

URGES CONSERVATION OF THE NATION'S RESOURCES

President Taft Sends Special Message to Congress Recommending Prevention of Land Frauds, Control of Water Power, Fostering of Soils and Kindred Subjects

Washington, Jan. 14.—Following is the complete text of the special message on the conservation of the nation's resources sent to the senate and house of representatives by President Taft to-day:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In my annual message I reserved the subject of the conservation of our national resources for disposition in a special message, as follows:

Several departments there is presented the necessity for legislation looking to the further conservation of our national resources, and the subject is one of such importance as to require a more detailed and extended discussion than can be entered upon in this communication. For that reason I shall take an early opportunity to send a special message to congress on the subject of the improvement of our waterways; upon the reclamation and irrigation of arid, semi-arid and swamp lands; upon the conservation of our forests and the re-forestation of suitable areas; upon the re-classification of the public domain with a view of separating from agricultural settlement mineral, coal and phosphate lands and sites belonging to the government bordering on streams suitable for the utilization of water power.

In 1869 we had a public domain of 1,055,811,288 acres. We have now 731,254,091 acres, confined largely to the mountain ranges and the arid and semi-arid regions. We have, in addition, 365,035,975 acres of land in Alaska.

Disbursement of Public Lands.

The public lands were, during the earliest administrations, treated as a national asset for the liquidation of the public debt and as a source of reward for our soldiers and sailors. Large amounts were donated in large amounts in aid of the construction of wagon roads and railroads, in order to open up regions in the west then almost inaccessible. All the principal land statutes were enacted more than a quarter of a century ago. The homestead act, the pre-emption and timber-culture act, the coal land and the mining acts were among these.

The rapid disposition of the public lands under the early statutes, and the methods of distribution prevailing, due, I think, to the belief that these lands should rapidly pass into private ownership, gave rise to the impression that the public domain was legitimate prey for the unscrupulous and that it was not contrary to good morals to circumvent the land laws. This profligate manner of disposition resulted in the passing of large areas of valuable land and many of our national resources into the hands of persons who felt little or no responsibility for promoting the national welfare through their development.

Fraudulent Titles.

The truth is that title to millions of acres of public lands was fraudulently obtained and that the government has a large part of such lands for the government long since ceased by reason of statutes of limitations. There has developed in recent years a deep concern in the public mind respecting the preservation and proper use of our national resources. This has been particularly directed toward the conservation of the resources of the public domain. A vast amount of discussion has appeared in the public prints in general, and in the public domain, but there has been little practical suggestion. It has been easy to say that the natural resources in fuel supply, in forests, in water power, and in other public utilities, must be saved from waste, monopoly, and other abuses, and the general public is in accord with this proposition, as they are with most truths. The problem, however, is how to save and how to utilize, how to conserve and add to the public domain. It can be contended that it is for the common good that nature's blessings are only for unborn generations.

Noteworthy Reforms.

Among the most noteworthy reforms initiated by my distinguished predecessor were the vigorous prosecution of land frauds and the bringing to public attention of the necessity for preserving the remaining public domain from further spoliation, for the maintenance and extension of our forest resources, and for the enactment of laws providing for the sole control over that part of the public domain in which there are valuable deposits of coal, oil, and of phosphate, and, in addition, to preserve control, under conditions favorable to the public, of the lands along the streams in which the fall of water can be made to generate power to be transmitted in the form of electricity many miles to the point of its use, known as "water power" sites.

The investigations into violations of the public land laws and the prosecution of land frauds have been vigorously continued under my administration. There has been the withdrawal of coal lands for classification and valuation and the temporary withholding of power sites. Since March 4, 1905, temporary withdrawals of power sites have been made on 102 streams and these withdrawals cover cover 229 per cent. more streams than were covered by the withdrawals made prior to that date.

The present statutes, except so far as they dispose of the precious metals and the purely agricultural lands, are not adapted to carry out the modern view of the best disposition of public lands to private ownership, under conditions offering on the one hand sufficient inducement to private capital to take them over for proper development, with restrictive conditions on the other which shall secure to the public that character of control which will prevent a monopoly or misuse of the lands or their products. The power of the secretary of the interior to withdraw from the operation of existing statutes tracts of land, the disposition of which under such statutes would be detrimental to the public interest, is not clear or satisfactory. This power has been exercised in the interest of the public, with the hope that congress might affirm the action of the executive by laws adapted to the new conditions. Unfortunately, congress has not thus far fully acted on the recommendations of the executive, and the question as to what the executive is to do is under the circumstances, full of difficulty. It seems to me that it is the duty of congress now, by a statute, to validate the withdrawals which have been made by the secretary of the interior and the president and to use the secretary of the interior's temporary withdrawals as a basis for the submission to congress of recommendations as

to legislation to meet conditions or emergencies as they arise.

