

Council Bluffs.

Minor Mention

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SECRETARY OF WAR RESIGNS

Action is Result of Friction with Secretary of State Knox.

HENRY L. STIMSON APPOINTED

Secretary Dickinson Said to Incur Criticism by Conduct of War Office in Relation to Mexican Situation.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—Secretary of War Jacob McGraw Dickinson of Tennessee, the democratic member of the president's cabinet, has resigned. Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, has been appointed to succeed him.

Stimson is a republican candidate for governor of that state, has been given the portfolio. This announcement was made from the White House last night.

In the letters exchanged between the president and Mr. Dickinson no reason other than that of pressing private affairs, is given as the cause of his resignation. It is given as the cause of his resignation. It is given as the cause of his resignation.

Stimson tomorrow or Sunday, but the new secretary of war will not be sworn in until the return of the president to the capital on Monday. Mr. Dickinson will go to his Tennessee home immediately upon the qualification of his successor.

He expects to devote his attention to business. He was engaged in the practice of law when President Taft appointed him secretary of war in March, 1909.

He is the second member of Mr. Taft's cabinet to retire to private life. Secretary of the Interior Ballinger having severed his connection with the president's official family only a few months ago.

William H. Taft, secretary of war, is the son of the late William H. Taft, former secretary of war.

Co-incident with the announcement of Mr. Dickinson's resignation came the appointment of C. S. Millington of Herkimer, N. Y., to be assistant secretary of the United States in New York. Mr. Stimson was the Roosevelt candidate for governor, while Mr. Millington was a former member of the house from the Twenty-seventh New York district, and is a close friend of Vice President Sherman.

In the two appointments official Washington found food for speculation and many politicians thought they saw therein the first step of the administration to straighten out the tangled skein of New York politics.

No effort was made by the president to conceal the satisfaction with which he viewed the appointment of Mr. Stimson. Not only has he the highest personal regard for the incoming member of his cabinet, but he is well aware that the appointment will be acceptable to a large faction of the republican party in New York.

While the selection of Mr. Stimson was made after only a few days' consideration, Senator Root and other leaders were consulted and gave their unqualified approval.

Roosevelt Not Consulted. Former President Roosevelt was not called into conference, but there is no question he must approve the naming to such a high office of a man for whom he worked tooth and nail in the recent gubernatorial campaign.

The position of assistant secretary in the Sherman-Barnes-Woodruff faction, while not so important as that given to the Roosevelt-Parsons faction, is believed to be a move in the direction of peace that will count for much in the future. Friends of the president were pleased over the political outlook.

Unofficially, Washington discussed with relief the resignation of the secretary of war. Unofficially, also, there were those who found other reasons than that given in his letter.

Mr. Dickinson is a democrat. His presence in the cabinet of a republican president has not been looked upon with favor by some of Mr. Taft's political advisers, who were of the opinion that the office of secretary of war should be held by some one of the president's own party, and who also pointed out that Mr. Dickinson might prove a source of embarrassment when the 1912 presidential campaign begins. Naturally Mr. Dickinson also found the discussion in the cabinet of party measures often a personal embarrassment.

Disagrees with Knox. There were others who thought Mr. Dickinson had incurred some criticisms by his conduct of the war office.

As was pointed out recently, there have been reports of friction over the Mexican situation between the State department and the War department.

In some quarters it was asserted that Secretary of State Knox was being overshadowed by Mr. Dickinson and there were reports that the former contemplated resigning, but these met with official denial. There had been no hint that Mr. Dickinson contemplated retirement.

The president moved swiftly when he found he had to select a new secretary of war. On Wednesday last Secretary Hillis was dispatched to New York post haste. He met Mr. Stimson the next day, but the latter wished to consult with his father, who was then on the Atlantic bound for Europe.

Mr. Hillis came back to Washington and Mr. Stimson reported to the wireless. His father's answer was that the president came today, and late this afternoon he called up the White House on the long-distance telephone and said he would be glad to become Mr. Taft's second secretary of war. The deal was closed right then, and the president, who was waiting to go to the garden party at the White House grounds, gave a sign of genuine relief.

The appointment of Mr. Stimson will give New York two members of the cabinet. Attorney General Wickersham being a resident of that state.

