

STEWART 'NOVA' AS 'ARMY PEST'

Department Sent Him to Abandoned Post to Be Rid of Him.

PRESIDENT WAS LENIENT

"Impossible Colonel" Man of Uncontrollable Temper, Disliked by Fellow-Officers and Subordinates—Refused Retirement.

WHY IS STEWART EXILED?

PORTLAND, Sept. 15.—(Editor Oregonian.)—Will you kindly publish in your columns the circumstances that led to the exiling of Colonel Stewart to Fort Grant and the tremendous punishment to which he is subjected there and oblige a number of people who want to know.

INQUIRER.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Oct. 1.—

Colonel William F. Stewart, of the Coast Artillery, better known as the "Exile of Fort Grant," is no martyr in the opinion of the officers of the United States Army. It is rather the belief of Colonel Stewart's fellow-officers that the "impossible" Colonel "got what was coming to him" when he was sent to the abandoned Army post in the wilds of Arizona. Harsh as the treatment of Colonel Stewart may seem, there are no officers of the Army disposed to criticize the President; on the contrary there are many who believe Colonel Stewart deserved even more drastic punishment.

Has Unbridled Temper.

Colonel Stewart, according to the official record, is possessed of an unbridled temper, and is charged with "tyranny toward his inferiors," gross abuse of his position as an officer, and a total disregard for the proprieties in his dealings with civilians. It is very apparent from the record that Colonel Stewart is a rare type of man. He is primarily a martinet, but in this respect he goes so far beyond other Army officers of the type as to be a class by himself. Blood does not course through the veins of Colonel Stewart; only vitriol. His heart is of stone, and his head is as hard as his heart. Never has he understood or sympathized with his fellow men, be they officers or enlisted men of the service, or civilians with whom he has been brought in contact. The society and friendship of his fellow-officers has never appealed to him; he has always lived apart, making it impossible for those so inclined to become his friends.

Medal-of-Honor Man.

And yet, with all his failings, Colonel Stewart is a medal-of-honor man, and was once promoted for unusual bravery exhibited in his early Army career, while fighting the Indians in the Western country.

It is shown by Colonel Stewart's official record that he has been a source of trouble and annoyance to the Army for the past 27 years. His retirement would have been welcomed long ago, but the Colonel is nothing if not contrary, and he has repeatedly put aside every opportunity offered him to go upon the retired list. Now it is up to the Army Retiring Board to pass upon his case, and with a strong prejudice existing in the minds of Army men, it is quite probable that the service will soon be rid of its most "undesirable" officer.

Offered Chance to Retire.

About two years ago, when complaints against Colonel Stewart were arising rapidly in the War Department, it was practically decided to offer him a chance of retiring or being relieved of the command of troops in the Arizona desert. Experience demonstrated that Colonel Stewart was too set in his ways to change his habits, and notwithstanding the President's lenient complaints continued to come in. And so it was that on September 23, 1907, the War Department informed that he could apply for immediate retirement or be relieved of the command of troops, and be sent to some ungarmented post. The Colonel, as was expected, refused to apply for retirement, and demanded a court-martial. The department ignored his demand, and by order of the President, on October 2, 1907, directed him to proceed immediately to the ungarmented post at Fort Grant, Ariz.

During his early Army career, Colonel Stewart, while holding minor commissions, made himself obnoxious to all around him. He has seen service from one end of the country to the other, and everywhere he has been a source of trouble. However, complaints were not lodged against him with the War Department until he was promoted to the grade of Colonel in 1902. At the time of his promotion he was assigned to command of the defenses in the harbor of Portland, Me. His conduct at that station was described by President Roosevelt in his letter to Senator Rayner last winter as "culpably remiss."

President on Record.

The following paragraph from the President's letter explains:

In 1903, when he was in command at Fort Williams, Me., an officer of his command, his quartermaster, was court-martialed, dismissed from the army and sentenced to the penitentiary for the perpetration of the most outrageous frauds upon the Government, which had extended over a considerable period of time. Apparently all this was done at the very eyes of Colonel Stewart, but he failed to detect the crimes of the officer, in so doing, being culpably remiss in exercising supervision over his subordinates.

