TAFT'S DEFENSE OF HIS ACTION IN ALASKAN AFFAIR

President Declares Monopoly at Controller Bay Is Impossible; Brisk Reference to Dick to Dick Postcript Story

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, July 27.—Resenting vigorously imputations that his action in permitting Alaska lands to be acquired by private corporations arose from any improper influences and maintaining that his acts have in no way made it possible for the forming of monopolies in Alaska, President Taft yesterday afternoon sent to congress a message on the Controller bay in response to a request from the senate.

After detailing the activities of the Morgan-Guggenheim interests and other capitalists at and near Controller bay, the president in his message referred to the locations there of Richard S. Ryan, representing the Controller Bay Railroad & Navigation company, giving in detail Ryan's efforts to obtain locations. Of the elimination from the Chugach National forest of a part of its territory, President Taft said:

Wanted Larger Elimination.

"The question finally came before the cabinet late in October. After a full discussion of the matter, and after a consideration of the law, I expressed dissatisfaction with the order eliminating 320 acres, because it purported on its face to make the elimination for the benefit of a railroad company of a tract of land which the company could not secure under the statute, for it was a tract 320 acres in one body when only 160 acres could be thus acquired. In the second place, I preferred to make a much larger elimination of a tract facing the entire channel, and with sufficient room for a terminal railway town. I was willing to do this because I found the restrictions in the law sufficient to prevent the possibility of any monopoly of either the upland or the harbor or channel by the Controller Railway & Navigation company, or any other persons or company.

"For lack of time sufficient to draft a memorandum myself, I requested the secretary of the interior, who, with the secretary of agriculture, after a full discussion, had agreed in my conclusion, to prepare a letter setting forth the reasons for making the larger elimination, so that it might become part of the record. The letter is of even date with the order. It does not set forth the reasons for the larger order as fully as I did in discussing it.

"It had been originally suggested by the forestry bureau that 18,000 acres might safely be eliminated so far as forestry purposes were concerned, but fear had been expressed by one of the district foresters that such a large elimination would offer an opportunity to the company to use land scrip and acquire title to extensive town sites, and the result of the joint consideration of both departments had been the reduction to 320 acres.

President Assumes Responsibility.

"I wish to be as specific as possible upon this point and to say that I alone am reponsible—the suggestion was mine."

The message then says that Ryan, the Controller Railway and Navigation company and its backers, Probst, Wetzler & Co., had never been shown to have any connection with the Morgan-Guggenheim Copper river railway company.

"Of course it was possible that the owners of the Copper River Railway company might attempt to buy this railroad when, and if, it was built," and continues. "It was possible that Mr. Ryan was acting in the interests of the Copper River railroad, although I did not believe it; but, whether this was true or not, I was clear that the order of elimination by reason of the restrictions of the act of congress hereafter explained, would not permit the owners of either railroad to shut out any other capitalists who might desire to contruct a railroad from the channel of Controller bay to the coal fields; and if by this order we could secure the construction of a railroad from Controller bay to the coal fields, it would be a distinct step in the useful development of Alaska. The rates of freight for coal to be charged, of course, would always be subject to congressional control, and if government ownership seemed a wise policy under the peculiar circumstances, condemnation was an easy method."

"The thing which Alaska needs," says the message, "is development and where rights and franchises can be properly granted to encourage an investment and construction of railroads without conferring exclusive privileges, I believe it to be in accordance with good policy to grant them."

No Monopoly Possible.

President Taft then declares that monopoly at Controller bay is impossible, because no one entrant can acquire more than 160 acres of land in a body and secondly, because on each side of this 160 acres must be reserved a plot of government land.

The message continues:

"But there is a third reason why the opening of this tract to settlement and limited private appropriations cannot lead to a monopoly in the Controller Bay company or anyone else. The distance from the dry land, i. e., the shore land—the line of high water mark—to the line of low water mark, is between two and three miles, and the distance to deeper water is about a mile further, making it necessary, if a harbor is to be reached and used, to construct a viaduct or trestle three or four miles long from the shore to the channel. This tidal flat is owned by the United States, and the acquisition under the public land laws of tracts on the shore abutting these tidal flats gives no right or title to those flats. This would be the law if the statute was silent on the subject; but not only the statute of 1898 but also the amending statute of 1903 expressly imposes the restriction that no title or right can be obtained under the act in the shore of a navigable body of water.

