## Interview with Cannon.

Reporting to Schwedtman under date of Jan. 6 of that year, regarding the feeling among members of congress, Col. Mulhall described an interview he had with Speaker Cannon in the latter's room in the capitol. He said that the speaker characterized the proposed convention as "all damned nonbut, after he saw that the board of trade of Chicago and several other Illinois beganizations were actively interested in this convention, he seemd to change the tone of his conversation considerably.

In the same report the colonel described an interview with Sereno E. Payne, the chairman of the ways and means committee. He wrote that Mr. Payne treated his visit as "a kind of a joke," but finally agreed, according to the colonel, to attend the tariff commission convention if he could find time to do so.

#### Their Indiana District Friend.

Eight reports from Col. Mulhall to the home office during January conveyed the details of his interviews with members of congress concerning the tariff commission idea. He frequently mentioned in these reports Congressman Watson as "our Indiana district friend," and under date of Jan. 12 the colonel described meeting Watson in Speaker Cannon's room along with Emery, chief lobbyist of the National Manufacturers' association.

Incidentally the colonel says that Watson told him that he was a candidate for a place in Mr. Taft's cabinet, preferring the secretaryship of commerce and labor. Watson urged the colonel to " impress upon our people the importance of getting some people at once to see the president elect and to go to work on Senator Knox of Pennsylvania to promote his cabinet ambitions.

Favor the Tariff Commission. In all the colonel reported that a majority of the Republican members of congress seems to favor the tariff commission idea. In a report of Jan. 16 the colonel wrote to

I did not call on the senate on account of Senator Beveridge advising me to wait until he had sees several members of the senate. Of course I shall continue with the members of the house until a am told to stop. . . . Besides it has given me an opportunity of placing before the members of the house and senate the splendid work that has during the last six years and particularly the last

In a report to Schwedtman of Jan. 20. 1909, Col. Mulhall said that several members of congress expressed the fear that the tariff nission convention was to be turned into a "Beveridge convention." Two days later Schwedtman wrote from the home office at

I note especially what you say about making this a "Beveride convention," Please disabuse the minds of our good friends of this idea. That will not be permitted and there is no man big enough to swing this convention from the clearly defined lines on which it is organized.

#### Activities of Miles. In daily reports for more than two weeks Col. Mulhall detailed the activities of Miles, Reisenberg, and himself in prometing the

tariff commission convention idea. Instructions to him from Schwedtman on greatest caution." He added:

When I say to you that you know more of the secrets of this office than Mrs. Schwedtman does, and when I say to you further that if you were in Mr. Van Cleave's place I would guard your secrets with the same faith that I do his, then you will feel satisfied and will put the blame on senditions beyond my control.

This admonition was called forth by a protest from Col. Mulhall that Miles and Reisenberg were interfering with his own diplomatic mission as the congressional lob-

"I note," wrote Schwedtman, "what you say about Mr. Reisenberg seeing 150 congressmen in three days. That is not all; he saw fifty senators in addition, all of which will tend to show you what poor mortals you and I are compared with this wonderful

## Members Could Do a Lot of Good. In a report to "My dear Ferdinand" (Schwedtman) Col. Mulhall especially called attention to the names of "a few members

of congress that I feel will do us a lot of good in Washington as well as in Indianapolis if they are handled right at the present time. One of the gentlemen I wish to mention is the Hon. George W. Fairchild of the Twenty-fourth New York district, I have frequently called on Mr. Fairchild, and he is always enthusiastic and doing good work continually for our organization and for the bill and he is anxious for the success of the convention.

The colonel also described Congressman Edwin Y. Webb of the Ninth North Carolina district, and said:

Of course, if Mr. Webb is taken care of or his expenses looked after it would do us a lot of good here in other ways, for I am under ression that Mr. Webb is not very well were extended to him, to attend this convention. Another congressman for whom the colonel

spoke a kind word in the same letter was Sidney E. Mudd of the Fifth Maryland district, of whom he said; Mr. Mudd has been the hardest fighter we have

had in congress for the last six years. He has just as outspoken in his own district against secret agent of the National Manufacturers'

# Plans for a Commission.

At the Indianapolis convention a commit tee of 100 was appointed to formulate plans for tariff commission legislation. An executive committee of fifteen, headed by Miles, took active charge of the work and established headquarters at Washington.

