

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE NOW WRITING REPORT

After Many Months of Public Discussion and Fifty Days of Formal Sessions Committee is Ready to Write Reports on Ballinger.

WASHINGTON, June 22.—After many months of public discussion and 50 days of formal sessions, the congressional committee, appointed to investigate the charges brought against Secretary of the Interior Ballinger at last is ready to begin work on its opinions. There will be two reports and perhaps three. The majority of the committee is expected, beyond a doubt, to declare the charges unsubstantiated. The minority will not accept that report. The division probably will be on party lines, with the exception that Representative Madison of Kansas, a Republican insurgent, may return an opinion dissenting from the majority. It is estimated that the investigation has cost about \$45,000.

The whole inquiry was to determine whether Ballinger was fit for his job. Briefly summarized, the contentions which the "prosecution" presented as tending to show Ballinger's unfitness are as follows:

That his association with special interests and friendship with Alaskan claimants biased him in the coal cases.

That he attempted to hasten the Cunningham coal claims through to patent, both as commissioner of the land office and as secretary—in the latter position acting through his subordinates while avoiding the appearance of acting himself.

That he came into secretaryship with the express intention of overturning the Roosevelt-Garfield policy of withdrawing waterpower sites.

That he restored vast areas of valuable power sites and when forced to undo his work by President Taft, withdrew the lands, but afforded inadequate protection to the sites.

That he undermined the efficiency of the reclamation service, sought to replace its director, F. H. Newell, and wanted to run the service on a political basis.

That his hatred for Gifford Pinchot and the forest service led him to abrogate co-operative agreements between that division and the Indian reservations.

That he terminated the Garfield co-operative irrigation certificates plan unjustly and upon a misconception of its purpose, and thus worked hardship on settlers under government irrigation projects.

That he countenanced a scheme of one of the reclamation service employes whereby the employe was to receive money from the Harriman railroads for lecturing in favor of irrigation projects along their lines.

That he acted as legal adviser for several of the Alaska coal claimants after his resignation as commissioner in 1908, in violation of the statute which prohibits a government official from prosecuting claims against the department within two years after quitting the service.

Out of these accusations have grown additional charges, since the inception of the inquiry, in general, as follows:

That Ballinger and Oscar Lawler, assistant attorney-general for the interior department, conspired to mislead and deceive President Taft as to the truth of the Glavis charges.

That President Taft should have sent to congress, in response to a request for all papers, the so-called "Lawler draft."

That Attorney-General Wickham deliberately antedated this "summary" of the Glavis charges to lend color to the statement that the president had a legal opinion before him when he wrote the letter exonerating Ballinger.

That the president really never read the data on the Glavis charges, prepared by Ballinger and his associates, and that he had Lawler write the draft of a letter "as if he were president."

That Lawler, who admits having written a draft, was personally biased as to Glavis, and regarded him as a personal enemy.

That Ballinger was guilty of false statements on the witness stand in regard to the Lawler draft.

That George W. Perkins, of J. P. Morgan & Co., one of the partners in the Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate in Alaska, was on terms of intimacy with Ballinger.

That Ballinger and his subordinates deliberately attempted to suppress material evidence and made false statements when asked concerning certain documents.

As against these charges, the "de-

fense" claims the following points: That Ballinger had absolutely no interest in Alaska, and owed nothing to his friends who were interested there.

That the Cunningham coal cases were valid claims against the government, and should have been patented, there being no fraud, and that Ballinger acted with the utmost circumspection in handling them; while secretary being careful to order Assistant Secretary Pierce to supervise the cases and refusing to have anything to do with them, because of his former legal services, while a private citizen, to Clarence Cunningham.

That he came into secretaryship with the purpose of restoring the "reign of law, and not of man."

That he restored the sweeping Garfield power site withdrawals because they were illegal, and withdrew lands only pending action by congress.

That he sought to reorganize the reclamation service on a business-like plan.

That the forest service-Indian bureau co-operative logging agreement was illegal and that the forest service had wasted money in chimerical schemes.

That he did not agree to the scheme whereby a reclamation service employe was to receive money from the Harriman interests for lectures in favor of irrigation projects along their lines.

That the latest legal opinion of the statute prohibiting government officials accepting and prosecuting claims against the interior department within two years after their retirement was that it referred only to money claims.

Of the charges which have developed since the hearings, the defense contends:

That Taft himself asked Lawler to prepare a draft for a letter exonerating Ballinger, having already arrived at the decision that Glavis' charges were baseless, after a consideration of the evidence on his own behalf.

That Ballinger had only personal friendship for George W. Perkins, of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co. Ballinger and his subordinates admit:

That Lawler was prejudiced against Glavis.

That Attorney-General Wickham antedated his summary of the Glavis charges.

That Lawler wrote a draft of a letter "as if he were president."

INDIAN WAR VETERANS ARE AFTER PENSIONS

Start Campaign to Secure Increased Pensions for Pioneer Frontiersmen—Big Gathering of Pioneers in Portland.

PORTLAND, Or., June 22.—Veterans of the Indian wars today are agitating a proposition tending toward placing them on the same plane of equality with civil war veterans in the matter of pensions.

