

HARRIMAN LAYS BARE THE FACTS.

Telegraphed Gov. Higgins and
Speaker Nixon About Con-
trol of Equitable.

GOV. ODELL'S INFLUENCE.

"I Should Say that Mr. Odell Gets
His Political Influence Through
His Relations With Me."

Tells Story of Purchase of Hyde's Stock
—Wanted to be Sure that Ryan's
Motives Were Pure.

New York, Dec. 15.—E. H. Harriman,
in the insurance investigation today
said that he was instrumental in pre-
venting bills from being introduced in
the legislature to aid one faction in
the Equitable to get control of the so-
ciety.

"It has been openly charged," said
Mr. Harriman, "that you get your po-
litical influence through your relations
with Mr. Odell."

"I should say that Mr. Odell gets
his political influence through his rela-
tions with me," responded Mr. Harri-
man.

Mr. Harriman said that when a move
was on foot to give the control of the
Equitable to James W. Alexander and
his friends by means of legislative ac-
tion at Albany, he wired certain per-
sons at Albany to keep him informed
as to the progress such proceedings
might make. Asked who these persons
at Albany were, Mr. Harriman re-
sponded that he excused from an-
swering. He said he did not want to
give occasion for sensational newspaper
headlines.

The committee and counsel, Mr.
Hughes, retired for consultation.
Mr. Harriman said he should like to
consult before replying.

The committee decided, however, that
he should answer, and he did so, saying
that the persons from whom he had re-
quested the information were Gov.
Higgins and the late Speaker Nixon,
of the assembly.

Mr. Harriman had answered
concerning Gov. Higgins and Speaker
Nixon, Senator Armstrong, chairman
of the committee, said:

"I am sorry you give such an air
of mystery to this matter, as we all
know such inquiries are regular and
common."

Mr. Harriman then said:
"I am the person to state these men
and not bring their names into the
headlines."

HARRIMAN AND RYAN.
New York, Dec. 15.—E. H. Harriman
was called to the stand when the in-
surance investigating committee
opened its session today.

Mr. Harriman said he learned of the
sale of the Hyde stock on the day that
Mr. Ryan bought it. He telephoned to
Mr. Ryan and asked him if he had
bought it.

"Ryan said the purchase was condi-
tional," said Mr. Harriman, "and that
he wanted to see me and talk with me
and that he wanted my help. I cer-
tainly did not tell him then that I
knew what he meant by it. Ten or 15
days later I went to Mr. Ryan's office.
He told me he had decided to buy the
stock and said to me that he wanted
to make a name for himself. I ques-
tioned his motive. He told me he wanted my help;
that I was the one man in New York
whose help he desired."

"What kind of help?" asked Mr.
Hughes, counsel to the investigating
committee.

"To help him get his nominee elected
chairman of the board," replied Mr.
Harriman.

Asked upon what grounds he had
criticized Mr. Ryan's plan, Mr. Harri-
man replied:

"Well, it was rather staggering to
anybody that Ryan wanted to control
the Equitable or should have control
of it."

RYAN'S MOTIVES.
"I told you," continued Mr. Harri-
man, "that if I was satisfied that he
was acting from a pure and unselfish
motive in the interest of the Equitable
I would help him. He told me his
plan. I did not tell him then that I
knew what he meant by it. He told
me he wanted my help; that I was the
one man in New York whose help he
desired."

"Why did you, if you were not satis-
fied as to the purity of his motives?"
asked Mr. Hughes.

"I became satisfied that with Mr.
Harriman in charge and if Mr. Ryan
sincere the affairs of the Equitable
would be safe. I was convinced that
Mr. Ryan would share the stock with
me."

Assemblyman Rogers of the commit-
tee here asked:

"When did you resign as director of
the Equitable?" This was June 2.

NEXT INTERVIEW.
The next interview with Ryan was
the Monday following the purchase of
the Ryan stock, said the witness. "First
he called on me and then I called on
him to elect President Morton, and Ryan
said he wanted to meet me and after
Morton was elected Ryan called me up
and said he appreciated my help and
wanted me to continue, and said he
would do nothing further without my
consent and wanted to meet me. I
made an appointment to meet him. At
1 o'clock Mr. Ryan came and said
Ryan was sorry he had to proceed
without me. I told Mr. Ryan that I
considered that an act of bad faith, turn-
ing my back on Cravath and walked
away. Mr. Ryan later asked me to come
to his office on Monday and meet Mr.
Root."

That interview with Cravath he
told me that Mr. Root had insisted on
the appointment of the trustees of the
Equitable at once and the announce-
ment in the morning papers. That was
the first intimation that Mr. Ryan had
asked the trustees to act. I want you
all to understand that I have something

besides life insurance to do and think
of. My mind was on the 35,000 miles
of railroads and 35 to 40 steamships
which I have to think of. I wanted only
to safeguard the Equitable. Mr. Ryan
did not tell me at the first interview
what he paid for the Hyde stock.

"At the interview Root and Cravath
were present," said Mr. Ryan, "you
want my co-operation?" He said, "yes,"
I said, "I will take half of your stock
if you will let me name two trustees."
Ryan refused and told me I had prom-
ised to help him if I was satisfied. I
said this was my way of being satisfied.
I did not remember what else I
said. I may have said what these gen-
tlemen said. I intended unless I was
satisfied of his motives to oppose
his control of the society and thought
it ought to be stopped. I knew whom
he had selected as trustees, but did
not know his plan to divest himself of
control of the stock."

"Why did you object?" asked Mr.
Hughes.

WHY HARRIMAN OBJECTED.
"I wanted two trustees, independent
of Mr. Ryan. I think that any trust-
ees named as Mr. Ryan named them
would be a mere puppet under his
control, especially as he had named a
man out of his own organization as
president. I did not demand a right
to name two trustees, but merely that
Ryan should be independent of Ryan. I
offered to turn my stock over to the
society if all did. I don't see why he
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