Following the Indianapolis convention Col. Mulhall, in a letter from Washington under date of March 17, 1,09, reported to Schwedtman "a great rush of manufacturers to attend the hearing here" on the bill that afterward became known as the Payne-Aldrich bill. The colonel also reported that Watson was rendering valuable service in promoting the scheme for a tariff commis-

In a letter to D. M. Parry, former president of the National Manufacturers' association and written on the same date by Col. Mul-

There have been warm times here for the last week and we have all been helping Watson and our friends here in this (tariff commission) fight and I feel by so doing we have strengthened our organ-

Some Inside Information.

Under date of April 6, 1909, Col. Mulhall sent to Schweditman "some inside information regarding the tariff commission project. He described an interview that he had arranged between Watson and the members of the executive committee of 100 appointed at Indianapolis, headed by Miles, Kirby, Meade, Towne, Tompkins, and Watson. The Indiana congressman, he said, gave the committee some valuable advice and piloted them in their efforts to secure recruits to the tariff | tary.

commission scheme. olonel described an interview between Miles, Towne, and Tompkins with President

# This Class in Political Economy Will Study in Washington Instead of Australia.

Messrs. Parry, Bird, and Kirby were about to sail from San Francisco to investigate relations between capital, labor and the state in the Antipodes, when they were served with notice to return.



Taft at the White House on Wednesday, March 28:

He [the president] gave them a very pleasant interview, stating that he was for a tariff commission at this session, and the committee came away fully convinced that they could get a tariff commission before a tariff bill was put through. Promises from Aldrich.

In the same report the colonel wrote of an Interview that he and Miles had had with Senator Root, who "came out very strongly in favor of the tariff commission." According to the colonel Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island promised Miles to put in the senate draft of the tariff bill a clause for a tariff commission covering almost in full the bill 'suggested by our committee." The colonel wrote further, regarding Senator Aldrich, that the latter had made the same promise to Hemenway. Watson also assured the colonel that Speaker Cannon, Chairman Payne of the ways and means committee and Dalzell of Pennsylvania expressed the belief that they could procure the acceptance of the amended bill by the house.

The colonel, in the same report, said that Vice President Sherman had sent for him Jan. 28 advised that he discuss the tariff and told him that he (Sherman) had headed matter with Emery and to proceed with the a large tariff delegation from New York to see the president. This committee, the vice president said, had protested against the tar-

#### A Denial from Taft.

\* This was the crowd that stirred the president so against Mr. Miles," wrote the colonel, for making the public statement that the president promised to stand by the tariff commission idea. The vice president quoted the president as having denied that he had authorized Miles to make any such statement." The colonel continued:

is under the impression that it would be good politics for Mr. Miles to stay away from here for

colonel described a fifty-five minute interview that he and Miles had had with Vice President Sherman regarding tariff legislation, as follows:

We had a conference in my reom in the hotel in the early morning and I was directed by Messrs. Miles and Cobb to leave here at the earliest possifew days and have them send letters to Senator side and the list of 158 members of congress that I gave to Watson has had a good effect, for Watson told me this morning that he saw a numbe of those who were on the list and he found ther stronger advocates of the tariff commission than he supposed they were. I told Mr. Sherman (the vice president) this fact yesterday.

Conspired with the Speaker. Under date of May 7 the colonel reported some very important information that "our friend Watson" had given him, and said: He has made a confession to me and it is this: All this scare about injunction bills and an lation was all gotten up by himself and the speaker for the purpose of flooding the president with letters, and to stop this dickering upon the lation getting through this session of congress than

The colonel added this to the same letter: Mr. Watson will leave here at 3 p. m. today to attend the Methodist Episcopal conference to be held in Baltimore, where he presides this evening. I am going to Baltimore with

Writing to Schwedtman on July 6, 1909 after the passage of the Payne-Aldrich bill. that the commission provision had been assured, Col. Mulhall said: "There are quite a number of the leaders here (in Washington) at the present time who believe that we would have got a better bill if we had not made an agreement with the president and

On July 10 the colonel wrote Kirby that Watson had canvassed the house and was able to report that the tariff commission bill would go through.