Mr. Stimson has had no special military save his own. He is a friend of the president expressed the belief that he was the sort of a man who would come into the War department and easily and quickly get the swing of affairs.

There are few men in public life outside of Washington for whom the president has higher personal regard and during the New York campaign the president frequently expressed his unqualified approval of Mr. Stimson's candidacy.

Text of the Correspondence. Following is the correspondence between President Taft and Secretary Dickinson: Secretary Dickinson's letter: "WASHINGTON, April 28, 1911.—Dear Mr. President: As my affairs have recently so changed as to require my personal attention in Tennessee, I herewith tender my resignation as secretary of war, to take effect as soon as may be compatible with the public interest. I cannot express my appreciation of the honor and confidence with which you have treated me. The memory of having enjoyed the privilege of being associated with you and my colleagues of the cabinet in the discussion of so many great questions affecting the welfare of our country will always be a source of pride to me as inestimable. With all good wishes for you and with the hope that one so able and devoted may long be spared for the service of his country, I am, very sincerely yours, "J. M. DICKINSON."

The president replied: "LETTER OF PRESIDENT TAFT. "THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, May 8.—My Dear Secretary Dickinson: I have your letter of resignation and am very sorry that the personal considera-

tion, as you have explained them at length to me, leave me no alternative and require me to accept it. Since you wrote you have signified to me that if I thought your leaving the War department would embarrass me in view of conditions in Mexico, you would request to be allowed to sacrifice your personal interests and continue in office. While I fully appreciate the high sense of duty that prompts your offer, I am glad to say that recent developments indicate that no crisis is likely to arise making your withdrawal now any more of an embarrassment than at a later date or justifying my asking from you such a sacrifice.

"In consenting to a severance of our official relations, I wish to tell you how satisfactory your administration of your great department has been. It involved the care and control of the army, the government of the Philippines and Porto Rico, the construction of the Panama canal and incidentally the government of the canal zone. In every way your work has been admirable and entitles you to the gratitude of your countrymen.

"Personally I wish to thank you for what you have done and for your invariable sense of loyalty to the administration and to express my deep regret that our delightful intimacy growing out of our official family relation is to end. I sincerely hope that you may be able to achieve success in the personal business that now claims your earnest effort. Believe me that you carry with you into private life my high respect and affectionate regard. Sincerely yours, "WILLIAM H. TAFT, Secretary of War."

"P. S.—I make this acceptance to take effect at the time of the qualification of your successor, which, at your request, I hope to secure May 15, 1911."

Dickinson Offers to Stay. Secretary Dickinson on May 5 wrote: "Dear Mr. President: When I offered my resignation it seemed that peace would be restored in Mexico. The situation is now so alarming that it might be unwise to make a change in the office I hold. While I have no right to withdraw my resignation, and if I could I would not take a step that would embarrass you, I want to say that in considering it please ignore all personal reasons advanced by me to support it, and be guided alone by considerations of public interests. This is not to further embarrass you, but in

view of the gravity of the situation, to put myself entirely at the public service, regardless of personal considerations. Respectfully, "J. M. DICKINSON."

Sketch of Stimson. Mr. Stimson was born in New York, September 21, 1867. He graduated from Yale in 1888 and from Harvard law school in 1890. He was associated with Senator Root of New York in the practice of law and in 1898 was appointed United States attorney for the southern district of New York. He resigned that position after three years' service, but became special counsel for the government in the prosecution of the sugar trust. As counsel in that case he won the admiration of Attorney General Wickersham and Mr. Taft, Secretary Dickinson was born in Mississippi, spent most of his life in Tennessee and was appointed to the cabinet from Chicago. He is 60 years old. In the civil war he served with the Mississippi volunteers. He was educated in the University of Nashville, the University of Leipzig, Saxony, and the Sorbonne, Paris. He was sworn in as secretary of war March 12, 1909, previously having been general counsel of the Illinois Central, with offices in Chicago.

Stimson Is Pleased. HUNTINGTON, L. I., May 13.—"I am very much gratified by the mark of confidence in me which President Taft has displayed," said Henry L. Stimson, the newly appointed