

BIG REPUBLICAN ROW.

THE TAFT-PINCHOT FUED REACHES CRISIS.

President Dismisses Chief Forester For Persisting in Making Charges of Corruption Against Ballinger—Speaker Cannon's Autocratic Rule in House Broken.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Gifford Pinchot, chief forester and intimate friend of Theodore Roosevelt, tonight was dismissed from the service of the United States by President Taft for insubordination. Associate Forester Overton W. Rice and Assistant Law Officer Alexander C. Shaw, Pinchot's immediate assistants in the Forestry Bureau, followed their chief out of government employ.

Thoroughly indignant over the action of Mr. Pinchot in inducing Senator Dolliver to read a letter from him in the senate yesterday, President Taft today would listen to no advice that the forester's violation of executive orders be overlooked pending the inquiry soon to be undertaken by congress. He declared the dignity of the office he has been chosen by the people to fill was being attacked and he would be unfaithful to his trust if he submitted longer.

Mr. Taft undoubtedly realizes fully what the dismissal of Forester Pinchot means in a political way. He has been convinced for some time that the so-called "insurgents" and other critics of his administration had enlisted the service of Mr. Pinchot and practically were defying him to separate Mr. Pinchot from his office. The latter's letter of yesterday, few here doubt, was written with the direct purpose of "putting it squarely up to the President."

The President sought to avoid the threatened war as long as he could but declared today that patience had ceased to be a virtue. He picked up the gauntlet thrown down by Mr. Pinchot by the hand of Senator Dolliver in the senate, and with the administration supporters, he ready to fray which is certain to ensue.

Political observers in Washington declare that the situation created by today's developments is the most tense of many years. What the outcome will be no one is willing to prophesy.

In the House of Representatives today Speaker Cannon lost his first fight to the "insurgents," who, combining with the Democrats, caused to be adopted an amendment to the Ballinger-Pinchot inquiry resolution so as to take from the speaker the power to appoint the House members of the joint special committee of investigation. The margin of victory was a narrow one of three votes, but the insurgents and Democrats alike are jubilant tonight. The dismissal of Pinchot has lent fuel to the flames of their celebration and they are venturing all manner of predictions as to what is to happen in the future.

Three Republicans, not classed as insurgents, but who profess their friendship for Pinchot, voted with the insurgents and Democrats for the amendment which calls for the selection of the House investigators by election from the floor.

These two incidents, at capitol and White House, kept Washington in a political ferment all day.

The cabinet was in special session during practically the entire afternoon following the regular session of the morning. Secretary Ballinger, cognizant of the action that was about to be taken, remained away from the afternoon sitting. It was at the end of this special session tonight that the President gave out the letter he had written to Mr. Pinchot notifying him that his usefulness as a public servant under the present administration was at an end.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, Pinchot's immediate superior, it appears, was one of the forester's chief accusers. He told President Taft that he had advised Mr. Pinchot not to send the letter to Senator Dolliver; that Mr. Pinchot had told him he had such a letter in mind and "could induce Senator Dolliver" to read it on the very day that President Taft's special message transmitting the Attorney General's exoneration of Secretary Ballinger was to be presented to the senate.

It was this story of Pinchot's apparently calculated insubordination that aroused the President to keenest resentment.

Mr. Taft accused Pinchot of having taken his stand against Secretary Ballinger wholly upon the evidence adduced by L. R. Glavis and without regard for the evidence on the other side on file in the interior department. The letter directing Secretary Wilson to dismiss the forester forthwith was carefully framed during the

afternoon sitting of the cabinet.

Secretary Wilson was swift in carrying out the decision of the president. He addressed to Gifford Pinchot, forester; Overton W. Price, associate forester, and Albert C. Shaw, assistant law officer, forestry bureau, letters substantially identical. That to Mr. Pinchot reads:

"Sir: By direction of the President, you are hereby removed from your office as forester. You will deliver possession of your office affairs belonging to the government to Mr. Albert F. Potter, assistant forester.

"Respectfully,
"James Wilson,
"Secretary of Agriculture."

