

TAFT ANSWERS HIS SLANDERER

Reply to Bigelow's Attack on Canal Work.

ANIMUS OF INFORMANTS

No Foundation for Charges of Flying Tourist.

NO POLITICAL PULL GOES

Secretary of War Makes Exhaustive Reply to Article Based on Twenty-Eight Hours in Colon Among Soreheads.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—An elaborate and comprehensive answer to the charges against the Isthmian Canal Commission contained in an article in the Independent has been made by Secretary Taft. It is in the form of a letter to the President, who, on January 6 in a communication to the Secretary, said his attention had been directed to an article published purporting to have been written by Foutney Bigelow "attacking the administration of affairs by the Canal Commission and yourself on the Isthmus," and adding, "Will you please advise me what basis, if any, there is for these charges?" Mr. Taft briefly summarizes the charge as follows: "Alleging that the conditions in Colon are so unsanitary as to indicate great neglect in providing for the health of the employees of the commission; alleged mistreatment of negro laborers; that persons appointed to the Isthmus are incompetent and have been given their places through political influence; and official incompetency or misconduct, the latter involving the charge that there is so much 'red tape' necessary to bring about the construction of buildings that great misery has come to the laborers on the Isthmus."

The Secretary says that Chief Engineer Stevens is now in Washington and is personally cognizant of the facts with respect to every local condition described by the writer of the article, and a memorandum of comments thereon by Mr. Stevens is appended to the letter as an exhibit.

Sanitation of Colon.

Discussing the conditions at Colon, the Secretary quotes Mr. Stevens as saying that every one knows who has been on the ground, that the problem of draining the city is one of extreme difficulty, owing to the situation on an island surrounded by the sea on one side and by a fresh water swamp on the other; that the land on the average is not more than 1 1/2 feet above the sea level. Uncertainty as to the plans of improving Colon has rendered impracticable any radical destruction of unsanitary buildings, most of which are on land owned by the railroad company and leased on short terms to middlemen. Meantime, the Secretary says, the sanitary conditions in Panama required much more urgent treatment than those at Colon. The death-rate at Panama since the government took charge of the health of the Isthmus, the Secretary says, is from 25 per cent. to 33-1/3 per cent. greater than in Colon. The Commission thought itself fully justified, therefore, the Secretary adds, in installing a water system and a sewer system in Panama first. It is not true, he says, that a large number of the employees on the Isthmus live in Colon proper, where the swampy district is, and, as Mr. Stevens points out, there are not to exceed two or three hundred living there.

Regarding the charge of indifference as to food supply for the laborers, the Secretary refers to the reports on the Market contract and says the very diligent efforts made in this regard are sufficiently set out there, as already published.

Colon Has Ample Water.

Bearing on the charge that there is no water supply in Colon, Mr. Taft quotes from a dispatch from Governor Magoon advising him that the two temporary reservoirs for the Colon and Cristobal water supply (the latter plant being not five minutes' walk from the center of Colon), one was completed on November 11 and the other the latter part of December, with a total capacity of 30,000,000 gallons, amply sufficient for present use; that there is no scarcity of water in Colon; that a permanent reservoir with a capacity of 70,000,000 gallons is under construction, with two permanent standpipes, under contract to be completed April 1. The statements of Mr. Stevens and Governor Magoon, Mr. Taft says, are in variance with those of the writer of this article.

Criticism of Negro Labor.

Mr. Taft declares that the rate of wages is well advanced throughout the West Indies as ten cents gold an hour for a day of eight hours, which may be increased by diligent work to 15 cents an hour. It is also untrue, he says, that a great prejudice exists against negroes in the railroad management. The Secretary says it is charged that the chairman of the Commission and all others wrongly look upon the tropical negro labor as poor labor. The conclusion of Mr. Stevens and of every observer on the Isthmus, he declares, is to the effect that this labor is inefficient. Regarding the statement that the negroes are leaving the Isthmus in portentous numbers because of mistreatment, Mr. Stevens tes-

ties, the Secretary says, that just before the holidays a great number of laborers returned to the islands whence they came. This, the Secretary says, has been the custom ever since the beginning of the French construction. Many of the laborers leave their families and because transportation is cheap, are able to go back and then return. The Secretary shows that there are now on the pay rolls 11,000 laborers.

