

SENATOR HOAR SEEKS KNOWLEDGE

He Wants to Know if This Government Was Particeps Criminis To the Panama Revolution.

HE ASKS FOR ALL THE FACTS.

Senator Foraker Arraigns the Man From Massachusetts for His Unpatriotic Talk.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate today debated the isthmian canal question, as affected by the president's recognition of the independence of the republic of Panama. The discussion began with a speech by Mr. Hoar on his resolution of inquiry and lasted several hours. In addition to Mr. Hoar's address there were speeches by Mr. Gorman and Mr. Foraker.

Mr. Hoar confined his remarks to his resolution and they were read from manuscript. He held that this country had not yet received full official information concerning the isthmian revolution and adversely criticized the conduct of this country as shown by what has been given out. He compared the conduct of the United States on the isthmian question to that of a policeman who would manacle and hold a person to be robbed and who would then insist on having the spoils of the theft delivered to him.

HOAR ADDRESSED SENATE.

Mr. Hoar addressed the senate on his resolution calling upon the president for such information as may be in his possession relative to the status of the republic of Panama when the treaty with that country was negotiated. Mr. Hoar began by saying that he was favorable to the isthmian canal and desirous that the present president of the United States should build the great waterway. But, anxious as he was for the accomplishment of these ends, he was even more anxious that the canal should be built "without stain or suspicion of national dishonor."

WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW.

"What we want to know," he said, "did this government, knowing that a revolution was about to take place, so arrange matters that the revolution, whether peaceable or otherwise should be permitted to go on without interruption, and whether our national authorities took measures to prevent Colombia from stopping it?"

Mr. Hoar quoted the correspondence bearing upon the revolution and asked: "Why this great anxiety before any disturbance had occurred?"

It was, he said, clear that if the correspondence so far printed included the information it was possible to give on the subject, that from 24 to 48 hours before the revolution broke out this government had instructed a man-of-war to prevent Colombia from doing anything to prevent it.

Mr. Hoar said that it was impossible to believe, and he did not believe, that the president was capable of such intrigue and indiscretion as such indicated, and declared that it was for the purpose of saving him from such imputation that he desired all the information to be secured on the question.

Mr. Hoar said that it was no justification of our course to say Colombia had failed to ratify the treaty for the construction of the Panama canal.

In conclusion, Mr. Hoar pleaded for all the facts, and asked that they be sent to the senate through the usual official channels.

GORMAN MAKES CHARGES.

Mr. Gorman took the floor as soon as Mr. Hoar had concluded his speech. He said that Democratic senators generally were as favorable to the construction of the canal as Republicans. He congratulated the country for the possession of a senator like Mr. Hoar who, he said, was following many examples of courage, patriotism and disinterestedness in the senate. Mr. Gorman said the facts were all that were desired, and he referred to the extension of the executive influence, saying that his influence had been extended until "the senate had become practically the agent of the executive." He criticized the selection by the president of commissioners from the senate to negotiate treaties with Colombia, and declared that the Associated Press secured its suggestions as to information about events from the administration. He also condemned executive interference in state politics.

But none of these transgressions could be compared, he declared, to the action of the executive in connection with the affair in Panama. "It is," he said, "the most flagrant act of transgression that has ever taken place in the history of the country and it should be resisted without regard to party."

SECY, LOOMIS CRITICIZED.

Mr. Gorman adversely criticized the speech made by Asst. Secy. Loomis before the Quill club of New York a few nights ago. He said that Mr. Loomis while excited by wine, had given information which the senate had not had from the administration or from any other source. "He did not," Mr. Gorman continued, "tell the country all the facts, but he made the broad assertion that the president was a bold and great man who had the courage and patriotism to land marines and seize a part of the territory of the republic of Colombia which we were under contract to guarantee to that country. This, in the light of the facts before us, is nothing less than usurpation."

PRESIDENT AS A NAPOLEON.

