

Suit  
Leach

Interview with R. V. Lindabury

7/9/25

Go to Newark to see Mr. R. V. Lindabury.

I find he was killed yesterday, the 15th, by a fall from his horse. He did not look particularly well to me. He is a suave, able gentleman. His judgment of Gary is high - not effusive. Says he is an admirable witness - clear, honest, doesn't get confused, knows the facts, if he makes a mistake willing to be corrected.

Lindabury became chief counsel in has been a member of the Finance Committee since goes weekly to the meetings. Says <sup>him</sup> one of the most remarkable things about Judge Gary is his willingness to listen to other men, to listen to opposite views. He ~~says that he~~ is the only man of his class that he <sup>has</sup> known that has this characteristic. He ~~said~~, "I have known John D. Rockefeller, Sr., the elder Morgan, Jim Hill, well - had business dealings with them - all of them were intolerant of opposing opinions - intolerant of those about them - expected to be agreed with. Judge Gary is never intolerant. He seeks the opinion of associates, listens to everybody. His mind is quite clear on what he thinks, but he is kindly towards those who oppose him and he gives up when there is a majority against him, in a good tempered and friendly <sup>#</sup> fashion. <sup>#</sup> He doesn't by any means always have his own way. He cites as an illustration that in voting sums of money, particularly for welfare work, the Finance Committee are continually cutting what he calls for because they think him over-generous. I did not say so to Lindabury but it comes into my mind that possibly Gary, knowing this, puts the figure higher than he might otherwise. It would be

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2-9-25  
See  
Always try to approach people  
so as not to alienate people & id  
Bump it into people & id

*Lindabury*

one of his canny little ways. Think this is a most important thing that he tells me about the Judge.

As to the suit, he thinks the Government conducted it on a very high plane. I must say that there are certain pieces of testimony which seem to me anything but high, particularly the intimation that the panic was forced in order to get the T C & I.

~~I speak of the Davis story. He says it is better than the way I tell it. This was it.~~ He said, "In our presentation to the Supreme Court <sup>said, he Lindabury</sup> we perhaps over-emphasized Gary - his ideals, his struggle to have things right, his frankness, his ability, what he had done. When John W. Davis, who was Solicitor General rose, he introduced his speech by saying, 'I entirely agree with the opposing counsel in their opinion of Judge Gary - his idealism, his fine efforts to have things right, etc.; but I should like to call the attention of the court to the fact that the Government is trying to dissolve the Steel Corporation and not judge Gary.'"

Lindabury points out the difference between Buffington and Wooley's reason for dismissing the case. He says also when the case was brought before the Supreme Court, we were just going into the War and they were not willing to disturb business, that if it had gone ahead with the suit at that time that the court would have probably stood four to three against the Steel Corporation, but that by the time it was reheard one of the judges, I think he said Pinckney, had changed his views. That is, the work of the Corporation in the War had been such that he believed that it would be against the public interest to disturb it.

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Lindabury calls my attention to the supplementary brief presented in 1919, tells me it is important I should read it. I think that is probably his. He is emphatic in saying that it was the conduct of the Corporation which saved it, and he reiterates that conduct was due to Gary's far sightedness and his conviction that sound ethics was the basis of all good business. He repeats several times the strength of Gary's feeling that things must be right. He says that frequently he has heard him say when something was under discussion, "Well, I cannot tell you just why I am opposed to that but it does not seem to me to be right," and that when he has this feeling that a thing is not right, that settles it for him.

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