While in command at Fort Williams (Portland, Me., harbor), Colonel Stewart gave the usual orders to officers and men under his command, and became embroiled in a big row with civilians with whom he was brought in contact. Cushing Island, in the harbor, is occupied by a Government fort at one end and a summer resort at the other. The only wharf is on the private property, but the War Department has an arrangement whereby it uses this wharf for the landing of troops and supplies. Colonel Stewart, abusing his authority as commanding officer, undertook to virtually monopolize this wharf, making it almost impossible for the summer resort steamers to land passengers and freight for the hotel. There was no excuse for the

Colonel's arbitrary monopoly of the wharf belonging to the hotel company, yet he ignored all protests and seriously hampered their business. His actions were reported to the department and referred to General Frederick D. Grant, then commander of the Department of the East, who reported that the unhappy conditions were due solely to Colonel Stewart, whom he described as temperamental, and who so irritated those around him that in General Grant's opinion the only cure was to "get rid of the irritant," which can be done by offering Colonel Stewart an alternative of relief from command or retirement on his own application.

Ought to Be Eliminated.

Thus, it appears that in the opinion of such a practical soldier as General Grant, Colonel Stewart ought to be eliminated, and yet his offense was not eliminated by court-martial. But General Grant's recommendation, though approved by the Chief of Artillery, was not acted upon, as it was thought possibly a change of station would relieve the situation. Accordingly, Colonel Stewart was ordered to Fort Barrancas, Fla., a few miles from Pensacola. But Colonel Stewart did not improve in fact he had been there but a short time when hostilities were resumed, and the Colonel became involved in a bitter row with the civilians with whom he was brought in contact, and complaints once more began to flood the department. General Duval, commanding that department, made an investigation of conditions, and most urgently recommended the carrying out of the recommendations previously made by General Grant.

It was evident that Colonel Stewart, instead of improving, was growing worse as he grew older, and his conduct became such that President Roosevelt, in his letter to Senator Rayner, described him as a nuisance to the army, incompetent and temperamentally unfit to exercise command over enlisted men or to control other officers, or to behave with propriety when brought in contact with civilians. Indeed, after his career at Fort Barrancas, it was agreed that Colonel Stewart was not only the most useless, but the most offensive officer in the Army.

Quarrel With Civilians.

To illustrate Colonel Stewart's fondness for trouble and his abuse of authority, an incident that occurred at Fort Barrancas is cited. Within the military reservation is a building, not used by the Government. J. E. Turtle, a civilian employe at the post, had been occupying the building for years by sanction of previous commanders. One day, when a window pane in this building was broken, Turtle asked permission to replace it, for there is an Army regulation which stipulates that no civilian shall make alterations or repairs on a military reservation without authority of the commanding officer. Colonel Stewart refused to permit Turtle to put in a new window pane, and he furthermore refused to have a pane put in by the post quartermaster. This one incident, it is said, is illustrative of the man's character.

Profanity, he frequently used, and publicly. He would rebuke his men, both officers and of the ranks, in the vilest terms and in the most offensive manner. His command has been a rule of iron, but without reason and absolutely without consideration.

In the study of Colonel Stewart's case an incident was unearthed which probably had much to do with the exiling of this officer to the lonely station in Arizona. Feeling resentful towards a Lieutenant under his command, Colonel Stewart ordered him to take an isolated sub-station of the post, the most undesirable under his command. This officer has just completed a long time there, and was entitled to a better station. Moreover, there were other officers available and in line for this deserted assignment. When the War Department learned of Colonel Stewart's order, the Lieutenant was relieved and restored to a pleasant station. The similarity between the case of this lieutenant and the case of Colonel Stewart leads one to wonder if the War Department and the President had not determined to mete out to Colonel Stewart the kind of punishment he dealt to his subordinates.

Follows General Grant's Advice.

While responsibility for sending Colonel Stewart to Fort Grant rests primarily upon President Roosevelt, this action was recommended by General Fred Grant, General William P. Duval, General Arthur Murray, General George Davis, and the Secretary of War, Mr. Taft. Had the offense charged against the Colonel made him liable to compulsory retirement, he would long ago have been court-martialed, but meager or formal punishment would have been futile with a man of his type; a reprimand would have been unavailing. Nothing could have been done other than was done, except to relieve him of command, and without station; a review of the case raises no serious question whether the President erred in punishing Colonel Stewart, while rendering it impossible for him to do further damage to the service.