The President in his letter to Forester Pinchot informing him of his dismissal, refers to Mr. Pinchot's letter to Senator Dolliver of Iowa which was read in the senate yesterday and says in part:

"The plain intimation in your letter are, first, that I had reached a wrong conclusion as to the good faith of Secretary Ballinger and the officers of the land office, although you and your subordinates had only seen the evidence of Glavis, the accuser, and had never seen or read the evidence of those accused or the records that they disclosed which were submitted to me, and, second, that under these circumstances, without the exploitation of Messrs. Shaw and Price in the daily, weekly and monthly press of the charges of Glavis, the administration, including the President and the officers of the interior department and land office would have allowed certain fraudulent claims to be patented on coal lands in Alaska, although the matter had been specifically brought to the attention of the President by the Glavis charges. You solicited the opportunity to make such a declaration in Congress for the purpose of offsetting, if possible, in the public mind, the President's decision in the Glavis case, supported by the opinion of the Attorney General after a full examination by both of the evidence adduced by the accuser, and the evidence on behalf of the accused, which later, evidence you and your subordinates had never seen.

"You did this against the advice of the Secretary of Agriculture, without notifying him that you intended to do so, and without conferring with me at all. Your letter was in effect an improper appeal to Congress and the public to excuse in advance the guilt of your subordinates before I could act and against my decision in the Glavis case before the whole evidence on which that was based could be considered.

"I should be glad to regard what has happened only as a personal reflection, so that I could pass it over and take no official cognizance of it. But other and higher considerations must govern me. When the people of the United States elected me president they placed me in an office of the highest dignity and charged me with the duty of maintaining that dignity and proper respect for that office on the part of my subordinates. Moreover, if I were to pass over this matter in silence, it would be most demoralizing to the discipline of the executive branch of the government.

"By your own account you have destroyed your usefulness as a helpful subordinate of the government, and it therefore now becomes my duty to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to remove you from your office as the forester."

Mr. Pinchot received tonight the letter of the President and Secretary Wilson's peremptory note of dismissal; but nothing about his demeanor indicated that he was surprised or distressed by either. Asked if he would say anything for publication, he replied:

"It will suit me just as well if you will make for me just that simple statement: 'I have nothing to say.'"

Mr. Pinchot added that he probably would say something tomorrow.

Speaker Cannon received his "jolt" today in the House of Representatives in the vote on the amendment offered by Representative Norris of Nebraska, the insurgent leader, and the vote was 149 to 146, five "voting" present.

So unexpectedly was the victory accomplished that the insurgents and their Democratic allies could scarcely believe their ears. For an instant almost complete silence reigned, then the storm broke and for almost a full minute the noise in the chamber was deafening. After that the Democrats jubilant that they had helped to pierce the hitherto impervious armor of the Speaker, seemed willing to abandon their fight against the resolution itself, which all the afternoon had appeared too broad to suit them, and all of them voted for it on a viva voce vote, though the organization leaders made no attempt to conceal their confusion. It developed that

PINCHOT NOT WHIPPED

CHIEF FORESTER STILL IN THE ANTI-BALLINGER FIGHT.

Speech Made by Dismissed Government Official to His Subordinates, Upon Relinquishing His Position. Indicates That He Regards Himself as a Guardian of "the Interests of the People"—Declines to Discuss His Removal.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Gifford Pinchot, who was removed yesterday by President Taft from his position as chief forester, made it clear today in addresses to the officers of the forest service and the clerks of that organization that his battle with Secretary of the Interior Ballinger and the Administration was not ended. While smilingly declining to express any personal opinion about his removal from office he also refused to discuss his plans for the future.

Mr. Pinchot arrived at his office early in order to arrange his affairs and withdraw as quickly as possible. A meeting of the officials who had been under him had already been arranged for 10:15 o'clock, and three-quarters of an hour later the clerical force of the forest service arrived in his office to say goodbye.

