

The Situation in Paris.

You more victims of the Panama scandal were to-day thrown into the hopper of the French mill of justice. All are men of great prominence in the public affairs of France, and the excitement throughout Paris and the country is again at fever heat. The official list includes five Senators, two of them former cabinet ministers, and five deputies. The official announcement was made simultaneously in the senate and chamber of deputies this afternoon.

French law forbids the criminal prosecution of a member of parliament without the consent of a special commission of each house. The president of each body announced that he had been notified by the minister of justice that the government desired to begin proceedings against five members. Both branches voted to refer the matter to a committee instantly and adjourned for that purpose. In the senate the names of those implicated were publicly announced. This is contrary to precedent, but the president of that body said so many names were in the current rumor that he read the list in order to prevent a mistake.

He named Senators Deves, late minister of agriculture; Beral, an intimate friend of Gambetta; Thevenet, late minister of justice; Leon Renault, prefect of police under Theis and McMahon, and Albert Grevy, brother of the late president, and formerly governor-general of Algeria. In the chamber the names were not read, but there was a rush to the lobby, where the list was made known amid indescribable excitement. Rouvier, the other day minister of finance, headed the list. There followed Arene, of Corsica; Dugue de la Fauconnerie, Jules Roche and Antonin Proust, who recently resigned the directorship of the World's Fair. All of the ten, save Fauconnerie, are members of the left. He is a Bonapartist. The special committee of the chamber was formed by each of the eleven divisions into which the house is divided naming one member.

Rouvier attended the meeting of his division and, learning that he was one of the accused, he rose to his feet in a desperate passion and exclaimed: "I thought till now that I was a responsible custodian of state secrets. The time has come when such secrets are no longer sacred. I shall go into the tribune when the chamber resumes its sitting and make an explicit statement of my conduct of the department of finance during my tenure of office."

This remark carried consternation throughout the chamber and government offices. It meant that Rouvier in desperate anger would uncover in his record of almost ten years in the cabinet events which might easily incite the already exasperated people to revolt. Both committees voted to authorize the prosecutions and everybody waited to see what would happen. The lobby of the chamber was in a great uproar for two hours. M. Arene, of Corsica, strolled in and learned of the time that he was to be prosecuted. He professed indifference and remained for nearly an hour quietly chatting with friends. He said to a reporter:

"I am much surprised by this action of the government. I presume they have made a big list, intending to sift out the guilty from the innocent afterward. I am prepared to justify my conduct. I know now that I must meet the magistrate and public prosecutor, and shall not fight a duel with Andrieux. I can't attend to everybody."

When the chamber assembled, the members were treated not to the terrific onslaught which Rouvier had threatened, but to a sensation of another nature. Rouvier and Arene defended themselves with great vigor, but the ex-minister of finance confined his revelations to the assertion that the only suspicious evidence against him was due to the fact that the government had accepted a loan from individuals to the secret fund for the defence of the republic and the entries of the reimbursement of these advances had not been understood.

Then came out of the most sensational scenes in the history of this republic. Paul Deroulede entered the tribune and declared that the most guilty individual of the whole Panama scandal was a man who had escaped accusation because he held all France in terror of his sword, his pistol and his pen. He declared his intention to name him. Amid breathless excitement he pointed to the great radical, M. Clemenceau, and called him by name. He proceeded to denounce him in scathing terms, and the house and galleries listened, almost expecting on the spot the tragedy which the words portended.

Clemenceau sat silent till the accuser had finished his terrific denunciation. Then he walked slowly to the tribune and began in measured, passionless words a response. He made a quiet denial of the charges, eloquent and simple in its terms. He paid little attention to his accuser individually until his very last sentence. Then in placid but deadly tones, without any display of feeling, he applied the epithet "liar" to Deroulede.

In the course of his general reply, Clemenceau said that although he had no written proofs of his innocence headed M. Deroulede to substantiate the charges just

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made. He would not answer these brazen slanders in the chamber, but would demand personal satisfaction immediately after adjournment. The attacks of the last speaker upon M. Herz were based on falsehood and imagination. Dr. Herz has served France faithfully as a soldier and physician. Boulanger himself had not a more devoted friend than Dr. Herz. M. Clemenceau acknowledged that *La Justice* had supported capitalists occasionally, but denied that he had ever promoted business enterprises in the interest of Dr. Herz. His concluding words were:

"Deroulede has accused me of betraying my country by introducing foreign influence. Deroulede lies."

Everybody knew what that meant, but Clemenceau was not to escape with one duel. He had made slurring allusions to Boulanger, and Deputy Millevoye replied, defending the memory of "le bras general." He resented the imputation of Boulanger's connection with Dr. Herz, now hiding in England, and said the dead general's only knowledge of Herz was caused by Clemenceau's bringing them together, implying a corrupt purpose on the latter's part. Millevoye let loose a torrent of abuse on M. Clemenceau, accusing him of accepting millions in bribes and of advising the abandonment of Egypt by the French government. In the consequent tumult M. Millevoye turned upon M. Floquet, who was trying to restore order, and shouted at him an insulting name. Millevoye closed his speech with the assertion that Herz was the paid emissary of a foreign power.

Clemenceau, it is understood, will meet both his accusers on the field of honor tomorrow morning. Everybody expects the encounters to be deadly; for they result from no ordinary provocation. Clemenceau has the reputation of being the most skillful with the foils and the best pistol shot in France. It is on everybody's lips that he will be at the head of the next list of deputies to be prosecuted which the government will hand in. He is everywhere accused. The implication of the great radical deputy will do something to scatter the popular search for the leader of the moral revolt. The exasperated populace may well feel at a loss when it looks for combined probity and brains among the public men of France.

The scene when Deroulede accused Clemenceau was most exciting. Deroulede asked what action the disciplinary council of the legion of honor had decided to take against Dr. Cornelius Herz.

"This man," M. Deroulede said, "isn't to be left with the insignia of the legion in his possession, although, I grant, he is a most important man to the State, for he truly holds the reigns of government." M. Deroulede paused for several minutes while the right cheered this taunt and the left tried to drown the cheers with shouted protests, when he proceeded, with perfect coolness, to make a most virulent personal attack upon M. Clemenceau, "whose relations to M. Herz," he said, "are too well known to need detailed description." Amid renewed cheers from the right and jeers from the left he declared that M. Herz tried to buy the Boulangists with Panama canal money, but they had refused to touch it. Despite M. Floquet's repeated protests, cries of "Dissolution!" and a general tumult which extended to the topmost gallery, M. Deroulede again addressed himself to M. Clemenceau "Why did this Herz give 200,000 francs to *La Justice*?" he shouted. Deroulede closed with an attack on the "mutual benefit association, not of socialists and revolutionaries, but of rich men and rich men's pamperers."

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