"The theory upon which it has been contended that the Controller Bay Railway & Navigation Co. has practically acquired an exclusive appropriation of the harbor is that its anticipated ownership of the lands entered and abutting on the shore will give it the right to build viaducts from these lands to the side of the deep channel 3½ miles away and there establish wharves on channel equal in frontage to that of the locations made on the shore, and that even if it does not itself build such wharves, it can prevent anyone else from enjoying access to the channel for the whole length of its frontage, say two miles. I have shown that even if this were the law, the public reservations and the unlocated frontage would prevent monopoly of the channel. But it is not the law.

Access to Deep Water.

"The shore runs from high water mark down to low water mark. The owners of the upland, by virtue of the title they have acquired from the government, do not acquire a vested right of access to the deep water and have no right or easement to build viaducts or trestles across the flats or wharves along the deep channel which congress may not regulate or defeat.

"The whole contention that the executive order and the opening to settlement of the shore of Controller bay grants a monopoly to the railway company rests on the claim that it has given an opportunity to persons using scrip to appropriate the control of the only available and practicable parts of the channel by the location of the scrip opposite to those parts. If now the location of the scrip opposite to the harbor gives no right to reach the harbor except as congress may expressly give it, clearly the Controller Railway & Navigation Co. has not the slightest opportunity for exclusive appropriation of the harbor facilities unless congress shall by future act deliberately and voluntarily confer it.

"I should be lacking in candor if I allowed it to be inferred that this third reason for saying that there is not the slightest danger of this order giving a monopoly of the channel to the Controller Railway & Navigation Co. was present in my mind when I made the order. I was, of course, satisfied because of the other restrictions mentioned that no monopoly of the channel could follow, but I did not examine the law as to this point at that time. But the law is as I have stated it, and the consequences are inevitable.

Charge of Secrecy Denied.

In regard to the alleged secrecy with which the order eliminating these 12,800 acres was made, the president says:

"The order has been criticised because it was not in form a proclamation instead of an order. This was determined by Mr. Graves, the forester, who, in letter of March 24, 1910, speaking of the proposed elimination, says to his assistant: 'Action in this instance will be taken by executive order rather than by proclamation accompanied by diagram,' and he gives the reasons in a note dated July 6, 1911, document 43, of the record:

"'When a comparatively small area is to be eliminated from a national forest the executive order is commonly used instead of the proclamation, especially when other changes in boundaries may be made in a short time. The preparation of the diagrams which accompany a proclamation is necessarily expensive and laborious, and the issuance of repeated proclamations with their diagrams is avoided when an executive order will serve the purpose. In the present case reports were pending, recommending other changes in boundaries of the Chugach forest, and since the proposed eliminations would be described without the use of a diagram, the executive order form of elimination was chosen.'

"The fact is that in law there is in effect no difference between a proclamation and an executive order. In practice the same publicity is given to each.

"The charge has been made that this was a secret order, and that though it was made in October, 1910, no one knew of it until April, 1911. This is utterly unfounded. The statement of Mr. Vernon, the correspondent of the Post-Intelligencer of Seattle, a newspaper of wide circulation among a people most interested in Alaska, shows that 10 days before the order was made, news of the details of Ryan's application and the probability of its being granted was given wide publicity. It further appears from the records of the interior department that the evening the order was signed, October 28, 1910, a full notice of the issue of the order and its details was furnished by the department to all correspondents in the form of a news bulletin.

When Given to the Press.

"Finally, the agent of the Associated Press certifies that at 7:23 p. m., October 28, 1910, there was sent out by that association to all its newspaper clients a telegram taken from a typewritten statement issued by the interior department as follows:

"'Washington, Oct. 28.—Approximately 12,800 acres of land in the Chugach national forest, Alaska, have been restored by the president for disposition under appropriate land laws, according to information made public today by the interior department. These lands are situated on the coast line of Controller bay in southern Alaska near the Cunningham claims, and have been found upon examination to be of little value for forestry purposes.'

"It would be difficult to prepare an advertisement more informing to the public or more likely to attract the attention of all likely to desire acquisition of land on Controller bay.

