

# W. J. BURNS TO HEAD THE SECRET SERVICE

## Daugherty Announces Choice of Agency Chief for Wash- ington Post.

### HE SUCCEEDS CHIEF FLYNN

#### President and Attorney General Look for a "House Cleaning" in the Bureau.

*Special to The New York Times.*

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Attorney General Daugherty today announced the appointment of William J. Burns, head of a private detective agency, whom he has known for years, to be Director of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice. Burns succeeds William J. Flynn and the appointment takes effect tomorrow.

The Attorney General stated that he had not asked for the resignation of Chief Flynn, but had notified him of the appointment of Mr. Burns as his successor.

Burns is to sever his connections with his own detective agency and give his entire time to the service of the Government at a salary of \$7,500 a year, the same that was paid to Chief Flynn.

Mr. Daugherty talked by telephone today with Mr. Burns in New York and learned that he would come to Washington Saturday or Monday to take charge. Mr. Burns is now in bed with a cold.

In response to questions, Mr. Daugherty said the appointment of Burns did not necessarily mean that the investigation agencies of the Government would be co-ordinated under the Department of Justice, though there would be some "housecleaning."

"I have known Mr. Burns personally for thirty years and have watched him develop in his specialty," Mr. Daugherty said. "He is familiar with all of the departments of the Government, is an intelligent and courageous man and, at this time especially, is considered to be as high-class a man as could be secured to assume the important duties assigned him. The bureau will be reorganized as expeditiously as possible and brought to the highest point of efficiency."

#### For Secret Service "House-Cleaning."

The appointment of William J. Burns, founder of the international detective agency bearing his name, to be Chief of the Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice, succeeding William J. Flynn, will be followed by a complete reorganization of the entire Secret Service, according to information given to THE NEW YORK TIMES yesterday by a man who has been closely associated with the detective.

It is understood that many changes will be made in the personnel of the force retained by the Department of Justice. In cleaning house it will be the chief desire of Burns, it was explained, to stop the arrest of innocent persons who eventually must be freed. The case of a recent suspect held in connection with the Wall Street bomb explosion was cited as an illustration of the things that Mr. Burns is determined to eliminate.

The W. J. Burns International Detective Agency will continue to operate under the same name, according to Raymond J. Burns, son of William J. Burns, who became President of the corporation when his father resigned two months ago.

The agency founded by Burns, from which he has now severed all connections, even to resigning as a Director, has thirty-five branch offices throughout the United States, Canada, England and France.

W. J. Burns was born in Baltimore, Md., Oct. 19, 1831, and in his childhood went with his parents, Michael and Bridget Burns, to live in Zanesville, Ohio, from which place they subsequently went to Columbus. While still young Burns made a name for himself in solving many local crimes in Columbus. His reputation was broadened in 1855 when he succeeded in running down the famous tally-sheet forgers. He won appointment to the United States Secret

Service in 1859, being assigned to the office in St. Louis.

He was transferred to the Washington office, where for eight years, it is said, he never failed in a single case.

In 1903 Burns was transferred to the Department of the Interior and conducted an exhaustive investigation into the land frauds, in which millions of acres were stolen. The conviction of the McNamara brothers was brought about by Burns's investigation of the dynamiting of the building of The Los Angeles Times in 1911.

Burns also made an investigation of the case of Leo Frank, on which he made a report absolving Frank of the murder of little Mary Phagin, who worked in a pencil factory with Frank at Atlanta, Ga. On one of his visits to Georgia in this investigation he was set upon by a mob.

Burns has been described by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as one of the greatest detectives.

At the local offices of the Department of Justice, in the Park Row Building, there was much speculation yesterday as to what would happen there in the course of any reorganization. Chief Flynn was not at the offices during the afternoon.