

# FIVE IMPORTANT INVESTIGATIONS NOW IN PROGRESS

### Little Results Obtained from Congressional Inquiries—First Investigation Was Made in 1792.

By Frederic J. Haackin.  
Washington, Feb. 7.—The present investigation of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy is but one of hundreds of inquiries of great and small import that have been made by the government through its legislative and executive branches in the hundred years that have passed. Usually it is costly, millions of pages of testimony have been accumulated and embalmed in the records of the congress, the executive departments and the courts, and millions of dollars have been spent in the asking of questions and the gathering of facts. Usually it is costly, millions of pages of testimony have been accumulated and embalmed in the records of the congress, the executive departments and the courts, and millions of dollars have been spent in the asking of questions and the gathering of facts.

**Five Investigations in Progress.**  
At the present time there are at least five important investigations being conducted by the government. The Ballinger-Pinchot controversy is being thrust out, the Monetary commission has not finished its work, the Brownsville court of inquiry is still asking questions, and the meat trust is under fire. In addition to these the immigration commission still has work to do. As a rule all governmental investigations come high, but none are so expensive as the commissions created by congress. The immigration commission already has spent more than \$500,000 in looking into the immigration question, and it wants still more money. The monetary commission is spending money by the hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the industrial commission was no more careful of Uncle Sam's bookkeeping when it made its investigations into industrial conditions.

Usually these commissions are little more than pleasure junkets. The members travel abroad in regal style, and nearly all of them are on the rolls at the capitol. These commissions plan to go abroad just about vacation time, and the senator or representative who is a member manages to find a pocket for his secretary, who is thus enabled to draw two salaries from Uncle Sam, and have his expenses paid while making a trip to Europe. Whether these commissions really are worth what they cost is a question about which there has been much discussion.

**Brownsville Inquiry Fruitless.**  
The senate Brownsville inquiry represents about the most fruitless effort to get at the truth that has ever resulted from a governmental investigation. It cost several hundred thousand dollars to conduct the hearings, and little more was known of the matter when the senate got through than before it began. The testimony fills books which would occupy a whole shelf in a sectional bookcase, witnesses having been brought from the four corners of the country.

The Standard Oil inquiry made by the department of commerce and labor, and the beef trust investigation by the same department, are about the most important investigations ever made under a cabinet officer. It will be recalled that in the beef trust investigation Commissioner Garfield asserted that the packers made a profit of only 20 cents each on the cattle they butchered. Few investigations have been received with more incredulity. Nobody believed that Garfield had reached the bottom of his subject. The Standard Oil investigation was the one that resulted in the Kenesaw Mountain Landis verdict of \$29,000,000 against the Rockefeller combination.

**The Postoffice Inquiry.**  
The house and the senate have sometimes been hoist by their own petard when asking for information from the departments. Many readers will recall the time when the house asked for information about the relations of members of congress with the postoffice department. There was never a more indignant set of men than the members of the house, when nearly all of them were embraced in this report. It was then that William Alden Smith made his sensational speech nominating Uncle Joe Cannon for president. The house that now quarrels with Mr. Cannon applauded itself hoarse that day.

**Army Investigations.**  
Few inquiries have attracted such wide interest as the Schley court of

## HE'S FOR LABOR



President C. W. Brown of the New York Central & Hudson River railroad, who has become a very prominent personage lately for various reasons. Mr. Brown, in several addresses, has pointed out that since living is higher, wages should be higher. This, coming from such a large employer of labor, where an increase in wage would mean so much, has stamped President Brown as a man who is fearless, even if no other compliment be bestowed. His road will be one of the principal lines concerned in the general demand about to be made for an increase in wages.

Inquiry, in which it was attempted to settle the controversy growing out of the battle with the Spanish fleet at Santiago. It is not too much to say that Admiral Schley was the popular hero, whatever may have been the technicalities of the case. Senator Rayner of Maryland was his principal counsel. The embargoed beef inquiry, after the close of the Spanish war, was one of the most important army investigations the service has seen. In passing, one might mention the work of the industrial commission, which is remembered more for the saying of Henry O. Havemeyer of the cost of the protective tariff than for the mother of trusts, than for all the other millions of words of testimony it printed. The report of the commission was at one time the most widely quoted authority on industrial conditions in the country, but its vast volumes seldom are referred to now.

**Investigation in 1877.**  
An important investigation was that of the New York custom-house in 1877. Chester A. Arthur was then collector. He was identified with Roscoe Conklin, and President Hayes wanted to remove him. Conklin fought it tooth and nail, but Arthur was forced out. Hayes then sent to the senate for confirmation as collector the name of a man who has since become a great factor in American politics—Theodore Roosevelt. Although no charges were filed against him, he failed of confirmation. The failure was not because of the lack of fitness of the appointee, but because of the pique of Roscoe Conklin. It is perhaps the only time in the history of the country that one future president of the United States was removed from a collectorship and another failed of confirmation as his successor. This overhauling of the customs office was as most as thorough as the one Collector Loeb has been making.