"The order has been attacked on the ground that it did not contain a provision delaying its taking effect for 30 days after its publication as orders restoring land to settlement by homesteaders frequently do. An examination of the record furnishes an explanation of this feature of the order as made. When in October the two departments had agreed, with my acquiescence, that the order should be an elimination of only 320 acres, an order describing the 320 acres, directing its restoration to settlement and containing the usual provision postponing its taking effect 30 days was prepared in the forestry bureau and forwarded to the interior department. There it was deemed wiser to spread on the face of the order a specific declaration that it was made to afford terminals for the Controller Railway & Navigation company, and as no one else was expected to intervene and take up any part of the elimination tract, the restoration was made immediate."

"Dick-to-Dick" Postscript.

Concerning the famous "Dick-to-Dick" postscript, alleged to have been found by Miss Abbott in the files of the interior department, the message says:

"The postscript is not now on the files of the department. If it were, it would be my duty to transmit it under this resolution. Who is really responsible for its wicked fabrication if it ever existed, or for the viciously false statement made as to its authenticity, is immaterial for the purposes of this communication. The purport of the alleged postscript is, and the intention of the fabricator was, to make Richard S. Ryan testify through its words to the public that although I was at first opposed in the public interest to granting the elimination which he requested, nevertheless through the undue influence of my brother, Charles P. Taft, and the disclosure of the real persons in interest, I was induced improperly and for the promotion of their private gain, to make the order.

"The statement in so far as my brother is concerned—and that is the chief feature of the postcript—is utterly unfounded. He never wrote to me or spoke to me in reference to Richard S. Ryan or on the subject of Controller bay or the granting of any privileges or the making of any orders in respect to Alaska. He has no interest in Alaska, never had, and knows nothing of the circumstances connected with this transaction. He does not remember that he ever met Richard S. Ryan. He never heard of the Controller Bay railroad until my cablegram of inquiry reached him, which, with his answer, is in the record.

Ballinger Never Saw It.

"Mr. Ballinger says in a telegram in answer to my inquiry, both of which are in the record, that he never received such a postscript, and that he was in Seattle on the date of July 13, when it was said to have been written.

"Mr. Richard S. Ryan, in a letter which he has sent me without solicitation, and which is in the record, says that he never met my brother, Mr. Charles P. Taft, and that so far as he knows, Mr. Charles P. Taft never had the slightest interest in Controller bay, in the Controller Railway & Navigation company, or in any Alaskan company, and he utterly denies writing or signing the alleged postscript. The utter improbability of his writing such a postscript to Mr. Ballinger at Washington, when the latter was away for his vacation for two months, must impress everyone.

Was Not in Files.

"The fact is that Mr. Ballinger never saw the letter of July 13, 1910, to which this postscript is said to have been attached. It was sent to me by Mr. Carr, Secretary Ballinger's private secretary, at Beverly, on July 14—the next day. I read the letter at Beverly in August with other papers and sent them to the White House. It was placed upon the White House files and remained there until April 22, 1911, when it was, by request of Secretary Fisher, for use in connection with his answer to a senate inquiry, returned to the interior department, and it was after this that the correspondent is said to have seen the letter with the postscript attached. Mr. Carr saw no such postscript when he sent the letter to me. I did not see it when I read it. No one saw it in the executive office, but it remained to appear as a postscript when it is said that the correspondent saw the letter in April or May on the files of the interior department. All others were denied the right."

Summing up this topic, the president declares that "stronger evidence of the falsity and maliciously slanderous character of the alleged postscript could not be had."

The conclusion of the message is as follows:

Believes in Conservation.

"I am in full sympathy with the concern of reasonable and patriotic men that the valuable resources of Alaska should not be turned over to be exploited for the profit of greedy, absorbing, and monopolistic corporations or syndicates. Whatever the attempts which have been made, no one, as a matter of fact, has secured in Alaska any undue privilege or franchise not completely under the control of congress. I am in full agreement with the view that every care, both in administration and in legislation, must be observed to prevent the corrupt or unfair acquisition of undue privilege, franchise, or right from the government in that district. But everyone must know that the resources of Alaska can never become available either to the people of Alaska or to the public of the United States unless reasonable opportunity is granted to those who would invest their money to secure a return proportionate to the risk run in the investment and reasonable under all the circumstances.

