

ACTION OF P. O. DEPARTMENT "VIOLATION OF JUSTICE AND DECENCY"

In an interview published in the late daily newspaper, the executive Hanner gave interesting details relating to the unfair treatment of a popular and efficient postmaster who is succeeded by a man who was so bad off with consumption during the world war that he could not go to camp to perform any service, and is now able to hand out mail scattered the germs of disease.

Here is the interview as published in the News and Observer:

What is considered here as nothing less than a flagrant violation of common justice and decency has been committed by the postoffice department in ousting Postmaster W. M. Hanner at Liberty and appointing temporarily as his successor Otis Brower. The department did not dare to send Brower's name to the senate for it knew that his nomination would be rejected, precipitating on its head a scandal. Brower escaped military service in the world war on the ground that he had tuberculosis. He is, of course, still suffering with this disease, and yet he is entrusted with the handling and distribution of the public mail.

But far worse than Brower's physical unfitness to be postmaster is the moral feature of his appointment. In order to get rid of Mr. Hanner the department, Senator Simmons and Representative W. C. Hammer declare, based its action upon a number of charges wholly without foundation and trumped up against Mr. Hanner by his political enemies on the testimony chiefly of Mr. Walter C. Lindley, a jail bird, guilty of check blushing, of defrauding people out of their property and of other criminal offenses, and one J. M. Reece, Lindley's character backer, and with a reputation somewhat unsavory in the community as Lindley.

The charges against Mr. Hanner were so glaringly false and unjust and made with such evident partisan purpose by his enemies that Senator Simmons and Representative Hammer determined to make a test case of it. They did not at first believe that the postoffice department would oust an honest efficient postmaster on the word of men like Lindley or Reece. Accordingly Mr. Hammer and Frank Hampton, secretary to Senator Simmons, on learning of the charges, set to work and have presented to the department affidavits from more than eighty reliable and representative citizens of Liberty, showing how utterly unfounded these charges were.

Congressman Hammer and Secretary Hampton both carefully examined the report of the postoffice inspectors who recommended Postmaster Hanner's removal, which report is on file in the postoffice department and both the Congressman and Mr. Hampton declare that the report itself would clearly show to any person of average intelligence that the inspectors were sent down by the department for the specific purpose of getting Postmaster Hanner's head, and that moreover the report itself with its absurd conclusions would furnish a sufficient cause and bases for any impartial Postmaster General to summarily kick out of the postal service, the inspectors who made it, on the ground of gross dereliction of duty and manifest unfairness and partisan bias.

It should not be forgotten that Postmaster Hanner had already been investigated by two different sets of postoffice inspectors, and had in both instances been exonerated of the very charges upon which he is now removed. The Republican Postmaster General was however determined to kick this fine citizen and efficient postmaster out of office and at last he found some inspectors sufficiently servile and partisan to make the ridiculous, absurd and misleading conclusions necessary to furnish even a pretext for the outrageous action the department was determined to take.

In the interview which Congressman Hammer and Mr. Hampton had with Dr. Work, the present postmaster general, after they had read carefully the report of the inspectors in the Liberty case, Mr. Hampton made this statement to the "master General Work": "Of course, I know, Dr. Work, that you cannot have time to examine personally the reports of inspectors in these postoffice cases, and that you must necessarily rely upon digests of the reports furnished you by your chief of the appointments division, still I wish to make this assertion to you. I am sure that if you could find time to examine the inspectors' report in the Liberty case, in which the removal of Postmaster Hanner is recommended, you will come to the conclusion that I have reached, and that is, that the inspectors report, itself, with its absurd statements and its ridiculous conclusions, absolutely contrary to the evidence the report itself sets forth, will furnish just cause to summarily fire out of the service the inspectors who made the report, upon the ground either of wilful violation of duty and wilful misstatements or the lack of most ordinary intelligence on the part of the inspectors."

Mr. Hanner was charged with being guilty of pernicious political activities as postmaster. Along with this charge it was alleged by Lindley and others that Mr. Hanner had authorized or had consented to the posting on a bulletin board on the postoffice building a picture showing the Republican presidential candidate, Warren G. Harding, in company with a number of negro candidates for office in Ohio. It was also alleged that Mr. Hanner had stirred at Mr. Harding's racial lineage and had circulated scurrilous literature.