The President and the officers of the army are ready to do anything that will enable them to force Colonel Stewart on the retired list. It was with that end in view that he was ordered to take the last ride, and it was that order that led to the discovery that the Colonel was of un-sound body. If the Army Retiring Board reached the same conclusion, it was reached by the examining board at Fort

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MAKES LAST STAND

Foraker Big Factor in Ohio Political Situation.

STATE GREATLY IN DOUBT

Factional Disturbances Have Destroyed Normal Republican Strength—Negro Vote May Be Balance of Power in Fight.

Good Hunting in Clatsop.

ST. HELENS, Or., Oct. 1.—(Special.)—A party of hunters just returned from the Saddle Mountain country, in Clatsop County, reports having great success with big game, having killed three elk, two wildcats, a deer and a coyote. The elk had seven-pronged antlers and dressed 700 pounds each. The antlers and meat were packed over the rough country a distance of 20 miles to the county road near Vesper.

140 Turks Drowned.

SMYRNA, Sept. 30.—A Turkish steamer ran down the steam ferryboat Stamboul in the harbor today. One hundred and forty persons were drowned.

KLAMATH COUNTY SCHOOLS IN CHARGE OF COMPETENT EDUCATORS



John G. Swan, County Superintendent of Public Instruction.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Oct. 1.—(Special.)—An important asset of Klamath County in making it a most desirable place for families to locate is the Klamath County High School, which was organized six years ago, with a small beginning, and is now classified among the first-class high schools of the state, accredited at the University of Oregon and the University of California.

ORGANIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Oct. 1.—

Ohio, the home of the Republican Presidential nominee, has become the most doubtful of all the normal Republican states, and indications are that it will no remain to the end of the campaign. The declaration of war on Senator Foraker, and the exposure of the latter in a way that will make his re-election impossible, means that the Foraker following will, to a large extent, be antagonistic to the Republican National ticket in November, and it is utterly impossible, at this time, to form an intelligent estimate of the strength of Mr. Foraker's following. Nor is it possible to determine what part of the Foraker faction will bolt or knife the Taft ticket on election day.

Harmony Altogether Destroyed.

For a time, when peace had been restored between Taft and Foraker, the situation looked bright; indeed it was conceded the remainder of the Republican column. But when Foraker's Standard Oil record was read by Mr. Hearst, and when President Roosevelt literally read Foraker out of the Republican party, and simultaneously gave out Secretary Taft's letter to Vorys, all harmony was destroyed, and the factional fight was fanned into flame, and is now more intense than at any time in the past.

Senators Foraker Realizes that his public career is about at an end; he knows that he can not be returned to the Senate, but he blames President Roosevelt and Mr. Taft as much as he blames William R. Hearst, and feeling as he does towards them, he will get what revenge he can, before it is too late. Foraker will do his utmost, perhaps not altogether openly, to prevent Republican success in Ohio this Fall.

He made a start in that direction when he virtually undertook to incense the negro voters against Taft. He will undoubtedly follow up this lead, and keep

the negro question alive in Ohio, and in other states, right up to November 3. This is Foraker's last big fight, and he has decided that it shall be a memorable one; one that the enemy shall not soon forget. He will go to any extent in his effort to wreak vengeance on those who have virtually exterminated him.

No matter what Foraker's record is, and no matter how damaging have been the exposures, the fact remains that there are many voters in Ohio who always have had and who still have faith in "Firearm Joe," and these men are standing by him now. Men of this class are satisfied with Foraker's explanation of his relations with the Standard Oil Company; they do not see in them anything to discredit him as a Senator and public official. To such men Foraker is a martyr, and the martyr role has frequently been a winning one in politics. It at least gives the man posing as such a mighty advantage not held by his opponent. It will be amply demonstrated during the next four weeks that Joe Foraker is still an idol with not a small contingent of the Ohio Republicans, and that his following will carry out his wishes on election day, to punish his detractors, if for no other cause.

Strong With Negro Vote.

It is not contended, nor is it true, that Foraker is as strong in Ohio today as he was before Mr. Hearst and Mr. Roosevelt exposed and condemned him. He has lost strength; any man would, under the circumstances. But he has not lost all his strength, and time will show that particularly among the negroes Foraker is as popular as ever. There are at least 40,000 negro voters in Ohio, and a very large percentage of them will be influenced by Foraker. For the most part these negroes vote the Republican ticket, but they have come to regard Senator Foraker as their one best friend, and his advice will go farther with many than will the doctrines and principles of the Republican party. The negroes may hold the balance of power in Ohio this year, and if they do, and Foraker persists in his fight to the very end of the campaign, the Republican ticket will fall in that state—at least that is the way it looks now.