Attacks Have Been Reckless.

"On the other hand, the acrimony of spirit and the intense malice that have been engendered in respect of the administration of the government in Alaska and in the consideration of measures proposed for her relief and the wanton recklessness and eagerness with which attempts have made to besmirch the characters of high officials having to do with the Alaskan government, and even of persons not in public life, present condition that calls for condemnation and requires that the public be warned of the demoralization that has been produced by the hysterical suspicions of good people and the unscrupulous and corrupt misrepresentations of the wicked. The helpless state to which the credulity of some and the malevolent scandal-mongering of others have brought the people of Alaska in their struggle for its development ought to give the public pause, for until a juster and fairer view be taken, investment in Alaska, which is necessary to its development, will be impossible, and honest administrators and legislators will be embarrassed in the advocacy and putting into operation of those policies in regard to the territory which are necessary to its progress and prosperity."

Regards best best coal ask Edlefsen.

JAMES BRAID SAYS:

No athlete can do himself justice if his feet hurt. Many thousands are using daily Allen's Foot-Ease, the antiseptic powder to be shaken into the shoes. All the prominent Golfers and Tennis Players at Augusta, Pinehurst and Palm Beach got much satisfaction from its use this Spring. It gives a restfulness that makes you forget you have feet. It prevents soreness, blisters or puffing and gives rest from tired, tender or swollen feet. Don't go on your vacation without a package of Allen's Foot-Ease. Sold everywhere, 25c. Don't accept any substitute.

Cut Rate Drug and Toilet Article Sale

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

The Owl Drug Co., 7th and Washington Sts.

50c Whisk Brooms Special 33c
Made of the finest quality broom stock, with fancy handles.

Advertised Goods at Special Cut-Rate Prices

35c Prophylactic Tooth Brushes	23c
25c Lehn and Fink's Riveris Talcum at	16c
10c Diamond Dyes, all colors	7c
25c Mennen's Talcum	10c
75c Mellin's Food	55c
50c Pompeian Cream	27c
25c Sanitol Tooth Powder	15c
35c Steero Bouillon Cubes	25c
50c Hind's Almond Cream	27c
20c Pear's Glycerine Soap	11c
10c Palmolive Soap	6c
25c Woodbury's Soap	14c
25c Pond's Vanishing Cream	17c
15c Blue Jay Corn Plasters	11c
25c Mum for Perspiration	13c
$1.00 Pinaud's Eau de Quinine	69c

Welch's Grape Juice
Cooling and refreshing.
Pints, special ....19¢
Quarts, special ....39¢

Something New
ARMY AND NAVY AUTOMATIC SAFETY RAZOR BLADE STROPPER, fits any blade. Let us show it to you. Price.... $1

$1.25 Shower Bath Spray 97c
Has extra long tube of best quality rubber, with reversible faucet tip, on sale at only 97c

Friday and Saturday Specials

25c Johnson's Shaving Cream	18c
25c Poslam Soap	19c
25c Thoro Soap	18c
50c Rubber Gloves	37c
25c Kodak Albums	19c
25c Mentholatum Salve	15c
50c Pebeco Tooth Paste	29c
$1.00 Herpicide Hair Tonic	57c
10c Sapolio Kitchen	7c
$1.00 Pierce's Med. Discovery	59c
$1.00 Peptomangan Tonic	73c
$2 Eckman's Alterative	$1.69
$1.00 Nau's Dyspepsia Remedy	67c
50c Pape's Diapepsin	29c
75c Green's August Flower	55c
25c Zymole Trokeys	13c

EYE CUP FREE
With each POUND of BORACIC ACID at the regular price of 25c

KODAKS
We develop and print your Kodak pictures in 24 hours in such a satisfactory manner that we are sure to please you. Bring your next films to the "Owl" to be finished.