The second charge was an attack on Mr. Hanner's efficiency, devotion to duty and the best interests of the community as postmaster. It was alleged that he was responsible for the consolidation of Liberty routes 1 and 2, and that he was responsible for the

"111" Cigarettes



They are Good!

10¢

Buy this Cigarette and Save Money

department in letters to Mr. Hanner appeared to attach more importance to the second accusation, but according to the affidavits of citizens of Liberty, and according to the reports of some of the postoffice inspectors sent to Liberty by the department to investigate, and according to the records on file in the department, neither charge had a foot to stand on. Such substantial citizens as R. B. Staley and J. R. Lawson, both Republicans, state in their affidavits that Mr. Hanner was never guilty of pernicious political activities while postmaster. They swear that he could not have been without the fact coming to their knowledge.

It is shown in these affidavits that the picture of Candidate Harding, with negro candidates, was not posted on the postoffice bulletin board inside the lobby of the postoffice but was posted on the town bulletin board on the bank of Liberty building, nearby the entrance to the lobby of the postoffice. The picture was posted without Mr. Hanner's consent or knowledge, and it was in a place over which he had no authority. Walter L. Smith swears that he posted the picture there and that Mr. Hanner had nothing whatever to do with it. Mr. Hanner denies that he knowingly circulated scurrilous or scandalous political literature, and there is no proof that he ever did accept the word of such unsavory persons as Lindley.

The records show that the consolidation of the Liberty route 1 and the Staley Route went into effect on the very day that Mr. Hanner became postmaster and that he was in no way responsible for the consolidation. Mr. Hanner never told Postoffice Inspector Boushee that he favored the discontinuance of the Staley Route as is alleged in the report of Postoffice Inspectors Larabee and Garrigus, and no where in his report did Boushee state that Mr. Hanner did, nor did Boushee state in his report that Mr. Hanner told him that only 15 or 20 families would be deprived of mail facilities by the discontinuance of the Staley route, as is also alleged in the report of Larabee and Garrigus.

The consolidated route was about 35 miles long and on account of the bad roads it was difficult to secure mail carriers, four having resigned within a very short time. Inspectors Larabee and Garrigus reported to the department that there had been no trouble in serving the route before Mr. Hanner became postmaster. This statement Congressman Hammer points out in his letter to the department as wholly misleading, as the route before the consolidation was only 22 miles long and it was comparatively easy to serve. Mr. Hanner soon after he became postmaster tried to get the department to restore the routes to their former status.

That the consolidated route was absolutely impractical was attested by a number of persons who undertook to carry the mail over it, among them D. M. Sharpe, a man of excellent character and a Republican who served as carrier for a long time on the Liberty route before the consolidation took place. Mr. Sharpe resigned after two days in carrying the mail on the consolidated route and is now serving as a minister of the gospel in another section of the state.

The fact is the department in re-establishing the Staley route has left off that section of it that the last inspectors in their report alleged that Mr. Hanner was responsible for discontinuing. The department has done that which it has contended that Mr. Hanner ought not to have done and which he has shown he did not do and the families on the discontinued section are now up in arms against the department for depriving them of their rightful mail facilities.

Mr. Hanner's political enemies induced S. A. Aldred to make the false statement that he, Aldred, applied to Mr. Hanner to carry the mail on Liberty route number 1. Letters of Mr. Hanner on file in the department completely refute this statement for they show that the postmaster at Liberty was making an effort to restore Staley route so as to employ Aldred on that route, for on that route he lived.

That the character of the star assassin of Mr. Hanner, Lindley, is bad is averred on the affidavits of more than a score of representative citizens in Randolph and Guilford counties, Charles T. Rice, of Pleasant Garden, who states that he, a former deputy sheriff of Guilford, was the one who

J. E. Dillon, a livestock dealer at Greensboro, says Lindley was arrested and in prison for disposing of mortgaged property. Dillon being touched by Lindley's appeal went on his bond for \$500, and Lindley fled, taking with him the mules on which Dillon held a mortgage, and he was compelled to have Lindley rearrested.

