

OLNEY REFUSES OFFER OF LONDON EMBASSY

**Tells President Wilson He Is Too
Old to Establish a Resi-
dence Abroad.**

TALK OF ELIOT, PAGE, GRAY

**No Post for Malone, Who Decides to
Continue Law Practice—Port Col-
lectorship Still Open.**

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—In a personal letter to President Wilson, Richard Olney of Boston, ex-Secretary of State, has declined the President's offer of the Ambassadorship to the Court of St. James's. The letter was not made public, but it was understood that Mr. Olney expressed the opinion that he and Mrs. Olney were too advanced in years to undertake establishing a residence abroad with new and exacting duties to perform.

According to gossip at the State Department, Mr. Olney was anxious to ascertain, in advance of any decision by him in connection with President Wilson's offer, whether he would be acceptable to the British Government in a diplomatic capacity on account of his accusations when he was Secretary of State that Great Britain was attempting to extend its possessions in Venezuela, which adjoins British Guiana. Whether or not Mr. Olney made any suggestion of that character, it was understood that no such inquiry was made of the British Government.

The names of Charles W. Eliot of Boston, President-emeritus of Harvard; Thomas Nelson Page of this city, the author, and William Church Osborne of New York came to the front again to-day in connection with the British mission, but there has been nothing to show that any of them is being considered for this post, the most conspicuous in the diplomatic service. What basis there is for the report that Judge George Gray of Delaware is likely to be appointed is not known, but it is generally believed that Judge Gray will not resign from the Federal bench to go abroad, even in such a position. He is 73 years old and eligible for retirement on full pay. Judge Gray was a leader of the Gold Democratic movement in 1896, and, naturally, his appointment would not be pleasant to Secretary of State Bryan.

Ex-Governor John Burke of North Dakota was nominated by President Wilson to-day for Treasurer of the United States. He will succeed Carmi Thompson of Ohio, who was Assistant Secretary of the Interior and secretary to the President in Mr. Taft's Administration. Mr. Burke was a candidate for the Presidential nomination at Baltimore, and President Wilson had him in mind for a Cabinet place. He is understood to have been the President's personal selection.

Dudley Field Malone of New York, has not accepted President Wilson's offer of Assistant Attorney General in charge of customs cases in New York. It is also doubtful if Mr. Malone will take any of the legal positions under the Department of Justice that he may have for the asking. His desire was to be Collector of the Port of New York, but the President has somebody else in mind for that important office, and Mr. Malone has not been attracted by less responsible places.

Mr. Malone had a talk with President Wilson to-day. It was made pretty clear afterward that Mr. Malone indicated to the President that he thought he would continue to practice law in New York. While Mr. Malone was at the executive offices, following his interview with the President, he said that he hadn't asked for an office, and didn't care for any. All he wanted, he said, was to help President Wilson and progressive Democracy, and was just as glad to do it outside of public life.

Senator O'Gorman, who is Mr. Malone's father-in-law, has not recommended Mr. Malone for any office, it was said to-day. The President has a great liking for Mr. Malone. Senator O'Gorman, according to the talk here, was willing to let the President and Mr. Malone arrange between themselves whether Mr. Malone should have a Federal office. No recommendation for the Port Collectorship of New York has been made by Senator O'Gorman. It is expected that he will take up this matter with the President early next week. It was said at the White House that the President would issue a statement next week "setting forth the high grounds" on which Mr. Malone declined to take public office.

George Foster Peabody of New York, who saw the President yesterday, is credited with being the choice of Secretary McAdoo of the Treasury for the place. Mr. Peabody denies that the position has been offered to him.

The name of John K. Sague, three times Mayor of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., was mentioned to-day in connection with the Port Collectorship by friends who seem confident he will be selected.

William F. McCombs, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, told the President some of the details of the pre-convention fight in various States. While President Wilson is not making his appointments on the basis of pre-convention support, it was said that the alignments of divided Democracy before the Baltimore convention was a better indication of what Democrats were progressive than in the campaign that followed, when the standard bearers had united support everywhere.

The President is to be in frequent conference with Mr. McCombs until some of the most important appointments are disposed of. Then it is believed that Mr. McCombs will take a trip abroad for a rest, though it is not yet settled whether he will accept President Wilson's offer of the post of Ambassador to France.

Joseph E. Davies of Wisconsin, Secretary of the Democratic National Committee, will probably accept the post of Assistant Secretary of War, which the President has offered to him. Mr. Davies had the offer of a diplomatic post, and was considering it when Secretary Garrison invited him to be his assistant.

Republican objections to hasty action on President Wilson's appointments delayed action again to-day in the Senate's confirmation of several important nominations, including those of Dr. E. T. Galloway, to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; John S. Williams, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Edwin F. Sweet, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Democratic Chairmen, newly chosen, were ready to poll their committees as to the approval of the appointments, but Senators Root and Jones insisted that regular committee meetings be held. Senator Smith of Georgia, the new Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, made arrangements to-day for a meeting of his committee to consider the protests made against the reappointment of Dr. Charles P. Neill as Commissioner of Labor Statistics. It is expected that the Senate will act on Monday on several appointments.