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GOVERNMENT MEN IN PORTLAND GLAD BALLINGER IS OUT

Fisher, His Successor, Is Considered Genuine Conservationist; Quick End of Inter-department Discord.

Like the dawn of day after a long, dark night, news of Ballinger's resignation came yesterday to government departments in the northwest. The withdrawal of the secretary of the interior was all the more pleasing because unexpected. From the heads of departments down to the very office boys, seemed as if a load had been removed. Renewed confidence came. They expect the administration of the public domain, with its billions of dollars of value, hereafter to be on a different basis, due to the appointment of Walter L. Fisher, a thoroughgoing conservationist.

Horace Tilford Jones, who worked with Special Agent Louis R. Glavis in discovering how the interests had planned to grab the Alaska coal lands, expressed the prevailing sentiment this morning when he said:

"The interests will be out of the saddle. They will not hereafter be protected. Fisher, I am sure, will inaugurate a policy of true conservation, which means national development of natural resources of public lands for the benefit of the many, not the few."

"Despite what Ballinger may say or even the president, the resignation of the secretary of the interior is a vindication of Pinchot and his friends, the confirming of the evidence against Ballinger. The Democratic resolution which was to be submitted to congress brought the resignation, I am sure. Ballinger had played his last card and couldn't stick longer."

"The appointment of Fisher to succeed Ballinger is exceedingly satisfactory to me," said J. N. Teal, president of the Oregon Conservation association, yesterday evening. "He is a remarkably

capable man, thoroughly dependable. His work in adjusting the interstate troubles in Chicago stamped him for a man of power and balance."

"I am glad Fisher has been appointed," said C. S. Chapman, formerly district forester, now executive head of the Oregon Forest Fire association. "I have known him a long while. He is a conservationist and will not be slow in putting his policy into practice."

Fisher Expected in Oregon.

Government representatives in the northwest are convinced that Ballinger's withdrawal means more to the northwest and Alaska, than to any other section. The first radical changes in procedure will be in Oregon, they say. Fisher will come to the coast. He will come to Oregon. He will be followed or accompanied by F. H. Newell, whom Ballinger tried hard to unseat from the directorship of the reclamation bureau.

Confidence and cooperation is expected to be established between the land office, the forest service, Indian office and the reclamation bureau. With no unkind reflections upon Ballinger, but merely as a statement of fact, the government representatives say that lack of confidence and cooperation between departments has been the cause of distrust, hitches in operation, and loss represented by many thousands of dollars. No department man has been sure that he could trust any other. Ballinger stood between. The "whisper method" of reports to the superior officer, and lack of confidential relations between co-workers had been the rule. As a rule new appointees Ballinger never went on the job without a "pinchot" or "pinchot" of some kind. But this was not a safe rule. His chief evil was that loyalty to one section or the other prevented cooperation necessary to the best service.

Instances of Ballinger's Policy.

Instances show the inseparable relation and interrelation between the land office, the Indian office, the reclamation service and the forest service. The timber on Indian reservations of Oregon is often of great value. Under Garfield, as secretary of the interior, it was the custom of the forest service to loan men to the Indian office, and these would cruise the timber and report on its value, because the Indian office had not this equipment. When Ballinger came in he declared this arrangement illegal. The result was that two men did unsatisfactorily what one had done before, the wards of the government did not get a square deal and great dissatisfaction resulted.

Last summer to transact important matters in connection with the coal and oil lands of Alaska, an expert was sent from the forest service in company with a geologist from the land office to look over the situation. The forest service expert went to Alaska, but the geologist kept away from him. The work had no results, consequently, Ballinger's resignation is of particular importance to the reclamation service. Director Newell has had his hands tied. Ballinger has been continuously hostile to him. Hostility has inspired the inevitable distrust in every phase of the work. Newell wanted to go ahead with the Oregon projects, wherever possible. Ballinger kept them all "up in the air."

A circumstance connected with the west extension of the Umattilla project is illustrative. The people had waited long and anxiously to learn what the department of the interior would do. The merit of the extension was beyond question. Fertile areas waited only the preliminary to actual work surveys would be completed. It was discovered that the surveys had been completed and that any more would be merely a form. Ballinger's sincerity was at once doubted.

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