

## PRESIDENT AND FEDERAL PATRONAGE

Answers and Denies Statements That He Has Used it in the Interest of Secy. Taft.

### CHARGES FALSE, MALICIOUS.

William Dudley Foulke Called His Attention to Accusations and to Him He Made the Denial.

Washington, Feb. 9.—President Roosevelt today made answer to the recent public statements that he has made use of federal patronage to further the presidential interests of Secy. Taft. The answer is in form of a letter addressed to William Dudley Foulke of Richmond, Ind., and includes a letter from Mr. Foulke to the president suggesting the need of such a statement.

The president begins by characterizing the charges as "false and malicious." He follows this with an analysis of the appointments sent by him to the senate for its action to show that in no case has the proximity of a presidential contest influenced his action.

#### FOULKE'S LETTER.

Mr. Foulke's letter, dated Feb. 5, says:

"On Jan. 13 I laid before you an article in the Indianapolis News (a paper supporting the candidacy of Mr. Fairbanks) accusing you of using the federal patronage to secure the nomination of Mr. Taft, and naming the postoffices in particular. I spoke of the fact that certain Taft men had been nominated in Ohio, and you answered that that was true; that you would be very weak if you allowed the power of appointment in that state to be used ONLY as a means of attack upon the administration."

"On my return home I observed other articles making similar charges in various papers, for instance, the following in the New York Evening Post of Jan. 16:

#### N. Y. EVENING POST.

"We are now getting daily lessons in civil service reform from the White House which ought to attract national attention. The appointment of Taft workers to postoffices in Ohio and of the totally unfit George W. Wamamaker as appraiser of this port is now followed by the president's refusal to reappoint a good Hughes man as collector of customs at Plattsburg."

"On Jan. 17 an article charging you with a similar abuse of the patronage appeared in the Indianapolis State paper also supporting Mr. Fairbanks, and reputed to be owned principally by Daniel G. Reid, representing important Wall street interests. This article I enclosed in a letter to you in which I said:

#### INDIANAPOLIS STAR.

"No man can be a more unqualified supporter of Mr. Taft than I, yet I realize that any use of the patronage to aid him, especially if coercion can be implied, is likely to injure you very seriously. The use of any public office for this purpose is fraught with great danger and subject to unanswerable criticism."

#### "Will you produce the name of a single man whom I have coerced or influenced; will you give me the name of any official who has been controlled by the threat or implied threat of dismissal or from whom I have demanded support for Taft; in fact, will you give me one particle of justification for the fears you express? Name the man whom I have removed because he was not for Taft. You cannot do so; and as you cannot, why do not you not repeat this challenge to the newspapers in question, assert that their words are absolutely false and challenge them to make good?"

"If accordingly wrote to the Star asking it to name a single case of coercion referred to in its previous issues. It published an answer to my letter, but failed to name any instance of the kind. I then wrote again, calling attention to this failure and asking if I were not forced to conclude from its own silence that its own charges were absolutely without foundation. This second letter, however, it would not publish, though it still continues to repeat its general charges of abuse of the patronage."

"These charges also continue to be circulated by other newspapers in all parts of the country. Thus the Boston Herald of Jan. 29 says:

#### THE BOSTON HERALD.

"Federal officeholders may be commanded to use their influence and their

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authority in behalf of a candidate. Such a command has been issued and the president should know of it. Somebody has instructed postmasters that they must obtain from their subordinates either their resignations or their pledges of support for Taft delegates to the convention. Even in Massachusetts efforts of this kind have been made recently, but happily they have been stopped, partly because the postmasters on whom the attempts were made have the courage to resist and partly from other causes."

"In view of these reiterated complaints, would not a detailed statement of your recent appointments, the men by whom they were recommended, your reasons and the principles upon which you have acted in making them, as well as a statement in regard to the alleged coercion, be the best method of exhibiting the facts?"

"Yours respectfully,

"WM. DUDLEY FOULKE."

PRESIDENT TO FOULKE.

In his reply to Mr. Foulke, President Roosevelt says:

"The statement that I have used the offices in the efforts to nominate any presidential candidate is both false and malicious. It is the usual imaginative fiction which flows from a desire to say something injurious. Remember that those now making this accusation were busily engaged two months ago in asserting that I was using the offices to secure my own re-election."

"Since the present Congress assembled two months ago, I have sent to the senate the names of all the officials I have appointed for the entire term of service."

