

CLEMENTS SUCCEEDS KNAPP.

Commerce Board Chooses Its Senior Member, a Democrat, as Chairman.

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. — Another Democrat was chosen to high office under the Taft Administration to-day by the election of Judson C. Clements of Georgia, ranking member of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, as Chairman, in place of Mr. Knapp, who is now Presiding Justice of the Court of Commerce. It is said that the President was more or less against his selection, and anxious that Commissioner Edgar E. Clark of Iowa, a Republican, be appointed. The rule of the commission, however, has been to choose its senior member, regardless of politics.

Judge Clements has for many years been counted as on the radical side of the commission. He was a strong supporter of the commission's policy when, near a decade ago, some of its members determined to fight for real power over the railroads, a fight that nearly resulted in the commission being legislated out of office when the Hepburn act was passed. He has had a long experience in the development of Government regulation of transportation.

After serving in the Confederate Army he practiced law, served from 1872 to 1880 in the Georgia Legislature, and then went to Congress for eight years. In Georgia he had a prominent part in passing the railroad legislation of the State, and in Congress he helped to place the original Inter-State Commerce Commission law on the books. In 1892 President Harrison made him an Inter-State Commissioner, and he has held the place since. For years he has strongly advocated the physical valuation of railroads.

It is said no opinion written by Judge Clements has been overturned in substance by the Supreme Court.

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