He refers to the personnel of the court of the Canal Zone, and says it would be difficult to select a better one for the duties it has to discharge.

No Political Influence.

As to the charge that officials on the Isthmus were appointed through Congressional or political influence, the Secretary says the Chief Engineer categorically denies this, "and I am able from the standpoint of Washington also categorically to deny it." Political influence, he says, has played no part whatever in the selection of appointees. He adds: "There has been great difficulty in securing under the civil service law methods men for out-of-door work on the Isthmus, such as mechanics, track-layers, carpenters and others; but certainly the defects in their qualifications which have been found to exist have never been due to the exercise of political influence."

Mr. Taft says the charge of delay by "red tape" in the construction of buildings on the Isthmus is shown to be untrue by the statement of the Chief Engineer, and as to the allegation that the dredges in the Culebra cut were not working 20 per cent of their promised capacity, the Secretary says there are no dredges within a long distance of the Culebra cut and that the instruments there being used are steam shovels.

Quarantine Kills Disease.

Mr. Taft says that the charge that quarantine officials contrive the law and enforce it as far as possible to interfere with commerce is "utterly unfounded." The Isthmus is being freed from danger of yellow fever and other contagious diseases, observes the Secretary, by an effort unprecedented in the history of the world. Being surrounded on every side by disease-breeding ports, the Secretary says it is of the highest importance, if the work done upon the Isthmus is to remain permanent, that the quarantine be strictly enforced. Natives of the Isthmus, he says, regard themselves as immune from yellow fever and many of the other diseases and therefore naturally resent the strictness of the quarantine against such diseases, but are greatly alarmed over the imposition of the bubonic plague.

Mr. Taft repeats his former statement that the charge that a boat-load of black women was imported from Martinique for immoral purposes is false, and refers to documents to corroborate this denial.

Refused Robinson as Guide.

"Finally I come to the charges specifically made against the Secretary of War. They consist in a refusal to accept the guidance of Tracy Robinson in visiting the ruins of Colon and refusal to have an interview with John Lundie, chief engineer of the electric and refrigerating plant in Panama. "To the first charge I plead guilty." He says an impression was sought to be given that Mr. Lundie's application for an interview was made in interest of the negro laborers on the Isthmus, and declares that the correspondent who "how unfounded this is, and that in fact Mr. Lundie did not ask for an interview at all."

Animus of Robinson and Lundie.

Mr. Taft says Mr. Robinson is the owner of property in Colon. "His animus against the government," says Mr. Taft, "is because it devoted itself to the expenditure of money in Panama and thus raised the value of property in that city, and, secondly, that in the enforcement of the health regulations by the sanitary department in Colon he found it necessary to complain that his vested rights were being interfered with. Thirdly," the Secretary says, "Mr. Robinson applied to the ex-chairman of the commission for a position at \$600, declining the position of Mayor of Cristobal at \$180, and he applied to Governor Magoon for a position, but was told there were no vacancies."

Too Weak to Go South.

Just before the holidays a portion of his strength came back and it was thought that under the influence of a milder climate his health would improve. All preparations were made for the journey to the South, but at the last moment he was too feeble to attempt the trip and it was abandoned. During the last fortnight his strength had failed rapidly and it was evident to his medical attendants that the end could not be far off. Messages were sent to his immediate relatives and all of them were at the house today when he died. Dr. Billings later issued the following statement:

"For two weeks Dr. Harper has failed rapidly. He and his family and friends recognized the approaching end. His physical condition had been kept reasonably free from pain by the use of a very moderate amount of one of the derivatives of opium. His mind remained clear until the end. Physical exhaustion was the cause of death."

Arrangements for Funeral.

Dr. Harper left a statement outlining his wishes for the ceremonies at his funeral. A detail which he emphasized, both in writing and in person, was that no regular university exercise should be suspended except during the services of the funeral. The body will remain in charge of the family until Saturday. It will then be transferred to Haskell Assembly Hall on the grounds, escorted by the University Band, University Senate and the University Council, members of the Senate and Council acting as pallbearers. The body will lie in state in Haskell Hall

DEATH RELIEVES DR. W. R. HARPER

Sudden End Comes to Sufferings of Chicago University's Head.

