

which admits 300,000 tons of Philippine sugar per annum free of duty.

"Congressman Martin, speaking of the Wick-ersham opinion which made this bit of sharp dealing possible, says: 'Many jokers were discovered in the Payne tariff bill, and all of them, without a single exception, jokers in favor of special interests. This opinion appears to be the joker in the Philippine tariff section. * * * It must be a rich prize that could gain and hold for so long a time the greedy ambition of one of the great industrial interests of this country and lead it to take such chances in its acquisition. And it is a rich prize. The tariff which has been removed from 300,000 tons of raw sugar, at about 68 cents per hundred weight, amounts to about \$11,000,000 annually. Only about one-half of this tonnage has been coming in from the Philippines. The shortage will soon be supplied, but the consumer will be none the wiser. None of the benefits will ever leak by the coffers of the sugar trust.'

"The Chicago Record-Herald, a republican newspaper, in the course of an editorial discussion of this latest scandal involving the government and 'big business,' speaks thus frankly: 'The government's purchase of 400,000 acres from the friars was made on the ground that large holdings by religious bodies were prejudicial to the best interests of the islands. The organic act passed by congress in July, 1902, forbade the sale of more than forty acres of Philippine lands to any individual and of more than 2,500 to any corporation. But Attorney General Wickersham has just approved the sale of 55,000 acres of these lands to representatives of the sugar trust. His position is that the friar estates do not come under the act of 1902. 'His act stands as the one capital defense of the Filipinos against the aggressions of unscrupulous, fortune-hunting outsiders, American or other. It was designed to protect the islands and their inhabitants from a selfish exploitation, whether individual or corporate. The clear intention of the government is in imminent danger of nullification. If Wickersham's approval of these sales is to stand unchallenged, then the intentions of the country toward the Filipinos are in danger of disastrous frustration. If large holdings by religious organizations are a menace, large holdings by financial organizations are a menace.'

The following reference to the Philippines scandal is taken from a Washington dispatch printed in the Philadelphia North American, a republican paper:

"So it happens that members of congress upon both sides of the chamber think the matter should be investigated, especially since the sugar trust's interests in the sugar lands appears to have been quickened by the provision of the tariff law which permits the admission of Philippine sugar free of duty. In this connection they believe that the question of the attorney general's former affiliation with the sugar trust is worth considering in view of his opinion, with which good lawyers disagree upon legal grounds, and moralists disagree upon moral grounds. The fact, too, that Henry W. Taft is, or has been, an attorney of the sugar trust, while merely commented upon as a peculiar incident in connection with the other circumstances, might easily be urged as a reason why the administration itself should like to have the whole matter investigated and cleared up.

"Mr. Wickersham's letter today to Mr. Bennet, denying that he represented the sugar trust as attorney, follows: 'I have read in the Congressional Record of March 25, a statement made by a member from Colorado to the effect that 'the former attorney of the sugar trust is at the head of the department of justice of the present administration,' and later on what purports to be a quotation from a newspaper editorial reading, 'Attorney General Wickersham, the former attorney of the sugar trust.' In order that such statement may not gain any currency I should like to state through you that I never was attorney for the sugar trust—by which I understand is meant the American Sugar Refining company and its allied or subsidiary corporations—nor had any professional or business relations to it. The only possible foundation for such a statement lies in the fact that one of my partners some three years ago was retained as one of counsel for the American Sugar Refining company in a single lawsuit brought against it, and pursuant to such retainer, he assisted in the defense of the company in that action, and an appeal taken from a judgment in its favor, but in that lawsuit I was neither consulted, nor did I render any service.'

"Representative Martin was not on the floor of the house when the letter was read by Mr.

Bennet, but later obtained a copy of it. Mr. Martin announced that he intended to carry his charges against the department of justice to a definite conclusion. He said: 'The attorney general, you will observe, carefully avoided making any denial of the principal features of my charges, to wit: That this decision gave the sugar trust 55,000 acres of friar lands for a price less than the government paid for it, and that there was no warrant of law for such a decision. The law plainly limits the sale of public lands to any one person or company to 2,500 acres, and there is no question of the friar lands being public lands. Mr. Wickersham says that his partner, who, I understand, was Henry W. Taft, a brother of the president, and not he, was attorney for the sugar trust. This form of disavowal will not carry much weight. I shall continue my efforts to show up what I believe is but the beginning of a gigantic grab of the friar lands of the Philippines by the sugar trust, all made possible by an unwarranted decision of the attorney general. There are 408,000 acres of these friar lands in the Philippines acquired by the government at a cost of \$7,200,000, which is \$18 per acre. The sugar trust acquired this 55,000 acres for \$6 an acre.'

IF YOU DON'T SEE WHAT YOU WANT ASK FOR IT

In Alaska it was the Guggenheim-Morgan syndicate that was scheduled to profit, by gobbling up natural resources of incalculable riches, when "government by law" succeeded "government by men," on March 4 of last year.

