

NOT DUE TO PULL

Ex-Minister Says Appointment Was Uninfluenced.

DENIES PUBLISHED REPORTS

States His Appointment to Diplomatic Service and Successive Promotions Were Made, Entirely Unsolicited by Him—No Trouble With Administration.

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—A. S. Hardy, former United States minister to Spain, has furnished the Associated Press with the following:

"My attention has been called to recent statements in the press to the effect that my appointment and promotion in the diplomatic service were due to the influence of the Independent and of the Bowen family, that when I was offered the assistant secretaryship of State, three years ago, being then Minister to Spain, I enquired if I could be restored to the service and given an embassy or higher mission of serving as assistant secretary of State, that the President considered this impertinent on my part and cabled me he was not in the habit of making bargains of that kind, and in consequence, that I have a 'bad heart' towards the administration.

"In reply to these statements, allow me to say:

"I was not a brother-in-law of Mr.

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Clarence W. Bowen when appointed minister to Persia, with which appointment neither the influence of the Independent nor the Bowen family had anything to do.

"My promotion from Persia to Greece was without solicitation or influence direct or indirect on the part of anyone connected either with the Independent or the Bowen family. So far as I know the first promotion was due solely to the fact that my success had the approval of the State Department and the President, and to Mr. Hay's knowledge that the transfer from Persia to Greece would be agreeable to me.

"Both my subsequent promotions, to Switzerland and Spain were absolute surprise notices being received in both cases by cable, without previous intimation and absolutely without solicitations on the part of myself, friends, or connections.

"It is therefore entirely untrue that the family connection made after I entered the service had played any part in subsequent appointments.

"The offer of the assistant Secretaryship of State, was made while I was in Washington on leave of absence, personally by Mr. Hay in his house and after I had been appointed minister to Spain. Mr. Hay prefaced the offer by saying he anticipated what my decision would be, explicitly informing me I was entirely free to proceed to my post if so preferred.

"Finally, I never accepted an appointment on condition of promotion suggested any such bargain, or intimated any such wish. Being in Washington when Mr. Hay made the offer, it is clear no such cable as is referred to in the public press was ever sent, nor could the President have entertained any such opinion of me unless he was misinformed. That he had been so misinformed I was not aware until after my retirement.

"In conclusion allow me to say that I have not a 'bad heart' toward the administration. If the administration has any towards me, it rests on misrepresentation and misinformation. I would neither hold nor ask for service or continuance in the department to which I had the honor to belong for eight years, except as such service was approved and its continuance desired by that department and the President."

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