

Col. Charles P. Lincoln, ex-deputy commissioner of pensions, and an old soldier now practicing law in Washington, proposes to test in the courts the legality of Secretary Hoke Smith's action in suspending pensions granted by his predecessor, Secretary Noble, under the act of June 27, 1890, says the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Lincoln maintains that a pensioner has a vested right to his pension after it has been properly adjudicated, and that even the secretary of the interior has no authority to suspend or reduce such a pension, unless fraud is proven. It is simply a difference of opinion that Secretary Noble used for his excuse.

Secretary Noble made one requirement for applicants under the new law and Secretary Smith has made another requirement. As secretary of the interior, Mr. Smith may make rulings to govern the acts of the department while he is in chief, but Mr. Lincoln contends that he cannot make rules to undo the work of his predecessor.

He quotes many authorities to show that Secretary Smith's action in requiring pensioners to produce evidence showing that their titles to pensions already granted under the law is illegal. One of these is a decision by the interior department in 1888 during Mr. Cleveland's first administration.

"It is forbidden by a rule of administrative practice, which was stated, and the reason therefore was presented by Attorney General Work in 1825 (two opinions), and which has since been frequently restated by other attorneys general, (fourteen opinions), that the official acts of a previous administration are to be considered by his successor as final, so far as the executive is concerned."

This opinion, given by a Democratic administration is in direct conflict with Secretary Hoke Smith's actions regarding the pensions granted by Secretary Noble.

The young man from Georgia seems to think that he cannot only formulate rules for the department during his administration but also overturn the rulings of all secretaries who have preceded him.

It is a proud boast of the G. O. P. that it is the party of sound and honest money, but when a financial crisis strikes, the party of sound money is the party of sound money.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned, George C. Sear, administrator of the estate of Henry C. Campbell, deceased, has filed in the probate court of Oregon, county of Washington, Oregon, a true and correct copy of the will of the said Henry C. Campbell, deceased, and of the appointment of the undersigned as administrator of the said estate.

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