LONG FIGHT WITH DISEASE

Cancer in Intestines Foils Best Surgical Skill—Great Work at Chicago Continued While Death Drew Near.

CHICAGO, Jan. 10.—Dr. William Rainey Harper, president of the University of Chicago, since its inception, one of the foremost educators and one of the most learned Hebrew scholars of his time, died today of cancer of the intestines.

Three years ago Dr. Harper underwent an operation for appendicitis, and symptoms were then discovered which led the surgeons to suspect that graver troubles might arise in the future, but they were then too indefinite to permit of an operation, and it was not until February 22, 1905, that an operation was decided upon to determine the nature and cause of severe abdominal pains from which he had suffered for several months. Dr. McBurney, of New York, the famous specialist in abdominal surgery, came to Chicago expressly for the operation, in which he was assisted by Drs. Billings and Bevan, of this city.

Surgery Would Kill, Not Cure.

At the outset of the operation, it was discovered that Dr. Harper was suffering from a cancer at the head of the large intestine, and that the malady had progressed so far that an operation which would have removed it would have been fatal to the patient. A brief consultation of the surgeons resulted in the conclusion that nothing more could be done by them and that the only hope of Dr. Harper lay in remedial measures alone.

In a short time he left the hospital, knowing well that he was a doomed man, that his disease could not be cured and that his death must come within a short time, no matter what was done in the effort to avert it.

Brave Fight With Disease.

No braver fight was ever made by any man than Dr. Harper. He took up his duties at the university as though nothing had happened or was likely to happen to him and he was at all times apparently confident and cheerful. The X-ray treatment was elaborated on in the effort to afford him relief and everything was done for him that the ingenuity and skill of his physicians could suggest. Although Dr. Harper never desisted himself with false hopes, he faithfully attempted whatever offered him a hope of recovery. At times his condition would improve, and then would come a relapse that would leave him weaker than before. Despite all that was done for him, he lost steadily in all things save courage. Several times the malady acted in such a manner that small surgical operations were necessary to afford him a temporary relief.

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RICH MEN'S TRUST BLACKBALLS ALL

No New Members Admitted to Wall Street Millionaires' Trust.

OLD ONES GROW RICHER

LEADER IN EDUCATIONAL WORK

Dr. Harper Built Up Chicago University to Leading Rank.

William Rainey Harper, Hebraist and first president of the University of Chicago, was born at New Concord, O., on July 28, 1856. He was graduated at Muskingum College in 1879 and was professor of Hebrew and Dean of the Theological Seminary at Chicago, from 1879 to 1888, and of Semitic languages in the graduate faculty of Yale. He was principal of the Chautauque College of Liberal Arts from 1885 to 1891 and in the latter year was appointed director of New York City. In 1891 he was chosen first president of the new University of Chicago, where he was also head of the department of Semitic languages and literature. He was a founder and editor of "Hebraica" and the "Hebrew Student," and also of three of the publications of the University of Chicago. His administration of that institution has been noted for its rapid development of the facilities of the university.

Among the principal works of which he was the author are: "Elements of Hebrew," "Hebrew Method and Manual" and "Elements of Hebrew Syntax." Under his direction the University of Chicago has developed into an institution of the first rank among the great colleges of America. With the large sums of money which John D. Rockefeller and other rich men have lavished upon it, Dr. Harper provided it with the most modern facilities and its rolls now count thousands of students.

ROCKEFELLER'S HIGH TRIBUTE

Great Loss to Education—Will Continue Aid to University.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Although John D. Rockefeller, whose liberal contributions furnished to President Harper much of the means for carrying out his plans for the upbuilding of the University of Chicago, is out of the city and could not be seen, his son, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., gave an authorized interview to the Associated Press tonight, in which, after expressing the shock of the news of Dr. Harper's death he declared that, while his father had never committed himself to any definite policy with regard to the university, his interest in its future would continue to be expressed as it had been in the past and those of Mr. Rockefeller's family who come after him will endeavor to carry out Mr. Rockefeller's wishes as to the welfare of the institution.