Among those who swear that Lindley is a check flasher, a loafer and defrauder of persons out of their property, and a character of most unsavory reputation are many patrons of the office and of both political parties, and all substantial business and professional men.

And yet in the face of his reputation in the community, Lindley had the nerve to write to the department warning it that if it did not accept as true the charges made against Postmaster Hanner it would not be worth while for the Republicans to hold an election in that community.

Congressman Hammer says whoever was engineering these charges perceived there might be danger even with the present administration in putting Brower over without some adequate character backing for Lindley, the star witness. It must be shown that Lindley's unpopularity at Liberty was not due to his own bad conduct but to the bad conduct of others whom he had prosecuted, but where in that community could an honest man be found who could bolster up Lindley's charges?

All the while the head hunters against Mr. Hanner were beating the bushes, J. M. Reece was saying "Why don't you take my word for Lindley. I am his friend. While I was deputy sheriff he served under me and made it hard for the bootleggers and violators of prohibition in that part of Randolph county." They seized Reece by the hand and his name must have been a solace to the department for it heard the truth about Lindley but did not hear it about Reece.

But Congressman Hammer advised the department telling it what type of men were fighting Hanner and that Reece was recently discharged as deputy sheriff. While in the revenue service some years ago grave charges were made against him and he was later in trouble for violating the postal laws. He afterwards applied for the position of mail carrier, making the statement that he had never been indicted and convicted of any crime. Securing the appointment he at once resigned under the threat of being prosecuted for having sworn to a falsehood in his application for the position.

Clerk of the Court F. M. Wright gave a certificate under the seal of his office that Lindley and Reece were men of good character and stood high in the community and that slacker Brower was a "peach of a fellow."

It was Reece, according to the report of Inspectors Larabee and Garrigus, who told them that he was instructed by the sheriff not to serve warrants against W. C. Lindley if Lindley would return the money he had obtained by fraudulent checks. Inspectors Larabee and Garrigus, still in the employment of the government, have commended this gross breach of authority on the part of an executive officer. Moreover, Congressman Hammer is very certain that the sheriff of Randolph county never authorized his deputy to so act and he intimates that in all probability Deputy Reece was dismissed for such action. The Congressman is furthermore very certain that Lindley's unpopularity at Liberty is not due to his activity as a prohibition officer as the inspectors would have the department believe. Congressman Hammer was for more than 12 years a prosecutor in the court in the district in which Lindley lives and he never knew him to take an active part in prosecuting violators of the liquor law, but the inspectors believe Lindley because they believed Reece, his bosom companion and also having an unsavory record. So it was this precious pair that served the head hunters of the Harding administration in ousting Postmaster Hanner.

Bakery at Troy.

Meas. Denton and Atkins, of Troy, have recently installed an up-to-date bakery in the Blair building of that place, with a capacity of 125 loaves daily. Mr. J. W. Harris, an expert baker of Albemarle, will be in charge of the bakery.

TEAPOT DOME OIL DEAL BECOMING A NATIONAL SCANDAL

(Special Correspondence.)

Washington, May 2.—The conservation of natural resources which was a hobby of Theodore Roosevelt and a policy of President Roosevelt's administration is in danger of being completely overthrown, to judge by the violent assaults that are being made upon it in connection with oil and coal lands.

What promises to be a great national scandal is the alleged turning-over of the huge Teapot Dome oil fields in Wyoming to private interests. This is one of the fields held in reserve for the navy to keep adequate reserves of fuel for its oil-burning ships. The naval oil reserves were recently taken over from the navy department by the interior department under an executive order by President Harding. The deal for the Teapot Dome district is with the Sinclair oil interests, a subsidiary of the Standard Oil, and the latter company is said to be preparing to build pipelines to carry the oil to its refineries in the middle west. The Sinclair oil stock has been more or less dormant for a year. Just prior to the time of the alleged closing of the deal with the interior department the market value of the stock increased more than \$30,000,000 in three days, as a result of huge transactions on the New York Stock Exchange, indicating that there was an inside tip on the alleged deal.