# A Confidential Circular.

On July 14 the "executive committee of the general committee of 100 for a tariff commisout a confidential circular to members of the the head of the circular appear the names of | rect methods of making up costs and an inthe executive committee as follows:

H. E. Miles, Racine, Wis., chairman Henry R. Towne. New York, city treasurer. Alba B. Johnson, Philadelphia, Pa. D. M. Parry, Indianapolis, Ind. John Kirby Jr., Dayton, O. Charles M. Jarvis. New Britain, Conn. D. A. Tompkins, Charlotte, N. C. W. A. Harris, Lawrence, Kas. Curtis Gulld Jr., Boston.

James W. Van Cleave, St. Louis, Mo. (ex-

A. L. Goetzmann, secretary. Henry Harrison Lewis, executive secre-

The circular reads in part as follows: My Dear Mr. \_\_\_\_ I never solicited funds in my life. I believe,

however, it is my duty to write to you and a few others who are deeply interested in the tariff commission proposition and at least state the situation as it is today. We have most intimate ways of finding out.

Each member of the committee individually signed numbers of the "thousand letters

# Thought It a Vital Feature.

On July 21 another circular, marked Miles as chairman of the executive committee, reported that the president is-

absolutely bent upon his program and wonderfully unyielding. I am sure he considers the tariff commission provise in the senate bill one of the most vital features of the present revision. And the entire opposition, so far as it resists him, is in Speaker Cannon as the one opposing unit and be-hind him a majority of the house conferees. I am perfectly satisfied that if Speaker Cannon could name the personnel of the proposed commission would grant it instantly, and he would btedly name the sort of men he packed the ference committee with.

I am wiring organizations to telegraph Taft, Aldrich, and Cannon, insisting on the senate pro-viso. The whole matter will be decided possibly within a couple of days, possibly three or four days, so that telegrams rather than letters should good Lord moves slowly, but this is certainly above everything else. This country is on the way more rapidly than most of us realize to a just and more

#### Bent on Tariff Adjustment. A letter from Miles to Mulhall, written at Racine on July 11, expressed surprise that the

Iowa manufacturers

Miles I will have Mr. Gardner of New Jersey | On July 24 Col. Mulhall reported to and by spies and corruption to enter into Kansas, the Progressive leader. "Imme-Schwediman that "at a long interview I just labor organizations, and to impede any at-Under date of April 8 the colonel wrote | had with Mr. Watson he has informed me | tempts they might make to pass remedial Schwedtman that Miles and Watson had had | that the tariff commission measure has gone | legislation or to benefit their condition by a complete understanding. On April 15 the through as drawn by Mr. Aldrich and him- industrial strikes.

> information for congress." bill containing the proviso for the commis- tional Association of Manufacturers should sion Col. Mulhall was directed by Secretary | be classed as a noble association of manufac-Boudinot on July 30 to send "as quickly as turers or as a nefarious association of manupossible a memoranda showing how your facturers. It is not so much concerned as to salary and expenses should be divided be- whether or not certain members of this contween your regular legislative work and the gress are models of purity or monuments of work you have been doing for the tariff com- putrefaction. mittee of one hundred."

# Protest Against Miles.

of Manufacturers began to urge the appointof the tariff commission. Several protests against the appointment of Miles were made. ncluding one from J. G. Battelle, president of the Columbus Iron, and, Steel company. In reply to this protest Col. Mulhall wrote Mr Battelle that in his opinion Mr. Miles " has done great injury to our organization with the leaders of both parties on the tariff ques-

Schwedtman in a letter to the colonel on Sept. 15 expressed his appreciation for the colonel's efforts to "assure my appointment on the tariff commission

'At the same time," wrote Schwedtman, if I had to do it, it is likely that I would oncentrate my efforts on half a dozen men gressman McKinley, our friend Watson, and, above all, Senator Aldrich."

