

WOOD-ALNSWORTH FIGHT IS BITTER

Differences of Long Standing
Grow Out of Ambition of
Both Generals.

TAFT IS FOR PRESENT HEAD

Adjutant-General of Army, How-
ever, Pins Faith to Prospect
of Democrats Winning
Next Election.

BY HARRY Z. BROWN.
OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU.

Washington, May 31.—When Major-General Wood, chief of staff, with the approval and consent of President Taft and the Secretary of War, clipped the official wings of Major-General Alnsworth, Adjutant-General of the Army, he started a war in military circles that will continue until Wood or Alnsworth is eliminated from the active list of the Army. The Wood-Alnsworth feud is not of recent origin; it started some years ago when General Wood sprang to the front, and threatened to beat out General Alnsworth, who has long had his heart set on becoming head of the United States Army. But the feud was suppressed until recently, when General Wood became the aggressor, and made his junior officer feel the weight of his superior influence.

The American Army has never known a more ambitious officer than General Alnsworth and, until recently, it had never known a better politician. But General Wood has come to the front, and shown his old time rival that he himself is not only a good soldier, but an expert at the game of politics, and moreover when the Alnsworth brand of politics was placed alongside the Wood variety, it dwindled into insignificance.

Alnsworth Is Ambitious.

General Alnsworth will never be happy until he gets the "it" being the office of chief of staff. General Wood, on the other hand, determined to prevent Alnsworth becoming chief of staff, if he can possibly do it, and as long as President Taft remains in the White House, there is no doubt about General Alnsworth's chances. If the next administration should be Democratic, however, General Alnsworth may achieve the distinction he has long sought, for Alnsworth is a Democrat, and has strong Democratic support in Congress.

By strange coincidence, both General Wood and General Alnsworth began their careers as army doctors; both entered the service through the Medical Corps. General Wood, however, was early transferred to the line, and from that day to this has had very wide field service, not only in the United States, but in Cuba and the Philippines. General Alnsworth, on the other hand, left the medical corps to become an "office man," and has never had field training. As General Wood became proficient in the field, so General Alnsworth became proficient in the War Department; the former is today perhaps the best posted and most practical field officer in the Army, and the latter is today the best posted and most practical office man in the War Department. General Wood specialized on army organization, while General Alnsworth specialized on experience among the troops; General Alnsworth gathered his information from the records.

Two Ideas Clash.

Naturally the ideas of the two officers clashed; they could not work in harmony, and plans favored by Alnsworth were overruled by the chief of staff, while plans of the chief of staff were hampered by the Adjutant-General. And Alnsworth, while only Adjutant-General, proved a powerful adversary, for as the War Department has recently been organized, all business transacted between the various bureaus and the general staff has passed through Alnsworth's hands, and he has thus had an opportunity to make changes to suit his own ideas.

There was no particular reason why these matters should have passed through the Adjutant-General's office, for his is a record office, and not an office supposed to originate policies. Alnsworth, however, in his ambition, wrote into the Army regulations a provision requiring this very procedure, and no other chief of staff ever took exception.

Wood Defeats This Plan.

General Wood could see no reason why all business of the War Department should pass through the hands of the Adjutant-General before reaching the staff; he held that the reorganization act did not contemplate such a course; he maintained that such course only tended to delay and to complications, and moreover he felt that the Adjutant-General should confine himself to those duties which Congress prescribed he should perform. Therefore he drafted an order doing away with the Alnsworth method, and stipulating that the bureaus should communicate direct with the general staff. The President and Secretary of War concurred in this idea, and the order has been acted upon by the general staff. Hence his peevishness.

As stated above, General Alnsworth has never cared for General Wood since the latter became chief of staff, he wants to be chief of staff himself. General Wood is of those who believe in the general staff, and to that end submitted a reorganization bill to Congress, said bill containing a little joke which provided that the Adjutant-General and the Inspector-General of the Army shall be permanent members of the general staff, and that the chief of staff shall be selected from one of these two bureaus or divisions. It is readily seen that such a bill would legislate General Wood out of office, and as Alnsworth overshadows the Inspector-General, it would legislate General Alnsworth into the office now held by General Wood.

Wood Has Another Scheme.

General Wood, seeing through the Alnsworth scheme, appeared before the House military committee, pointed out its defects, showed that it would materially increase the cost of the Army, and then left a bill of his own which will preserve the present organization, and in time reduce the number of general officers, and correspondingly reduce the cost of the Army. The committee had been inclined to favor the Alnsworth bill, but when General Wood pointed out the economy of his bill, and the extravagance of the other, the

committee paused, and it is still pausing. Incidentally, the Wood bill seeks to make the commanders of the various military departments responsible for the discipline and training of the soldiers of their departments; it seeks to relieve them of all office and clerical work, and requires them to devote their entire time to military duty. This is General Wood's idea of increasing the efficiency of the Army; to convert commanding officers into true commanders and instructors, and to relieve them of being clerks, as many of them have been heretofore.

Both Have Strong Support.

Naturally this proposition has aroused those officers who prefer clerical and office work to field work with the troops, and such officers have been bringing pressure to bear on Congress. But the President is standing by General Wood, and when the fight is forced into the open, Congress will probably pass the Wood bill, or no bill at all.

The change in Secretaries of War will be helpful, rather than harmful to General Wood, for Secretary Stimson is a close friend of Theodore Roosevelt, and Roosevelt is Wood's best friend.

