

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 gallons, amply sufficient for present use; that there is no scarcity of water in Colon; that a permanent reservoir with a capacity of 700,000 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-

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 intestine. 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.

FAUCES MAY SUCCEED HIM.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 10.—The death of President Harper has revived speculation here as to the possibility of President W. H. F. Faunce, of Brown University, becoming the head of the University of Chicago. At the time of President Harper's critical illness last February, when it was expected he would resign and President Faunce was generally talked of as his successor, the latter declined to make any statement concerning the matter.

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

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No New Members Admitted to Wall Street Millionaires' Trust.

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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.

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Joseph H. Hoodley 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 Hoodley 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 Hoodley. The latter is good-natured and "stood for it."

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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 Baptist Theological Seminary, Chicago, from 1879 to 1886, and of Semitic languages in the graduate faculty of Yale. He was principal of the Chautauque College of Liberal Arts from 1887 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.

Under His Direction the University of Chicago Has Developed into an Institution of the First Rank among the Great Colleges of America.

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.

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PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DIES



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has added 50 per cent to his fortune in the year by discovering in his mines the same vein of ore that has sent Anaconda leaping to such dizzy prices.

Edward Wasserman, because of his operations in Reading, has become several times a millionaire. It is but little more than a year ago that Reading was kicking about Wall street 100 points below its present level. H. C. Frick, Morgan, A. J. Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania, and other coal barons have shared in the added value of Reading, but the others were already abnormally rich anyhow, and did not need the additional cash which has poured in upon them.

Schwab Wins on Tonopah Mines.

Charles M. Schwab has had the grim satisfaction of seeing Steel stock rise to the level from which it collapsed four years ago. He was an open and enthusiastic buyer of the stock at the bottom prices, and must have made tens of millions in profits. His most brilliant exploit has been to make about \$5,000,000 by picking up, on the New York curb market, at 15 cents a share, control of the Tonopah Mining Company. The mine has proved a bonanza and its shares, which are \$1 par, are quoted at above \$11, which is double the price of Standard Oil stock.

Samuel Newhouse is another who controls mines whose stocks are quoted higher than Standard Oil. His Boston Mining Company, with shares of \$5 par sold at about \$5, which is 700 per cent.

Samuel Untermyer, the celebrated lawyer, is a partner with Newhouse in many of his enterprises, and since a year ago, has added several millions to his already large fortune.

The Guggenheims, as a family, have prospered mightily. Their smelter stock has been a perpetual sensation in the stock market, and it has more than doubled in value. One odd feature in the career of the Guggenheims is that they have let the public know every day what they intended to do, so that the profits made by their enthusiastic following have been very great.

Colonel W. C. Greene, who added to the safety of nations some time ago by going to Boston to shoot Thomas W. Lawson, has been a favorite of fortune, as the rich strikes of ore in the Mexican mines are among the wonders of the year.

Many Winners, No Losers.

The statement is made that despite the marvelous winnings there have been no losers, for the millions made have been the result of general prosperity and have not been snatched from unfortunates. It has certainly been a wonderful year for Wall street, and the general feeling among the big financiers is that it is bound to last. At least they are all agreed.

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FATALLY SHOT BY HIGHBINDER

Tong War Breaks Out in Chinese Quarter and Lee 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 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 Yee will probably die 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 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 Yee was coming out of his cousin's house on Pine street between Third and Fourth when he was attacked. As Yee stepped from the door the highbinder, who was standing a few feet distant, fired and a bullet struck Yee's left arm. 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 Yee had turned North on Third street. At a distance of some yards Gee again fired and a bullet entered Yee's back, passing through the body and coming out the side.

Seeing that he had probably killed his man, 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, and 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 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 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.—George 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