

WIDE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AS TO LANSING MATTER

President's Opponents Begin to See Lansing's Virtues Now and Call It an "Outrage."

Washington, Feb. 14.—(I. N. S.)—There was a wide division of opinion as to the right of the president to rebuke Secretary Lansing today, and while many of his staunch supporters declared that it was simply the climax of a personal difference between the two men, there were others who were bitter in their denunciation of the president's action.

THIRD RECENT CHANGE

The resignation of Secretary Lansing leaves but three of the original members of President Wilson's cabinet in office and makes the third vacancy within as many weeks. The resignations of Secretary Lansing and Secretary of the Interior Lane were agreeably arranged, however.

WILL TAKE REST

Secretary Lansing is expected to take a long rest before he engages in other activities. His health has been poor for several months and he has undergone a severe strain during the president's illness.

END IS NOT YET

Secretary Lansing follows in the footsteps of his predecessors, Mr. Woodrow Wilson, Mr. Woodrow Wilson, Mr. Woodrow Wilson.

Starts Today



The Wonder Play. Written and played by Eric Von Stroheim, World's Champion Love Buzzard.

COLUMBIA ORCHESTRA Special Music. MATINEE DAILY. ONE WEEK STARTING TODAY.

steps of Wm. Jennings Bryan, in that he leaves the cabinet because of differences with the president. Former Secretary of War Lindley Garrison also left the cabinet early in the Wilson administration because his views were not those of the president.

The Lansing incident was the chief topic of conversation here today and it is predicted that it will be made the center of some discussion during the coming campaign.

Following is the correspondence between the president and Secretary Lansing.

The White House, Washington, 7th February, 1920.—My Dear Mr. Secretary: As it is true, as I have been told, that during my illness you have frequently called the heads of the executive departments of the government into conference, I feel it my duty to call your attention to considerations which I do not care to dwell upon until I am free from your company.

Under our constitutional law and practice a cabinet consists of one or more members of the executive department, but the president has the right to summon the heads of the executive departments and the congress has the right to ask their views or the views of any one of them.

I am happy to hear from your recent letter, Mr. Wilson, that your strength is returning. Cordially and sincerely yours, WOODROW WILSON.

Washington, Feb. 9, 1920.—My Dear Mr. President: It is true that frequent conferences of the heads of the executive departments of the government to meet for informal conferences have been held since I left the cabinet.

Shortly after you were taken ill in October, certain members of the cabinet, of which I was one, felt that it was necessary to have some communication with you. It was wise for us to confer informally together on inter-departmental matters and matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them.

I can assure you that it never for a moment occurred to me that I was acting unconstitutionally, or contrary to your wish, and there certainly was no intention on my part to assume powers and exercise functions which under the constitution are exclusively conferred to the president.

During these troublous times, many difficult and vexatious questions have arisen and I have followed the course which I believe you would wish me to act.

I am, as always, faithfully yours, ROBT LANSING.

The White House, Washington, 11th February, 1920.—My Dear Mr. Secretary: I am very sorry to hear that you are temporarily vacant. Mr. Polk has been much in Paris during this year.

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polled me to defer action, as my resignation might have been misconstrued into hostility to the ratification of the treaty of peace or at least into disapproval of your views as to the form of ratification.

I therefore remained silent, avoiding any comment on the frequent reports that we were not in full agreement, subsequently your serious illness, during which I was unable to appear before you on the duty—at least I construed it to be my duty—to remain in charge of the department of state until your permission to assume again full direction of foreign affairs.

Believing that that time had arrived, I had prepared my resignation when my only doubt as to the propriety of placing it in your hands was removed by your letter indicating that it would be entirely acceptable to you.

I think, Mr. President, in accordance with the frankness which has been shown in this correspondence and for which I am grateful to you, that I cannot permit to pass unchallenged the imputation that in calling into informal conference the heads of the executive departments I sought to usurp your presidential authority. I had no such intention, no such thought, I believe, then, and I believe now that the conferences which were held, were for the best interests of your administration and of the republic and that belief was shared by others whom I consulted. I further believe that the conferences were convened only in the circumstances and that I would have been derelict in my duty if I had failed to act as I did.