Incidentally, General Wood is the go-between between President Taft and his predecessor. Therefore it is safe to predict that General Wood will remain as chief of staff as long as President Taft remains in the White House, and General Alnsworth's only hope is in seeing a Democratic administration come in before he retires. Meantime,

the Wood-Alnsworth fight will continue, for Alnsworth never surrenders.



General Leonard Wood.

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WICKERSHAM HAS CAMPAIGN IN VIEW

Attorney-General Prepares to
Prosecute Trust Offi-
cials Criminally.

NONE WILL GET IMMUNITY

He Admits Having Been Legal Ad-
viser of Trusts, but Now He Pros-
ecutes Them—Cotton Pool and
Sugar Trust in Peril.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—No sooner
had the House committee on expendi-
tures in the Department of Justice ob-

tain from Attorney-General Wickersham admissions that he had shared in fees paid by the sugar trust to his law firm and that he had advised the steel trust as an attorney, than it drew from him the statement that criminal prosecutions would be begun against trust organizers. He made it clear that the Government has been awaiting decision against the Standard Oil Company and the Tobacco Company and now is ready to proceed.

Mr. Wickersham was questioned mostly by Chairman Beall, of Texas, who also sought much information about action against the cotton pool, Sugar Trust Fees Shared.

Mr. Wickersham testified that during his connection with the firm of Strong & Cadwallader he had received his share of the fee turned into the firm for services to the American Sugar Refining Company, personally attended by Henry W. Taft, brother of the President. Mr. Wickersham said his share was about \$25,000.

Mr. Wickersham said that after he became Attorney-General John Henry Hammond represented Strong & Cadwallader as counsel for the so-called sugar trust in the purchase of the friar lands. He added that at the time he gave his opinion permitting the sale of these lands he did not know Hammond represented the president of the American Sugar Refining Company, Mr. Hammever.

When asked about the connection of the firm with Steel affairs, Mr. Wickersham said:

"I personally have advised the United States Steel Corporation in one or two matters."

"Did Strong & Cadwallader ever represent the New York Cotton Exchange?" asked Chairman Beall.

"Yes, Henry W. Taft was counsel for the Exchange," Mr. Wickersham replied, "and I think he still continues in that capacity."

Sugar Trust Not Yet Out of Danger.

The chairman sought particularly to learn of the Attorney-General why the Department of Justice and Treasury Department accepted a \$2,000,000 settlement from the American Sugar Refining Company, personally attended by Henry W. Taft, brother of the President.

Mr. Wickersham replied that the department felt the evidence at hand was not sufficient to support a claim for penalties, though it was his belief that restitution was made because the corporation feared penalties would be imposed.

Then it was your judgment," suggested Mr. Beall, "that notwithstanding the Government had access to a memorandum book showing the real weight of sugar imported and to books showing fraudulent weights, if the Government had attempted to collect the penalties there was strong probability of failure."

"Yes," Mr. Wickersham answered, "I think the \$2,000,000 settlement was the best possible arrangement."

The Attorney-General denied that there was any agreement preventing criminal prosecution.

"That right," he said, "was specially reserved to the Government."

Criminal Prosecutions Near.

Mr. Wickersham was asked why the Government thus far had failed to lodge any "trust magnate" in prison.

"We have done the best we could," he said, "but there has been an unwillingness on the part of the juries and courts to sentence trust magnates to prison under the present law. Until the Supreme Court laid down its definite construction in the two cases just decided, their reluctance was well understood, for the law has always been open to question, and has been construed in different ways by different courts. Juries are becoming more willing now, however, to convict, and judges who have been reluctant to impose prison penalties now have the Supreme Court decision to sustain them."

Mr. Wickersham said he believed prison sentences would be the most effective means of enforcing respect for the anti-trust laws. Criminal prosecutions against the meat-packers, milk-dealers, grocers, the naval stores and window glass combination and alleged violators of the anti-trust law, he said, would be augmented by other prosecutions. On this subject the Government had definite plans.

Chairman Beall asked why there had been no criminal proceedings against the Standard Oil Company and the Tobacco Company.

"In view of the fact that we have secured decisions in these cases only within the last two weeks, it seems to

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me that question answers itself," said Mr. Wickersham.

"Now, however, we have an interpretation of the anti-trust law on which we can proceed."

Cotton Pool May Be Attacked.

The Attorney-General was closely questioned by Mr. Beall as to the cotton cases in New York, but he refused to disclose the Government's future action. Asked why actions were brought against those seeking to evade the price of raw cotton rather than against the spinners and the "beards" who were trying to depress it, Mr. Wickersham said the Government had believed it much easier to reach the seven men controlling the raw cotton pool against whom it had exact information.

"The statute of limitations has not run against the others," he added, "if the Government is sustained in this first cotton case, the other combinations may be attacked."

"Has there been any investigation of the attempt of bears to depress cotton prices in New York and New Orleans?" Chairman Beall asked.

"No, I have never had any facts brought to my attention that seemed to show a violation of the anti-trust law in such matters," Mr. Wickersham was questioned

chiefly by Representative Beall, of Texas, concerning the sale by the Government of friar lands in the Philippines to the American Sugar Company. He said that at one time Henry W. Taft had appeared as a witness for the "licensor" trust, a part of the American Tobacco Company.

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100 Dentists Examining Molars of
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public school children. This service was volunteered by the organization and in recommendation of the City Health Department, the inspection was authorized by the Board of Education. The American Dental Society is at

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