In addressing the men with whom he had been most intimately associated, Mr. Pinchot declared he wanted them to remember first that they must never forget that "the fight in which you are engaged for the safe and decent handling of our timber lands is infinitely larger than any man's personal presence or personal fortunes. Continuing he said: "This fight must go on, and you are the men who must carry it on. Stay by the work; hold fast to the standards we have set together. Never allow yourselves to forget that you are serving a much greater master than the Department of Agriculture, or even the Administration."

In addressing the clerks Mr. Pinchot commanded them to maintain service at the same standard and to press along the same lines, and never to forget they were the servants of the people of the United States, responsible to them and to them alone.

"I do not want you to get the idea—and this is my personal end of it"—he said, "that because I am going out of the service I am in any way losing my interest in it or my touch with it or you. Conservation is my life work in the government service or out of it. And this is the most important piece of conservation work there is. Therefore, I propose to know about it, to follow the work you are all doing, to keep my interest in it and, so far that is in any way possible, to keep in touch with it and my knowledge of it."

None of the officials would discuss the real and hidden meaning of Mr. Pinchot's declarations. It was generally conceded, however, that they breathed defiance, and were in the nature of an announcement that the former chief forester regarded himself still as a guardian of what, in the recent controversy, had been called "the interests of the people."

The three regulars who voted for the amendment were all staunch friends of Chief Forester Pinchot and that they had favored the election of members of the committee by the House to insure an impartial jury to try what is popularly known as the Pinchot-Ballinger case. They were Representatives Ames of Massachusetts and Fish and Parsons of New York.

The insurgent ranks had but one deserter, Steenerson of Minnesota. Strangely enough, Fitzgerald of New York was the only Democrat to cast his vote with the Republican regulars, although he led the minority fight on the joint resolution.

Republican leaders attributed their defeat to the large number of absentees but the tide of battle was really turned by Mr. Pinchot's three friends.

Practically the entire day was devoted by the House to the consideration of the joint resolution which was taken up after the reading of the President's interstate commerce and anti-trust message had been concluded. The Democrats made their fight on an attempt to narrow the proposed investigation to the general land office, contending that as no such charges as had been made against Secretary Ballinger had been preferred against Forester Pinchot there was no reason for dragging the latter into the inquiry.

The resolution as it goes to the senate provides for an investigating committee of 12 members, six to be appointed by the President of the senate and six to be elected by the house.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOTES

Roll of Membership Shows Many New Names—Reardon and the Lazy Germ.

Secretary Reardon reports that the farmers and country merchants are beginning to take an interest in the Chamber of Commerce and are becoming members.

Among the prominent and well known public spirited citizens of the "Gamecock County" who have enrolled their names are Messrs. L. E. Rembert, of Remberts, J. W. Allen, of New Sumter, W. S. Reams, R. F. D. No. 5, F. E. Thomas, Wedgefield, S. D. Cain, County superintendent of education, J. M. Brogdon, E. W. Dabbs, Salem, A. K. Sanders, Hagood, S. A. Harvin, Tuomey's Station, W. D. McLeod, Oswego, Peter M. Pitts, County supervisor, E. T. Mims, Shiloh.

Among the new members from the city of Sumter who have enrolled as members since the night of organization are Train Master C. M. Brand, Rev. C. C. Brown, D. D., Rev. Father Charles Dubois Wood, Mr. T. H. Clark, of the Sumter Dry Goods Co., Mr. Henry G. McKagen, Mr. S. W. Rumph, manager of the Western Union Tel. Co., George D. Shore & Bro., Col. Thos. Wilson, John R. Sumter, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners.

The secretary, who is also health officer, and who is somewhat of a student of communicable diseases says that it is now an accepted fact in Chamber of Commerce circles, and while not officially ruled on by the Board of Health, that no Sumter man who is a member of the Chamber of Commerce is suffering from Hookworm disease.

A thorough investigation of the membership roll shows that there is not an individual in the commercial organization suffering from "Uncinariasis Anchalostinar or the "lazy germ," and the secretary is willing to stake his professional and commercial reputation on the assertion that one of the infallible indications of Hookworm disease is the absence of a Sumter man's name on the Chamber of Commerce membership roll.