The first gun in the campaign for increased pensions for the old-time frontiersmen was fired at the 25th annual grand encampment of Indian war veterans of the northwest which is holding sessions in Portland.

A committee of old fighters was appointed for the purpose of going before the state legislature to gain its support in the fight for pensions.

Letters were read from the Oregon congressman at Washington which showed apparently that the only drawback to securing recompense for the Indian war veterans was in the person of Speaker Cannon, who, it is said, has opposed the granting of increased pensions.

There were present at the gathering veterans from all of the states of the northwest, including Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and California.

Washington was especially well represented.

CHERRY CROP AT EUGENE SAVED FOR SHIPMENT

EUGENE, Or., June 22.—There is some report of damage to the Royal Anne cherry crop in this vicinity on account of light rains during the past week, but the loss will not be great. The Eugene Fruitgrowers' association is taking care of nearly all the cherries grown here, putting them up in barrels for shipment east. The association is employing 100 women and girls and 50 men in caring for the crop.

The stores that do not advertise can't sell so cheaply as those that do—for they make fewer sales, and their per-sale profit must be larger.

Haskins for Health.

MOST EMINENT PATHOLOGIST IN WORLD IS HERE

Has Unstinted Praise for the Rogue River Valley—Only Stop Made in Oregon Is in This Valley—Is the Guest of Professor O'Gara.

F. Kolpen Ravn, professor of plant pathology in the royal agricultural college at Copenhagen, Denmark, who is making a tour of the United States studying plant and fruit conditions, was the guest of Professor and Mrs. O'Gara a couple of days this week, while making an inspection of the Rogue River valley.

Professor Ravn is one of the most eminent plant pathologists in the world and was sent out by his government to study the conditions in the United States in order to instruct the students of the royal agricultural college.

Medford is the only place where he stopped in Oregon. He halted for a day in California in the southern part of the state, and at Watsonville.

"Are you not going to visit Hood River and the Willamette?" he was asked.

"No," he said, "My time is limited and I have been told that the Rogue River valley is the best in Oregon, and was recommended to stop here. If any of the other valleys are better, they are certainly paradises, it seems to me."

Professor Ravn was taken over the valley by A. C. Allen in his car and could not express his admiration of the beauty and fertility of the section.

From here Professor Ravn goes to Washington, where he will continue his investigations; from there to Fargo, N. D., Minneapolis, and will sail for Europe about July 10.

"Never have I seen such a beautiful and productive country, nor one where everyone was striving for the best, like here," was his parting words.

In two minutes you can find in the some fact that is important to you.

AERIAL CRUISE SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT

First Passengers Carried 280 Miles on Regular Airship Service—Steamship Companies Are Backing the Venture.

FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, June 22.—The first aerial passenger cruise as part of a regular airship service was successfully completed today when the Zeppelin dirigible Deutschland sailed from here with ten passengers and arrived safely at Dusseldorf, 280 miles away.

The trip was entirely successful and the passengers were pleased with the experience. Those who were fortunate enough to board the craft for the journey paid as high as \$50 for a ticket. The ticket stubs were retained by them as souvenirs with the consent of the airship management.

The promoters of the dirigible line are the Hamburg Steamship company and the German Airship company.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Dr. Artomas W. Deane, 206 Phipps Bldg., Medford, Oregon, desires to announce that having passed the Oregon state board of dental examiners, I have opened an office for the practice of dentistry in room 206 Phipps building. Gas administered for the extraction of teeth. Phone Main 342. House phone. 8080

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SNAKE MAKES HUMAN FRIENDS

Becomes Domesticated and Lovingly Fondles Its Friend—Then Leaves and Crawls Away into the Brush by the Roadside.

WILMINGTON, Del., June 22.—Professor A. R. Spaid, superintendent of the New Castle county public schools, had an interesting experience with a snake the other day. The school superintendent is an authority on the habits of reptiles, but this case is without parallel in his knowledge. A three-foot house or milk snake, which he discovered on a country road, not only made friends with the professor and his wife and three children, but it actually refused to leave him when he attempted to give it its liberty. It acted more like a domestic animal than a reptile. Petting the reptile as he would a dog, the snake reciprocated the affection by coiling around his wrist and hand as gently as it could.

After proceeding about a mile and deciding that a snake three feet in length was too large to take to his home as he had intended, the superintendent unwound the reptile from his hand and wrist and lowered it into the road. Instead of clambering away, however, it actually crawled back over the rim of the wheel. Then, when the horse started the snake swung itself to the front axle and wound its body around the front spring of the vehicle. The snake remained in this position for several minutes.

Finally, when a steep and rough hill was reached the descent proved to be too uncomfortable for his snake unwound itself by degrees and lowered itself gradually until its head struck the road. This time his snakeship crawled away.

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Land for Sale

I have a few choice tracts of good orchard land for sale. Tracts from twenty (20) to one hundred and sixty (160) acres. The land is situated in the famous apple belt, near the world-famed Tronson & Guthrie orchard, near Eagle Point, Or. Some of the land is improved and some unimproved.

I also have property in the town of Eagle Point for sale. Those intending to purchase please give me a call in person or call Eagle Point central by phone.

A. B. Zimmerman