If it had not been for the vigilance of Senator John B. Kendrick, who so ably represents Wyoming in the United States Senate, this deal which was made in secret and evidently without any competitive bids might not now be known to the public. Senator Kendrick introduced a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Interior for information concerning this oil negotiation, and in speaking upon this resolution he pointed out the immense value of this great naval oil reserve, and also that it was of greater benefit to the nation to allow this oil to remain stored underground than to remove it across the country to be stored in surface tanks as was proposed.

Secretary Fall of the Interior Department has been a consistent opponent of national conservation. He is not the only member of the administration who has been identified with representatives of Standard Oil. Attorney General Daugherty was a lieutenant of the late Senator Foraker in Ohio, and Foraker was known as the Standard Oil's representative at Washington. President Harding was also affiliated with the Foraker faction in Ohio in those days.

Recently when the independent oil people of Texas and Oklahoma were clamoring for a tariff on oil, the president of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey called at the White House while the Fordney bill was pending in the house, and oil is still on the free list.

One reason alleged for the sudden change of sentiment among Republican senators who had previously opposed the ratification of the treaty with Colombia, when it was ratified in the early part of President Harding's administration, was that Standard Oil was interested in the acquisition and development of Columbian oil bearing territory.

The partnership between oil and the Republican party dates back to the early days when the Standard Oil Company was the ally of the corrupt Republican machine in Pennsylvania. With the revelations concerning the Teapot Dome district and the anticipated raid on government coal lands in Alaska there is every reason to assume a continued alliance between oil and the G. O. P. Friends of national conservation are naturally alarmed, and are already hinting that conservation may be one of the prominent issues in the coming campaign.

Troy Commencement.

Troy high school came to a close April 24, the closing feature being the high school play. The sermon was preached by Rev. W. R. Ware, of Albemarle. A debate followed on Monday morning, the query being, Resolved, that the United States should enter the league of nations, with Luois Allen and Paul Tucker affirmative, and Ethel Howell and Gertrude Capel, negative. The medal was won by Paul Tucker.

Monday afternoon Hon. J. J. Parker of Monroe delivered the literary address to a large audience. It was a fine effort. The diplomas were delivered by Superintendent J. E. Edwards.

The high school play, Monday night, was well received and netted over a hundred dollars.

T. P. A. To Have All-Time Secretary.

The delegates of the Traveler's Protective Association in annual session at High Point last week voted to employ an all-time secretary at a salary of \$4,000 a year. The present secretary, D. C. Crutchenfield, has devoted only a part of his time to the work. The state headquarters of the association, now at Winston-Salem, will probably be changed to the city in which the new secretary resides.

Respects to the memory of those who had died during the year were paid at a memorial service Friday afternoon, the service being conducted by chaplain Hughes and Rev. J. A. Clark. Fifteen members have died since the last regular meeting.

The present membership is now 4,207, a gain in eight years of 2,781.

Troy Hold-up.

A. M. Leibetter, a merchant of Troy, was held up and robbed last Saturday night by a negro who has not been identified.

Ford
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

A Regular "Get-about"

Runabout
\$325 F. O. B. Detroit

THE Ford runabout is just what its name implies—it's a regular "get-about."

There is no other car that will take you there and back again, quicker, safer and more economically.

It's the car for the man of action—the farmer, the merchant, the doctor, the contractor, the collector—the car that is useful every day of the year.

Low in the cost of maintenance, with all of the sturdy strength, dependability and reliability for which Ford cars are noted.

On account of the unusual demand we urge that your orders be placed as early as possible.

Asheboro Motor Car Company
PHONE 175 ASHEBORO, N. C.

AFTER EVERY MEAL

WRIGLEY'S

WRIGLEY'S JUICY FRUIT CHEWING GUM

THE FLAVOR LASTS

Juicy Fruit, Peppermint and Spearmint are certainly three delightful flavors to choose from.

And WRIGLEY'S P-K—the new sugar-coated peppermint gum, is also a great treat for your sweet tooth.

All are from the Wrigley factories where perfection is the rule.

Save the wrappers Good for valuable premiums

C31