I also feel, Mr. President, that candor and candor is the only way to settle a question, and with your statement, that I have agreed to forebear your judgment in certain cases by formulating action and merely to approve or disapprove of it, it is impossible for you to form an independent judgment because you had not had an opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of independence.

I have, it is true, when I thought a case demanded immediate action, not waited for your approval, but I should be stating at the same time the reasons on which my opinion was based. This I conceived to be a function of the secretary of state, and I have followed the practice for the past four years and a half. I confess that I have been surprised and disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my informal action, and have never failed to follow your decisions, however difficult it made the conduct of my foreign affairs.

I need not add that I leave the office of secretary of state with only good will toward you, Mr. President, and with a sense of profound relief.

I am, as always, faithfully yours, WOODROW WILSON.

Washington, 12 FEBRUARY, 1920.—My Dear Mr. Secretary: Allow me to acknowledge with appreciation your letter of February 11th. It now being evident that the resignation of Mr. Lansing is final, I feel it my duty to accept your resignation, to take effect at once.

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MONTESSANO SWEEP BY BLAZE; MANY LOGGERS ROUTED

Business Houses Are Levelled and Patients Are Carried From Hospital as Fire Meance Grows

By Fred H. McNeill (Over The Oregon's Special Local Wire.)

Montesano, Wash., Feb. 14.—Fire last night destroyed several of the principal buildings in Montesano, and threatened to sweep into the residential districts.

Starting at 8 o'clock in a rooming house conducted by Mrs. Carrie Fournier, the blaze quickly girted the two-story frame structure, and swept on into a block occupied by the Knights of Pythias hall and Dr. J. H. Fitz's hospital.

Five patients, three men and two women, in the hospital, were carried to safety by newspaper men and others.

SUSPECT I. W. W. PLOT Thousands of dollars' worth of casements in the undertaking establishment of Bierling & Pinnock, in the same block, are in danger.

The howling garage, to the northwest, is threatened by the flames, which increased the fury.

Montesano has a volunteer fire department, and its operations were limited because of water pressure. Firemen are being called from adjoining buildings, and Aberdeen has been asked to send assistance.

American Legion officials and deputy sheriffs, thinking that the blaze might have been started to assist in a jail break, hurried to the county jail, where the Centralia murder trial defendants are confined, and established a strong guard.

MANY LEFT BEDLESS The fire originated in the kitchen of the lodging house and swept quickly beyond control.

All furniture in the hospital and in the lodging house was saved.

Numerous lodgers in the building where the fire originated are without beds tonight. The town is overcrowded with patients, and the accommodations have been filled to capacity.

Some of the patients attending the Centralia murder trial, who were in the lodging house, were taken to the hospital.

The secretary let it be known to those who inquired early today that for the time being, at any rate, he had nothing to say to the newspapers in addition to what had already been given out.

Cabinet members and others in similar official positions appear rather dazed by the suddenness and acerbity of the resignation. They were amazed by the unprecedented nature of the whole thing and refused comment.

On the hill Senators and congressmen talked of nothing else. Arriving at the capital early today, the law makers forgot the treaty, railway legislation, shipping sales and other topics which have been occupying their attention for some time.

Since the president became ill, there have been four resignations from his cabinet. The last was Secretary of Commerce Redfield Proctor, who resigned the day after the secretary of the Interior Lane, Secretary Glass and Secretary Lansing.

COLONEL HOUSE SAYS BOTH ARE HIS FRIENDS

New York, Feb. 14.—(I. N. S.)—Declaring that both were his friends, Col. E. M. House today declined to make any comment on the clash between President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing, which resulted in the latter's resignation.

"I have never had a disagreeable difference with either of them in the many years we worked together," Mr. House said in handling the matter.

"By that time had the shooting stopped?" asked Attorney George F. Vandever in cross-examining the witness.

"Almost," was the reply.

MCKENZIE also testified that he saw another man fall at the north curb, but didn't know this man was Casagrande until he was taken to the hospital in the witness' machine.

Grimm sat upright and unsupported in the machine on the way to the hospital, but said nothing about the shooting, which he had seen at the hospital door, the witness testified, Grimm said.