**Many Investigations in 70's.**  
There were perhaps more investigations of scandals in the seventies than in any other decade of American history. The disputes of the rival governments in some of the states, as in Louisiana led to prolonged inquiries. The troubles in Virginia and Mississippi were made the subject of congressional investigations. The greatest of all the scandals of this period was the credit mobiler, in which many well known statesmen were involved. James G. Blaine and the famous Mulligan letters figured in this affair. Mulligan had been a clerk to a gentleman with whom Blaine had correspondence. He secured Blaine's letters, brought them to Washington and exhibited them. Blaine made an appointment with him to examine the letters. Thinking the Maine statesman was acting in good faith, Mulligan showed them to him. Blaine promptly put them in his pocket and announced that no power under heaven could force him to give them up. He did offer to make them public, but Mulligan refused to do so. Blaine kept back the really incriminating ones. A prolonged examination of the credit mobiler affair was made in congress, but only two of its members were recommended for expulsion.

**Other Famous Inquiries.**  
Other famous investigations of this period were those dealing with the whiskey frauds, the quartermaster's claims, the ship subsidy scandal, the Tilden cipher messages, the star route frauds, the public land frauds and the railroad lobbies. It was in one of these cases that Senator Hoar, then almost a new member, declared that every step of the building of the Union Pacific railroad, from its inception to its completion, had been steeped in fraud.

The house of representatives proudly styled the grand inquiry of the nation, and very early in its life began to assert its right to make inquiries of whomsoever it pleased. The first instance was when charges were brought against General St. Clair in 1792, while Washington was yet president. The house at first asserted its right to investigate an army officer, but afterward decided that as a matter of courtesy to the president it would waive its right and let him make the investigation.

In 1838 John C. Calhoun was under the charge of having profited by a corrupt deal with a contractor while he was secretary of war. He asked the house to make an inquiry into the matter, and he was exonerated. Henry Clay also fell under the ban of the scandal-monger at one time, and asked congress to investigate him. He, too, was cleared of the insinuations against his character. In 1837 the house wanted to investigate Andrew Jackson, but it was not long in finding out that it had caught a Tartar in Old Hickory. The hero of New Orleans thought that the executive had an authority equal to that of congress, and he did not propose to have the legislative end of the establishment investigate the executive unless it was for purposes of impeachment. He replied as politely as his resolute manner

# GERMAN BANKING HOUSE PLANS TO DEVELOP MEXICO

### Vast Transportation and Developing Scheme to Be Inaugurated—Representative Here to Develop Plans.

New York, Feb. 7.—The great banking house of Bleichroeder of Berlin, one of the chief financial institutions of the world, has sent a representative to the United States to inaugurate a vast scheme of transportation and industrial development in Mexico.

The Baron Hans von Bleichroeder arrived in New York from Berlin several days ago to take active direction of the huge enterprise. For about six months he will have an office in the banking house of Kissel, Kinsman & Co. in Wall street, to work out the details of the scheme and to study the railroad situation in the United States, with a view of establishing closer relations between some system in this country and the system his house proposes to build in Mexico.

The enterprise also contemplates the establishment of a new line of steamships between New York and German ports, to be operated in connection with the proposed through route from New York to the heart of Mexico. The baron intimates that negotiations looking to this consummation may be instituted with the Edwin Hawley group of railroad financiers, as well as with B. F. Youstun, who now has lines extending from St. Louis to the Mexican border at Brownsville, Texas.

Baron von Bleichroeder, who is only 25 years old, was seen at the Waldorf-Astoria today. He does not speak English, and he requested that any interview be conducted through one of his secretaries.

"The baron," said Secretary Lichtenfels, "has stopped here on his way to Mexico to study banking methods, railroad values and methods and general financing in Mexico. After he has acquainted himself sufficiently, he will proceed to Mexico and there begin active work on the enterprise his banking house plans there."

"We shall build our own lines. Just what routes will be chosen we do not yet know. The routes in Mexico are owned or controlled by the government and we could not hope to buy them. But the field there is virtually untouched, and we believe there is a great future for Mexico."

It would permit that "By the eternal, they should thunder with their probes." The story of the enterprise might be continued indefinitely. There have been dozens of investigations that were as full of importance and significance in their time as the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation is today.

Tomorrow—The New Orleans Carnival.

## CONDITIONS OF PEOPLE OF RUSSIA ARE BAD

St. Petersburg, Feb. 7.—Within the past 18 months investigations have been made in various parts of Russia by independent serial bodies, town councils and Semtsov, as to the condition of the working population. In St. Petersburg 70 per cent of the workers do not have to rent lodgings and can afford only to rent beds in corners of rooms, where sometimes they live with women and children. In the prosperous province of Saratoff, on the Volga, the workers in a few trades get wages of \$150 to \$180 a year, while in other trades wages are as low as \$35 a year. According to an inquiry in Moscow concerning conditions in the industrial center of Russia the wages of the working people have declined 25 per cent in the last three years.