The situation in Ohio is the graver because there is no big leader in charge of the Taft campaign. Arthur Vorys, himself somewhat bespattered by an unsavory disclosure, was never a natural leader of men; he was never equipped to conduct a political campaign. The conduct of the Ohio campaign was entrusted to his hands, but so far he has made a poor showing.

Failures of Vorys.

He has failed utterly to arouse enthusiasm to a pitch which should be manifest by this time in the home state of the Republican candidate; he has failed to get the campaign machinery into smooth working order, and he has left undone many of those things that should have been done and that would have been done by a more experienced politician. These oversights on the part of Vorys would have been less apparent had not the Republican party in Ohio, been torn asunder, for under a harmony programme the normal Republican majority would have made Ohio reasonably safe.

While there is no question that President Roosevelt did good work in

making absolutely certain of the elimination of Senator Foraker, there are some Republicans who would have been better satisfied had he deferred his onslaught until after the November election. Had the President remained silent with regard to Foraker, the mere attack of Hearst would not have alienated the loyal Forakerite vote in Ohio, and the state would have been much less doubtful.

President Could Not Keep Silent.

The fact that Mr. Taft wished it so is evident from the fact that he himself did not take advantage of his opportunity to jump on the Senator. But President Roosevelt, in his impulsive way, saw his chance to deal Foraker a death blow, and at the same time show to the country that Mr. Taft had no sympathy with Foraker and his methods, and he could not remain silent.

The President has known, for instance, that Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, is as undesirable as Foraker in many ways, and as much subject to corruption influence, yet the President has refrained from attacking Penrose; he has even consulted him on occasions regarding Pennsylvania affairs. If, for political reasons, the President would preserve peace with Pennsylvania, it is undesirable as Foraker in many ways, and as much subject to corruption influence, yet the President has refrained from attacking Penrose; he has even consulted him on occasions regarding Pennsylvania affairs. If, for political reasons, the President would preserve peace with Pennsylvania, it is undesirable as Foraker in many ways, and as much subject to corruption influence, yet the President has refrained from attacking Penrose; he has even consulted him on occasions regarding Pennsylvania affairs.

Ascender Not F. S. Woodward.

BUTTE, Mont., Oct. 1.—(Special.)—The Woodward arrested last night for absconding with Independence party funds was not F. S. Woodward, advance man for John Temple Graves, but W. S. Woodward, another Independence party member.

ROUGH TRIP IN TYPHOON

Steamer Ioy Maru Reaches Victoria After Heavy Sea Voyage.

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 1.—The steamer Ioy Maru, which was beset by 27 saloon passengers including Lieutenant Y. Ueda, torpedo inspector at Yokosuka, who has been appointed naval attaché of the Legation at Washington, Viscount Kuroda, younger son of Marquis Kuroda, president of the House of Peers, and the steamer had a rough trip and when between Kobe and Yokohama encountered a typhoon. In this storm the steamer Duncanson, founder, and the Norwegian steamer Mira is believed also to have gone down.

ABROGATES THE CHARTER

And Now Roseburg Has Fountain on Its Main Street.

ROSEBURG, Or., Oct. 1.—(Special.)—The first of Roseburg's Civic Improvements, the new drinking fountain, was unveiled yesterday in the presence of a large crowd. The fountain is a present from

the W. C. T. U. and the Ladies' Mental Culture Club to the city.

In finding a suitable place for its installation the city council discovered that the city charter forbids the placing of any obstruction in the streets. For a period of three months it was the subject of prolonged and heated discussion in the council chamber. Finally the Mayor asked to be appointed a committee of one to see to the matter and in three days he had the fountain installed and in readiness for operation. In case any action is instituted against the city on account of the charter provision, the Mayor has agreed to pay all expenses connected with such suit from his own funds. The fountain was placed in a prominent position on one of the principal streets of the city.

Skamania County Fair Oct. 5-10.

STEVENSON, Wash., Oct. 1.—(Special.)—The Skamania County Horticultural Association has organized a permanent fair association and will hold a fair at Stevenson, October 5 to 10. The St. Hobson mining district is located in this county, and some very good fruit areas. A representative exhibit of the county's resources is expected.

Abandoned Not F. S. Woodward.

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