In the Philippines it is the sugar trust. The Guggenheim syndicate was looked after by Secretary Ballinger, its confidant and friend. The sugar trust owes its luscious favors principally, it appears, to Attorney General Wickersham. Mr. Wickersham indignantly explains that he was never attorney for the trust, but that it was his partner, Henry W. Taft, a brother of the president, who acted in that lucrative and responsible capacity. A distinction with a difference, to be sure.

Of all trusts the sugar trust, which but lately was proved guilty of having stolen millions of dollars from the government in customs frauds, should be the very last which the government should favor with big and juicy plums at the public expense. But it appears that it makes no difference how notoriously bad and harmful the corporation, provided only it is big enough and powerful enough, it has only to ask and the Taft administration will give—give privilege, give immunity, give power to extort and oppress, give public property entrusted to its care!—Omaha World-Herald.

"LEST WE FORGET"

The government has received an offer from a responsible business man of fifty cents a ton royalty on Alaskan coal. It is estimated that such royalty would net the people of the United States \$2,000,000 on 100 acres of coal land. The geological survey estimates that ten billion tons of coal are in sight in known coal areas of Alaska. Fifty cents a ton on this amount would yield the government \$8,000,000,000.

This is the coal land that the department of the interior has been in haste under the administration of Secretary Ballinger to sell outright to the Guggenheim syndicate for \$10 per acre.

Attention was first called to this monumental grab and public indignation was aroused by L. R. Glavis, chief of field service of the department of the interior. Mr. Glavis' efforts were powerfully supported by Gifford Pinchot, forester; by Overton W. Price, his first assistant, and by Albert C. Price, assistant law officer of the forest service. As a result of their efforts the plunder plan was stopped and the government has received a first offer that promises to produce an enormous revenue.

Because, in their eagerness to protect the public domain, these men were insubordinate to their immediate superiors the four have been dismissed from the service of the United States by President Taft.—Kansas City Star (Rep.)

CHARACTERIZED BY ONE WORD—WHITE-WASH

(Henry Watterson in Louisville Ky., Courier-Journal.)

Yesterday's proceedings in the national house of representatives marked the climax of a political party's shame and the complete downfall of the Taft idol.

Within the past few weeks it had become pretty apparent that the feet of that idol were feet of clay, but the chapter of history which

yesterday wrote proved that the idol's head was of no better material than its feet.

Mr. Taft, less than a year ago, began his administration with the respect of the entire country. He was esteemed even by his political opponents as a man whose breadth and patriotic purpose elevated him above the plane of the mere partisan. Alas! He now stands fully revealed as one of the sorriest figures in all the category of political partisans.

For it is not concealed that his party in the house has done his will in packing the committee which is to sit in judgment on the charges that have been made against his administration through his secretary of the interior. Having summarily exculpated that official without apparently any investigation of the truth of the charges against him, now, when public sentiment forces the request for a congressional investigation, he has dictated the personnel of the committee which is to make that investigation; and so determined was he to put himself in this humiliating position that he denied the minority of the house the right to choose its own members of the committee. In other words, on trial himself through his cabinet minister, whose cause he makes his own, and referring his case to the tribunal of congress, whose authorized committee was to contain representatives of the political minority in congress, he has refused to allow the minority to name its representatives, insisting on naming them himself!

And this by one who, in addition to posing as a man of statesmanlike caliber, has cultivated the distinctive reputation of the jurist!

The whole proceeding is to be characterized by the one word, whitewash. A committee so chosen can signify nothing else. Its finding is discounted in advance, and so far as any value of such a finding is concerned, it might as well be returned tomorrow.

Mr. Taft has now burnt his ships behind him—what few of them he had not already wrecked within the past three or four months—and henceforth it would be folly for him to make any other pretensions than of the hack politician, willing to go all the usual politician's gaits in order to get his grist to mill. The country now understands him; it will save him some discomfort if he also understands himself and acts in the future accordingly, without any more of the claims to decency and manliness which once it was the pleasure of the country to concede.

LABOR TROUBLES

Three hundred thousand organized coal miners in Pennsylvania, Ohio and other states quit work April 1, pending settlement of a new wage scale. The number of strikers in the different states is given by the Associated Press as follows:

State of Pennsylvania.....	100,000
Ohio	45,000
Indiana	18,000
West Virginia	10,000
Illinois	72,000
Iowa	15,000
Michigan	3,000
Kansas, Arkansas and south.....	25,000
Colorado	5,000
Western Kentucky	5,000

Total men idle300,000
Associated Press correspondents express the opinion that the strike may last a month or longer.

L'ENVOI

When the earth's last picture is painted
And the tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colors have faded,
And the youngest critic has died,
We shall rest—and, faith, we shall need it—
Lie down for an aeon or two,
Till the Master of all good workmen
Shall set us to work anew!

And those that were good shall be happy,
They shall sit in a golden chair;
They shall splash at a ten-league canvas
With brushes of comet's hair;
They shall find real saints to draw from—
Magdalene, Peter, and Paul;
They shall work for an age at a sitting
And never get tired at all!

And only the Master shall praise us,
And only the Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money,
And no one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of the working,
And each in his separate star,
Shall draw the thing as he sees it
For the God of things as they are.

—Kipling.