Those who mail their checks for one year's dues or \$5.00 to the secretary will be given free immunizing doses of "Gamecock blood virus," which so thoroughly inoculates them with the "Sumter spirit" that a Hookworm would drop dead with heart diseases immediately upon entering the circulation of an individual who has been so inoculated.

The secretary who has been appointed by Governor Ansel as a delegate to the big National Hookworm Conference in Atlanta on January 18th-19th, expects to read a paper before the conference showing how to combine therapeutics, commercialism and hygiene and avoid hookworm disease.

Mr. Reardon says also that he knows of no Sumter man suffering from hookworm who subscribes to and advertises in his home papers and patronizes Sumter's mercantile and industrial establishments and talks up Sumter and Sumter county.

YEGGMEN GOT \$500.

Robbers of Hartsville Postoffice Made Nice Little Haul.

Hartsville, Jan. 6.—The safe crackers who rifled the safe at the postoffice Tuesday night, got away with about \$500 in cash. They left three tools, which were taken from a blacksmith shop, near the safe and must have used an abundance of explosives from the manner in which the safe was torn up. Postmaster Heustess wired the postoffice authorities, and is congratulating himself that it did not happen the night before, when there was a much larger sum of money in the safe.

MONEY AND WHISKEY STOLEN.

Southern Railway Office at Edgefield Entered by Robbers.

Edgefield, Jan. 8.—The office of the Southern Railway Company at this place was broken into last night and about fifty dollars and a quantity of whiskey that had come by express stolen.

Entrance was effected by prizing open the door that led into the office. An effort was made to break open the iron safe, but without avail, the door of the same being heavily indented. The money was secured from the drawer in which the ticket and freight money is deposited.

The Taft Administration seems to have started no a new method of downing the Democratic party—filling the offices with Democrats.—Boston Herald.

TAFT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE.

MEMBERS GIVE COMMUNICATION CAREFUL ATTENTION.

Representative Townsend of Michigan Soon Will Introduce Administration's New Commerce Bill.

Washington, Jan. 7.—President Taft's special message to Congress recommending amendments to the interstate commerce and anti-trust laws, was laid before the House of Representatives today almost immediately after that body convened.

The reading of the document was begun without delay and members upon both the Republican and the Democratic sides followed the clerk closely. Copies of the message were laid upon the desk of each Representative and the interest attracted was indicated by the fact that unusual silence prevailed for the three-quarters of an hour required for the reading, silence which was broken only by the voice of the reading clerk.

Representative Townsend of Michigan, who was among the most attentive listeners, was understood to have in his possession the administration bill amending the interstate commerce law in accordance with the recommendations of the President contained in his special message. The measure will be introduced on Monday next.

When the reading of the President's message was concluded it was referred by the Speaker to the appropriate committees.

PARDONS RECOMMENDED.

Gov. Ansel Will Give Liberty to Mrs. Fannie Carson Who Killed Her Husband.

Columbia, Jan. 8.—The pardon board's report reached Gov. Ansel today, recommending a full pardon for Mrs. Fannie Carson. In the other two cases considered a parole, after one year, was recommended for Winkle Swifling, from Greenville, and the full pardon of the Orangeburg negro, Robert Green. Gov. Ansel will probably adopt the report and issue the pardons Monday.

WILL ASK FOR DISPENSARY.

Petition Calling For Election to be Circulated in Greenville.

Columbia, January 7.—One county on the eve of the session of the Legislature is to have a petition circulated for the establishment of the county dispensary system.

The Piedmont, of Greenville, the county in question, says:

"Within the next few days there will be petitions circulated in Greenville by Mr. C. E. Cook requesting the Legislature to order an election for the establishment of a county dispensary in Greenville.

"This subject has been spoken of by advocates of the dispensary system in preference to the present plan for some time and it is alleged that there is a strong sentiment in favor of the old plan.