"Don't you know how many shots were fired?" he was asked.

"I don't know—a great many," Tisdale answered.

"Did you observe where the shots came from?" he responded.

Indicating on the map, the witness said some of the shots apparently came from an upstairs window.

One of these shots came over the hood of the automobile and struck the other machine, he said.

been testified that the largest of the cars was another witness in the I. W. W. hall.

Vandever asked if the "man mounted on a dark brown horse" did not blow a whistle to halt the parade. This was the accusation charged with murder, but the accusation was not based on the superior court.

Special Prosecutor W. H. Abel said last night that the examination of eye-witnesses would continue Saturday, and that the prosecution's case will be concluded within a week.

When court opened Thomas N. Morgan was on the stand awaiting Vandever's examination.

"Did you hear Wesley Everest say that that if they ever raised the ball that (the soldiers) would make it a steve?" asked the attorney.

"No, sir."

MORGAN said the soldiers stopped and the witness stood on the sidewalk. When the fight started he had no suspicion of a raid being planned by the ex-soldiers.

"Isn't it a fact, son, that you knew those soldiers were raiding the hall and had gone around the back way and you saw a lighted box because it was the only safe place for the ex-soldiers?"

"There were no soldiers in back of the hall," responded Morgan.

A mass of objections were made and several witnesses attempted to propound questions after questions in regard to the things occurring in the Centralia jail the night of the fight.

Morgan was asked if he saw a man on a brown horse. Did he see that man blow a whistle? Did he see that man on south as though he overtake other paraders? The reply in each case was negative.

No inducements were offered him to testify, he said, and the next new suit of clothes he wore had been furnished by his brother-in-law, Morgan declared.

"Your honor's recollection is not so imperfect as the jury," observed Vandever. "Your honor will remember that we have had to read the record to you before."

A timberworker from Raymond, who had been in the International Brotherhood of Timberworkers, was a strong witness for the prosecution today.

He was Clyde V. Tisdale, logger, who during the night of the shooting, was in civilian capacity. Tisdale was in an automobile that stood on the south side of the street a few feet away from Tower avenue.

Carpenter said that he saw a man pass the front of the garage with blood running from his arm. Immediately afterwards a man named Grimm was called to the window of the Avallon.

"I saw a gun projecting out of the south window and saw a man's arm and hands," said Carpenter. "There was a man named Grimm in the window after the fusillade of shots on November 11."

Griffith said Barnett was carrying a 38-55 Winchester rifle and that he saw the rifle protrude from the window. The witness said there were between 50 and 100 shots fired.

Griffith's testimony is considered of the greatest importance in adding weight to what the witness on the stand said. The witness said that Barnett was killed by a shot from the Avallon hotel.

Griffith said that he was city superintendent of schools at Port Angeles, Wash., testified he had seen Eugene Barnett coming out of the alley back of the Avallon hotel immediately after the fusillade of shots on November 11.

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WITNESS LEGION MEMBER Watkins said he was a member of the American Legion.

"Did you know that the commercial interests of Centralia planned to raid the I. W. W. hall and were going to use dynamite and light, just as they did two years before?"

This question from the defense attorney brought violent objections from the prosecution. The objection was sustained and the witness' propounded questions about the witness' belief toward free speech, American ideals such as prompted soldiers to go over the top and fight, and for what the American flag stood.

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standing in front of a file of soldiers in Tower avenue. No mention of names was made, but Abel plainly inferred in his examination that the man who had been shot was Grimm.

On cross-examination, Griffith said that he had known Cunningham for five years, but no other attorneys for the prosecution.

Griffith said that he went at once to where a man was seated on horseback in the street intersection, and told him of having seen the man with a rifle.

"I could hear the bullets whistling over my head from the hill, so I concluded that it would be safer for me to go west," said the witness in reply to another question of the defense.

Griffith said that he went at once to where a man was seated on horseback in the street intersection, and told him of having seen the man with a rifle.

"I could hear the bullets whistling over my head from the hill, so I concluded that it would be safer for me to go west," said the witness in reply to another question of the defense.

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