#### They Favored Schwedtman. The National Association of Manufacturers

did not appear from the correspondence relating to the subject to be particularly concerned with the ambition of Miles to become s member of the tariff commission, but Mulhall was instructed by President Kirby to do all that he could to promote the appointment of Schwedtman, who, as already stated. was secretary to the president. Kirby wrote to Col. Mulhall on Sept. 13, 1909, urging him to be more active in Schwedtman's interest and inclosing a letter he (Kirby) had written to Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel. Among other things Kirby described Schwedtman as a "man of strong and pracsion, representing 234 organizations," sent | tical common sense, a conservative protection tionist, and has no 'isms' or preconceived National Association of Manufacturers. At theories to exploit. He is familiar with cordefatigable worker in everything he undertakes. He urged Secretary Nagel to use his influ-

ence with the president to secure the appointment of Schwedtman. From the correspondence it is apparent that thousands of letters and telegrams indorsing Schwedtman for a place on the tariff commission were forwarded to Washington under the accelerating influences of the National Association of Manufacturers. Schwedtman personally wrote many letters to the colonel urging his own appointment and portraying his capability for the place he sought. But he was not appointed a member of the tariff commission: neither was Miles.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

#### (Continued from first page.)

'Personal and Confidential," and signed by and the clerk attest subposnas during the quiry shall be paid out of the contingent fund chairman of said committee, to be immediately available."

#### Made "Broad as Possible." When the resolution was presented Levy

threatened to block its consideration, but was induced to desist. Chairman Henry then explained that the resolution had been made as broad as the English language could make it" in order that there might be no failure to elicit the full truti. concerning the Mulhall charges. 'I believe this resolution covers the phase

of special privilege that we have been talking about in more or less nebulous form,' be used. If 5,000 telegrams could come quickly to Aldrich and Cannon, you may be sure that it would member of the rules committee. "The Mulmember of the rules committee. "The Mulaldrich and Cambrid, very helpful support. The give the administration very helpful support. The good Lord moves slowly, but this is certainly above two principal phases that came to my mind in reading them. One is that members of congress and employes were intimidated or purchased and that committees were manipulated, either to prevent or effect the passage of legislation, and that to produce the for the nomination or election of members of committee of house and senate. congress, or their defeat for nomination or

# Fears "Big Business" Rule. Iowa is bent on tariff adjustment, regardless of | It is that there has been a conspiracy, a conbusiness ' in this country, to affect legislation |

self, and submitted to Mr. Van Cleave, with | "It seems to me that is the most important the exception of the words 'and to gather phase of it, and it is covered by this resolution. The people of the country will not be After the passage of the Payne-Aldrich satisfied to know simply whether this Na-

"It seems to me that the country at the present time desires to know whether or not there is a systematic attempt in this country to change the government which was intend-Immediately after the passage of the tariff | ed to be a government of the people, for the bill the officials of the National Association | people, and by the people, into a government of dishonest business, for dishonest business, ment of Miles and Schwedtman as mambers and by dishonest business, or whether it is as follows: a government of grafters, by grafters, and for grafters. That is what the people of this ously as many members of the house apcountry want to know at the present time,

### Injustice Causes Social Unrest. "The social unrest about which we hear this year 1913 is due solely to injustice. It

and they will rest satisfied with nothing else.

not due in any large degree to anarchists or disturbers without reason. It is due to | floor of the house are influenced in their the well grounded idea in the minds of the people that there has been an effort to stop any progress toward social and industrial "That has been the idea for years past. when people came to the halls of congress

of national power, such as Uncle Joe, Con- and the state legislatures and demanded something of improvement. That is the idea now, and here we have an opportunity to learn just to what extent that condition exists in the conduct of government and in the transaction of legislative business. "I want to support this resolution with the

amendments, which may be necessary to carry out its intent and purpose, because i reaches that phase of it and because it will give the country the information which the country has the right to have and will at the same time give an opportunity to find a remedy which will result in the bettering of such conditions.

'It rests with the committee after it is appointed as to whether or not this investigation shall be of effective use and benefit. The committee certainly is given power in this resolution to go into these matters, to discuss them thoroughly, and present some remedy for the conditions.'

#### Protest Made by Levy. Representative Levy, who is opposed to any investigations at any time, then got

"I am opposed to any further investigation," he said. "The honor and integrity of the membership of this house is above reproach, and we should not take any notice of the unscrupulous and designing class of men who seek to defame the members.

"The investigations of the United States Steel corporation and the money trust have been the cause of distress in the financial and business world. They have depreciated the value of securities over \$1,000,000,000 The inquisitions have proved conclusively that there was no just cause for the claim that a money trust existed and that the United States Steel corporation purchased

no other purpose than staying the panic of 1907. Not alone have the investigations proved disastrous to the public, but they which they were led to believe through correwere the indirect couse of the death of the greatest banker and philanthropist in the

spondence existed at home

sands, perhaps the hundreds of thousands,

sideration, told you and will tell you private-

nature. I do not undertake to criticise

'Mr. Speaker, I hope that this investiga-

tion will show that the American congress

and its members are incorruptible and hon-

est, filled with honor and a desire to promote

Fight Over Levy Proposal.