Mr. Gorman then discussed the president as a "second Napoleon." "A second Napoleon, indeed," he exclaimed. "Has it come to this, that the United States must have a Napoleon to share its destinies and to distort the presidential office from its proper functions?"

Here Mr. Aldrich asked Mr. Gorman

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whether it was the purpose of the reconcentrated Democracy to defeat the treaty.

After some parley, Mr. Gorman exclaimed: "I say to the senator from Rhode Island that if the case stands as it is now, with only the information that the administration has furnished us to this hour then we regard it as a most objectionable transaction. And let me say to the senator when you talk about responsibility we can take the responsibility and say to the administration with regard to party, Congress has directed you to do one of two things: either to construct the canal and do it without delay; when you cannot get it at Panama go to Nicaragua and construct it there and do it at once."

LOOMIS' AUDACITY.

"Yet Mr. Loomis in his speech has the audacity to say the reason why they did not go to Nicaragua and attempted no negotiations with Costa Rica or Nicaragua as provided by the Spooner act was because eminent engineers have said Nicaragua was not the proper route for the canal. That statement I challenge. It cannot be verified. But one member of the commission expressed a doubt as to the feasibility of the Nicaraguan route."

"I do not desire to do the president of the United States an injustice. I respect the office. I believe that whoever occupies it ought to have fair consideration. But the executive must have a respect for Congress and a special consideration for the senate of the United States when it comes to the consideration of treaties, for he cannot make one without its consent, when the attempt to deprive us of all the facts is made I resent it. And it is not the first instance of such action and of dictating to Congress. I resent it and I have resented it at the cost of estranging some of my political associates in the past when we had a Democratic president of the United States. I accord President Roosevelt the same treatment."

"OPEN YOUR BOOKS."

"Open your books and give us the information. If you fail to do it in this case I cannot sustain him."

"What I want, and what I believe the people want, is that there shall be nothing that will disturb business. Every thoughtful man recognizes the fact that we have for four years and more passed through an era of unexampled prosperity, of expansion, of reckless expenditures, of imprudent investments, and now the remainder of the world is taking action, jealous of our prosperity, and is putting obstacles in our way, and what is the result? I do not want to have fair consideration for Congress and a special consideration for the senate of the United States when it comes to the consideration of treaties, for he cannot make one without its consent, when the attempt to deprive us of all the facts is made I resent it. And it is not the first instance of such action and of dictating to Congress. I resent it and I have resented it at the cost of estranging some of my political associates in the past when we had a Democratic president of the United States. I accord President Roosevelt the same treatment."

FORAKER ARRAIGNS HOAR.

When Mr. Gorman had concluded, Mr. Foraker began a severe arraignment of Mr. Hoar's position, saying that when he read the newspaper accounts of the Democratic caucus which agreed that caucus action should be binding, he knew that there would be trouble; that the Democrats would vote as a unit on every matter except when the vote interfered with individual conscience.

Mr. Foraker said he had felt no great surprise when the attack on the president had been made on the Democratic side of the chamber, but that he had been shocked when the senator from Massachusetts made the character of speech he did, and thought the country would be equally surprised. He said Mr. Hoar's speech should have been made in executive session, if at all.

Mr. Foraker declared that an attack had been made, not on the president alone, but on the country, and that at a time when the eyes of the world were upon us.

"I have no doubt," said Mr. Foraker, "that the president acted with the loftiest of motives and the highest of ideals when he took the action he did in reference to the republic of Panama."

Mr. Foraker said he could think of no action on the part of the president calling for such remarks as those made by Senator Hoar.

MR. HOAR EXPLAINS.

Mr. Hoar, interrupting, said: "The senator from Ohio either wholly misunderstands what I said or willfully perverts my meaning."

After a little further debate, Mr. Hoar obtained the floor.

