

PRESIDENT ON LAWLER CASE

Writes to Nelson Explaining How the Glavis Letter Was Written.

INSIDE HISTORY OF MATTER

Interior Department Official Was Ordered by Executive to Make Draft, Which Was Submitted and Used in Part.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—President Taft in person last night took a hand in a situation which has arisen concerning the "inside" history of his letter of September 13, exonerating Secretary Ballinger from the charges of Special Agent L. R. Glavis and authorizing the dismissal of Glavis.

Over his own signature he addressed a long letter to Senator Kaute Nelson, chairman of the Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee, setting forth in minute detail the sequence of events following his receipt at Beverly, on August 18 last, of the charges of Glavis.

The president makes no direct mention of the statement of Fred M. Kerby, the young stenographer in Secretary Ballinger's office, in which the stenographer declared that the president's letter of exoneration was prepared in Ballinger's office by Oscar Lawler, assistant attorney general for the interior department.

Mr. Taft declares not only that Lawler did prepare such a letter as Kerby said he did, but that he did so by the president's specific direction. When he received it, he found, he says, that it was not what he wanted to issue, and he wrote the letter himself in the form in which he desired it, using from Lawler's draft only one or two statements.

"Back Dating" of Letter. The president goes still farther and takes up the question of the "back dating" of Attorney General Wickersham's summary of the Glavis charges, to which Attorney Louis D. Brandeis has drawn attention. Mr. Taft says that the attorney general's letter was in fact "back dated," and that this also was done by his specific direction.

Following is the full text of the president's letter: "THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, May 15, 1910.—My Dear Senator Nelson: In the hearings before the committee to investigate the interior department and forestry service reference has been made to my decision upon the complaint and charges of L. R. Glavis, filed with me on August 18 last against Secretary Ballinger and certain other officials of the interior department. The majority of the committee have said that my action in this regard was not within the jurisdiction of the committee to investigate. In spite of this ruling reference to the matter have crept into the record. For this reason I deem it proper to write you and state with such accuracy as my memory permits what the facts are.

"Glavis" statement and charges were left with me by him on August 13, 1909. I turned them over to the attorney general, who happened to be in the neighborhood, and he made notes upon his reading. We both had personal knowledge in respect to Secretary Ballinger's attitude toward the Alaska coal claims, which was the chief subject of innuendo and complaint, for Mr. Ballinger had very early in the administration consulted us both regarding them.

"Jealousy Between Bureaus. Within two or three days after the filing of the charges, at a meeting at which the secretary of the treasury, the attorney general and the secretary of the navy were present, a full discussion of the Glavis statement was had. It resulted in a general conclusion that jealousy between the bureaus of the interior department and the forestry bureau probably explained the attitude of the interior department officials, but that the intimations of bad faith by Glavis against Mr. Ballinger and the others required that the statement be submitted to them for answer. Accordingly, copies of the statement were sent to Secretary Ballinger, to Assistant Secretary Pierce, to Commissioner Dennett and to Chief of Field Service Schwartz.

"Mr. Ballinger was at Seattle, but upon receipt of the charges he came to Washington to prepare his answer. On Monday, September 6, Mr. Ballinger reached Beverly, accompanied by Mr. Lawler, the assistant attorney general of the department of justice assigned to the interior department. Mr. Ballinger sent to my house on that day the answers of the various persons concerned, together with a voluminous record of exhibits. I had a conference with him the evening of the day he came, September 6, and then on the following evening, September 7.

Talks with Ballinger. I talked over the charges with Mr. Ballinger the first evening and asked such questions as suggested themselves without intimating any conclusion, and said I would furnish the answers and the record, and would see him the next day. I sat up until 3 o'clock that night reading the answers and exhibits, so that at my next conference I was advised of the contents of the entire record, and had made up my mind that there was nothing in the charges upon which Mr. Ballinger or the others accused could be found guilty of either incompetency, inefficiency, disloyalty to the interests of the government or dishonesty.

"In the discussion of the second evening Mr. Lawler, who was present at my suggestion, discussed the evidence at some length. I said to Mr. Lawler that I was very anxious to write a full statement of the case and set out my reasons for my decision, but that the time for my departure on a long western trip, occupying two months, was just one week from that day, that I had six or seven speeches to deliver at the beginning of that journey and that I could not give the time to the preparing of such a detailed statement and opinion as I would like to render in the matter. I

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Prof. Todd declares that there will be no more sensation than that caused by the rays of light from a distant candle on a person's hand. A proportion of the amount of cyanogen gas is radiated from each, he says. Leon Campbell, another of the Harvard astronomers, thinks a luminous display similar to northern lights. Prof. David P. Todd of Amherst college thinks the aurora effect probable. Prof. Robert W. Wilson of the Harvard college observatory declared today that there may be a darkening of the atmosphere, while Prof. Edward C. Pickering, head of the Harvard observatory, said: "I doubt if there will be any of it at all." Prof. Willson said further: "that there may be showers of ignited particles, very small but numerous, which may affect wireless telegraphy. There is no cause for alarm or fear. Cyanogen exists only near the comet's head and the tail is a good vacuum."

