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## NO SECRET NOW

Foraker's Connection With the Notorious Ballot Box Contract Forgery.

THE GOVERNOR THE VICTIM

Of the Apparently Plausible Tales Concocted by R. G. Wood.

A LETTER TO HARRISON

Was a Part of the Price Demanded for the Surrender of the Fictitious Document.

WOOD RECEIVED AN APPOINTMENT

Upon the Recommendation of the Ohio Executive, as a Reward for His Supposed Services.

A CHAPTER OF RICH REVELATIONS

Governor Foraker last night made a statement concerning his connection with the forged ballot box contract. He gives in full the correspondence with R. G. Wood, which led up to the delivery of the false document. In return for this, Wood was given a letter of recommendation to the President, and appointed Smoke Inspector of Cincinnati. Foraker believed the contract to be genuine until Halstead's retraction. He says his only fault was that of being imposed upon.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH:

CINCINNATI, December 4.—Governor Foraker to-night made public, in a letter addressed to Murat Halstead, the history of the famous ballot box contract forgery, so far as his connection with the same is concerned. It is a lengthy document, containing all correspondence passing between the Governor and R. G. Wood, the forger. Governor Foraker says:

The article appearing to-day concerning the ballot box forgery is of such a character that I deem myself justified in asking you to now give to the public, in advance of the trial of Woods, the following statement of the information I have in regard to the matter.

His Reasons for Silence.

I have until now kept silent except as to a general statement, but I have not done so, as you are aware, from any unwillingness to give to the public every item of knowledge I have possessed in regard to this matter, but only because the interests of public justice seemed to require that I should say nothing until called as a witness to testify.

In submitting this matter to the public I wish to add in addition to what appears in the regular statement that I have not made any charge against any one in connection with the same at any time or place, except only so far as I may have done so in my speech at Marietta as to Mr. Campbell, all the particulars of which have been time and again set forth. I never assumed any responsibility whatever with respect to the paper, except to only let you have it after I had explained to you how I came by it. My fault, therefore, if fault it be, was confined to being imposed upon.

He Has Always Regretted It.

The First Intimation That the Document Was a Forgery—His Desire to Have Everything Made Public—A Chance Interview With Wood.

In reference to the disclosure of the fact that the contract was a forgery, Governor Foraker says: "The next thing I heard of the ballot box matter was Mr. Halstead's retraction. Until that moment I had never suspected the genuineness of the signatures. The thought that they were forgeries had not entered my mind. When I returned to Columbus I learned that what I had insisted to Mr. Curtis that every detail of the whole matter should be published. He then informed me of the following letter to Mr. Halstead:

OCTOBER 12.  
Dear Mr. Halstead:  
At your instance, and I write, perhaps you will be surprised to hear, that I was told there was such a paper months before the forgery was committed, and the fact that the paper produced by Wood seemed to fit the case precisely, except as to certain of the names, and partially in that respect, coupled with the fact that Wood's statements were, from time to time, in conflict with mine, I should have accepted the paper as genuine, as you and others did who saw it, without questioning its character.

On June 27 or 28 I first heard of the matter. I was told that J. E. Campbell introduced the bill in Congress, and that there was written evidence that he was interested financially in the results with John R. McLean and others.

Beginning of the Correspondence.

Then follow some telegrams relating to Wood's request to the Governor for an endorsement for the office of Smoke Inspector of Cincinnati, and an account of Wood's promise to secure a copy of an alleged contract in existence at the time the bill was introduced in Congress by Governor-elect Campbell. "The next heard from Wood," says the Governor, "was on September 2, when he wrote asking for a letter of introduction to President Harrison, 'like the one given him to Governor Luce of Michigan.' In this letter Wood states that Mayor Mosby would be absent from the city for ten days, and adds: 'This will give us time enough to get the exact documents you want. I believe I know for the first time exactly what you do want. I would suggest that you write His Honor, the Mayor, saying that in a week you can give him your recommendations.' Continuing, Governor Foraker says: "I wrote for Wood the following letter of introduction to the President:

Introduced to Mr. Harrison.

His Excellency, the President, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR.—Allow me to introduce the bearer of this letter, Mr. R. G. Wood, of Cincinnati. Mr. Wood is an old soldier, a good citizen and a hard working man. He has exhibited a desire to serve his country, and I do not know that he wants any favor other than opportunity to pay his respects, but, however, that may be, I take pleasure in commanding him to your favor.