"The refusal to appoint a good Hughes man as collector of customs at Plattsburg refers to the case of Walter Witherbee, and the accusation in this case is particularly comic, because Mr. Witherbee was an open and avowed Taft man, the classmate of Secy. Taft's brother at Yale, and both Secy. Taft and his brother requested his reappointment—the only New York officeholder for whom they made such a request. The congressman from his district and the senators have not agreed about his successor and he is still in office."

"There remain the allegations as to the appointment of Taft workers to postoffices in Ohio. In Ohio I have made 58 postoffice appointments; 27 of these were reappointments, 31 were new appointments, the last including the cases where the incumbent had died, had been removed for cause or had resigned. Generally the appointment was made exactly as in other states, upon the recommendations of the congressmen from the district. In various cases, however, as at Maumee, Bluffton, Greenville and Lelaps, the nominations were upon recommendation of both Senators Foraker and Dick, or of one of the other. In two of these, Denison and Ulrichville, the nominations were made upon the recommendation of the then congressman, Mr. Snyder; in each case the incumbent had not been given very satisfactory service."

"I call your attention to the fact that the senate withdrew its opposition to one of these four men and confirmed him, so that the charge relates to only three out of the whole number, 1,164 postoffices; that of these three, two were nominated in the usual fashion on the recommendation of the outgoing congressman; and that the third nomination was made on the report of the inspector and would have been made without the slightest regard to whether there was a presidential canvass on hand or not."

"The statement in the editorial in question are therefore untrue in every particular."

NO TRUTH IN ARTICLE.

Taking up the quotation from the Boston Herald, the president says:

"There is nothing to say except that it does not contain the slightest particle of truth, and that the misstatement is so gross that it is difficult to believe it other than a deliberate invention."

There is not the slightest foundation for it, and no successful effort can be made to show that there is the slightest foundation for it."

"If such assertions as those of these papers are made in good faith, on facts and with any other purpose than to produce a political effect, by false pretenses, or by reckless statement without knowledge, let those making them produce the specific cases to which they refer. If in any such case the accusation is found untrue, it will have occurred without my knowledge and I shall deal with it in the precise spirit of my instructions to the civil service commission hereinafter referred to."

FOR FAVORITE SONS.

"In New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, so far as I know, an enormous majority of appointees are in each case for the president. Candidates from the state. This has not been true in Ohio, and my interference in patronage matters in Ohio has been limited to my insisting, as I should insist anywhere else, that opposition to the purposes, policies and

friends to the administration shall not be considered as a necessary prerequisite to holding the commission of the president."

"In my letter to the civil service commission of June 12, 1902, which now holds good and will be enforced, officers are warned not to use their places to control political movements, nor to coerce their subordinates, nor to neglect their public duties for political work, nor to cause any public scandal by their political activity; but outside of the classified service they are not otherwise limited in political activity. No officer will be permitted to violate the above injunction, with my knowledge, no matter for what candidate he may be working; and I may add that the only officers as to whom any question of violation of this injunction has hitherto arisen have been men who are not working for Mr. Taft."

"The above is a full statement of the facts. Not an appointment has been made that would not have been made if there had been no presidential contest impending and in no case has there been a deviation from the course that I would have pursued had none of those who actually are candidates for the nomination been candidates; nor has a single officeholder been removed or threatened with removal or coerced in any way to secure his support for any presidential candidate. In fact, the only coercion that I have attempted to exercise was to forbid the officeholders from pushing my own nomination, this being done in the letter sent to the members of my cabinet on Nov. 19, 1902."

BANKER COMMITS SUICIDE.

Port Worth, Texas, Feb. 9.—L. C. Hutchins, second vice president of the Port Worth National bank, committed suicide today by shooting himself through the head with a revolver. Mr. Hutchins' body was found by the porter in the toilet room of his banking house. Bank officials declare that the dead man's business affairs are in excellent shape. Ill-health and anxiety produced by the recent panic is given as the cause of the suicide. Brooding

over the suicide of Banker Hutchins, a man he did not know, Eric C. Gambrell, 38 years old, shot and killed himself at a local hotel tonight. Gambrell was a son of Rev. Dr. J. E. Gambrell, a noted Baptist preacher, and had practiced law in Dallas for many years. He formerly edited several newspapers in Mississippi. Today he called on Hunt McCaleb, an old newspaper friend, and discussed the suicide of Banker Hutchins. He later went to a hotel and wrote a note asking that McCaleb be notified of what he had done.

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It not only cures colds, but counteracts any tendency toward pneumonia.

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### PROUD TO ANSWER.

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Your grateful servant,  
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Price, 25c; Large Size, 50c.

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That We Face to Face

That We Face to Face

That We Face to Face

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