"The news of President Harper's death came as a great shock to my father and to his family," said young Mr. Rockefeller tonight. "My father will feel Dr. Harper's death most keenly, not only because of his relationship with the University of Chicago, in which my father has taken such a deep interest, but because of the warm feelings of personal regard, friendship and admiration of the man which he long sustained.

"Not only the University of Chicago, but the cause of education in this country has lost in the death of Dr. Harper one of its greatest friends and ablest promoters. Probably no greater organizer than Dr. Harper has ever occupied the position of president of a university in this country, if in any country. The contribution which he has made to higher education during the time of his connection with the University of Chicago as its president has been greater, perhaps, than that of any other university president during an equal number of years.

"Whatever the future of the University of Chicago may be will in large measure result from the courage and foresightedness as well as the wisdom and pre-eminence ability shown by its first president during the years of its organization and early history.

"Although he was but 49 years old, Dr.

(Concluded on Page 4.)

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No New Members Admitted to Wall Street Millionaires' Trust.

OLD ONES GROW RICHER

First Class Can't Count Money—Gates Takes Morgan Down a Peg.

Clark's Copper Millions Double—Schwab's Fortune.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—(Special.)—Wall street has developed the latest thing in trusts—the millionaires' trust. Despite the fact that great fortunes were made in stock speculation during the year, it is interesting to know that not even one new millionaire figured in the list.

To make millions nowadays you must start in with millions; at least that would seem apparent from conditions that prevail in the financial district of New York City. Such men as John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, J. P. Morgan, J. J. Hill, E. H. Harriman and the Vanderbilts have become so rich that it is no longer interesting to tell of their added wealth, for their fortunes are beyond the comprehension of themselves or the public.

Some of the "second-class millionaires," so to speak, who have won millions during the year are John W. Gates, Joseph H. Hoadley, Jefferson M. Levy, Charles M. Schwab and Edward Wasserman.

Gates Sold Morgan Gold Brick.

Gates' profits for 12 months are conservatively placed at \$3,000,000. He secured J. P. Morgan into taking the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad of Eugene Zimmerman's hands, and laughed heartily when Morgan discovered that it was a gold brick. Aided by Joseph H. Hoadley, he captured the great Tennessee Coal & Iron Company, and is even now organizing a new steel trust, which he intends to force Morgan to purchase for the United States Steel Corporation. His business associates declare that part of the price he will exact will be a seat on the Steel Trust board. Gates has made all the money he wants, and is in high finance nowadays for the excitement of the thing.

Ex-Congressman Jefferson M. Levy, who has been singularly fortunate in every move he has made, is as heavy a winner on the year as is Mr. Gates. He is perhaps the largest private stockholder in the world of Canadian Pacific, Anaconda and the "Soo" issues. He got his line of all these below par. To show how he has made money, it should be remembered that Canadian Pacific has advanced \$5 a share during the year, the "Soo" stocks \$3, while Anaconda has nearly tripled in value. Mr. Levy first discovered the great value of Anaconda and was one of the first to accept the theory that the tremendous output of gold meant fabulously high prices for stocks.

Hoadley Has Made \$6,000,000.

Joseph H. Hoadley has at least \$6,000,000 to his credit in paper profits, but he has not yet turned it into cash, and has many millions involved in cotton. All the money he made in cornering the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company has been pledged to support the campaign of the planters. It is now well understood in Wall street that the control of the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company passed to Gates through Hoadley last Spring, but that Gates went through the formality of a campaign this Winter to relieve the "Hanover bank crowd" of the shame of having to admit defeat in a stock market battle with Hoadley. The latter is good-natured and "stood for it."

United States Senator W. A. Clark, of Montana and Fifth avenue, New York,

FATALLY SHOT BY HIGHBINDER

Tong War Breaks Out in Chinese Quarter and Lee Yeek Yee Is First Victim.

ASSAILANT NOW IN JAIL

Came From San Francisco to Open Long-Expected Campaign of Murder in This City.