"My point is this," said Mr. Hoar, "I say that the president has said to the public and to the senate that he disclaims certain conduct as unworthy of him, and I called attention to the fact that the documents which he sent in failed to make that clear by not distinctly disclaiming that he, or the administration, had notice of that revolution or that our forces had prevented the lawful government from anticipating that outbreak; that I believed from my knowledge of the president that his statement was actually true; and then I asked him to supply the lacking information by stating on what ground the administration proceeded in taking the step."

"That is all. And I do not propose after 24 years of service within these walls to trouble myself to contradict again an imputation to me of any other meaning of indirectness or artifice on my part. If the senator from Ohio chooses to charge me with it, of course I cannot help it. He will do his duty."

FORAKER MAKES RETORT.

"I am delighted," retorted Mr. Foraker, "that the senator from Massachusetts is not afraid of anybody. I do not know of any reason why he should be afraid of anybody. He made a speech."

I am undertaking to make some answer to it.

"Now, the president has said there was no conference, no intrigue. And yet the senator from Massachusetts demands that the president shall submit proof to him that he was telling the truth when he made the statement that he had not connived."

Mr. Foraker then proceeded to review briefly the history of the uprising on the isthmus, saying that the condition there was common knowledge to all newspaper readers and to all persons who had observed the fate of the canal treaty in the Colombian congress and had any knowledge of human nature.

Mr. Foraker said: "No agent was sent to the president and no agent was sent to Panama, which had a right to go into rebellion. Weeks before she declared her independence it became known unofficially that she would take that step."

The administration at Washington, he said, was not unmindful of the situation, "and the president took the steps indicated by the telegrams, and from which Senator Hoar derives such conclusions."

HOAR ON HIS FEET.

Mr. Hoar was on his feet again and interrupted: "I distinctly said that I had no criticism to make on that subject, and that the little matter of time could not be at all affected by the time we took in the civil war. I not only disclaim what the senator imputes to me, but made what was the strongest argument I could think of to show, so far as that was concerned, there was no criticism whatever proposed."

"I am glad the senator has reconsidered and concluded to interrupt me again," remarked Mr. Foraker amid the laughter of senators.

"I made no such statement," declared Mr. Hoar.

Mr. Foraker: "Then I hope you will make it and stick to it."

Mr. Hoar: "I thought the senator was always 'delighted' to have me interrupt him."

"That is the way the senator always has to get the better of his adversaries," remarked Mr. Foraker. "Yes, I shall always be glad to be interrupted by him. But I wish the senator would tell me where I was."

"I will tell him," declared Mr. Hoar, with a smile, "he was mistaking one of my propositions."

"Well," retorted Mr. Foraker, amid general laughter, "that does not help me any. He has made so many of them, I don't know which one it was."

Mr. Foraker concluded by saying that there was no real ground for criticism of the course of the administration in the Panama matter, not even that the Democrats might take advantage of it. He pleaded the discussion of the matter in open session of the senate, however.

At 5:10 p. m. the senate went into executive session, and at 5:35 adjourned.

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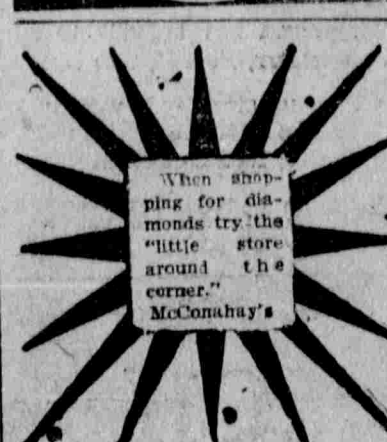
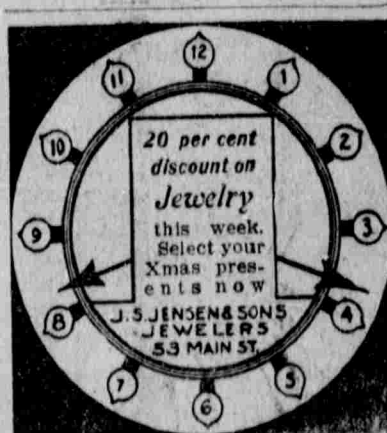
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