Very truly yours,  
R. G. FORAKER.

"I inclosed it to him in the following letter:

R. G. Wood, Esq., Elvira House, Washington.

DEAR SIR.—Herin I hand you a letter of introduction to the President, as requested. I shall expect you here with the paper I want not later than Thursday. Truly, etc.,  
R. G. FORAKER.

A Telegram From Wood.

"I next heard from Wood on the morning

of September 5, when I received the following night message:

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 4, 1888.

Governor Foraker:

I have written; everything O. K.

R. G. WOOD.

"The same day I received the following letter:

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 4, 1888.

Governor Foraker:

DEAR SIR.—Yours of 25th at hand. Thanks for your kind introduction. My friends are highly pleased with it. The politicians turned to the city and I am to see him this evening. I go to Baltimore later this evening to get the paper, or in the morning, and will wire you the hour I can be at Columbus.

Respectfully,

R. G. WOOD.

"September 6 I received the following:

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 6, 1888.

To Governor Foraker:

I will be in Columbus Sunday.

R. G. WOOD.

Wood Was Getting Anxious.

"I next heard from him September 9, when I received the following telegram:

CINCINNATI, O., September 9, 1888.

Governor Foraker:

Where can I see you?

R. G. WOOD.

"To this I answered:

COLUMBUS, O., September 9, 1888.

R. G. Wood, Cincinnati:

Here, where you promised to see me. Unless you come to-morrow, I will not come at all. I leave to-morrow. J. B. FORAKER.

"An hour or two after I had sent the first telegram I received the following letter:

METROPOLITAN HOTEL,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., September 8, 1888.

Governor Foraker:

DEAR SIR—I have the valuable papers in my pocket for you, owing to Langstroth telegraphing to me that he had anything to say, and that in view of the fact that I could do nothing for him or have anything to do with him further. From that day until this I have had no communication of any kind with him.

any correspondence or intercourse of any kind whatever with Wood until after the election.

"While Wood was in Washington, however, and before Mr. Halstead published his retraction, he wrote several letters to Mr. Curtis, copies of which he is now sending if desired. I have had no communication with Mr. Wood since the forgery was discovered, except that I unexpectedly met him in the hallway of the Commercial Gazette office at Cincinnati on November 11, and he manifested a desire to talk with me.

A Very Unsatisfactory Interview.

"I did not care to talk with him there, and told him he might call upon me at the Gibson House if he had anything to say, and that in view of the fact that I could do nothing for him or have anything to do with him further. From that day until this I have had no communication of any kind with him.

"J. B. FORAKER."

There is a deal of instruction and entertainment in the two columns of pen and pencil pictures appended. They afford a fair idea of what a variety of physiognomies of records entered into the choice of the 118 new members of the Lower House. There is but one colored man in that body.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH:

WASHINGTON, December 4.—The com-

munist pastime in Washington for a fort-night after a new

congress assembles is to

sit in the House gal-

leries and study the

physiognomy and

anatomy below. The

Senate is never new,

but the only Republican

is from the end of the State

during a Republican ad-

ministration, and has

been patronized by

the members of the

Democrat party.

It is a hard student, a fore-

and-tough writer, and

a bold speaker.

He will come quicki-

ly to the front in

the House galleries,

and the members of the

Senate will be

surprised to himself

as well as his friends.

H. P. Cheatham,

North Carolina,

was educated at Shaw

University, and taught

school for awhile.

He is tall, strong and good looking.

Mr. Stockbridge is a surprise to himself

as well as his friends.

I. D. Rosen, a

strong and popular

Democrat, and unex-

pectedly beat him. He

is 38 years old, but

looks younger. His

profession is the law.

He is a hard student,

and has a keen,

penetrating

power of black eyes.

His hair is turning

gray early. He is a

hard student, a fore-

and-tough writer, and

a bold speaker.

He will come quicki-

ly to the front in

the House galleries,

and the members of the

Senate will be

surprised to himself

as well as his friends.

Lewis S. Cox for \$500,000 has set

his neighbors to talking.

It is learned that he

has a fortune of only \$2,000

a year, but latterly he has lived in a style

which has excited the wonder even of mil-

lionaires. He began cutting a dash after

Mr. Singerly became his financial backer,

and is now a millionaire.

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