Bloodshed and probably murder followed the breaking out last night of the high-binder war which has been brewing of late in the Chinese quarter. At about 11 o'clock Lee Yeek Yee, a prominent Chinese merchant, was shot twice, one ball from a 4-caliber Colts revolver piercing his abdomen and another breaking the left arm just above the elbow. After a hot chase his assailant, a highbinder who is supposed to belong to the Jim society, was captured by Detective Joe Reising, who with Detective Carpenter was two blocks away when the trouble began and heard the shooting.

Lee Yeek Yee probably died from the effects of his wounds, as the wound in his body is thought to be fatal. Although unidentified positively the highbinder is thought to be Jew Gee, a Chinese from San Francisco, who had been sent to Portland to open the tong war.

The shooting of Lee Yeek Yee attracted hundreds of people to the scene of the shooting, as the four shots fired were heard all over the downtown district of the city.

Lee Yeek Yee was coming out of his cousin's house on Pine street between Third and Fourth when he was attacked. As Yeek Yee stepped from the door the highbinder, who was standing a few feet distant, fired and a bullet struck Yeek Yee's left arm. Yeek Yee started to run toward Third street with Gee after him, firing at every step. The second shot missed, and before a third could be fired Yeek Yee had turned North on Third street. At a distance of some yards Gee again fired and a bullet entered Yeek Yee's back, passing through the body and coming out the side.

Seeing that he had probably killed his victim, Gee tried to make his escape by running up Ash street. Detective Reising, who saw the Chinaman running away while people thronged about the fallen man, gave chase and captured the highbinder just as he was disappearing into a hallway.

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Seeing that he had probably killed his victim, Gee tried to make his escape by running up Ash street. Detective Reising, who saw the Chinaman running away while people thronged about the fallen man, gave chase and captured the highbinder just as he was disappearing into a hallway.

Gee pleaded innocence, and as the detective leveled his revolver at him exclaimed that the man did not belong to him, evidently thinking Reising had picked up the revolver and was returning it.

Several hundred people had gathered by the time the capture was made. The revolver, still hot from the rapid firing, was picked up out of the gutter by a bystander and handed over to the detectives. Followed by the crowd, Gee and Yee were taken to police headquarters, where an effort was made to get a statement from the wounded man. His throat was choked with blood and he was too thoroughly frightened to utter a word. Gee was hustled into a cell to keep company with "Tattoo" Kelly, who is also charged with murder.

A Chinese interpreter was summoned, but no amount of coaxing nor threatening could compel Gee to make a statement. Several Chinese were taken to his cell and they identified him as a San Francisco highbinder who had arrived in Portland only a few days before. He was told that he had killed a fellow countryman, but instead of weakening only smiled. He refused to divulge his name or tell of what tong he was a member.

Letters and papers written in Chinese, taken from him, disclosed his name and the name of the society to which he belonged.

Lee Yeek Yee was bundled into the patrol wagon and hurried to the Good Samaritan Hospital, where Dr. Stoum, former assistant city physician, performed an operation to determine the nature of his wounds.

Dr. Stoum said after the operation that the wounds were dangerous, one ball having passed through the abdomen, piercing the liver. The operation was successful, and a little hope is held out for Yeek Yee's recovery.

BRACKETT IS AFTER DEPEW

Will Yet Push Resolution Demanding Senator's Resignation.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 10.—Senator Brackett's resolution requesting the resignation of United States Senator Chauncey M. Depew was the only feature of the Senate session tonight, although it was not introduced after all and the expectation of another sensational attack upon and defense of Depew was disappointed. The Senate had run through its order of business in 15 minutes and Rains moved to adjourn. Brackett declared it was done to "choke off" his resolution, everybody knowing, he declared, he was going to introduce it tonight, in accordance with his announcement when the resolution was before the Senate last week.

"No such announcement was made," interjected a Senator.

"Oh, very well," said Brackett, "tomorrow will do as well as tonight." Brackett then declared that he would yet put the Senate on record on his resolution.

Tarbell Denies Approving Rebates.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Gage E. Tarbell, second vice-president of the Bonitas Life Assurance Society, today filed with the legislative committee on life insurance an investigation an affidavit in reply to the testimony of George H. Shookens of Buffalo, taken before the committee on December 20. Mr. Tarbell denies that he advised or approved rebating in any form.

PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DIES



THE LATE W. R. HARPER.