Representative Bryan sought to amend the

resolution to provide that the committee

reported on the Mulhall charges. He failed,

Then came the fight on Levy's motion to

"Only because these investigations have

run riot here," Levy responded. " How these

lawyers are permitted to manipulate inquiries

in a one sided way was shown by Untermyer

"Didn't that investigation show that a money trust existed?" demanded Henry.

No, it did not," rejoined Levy.

showed there was no money trust because

patriotic to use the power they possessed.

Henry Holds Counsel Vital.

the men of finance were too honorable and

This statement was greeted by laughter

"It is absolutely vital that the inves-

tigation committee should have the right to

retain counsel," said Chairman Henry. "I

have no man in mind for such counsel, but I

do know that one is necessary. It is impos

all their time to such an inquiry

sible for the members of the committee with

'We have been hearing much about the

'invisible government' of this country and

about insidious lobbies, and the revelations

concerning these matters have been pub-

mass of material relating to the alleged op

lished by great newspapers. There is a vast

erations of the National Association of Man-

"You should give this committee power to

retain as counsel an expert who will take

these 20,000 documents, study them closely,

ou be able to tell the people all about this

invisible government.' And I will say to the

gentleman from New York that the investi-

gation of the money trust directed by that

great lawyer, Samuel Untermyer, did more

than any other one agency to disclose what is

known of the 'invisible government' up to

Representative Cox of Indiana opposed the

retention of counsel on the ground of econ-

omy and because it would be a confession

that the house does not contain lawyers suf-

On the division Representative Mann was

the only Illinois member who voted against

counsel, while Stone, Tavennor, Fitz Henry,

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and Stringer voted for counsel.

long service.

ficiently competent to conduct the inquiry.

opening therefrom. Only in this way will \$15

and search all the avenues of information

liminate the provision for counsel.

that he opposed the investigation

in the money trust investigation.'

throughout the chamber.

Mann asserting that the "committee would

the best interests of the country.'

e gagged before it is born."

"We have an investigating committee pro-ceeding in the senate. Why should the country be put to further expense by having the house duplicate the work?"

## Fowler Wants All Included.

Representative Fowler of Illinois had an amendment adopted making certain the inclusion of former members of congress in of the house upon vouchers approved by the | the scope of the inquiry. He said that all the men found guilty "should be cited for contempt or for treason. Representative Dies of Texas belittled the

anxiety of members in regard to the charges. "I believe this is an honest and incorruptible body," he said. "I hope that if any member is found who has been soiled by the taking of money you will ride him out of this chamber on the toe of a boot. I do not doubt that members have eaten beefsteak dinners given by lobbyists and that the lobbyists have immediately reported to their employers that they control such members, but I see no reason for panic every time a liar breaks nto the muckraking press."

'In my talks with members I have failed to find a single one who knows this man Mulhall, and yet he reported that he had fixed members," said Representative Kahn of Cal-

Representative Cooper of Wisconsin made a plea for a provision against any secret hearings and Representative Ferris of Oklathe gentleman from New York," said Representative Henry. "He stated at the outset homa proposed an investigation by the joint

# Plea Made by Murdock.

"When President Wilson challenged the attention of the country to the existence of "The second one is more important still. a lobby around the halls of a congress there was a disposition consequences, to the Republican party or anything certed attempt on the part of dishonest 'big | believe nothing would result from the charges," said Representative Murdock of the existence of an extensive lobby and of pernicious practices. On top of that came the Mulhall charges, purporting to show that the National Association of Manufacturers had been buying and corrupting representatives of organized labor and employing men on this loor to spy upon members.

"There also is the charge that the titular head of this house (referring to former Speaker Cannon) and the Republican whip (referring to Watson) prepared a list of members to be defeated because they would not do the bidding of the manufacturers' assoiation. I believed long ago that commit tees of this house were being manipulated against remedial legislation. I and others made a fight against it and we had to bear the consequences.'

