the resolution introduced by Chairman Payne yesterday, it was characterized as a "dragnet." The opinion was expressed generally that such an inquiry as was proposed by the house would not be concluded in time to be of assistance to republicans in their campaign for re-election.

Senator Lodge, after remonstrating vigorously, finally agreed that he would undertake to conduct a rigid investigation and report to the present session of congress, if he were chosen the head of a committee. Senator Lodge has requested that Senator Smoot also be assigned to this committee. Both are members of the finance committee and were recognized as hard workers on the tariff bill.

WILL TAKE NO CHANCES

Washington, D. C., February 2.—No chances are being taken by the "old guard" in the senate in the matter of filling committee vacancies. The committee on committees met today to select a republican for the committee on civil service and retrenchment, of which Senator Cummins is chairman. Senator Borah wanted the assignment and Chairman Cummins had expressed a desire that he be named.

Examining the personnel, it was found that Senator LaFollette already is on the committee with Mr. Cummins, and the appointment of Mr. Borah, whom some people think has "insurgent" proclivities would give the "insurgents" a majority of the republicans, as there are only five republicans on the committee.

Senator Borah was put through an examination in which he declined to state where he stood on the question of pensions for superannuated government employes, and on other questions with which the committee has to deal. He also asserted with considerable force that he was not a member of any faction and that he did not care to be interrogated in any such manner.

No good excuse for rejecting Mr. Borah was found, and since there was some doubt as to what faction might get his support on important questions, it was decided to increase the republican membership to seven. The new members will be Senators Borah, Smoot and Dixon. The membership of Senators Perkins and Lodge give the "regulars" undisputed control of the committee.

PUSHING SHIP SUBSIDY

Washington, D. C., February 3.—After a short but torrid open hearing, replete with personal disputes and acrimonious utterances, followed by an executive session of an hour, also filled with dissension, the house committee on merchant marine and fisheries today, by a vote of ten to seven, voted to report favorably to the house the administration bill on ship subsidy as introduced by Representative Humphrey