# PRESIDENT AND CANNON DANCE

### "Merry Widow" Waltz Played at Senator Chauncey Depew's House.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The Taft administration is a dancing one! This was potently illustrated again tonight when President Taft and Speaker Cannon danced to the strains of the "Merry Widow" waltz at Senator Depew's house. Postmaster General Hitchcock was one of the star partners at the Crowninshield dinner dance in honor of Miss Ethel Roosevelt and Secretary Dickinson. Secretary MacVeagh and Secretary Ballinger were all dancing to the strains of Oriental music at the Turkish Charge's ball.

Only two weeks ago Secretary of the Navy Meyer gave an exhibition of waiting on skates, while General Bell, Chief of Staff of the army, remains "the very best waiter in Washington."

So the password has become "can you waltz?"

**Seizes Each Opportunity.**  
Since the Southern Relief ball, when the President danced with Mrs. Pierce Horne, he has been dancing at every opportunity.

Already clever musicians are writing the "President Taft Waltz," which stands a fair chance of not only being named for the president, but also being danced by him.

## SOUTHERN WOMEN THRIFTY, SAYS JAWN

New York, Feb. 7.—Before leaving here for the south John D. Rockefeller, in conversation with a friend, declared that to some extent he was heartily in accord with Archbishop Ireland, whose personal investigation of the cause of high prices led to the belief that housewives are largely responsible. "But I have noticed a difference in different parts of the country," said Mr. Rockefeller. "I spend my winter vacations at Augusta, Ga. and I always make it a point to look into southern conditions and compare them with northern conditions."

"I believe that the southern housewife is more gifted in the science of domestic economy than the northern housewife. This may be because she has had strict home training or it may arise from the fact that money is not so plentiful, but it is certainly a beneficial trait."

# FIRST SHOWING SPRING STYLES

We place on display this week a full line of Young Men's College Clothes for spring.

These have none of the freakish ideas of past seasons but are **DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT** from those that will be shown elsewhere. They are made with **BROAD, ATHLETIC SHOULDERS**—and long roll lapel—two and three button effects—with full peg top trousers—You are invited to inspect same. **MEN'S MANHATTAN SHIRTS ARE HERE.** **THE NEW SPRING BLOCKS IN BREWER HATS.** **AUTOMOBILE CONTEST** closes February 10th. **VOTES** with every purchase—Help your little friend Secure one of these cars—It costs you nothing.

# BEN SELLING

Leading Clothier



All Rose City Park Cars run through Laurelhurst. Take car at Third and Yamhill sts. Salesmen on the ground. Office 522 Corbett Building.

### WOMAN A SPECIALTY

The well known Dr. S. H. CHAN, with their Chinese remedy of herbs and roots, cure wonderfully. It has cured many sufferers when all other remedies have failed. Sure cure for male and female chronic, private diseases, nervousness, blood poison, rheumatism, asthma, pneumonia, throat, lung trouble, consumption, stomach, bladder, kidney and diseases of all kinds. Remedy harmless. No operation. Honest treatment. Examination for ladies by Mrs. S. H. CHAN. Call or write to THE CHINESE MEDICINE CO., 226 1/2 Morrison St., Between 1st and 2d Portland, Or.

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Our SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, Formerly at 147 Seventh St., Has Removed to Ground Floor of the ELECTRIC BUILDING. Pay All Electric Bills and Obtain Lamp Renewals on Ground Floor.

# Portland R'y, Light & Power Co.

## After La Grippe

"I had suffered several weeks with LaGrippe. Had pains in my head and eyes. It felt as though there was a heavy weight on the top of my head, until it seemed that my brain would burst. I was so nervous that I could not rest or sleep. When I dozed off I would awake with a sudden jerking of my whole body. Dr. Miles' Nervine, Heart Remedy and Nerve and Liver Pills cured me. A number of friends have since realized the same benefits."

MRS. ALVIN H. LOCKS, Seabrook, N. H.  
The after effects of LaGrippe are often more serious than the disease, as it leaves the system in a weakened condition that invites more serious troubles, such as pneumonia, etc.  
**Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine** should be taken for some time to thoroughly restore nerve strength.  
Dr. Miles' Nervine is sold by all druggists. If the first bottle does not benefit, your druggist will return your money.  
MILES MEDICAL CO., Elkhart, Ind.



"A young wife should not feel hurt when her husband refers to the bread, 'like mother used to make'—if his mother used OLYMPIC FLOUR."  
—Mother.  
To accomplish successful baking results you must use a pure, wholesome and nutritious flour—such as Olympic, made from plump, hardest grains carefully selected by experts from the entire Northwestern wheat crop.  
"There isn't any just as good." Its better than ever.  
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PORTLAND FLOURING MILLS CO., PORTLAND, OREGON