#### Mann Gives His Views. Then Representative Mann obtained the floor and gave his ideas of the investigation

"I have not taken these charges so seriparently have. I do not believe there is corruption in the house. If I were to make a charge against the house of representatives, I should say that there were no corso much in this nation and which exists in | rupt men in the house, but that there was a pientiful supply of cowards. I do not believe that many men on the

> votes or their position by the active lobbyists who appear in Washington, but that they are often influenced in their position and their votes by fear of what may happen to them in their districts is undoubtedly true. Since I have been a member of the house I have learned to pay respect and give admiration to that member of either side who. experience has taught me, did what he believed was right, regardless of what some organization or some other interest might think about it, or regardless of threats made. Denies He Ever Met Lobby.

"I do not see any more objection to the National Manufacturers' association or the labor organization, or the anti-saloon leagues or the liquor interests, or the Christian Scientists, or the American Medical association, or the American Asosciation for Medical Freedom, or any other association endeavoring to influence votes for or against a member of congress in his district, and perhaps spending money for that purpose, than I do to any other political campaign, and not half as much objection to it as for a member of congress on the Chautauqua platform in another man's district to denounce that other man as unfit to be a representative in congress. I think that is rather taking an unfair advantage. I do not know how extensively that may have been done. Mr. Speaker, I have been a member of

this house now more than sixteen years. I believe I have written more laws on the statute book than any other member of congress in this or the other house. I have had the honor to have charge of more important oills in this house than any other member of the house, and I never have met with this insidious lobby. It may be that I am too innocent, or it may be that I am too severe. It has never come in contact with me

#### Biggest Lobby at Home. "I heard talk about a great lobby when

the pure food bill was under consideration. Coal and Iron company for met the cowardice of men on the floor of End to Watson's Chances as Party Leader.

YOUNG MEN IN CHARGE

INDIANA CHANGE

POLITICAL LINEU

Mulhall Exposure to Brin

Discredited Forces May Be R tained in Purely Advisory Position.

Indianapolis, Ind., July 5 .- [Special.]-Mulhall exposé and the Indiana men were brought into the lobby investigati Washington by it have been the chief to of conversation among politicians in India

It is true that Indiana politicians had derstood Watson's activities at Washing and they had understood pretty well the fluences that were on his side when he ma the race for governor and was defeated l Thomas R. Marshall. But the Mulhall le ters furnished the vehicle for opening up t whole subject and spreading it broadc over the country and were delightful rea ing to some of the political workers.

Mulhall's statement that Watson greatly assisted in the campaign by the N tional Association of Manufacturers that Watson made his campaign on a te perance platform, but that he never intend to carry out the pledges he made on stump recalls vividly some of the incide of the Watson campaign.

It was well understood in those days th Watson was not at all in favor of calling special session and enacting a county opt law, as was desired by the Indiana A Saloon league and others. And on question most of the Republican pol cians were with Watson. It was J. Fra Hanly, who was then governor, that pus the button that put county option in statutes and thereby forced Watson to get a temperance platform in his campaign.

which they were led to believe through corre-Cocktail Story Causes Comment. The thing that strikes most people strange now is that it is the cocktail stor "I have seen this house and its members receive letters and postal cards by the thou-Mulhall that seems to agitate Watson me from the most powerful lobby I ever saw in the fact that Watson admitted that he connection with the house, when the oleomargarine bill was under discussion, but that lobbied, and that he did not seem to be m lobby was not here. The lobby was at home, worried by this charge, but devoted a lar part of his reply to Mulhall to discuss and it was not an unlawful lobby, and prob-Mulhall's charge that Watson at one ti ably not an improper lobby and not an imwhen he returned from a speaking tour dra proper influence, but men on the floor of the house when that bill was under consid-Of course, Watson made his campaign i eration, as when many others are under con-

governor on a temperance platform, ly that they believed one way and proposed to vote the other way. That is only human those who know him best have never at time feared that he was going to joi Anti-Saloon league. It is not unders here that when Watson goes before obby invetigation committee he wil grilled as to his attitude toward liquor. Machine Shy of Mulhall.

When Mulhall came to Indianapolis to work in the campaign, leaders of th organization were asked about him, denied they knew anything. These should investigate nothing else till it had short time an article was published sion was revealed. This publicity see to put a crimp in the plans of Mulhall, "I am not surprised by the amendment of

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