"The argument that is being used in favor of the dispensary, is the fact that a certain amount of liquors are being bought by citizens of Greenville from outside of the State and that the money spent for this purpose is absolutely of no benefit to the city, or county of Greenville, whereas, it is claimed that the establishment of the dispensary would bring in a certain amount of revenue for the support of the schools, etc.

"On next Monday or Tuesday it is understood, the petition will be circulated among the people. It is necessary that two-thirds of the citizens of Greenville affix their signatures to the petition in order to hold an election.

"One of the more important matters, which will demand the attention of the Legislature at its next session will be the State-wide prohibition bill. If this bill is enacted into law a petition would not be of use, even if signed, to the advocates of the dispensary.

"It is known that any effort to have the old dispensary opened in Greenville will meet with strong opposition and that powerful influence will be brought to bear against it."

SELLERS FOUND GUILTY.

Columbia's "King of Blind Tigers" Convicted of Selling Whiskey.

Columbia, Jan. 8.—Going upon the stand for the first time in his career and pleading not guilty to a charge of violation of the whiskey law, Wade Hampton Sellers, known locally as the "King of Blind Tigers," was today in the Court of General Sessions found guilty of selling whiskey. Sentence was suspended by Judge Prince until Monday.

The Watchman and Southron.

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DISPENSARY PROFITS.

More Than Ever Before In Its History—Cheap Liquor.

Sumter, Jan. 7.—The Florence dispensary board completed its quarterly statement today, showing probably larger sales and greater profits than ever before in the history of the dispensary. The net receipts were \$28,942.42. Of this, the county will get \$11,877, the city \$1,000, the school fund \$5,788 and Timmonsville \$4,611.

The large sales in the opinion of the chairman of the board were due to the conditions, the general prosperity in this section and the fact that many of the other dispensaries have been recently closed.

A very few of the better grades of whiskey have been handled, the others having been very much depleted in this class of goods. The board determined to provide better goods for the future and to reduce the price of the inferior grades.

NEGRO CONFERENCE.

Spoke on Railroads in Effort to Save the Ninth and Tenth.

Sumter, Jan. 7.—The conference which is being held at the 14th must part.

It is expected that the conference will be held on Monday.

The tickets will be returned home as late as January 10th.

The conference will be both interesting and profitable. Tuesday will be Women's Day. Wednesday Gov. Ansel will speak. Mr. Ira Williams of the United States Agricultural Department, Judge Aldrich, Col. J. A. Slay, Editor of the Evening Record, Dr. C. C. Brown of Sumter, and other prominent men, white and colored, will speak. Thursday and Friday will be devoted to the interest of the rural schools. Dr. James H. Dillard, Secretary of the Jeanes' fund, will be among the speakers. All meetings will be held in the opera house.

1,000 packages of seed sent by the United States government will be distributed free of charge, among the farmers and gardeners. It is hoped that every negro farmer and every other colored man will be present.

All colored people who come to the city and do not know where to stop, please call at 1614 Lady St.

RICHARD CARROLL.

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 7, 1910.

CALLS PROHIBITION A FAILURE.

New York Preacher Says It Has Helped Negroes, But Not Whites.

New York, Jan. 9.—Preaching tonight on "The Failure of Prohibition," the Rev. Oscar Haywood gave his impressions of prohibition in the South.

"I saw no signs on a recent tour," said Dr. Haywood, "that drunkenness is diminishing, except among the negroes. I did not see a drunk negro and but little evidence of drinking among them. I should say that, under Southern prohibition, drink is the white man's vice.

"The law is doing what it was intended to do—protecting the negro, but it is administered by those who claim the right to violate it."

Dr. Haywood paid tribute to the motives behind the prohibition movement in the South. It looked to social reformation, he said, and was marked by many instances of noble voluntary renunciation.

Suicide in Greenville.

Greenville Jan. 7.—Dependent over her continual ill health, Mrs. C. P. Culclasure, wife of the proprietor of the Greenville Jewelry Company, committed suicide tonight at her home on the corner of Main and College streets by drinking an ounce and a half of carbolic acid. No reason is given for her rash act other than she had been brooding over her sickness.