Trunk Specials
If you need a trunk you should see these:

No. 294-36, Reg. $29.00, sp'l.	$20
No. 51-36, Reg. $14.00, sp'l.	$11
No. 193-36, Reg. $20.00, sp'l.	$15
No. 69-36, Reg. $21.50, sp'l.	$16
No. 459-36, Reg. $11.00, sp'l.	$ 9
No. 24-36, Reg. $18.00, sp'l.	$13
No. 636-36, Reg. $14.00, sp'l.	$12

SUITCASE SPECIALS
If you need a Suitcase you should see these:

No. 330—Reg. $5.50, special	$4.49
No. 133—Reg. $6.00, special	$4.98
No. 30—Reg. $3.75, special	$3.39
No. 230—Reg. $4.75, special	$3.79
No. 320—Reg. $4.50, special	$3.49
No. 233—Reg. $6.00, special	$4.98
No. 385—Reg. $5.00, special	$4.25

Hammer'd Brass JARDINIERES
Just like illustration, at special prices.
9-inch, special $1.23
11-inch, special $1.49
13-inch, special $2.23
Also many other styles, including Fern Dishes at only .....98¢

Saponol Tooth Brushes
The best tooth brush for you and fully guaranteed—each one packed in sanitary case, each 35c

Fleur de Lis Stationery
In pound packages, with one package of envelopes to match free 25c

Todco Face Chamois
Sealed in an envelope, free from dust and dirt, the best chamois for the complexion. Price, each.... 10c

Corn Remedies
"Owl" Cut-Rate Prices

Dent's Corn Gum	15c
Acorn Salve at	10c
One Night Corn at	10c
Magic Corn Salve	12c
Dunlap Corn at	15c
Nine-Hour Corn	10c
Corn Ease at	22c
Giant Corn Salve	10c
Corn Solvent at	15c
Lamotte's Corn at	20c
Allen's Corn at	10c
Pel's Corn Solvent	22c
Kemp's Corn Remedy	15c
Eops Corn at	20c
Woofter's Corn at	20c

POST CARDS
We have enlarged our Post Card Department, and offer you thousands of beautiful subjects to choose from. All at one price, each.. 1c

BURNT PEANUT CANDY CONFECTION on sale Friday and Saturday, per pound 18c

GETS-IT
The new guaranteed corn remedy, sold here exclusively. Price 25c

Lister's Towels
Regardless of size—small, medium or large—on sale Friday and Saturday only 25c

LIQUORS
For family and medicinal use. Look these prices over carefully:

Henderson, full quart	$1.13
Cedar Creek, ½ gallon	$1.59
Maryland Reserve	$1.13
Old Crow for	$1.05
Oscar Pepper for	98c
Usher Scotch for	$1.05
Paul Jones for	98c
California Port for	39c

JERGEN'S BENZOIN AND ALMOND TOILET SOAP, a large cake of delightfully perfumed soap for 3 cakes for ..... 10c ..... 25¢

Rexall Pocket Pencils
Just fit the pocket or ladies' purse—the pencil you've been looking for—has extra leads. Complete, only .. 10c

$1.50 La Grande Water Bottles $1.13
As good for Ice Water as they are for hot water.

SPECIAL OFFER
ALL PARISIAN IVORY TOILET ARTICLES purchased Friday and Saturday will be engraved with one letter FREE OF CHARGE.

The Owl Drug Co
16 Stores on the Pacific Coast.
Seventh and Washington Streets

Auto Chamois
Size about 26 inches square. This large, specially tanned auto chamois, on sale at 89c

Special Sale
Men's Hose
75c and 50c

Fancy Silk Lisle Hose
25c Pair

If you see them you'll buy a dozen pair.

Buffum-Pendleton
311 Morrison, Opposite Postoffice.

Try That Delicious, Dainty

Weatherly Ice Cream

Any physician will tell you that you should avoid eating heat-making foods this weather.

Your own good sense will tell you W. I. C.—made of pure milk and cream—is a better food than meat at this season of the year.

Our Plant Is Wide Open to You

If you can spare the time, we will welcome the opportunity of showing you just how the milk and cream comes to us, cool and fresh from the dairy farms; how we exercise every precaution that makes for sanitation and cleanliness in preparing.

Weatherly Ice Cream for the Table

The milk and cream we use would supply thousands of families, our sugar comes by the carload, the pure fruit flavors by the barrel—everything on a wholesale scale, so that for the trifling sum of a dime you can get a generous-sized dish.

Dealers Everywhere Sell Weatherly Ice Cream

Weatherly Ice Cream
Made by Crystal Ice and Storage Co.