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Hard Work— "Spring Fever" Weather

Weariness and thirst follow. "Bracers" won't do—there's a come back. Water doesn't satisfy—it's not "wet" enough.



Drink Coca-Cola

It refreshes mentally and physically—relieves fatigue and quenches the thirst. Wholesome as the purest water and lots nicer to drink.

DELICIOUS — REFRESHING THIRST-QUENCHING

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Send for our interesting booklet, "The Truth About Coca-Cola" 2-B

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Whenever you see an Arrow think of Coca-Cola

Our Letter Box

Contributions on timely subjects, not exceeding two hundred words, are invited from our readers.

Pay for Enumerators.

SOUTH OMAHA, May 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: When the examination for census enumerators was about to be held a letter was issued from Hon. E. Dana Durand stating that we would be paid an average of about 4 cents a name for taking the census. After we had taken the examination and when only a small per cent of those taking the examination had been deemed competent to take the census, the director of the census, in Washington, that we should not receive more than 2 1/2 cents a name at a time that we could not very well decline to act as enumerators.

The 2 1/2 cents is to be paid for making practically thirty-two entries to each name, which is no pay at all. It is the same pay that was granted to the census enumerators in 1880, thirty years ago, when there were no examinations held, when the entries were much more simple and much fewer in number and when, as we all know, the cost of living was not near as high as it is now.

It looks to us that it is a funny deal for the United States government to be a party to and it is hoped that the wrong will be righted. If the United States government was bankrupt and short of funds it would be different, but when it is called the richest nation on earth, it is not to be expected that it will be stingy in case of taking the census. A much higher class of enumerators would have been secured if the pay had been half way what it ought to have been and those who did the work would have taken more pains to get the names completely. In my district I remember that I went to one house four times to get just a man and his wife. So that I walked nearly a mile several times to make the magnificent sum of 5 cents. And I did it a good many times in many other cases.

I wish that your paper would use its influence to get the enumerators a better paid for the work done. If I had been paid even 4 cents a name it would not have been any too much, for it was the hardest work ever done by intelligent people for the amount of money in it. In fact we have not been paid yet and it will be at least a month, probably more, from the time we complete our work before we will get the very small amount allowed us by the census director.

I would urge the census enumerators who may see this letter to write to the senator, and congressmen from Nebraska and ask for more pay and that they write to other members of either house that they know from other states.

If there is concerted action I think the members of congress in both houses will see the justice of our complaint over the small pay. I understand that there is universal complaint among the enumerators in all the States, and that the honor of Hon. E. Dana Durand in cutting our pay down when it was plenty low again in the first place. FRANK A. AGNEW.

NIMBLE THIEF STEALS METAL FROM A STEEPLE

Baptist and Catholic Churches at Philadelphia Suffer Loss of Metal.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 15.—Charged with climbing the metal roofing from the steeple of the Roxborough Baptist church and St. John's Roman Catholic church, Earl Knoll, a steeplejack, was arraigned in police court here today and held in bail for further hearing.

It was testified that during the night he had climbed the feet on St. John's church tower, from which he removed the copper sheathing were removed. From the sixty-foot steeple of the Baptist church, forty-eight pounds of metal were stolen.

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Contributions on timely subjects, not exceeding two hundred words, are invited from our readers.

Pay for Enumerators.

SOUTH OMAHA, May 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: When the examination for census enumerators was about to be held a letter was issued from Hon. E. Dana Durand stating that we would be paid an average of about 4 cents a name for taking the census. After we had taken the examination and when only a small per cent of those taking the examination had been deemed competent to take the census, the director of the census, in Washington, that we should not receive more than 2 1/2 cents a name at a time that we could not very well decline to act as enumerators.

The 2 1/2 cents is to be paid for making practically thirty-two entries to each name, which is no pay at all. It is the same pay that was granted to the census enumerators in 1880, thirty years ago, when there were no examinations held, when the entries were much more simple and much fewer in number and when, as we all know, the cost of living was not near as high as it is now.

It looks to us that it is a funny deal for the United States government to be a party to and it is hoped that the wrong will be righted. If the United States government was bankrupt and short of funds it would be different, but when it is called the richest nation on earth, it is not to be expected that it will be stingy in case of taking the census. A much higher class of enumerators would have been secured if the pay had been half way what it ought to have been and those who did the work would have taken more pains to get the names completely. In my district I remember that I went to one house four times to get just a man and his wife. So that I walked nearly a mile several times to make the magnificent sum of 5 cents. And I did it a good many times in many other cases.

I wish that your paper would use its influence to get the enumerators a better paid for the work done. If I had been paid even 4 cents a name it would not have been any too much, for it was the hardest work ever done by intelligent people for the amount of money in it. In fact we have not been paid yet and it will be at least a month, probably more, from the time we complete our work before we will get the very small amount allowed us by the census director.

I would urge the census enumerators who may see this letter to write to the senator, and congressmen from Nebraska and ask for more pay and that they write to other members of either house that they know from other states.

If there is concerted action I think the members of congress in both houses will see the justice of our complaint over the small pay. I understand that there is universal complaint among the enumerators in