Properly to Classify Lands.

One of the most pressing needs in the matter of public-land reform is that lands should be classified according to their principal value use. This ought to be done by that department whose force is best adapted to that work. It should be done by the interior department through the geological survey. Much confusion, fraud, and contention which has existed in the present has arisen from the lack of an official and determinative classification of the public lands and their contents.

It is now proposed to dispose of agricultural lands as such, and at the same time to reserve for other disposition the treasure of coal, oil, asphaltum, natural gas and phosphate contained therein. This may be best accomplished by separating the right to mine from the title to the surface, giving the necessary use of so much of the latter as may be required for the extraction of the deposits. The surface might be disposed of as an agricultural land under the general agricultural statutes, while the coal or other mineral could be disposed of by lease on a royalty basis, with the provisions requiring a certain amount of development each year; and in order to prevent the use and cessation of said lands with others of similar character so as to constitute a monopoly forbidden by law, the lease should contain suitable provisions for the forfeiture of the interest of persons participating in such monopoly. Such law should apply to Alaska as well as to the United States.

Statute Difficult to Frame.

It is exceedingly difficult to frame a statute to retain government control over a property to be developed by private capital in such a manner as to secure the governmental purpose and at the same time not frighten away the investment of private capital. Hence, it may be necessary by laws that are really only experimental to determine from their practical operation what is the best method of securing the result aimed at. The extent of the value of phosphate is hardly realized, and with the need that there will be for it as the years roll on and the necessity for fertilizing the land shall become more acute, the value of the product which will probably attract the greed of monopolists.

Public Land Along Streams.

With respect to the public land which lies along the streams offering opportunity to convert water power into transmissible electricity, another important phase of the public land question is presented. There are valuable water power sites through all the public land states. The opinion is held that the transfer of sovereignty from the federal government to the state or to the private owner, as they become states, included the water power in the rivers except so far as that owned by riparian proprietors. I do not think it necessary to go into discussion of this somewhat mooted question of law. It seems to me sufficient to say that the man who owns and controls the land along the stream from which the power is to be converted and transmitted, owns the land which is indispensable to the conversion and use of that power. I cannot conceive how the power in streams flowing through public lands can be made available at all except by using the land itself as a site for the construction of the plant by which the power is generated and converted and securing a right of way thereover for transmission lines. Under these conditions, if the government owns the adjacent land—indeed, if the government is the riparian owner—it may control the use of the water power by imposing proper conditions on the disposition of the land necessary in the creation and utilization of the water power.

Value of Water Power.

The development in electrical appliances for the conversion of the water power into electricity to be transmitted long distances has progressed so far that it is no longer problematical, but it is a certain inference that in the future the power of the water falling in the streams to a large extent will take the place of natural fuels. In the disposition of the water power, many water power sites have come under absolute ownership, and may drift into one ownership, so that all the water power under private ownership shall be a monopoly. If, however, the water power sites now owned by the government—and there are enough of them—shall be disposed of to private persons for the investment of their capital in such a way as to prevent their using for purposes of monopoly or for the purpose of power sites, under conditions that shall limit the right of use to not exceeding thirty years with renewal privileges and some equitable means of fixing terms of rental and with proper provision for the payment of a reasonable rental, it would seem entirely possible to prevent the absorption of these most useful lands by a power monopoly. As long as the government retains control and can prevent their improper union with other plants, competition must be maintained and prices kept reasonable.

Soils Must Be Conserved.

In considering the conservation of the natural resources of the country, the feature that transcends all others, including woods, waters, minerals, is the soil of the country. It is incumbent upon the government to foster by all available means the resources of the country that produce the food of the people. To this end the conservation of the soils of the country should be cared for with all means at the government's disposal. Their productive powers should have the attention of our scientists that we may conserve the new soils, improve the old soils, drain wet soils, ditch swamp soils, levee river overflow soils, grow trees on thin soils, pasture hillside soils, rotate crops on all soils, discover methods for cropping dry land soils, find grasses and legumes for all soils, feed grains and mill feeds on the farms where they originate, that the soils from which they come may be enriched.

A work of the utmost importance to inform and instruct the public on this chief branch of the conservation of our resources is being carried on successfully in the department of agriculture, but it ought not to escape public attention that state action in addition to that of the department of agriculture (as for instance in the drainage of swamp lands) is essential to the best treatment of the soils in the manner above indicated.

The act by which, in semi-arid parts of

the public domain, the area of the homestead has been enlarged from 160 to 320 acres has resulted most beneficially to the farmer. The "dry farming" and the demonstration which has been made of the possibility, through a variation in the character and mode of culture, of raising substantial crops without the presence of such a supply of water as has heretofore thought to be necessary for agriculture.

But there are millions of acres of completely arid land in the public domain which, by the establishment of reservoirs for the storing of water and the irrigation of the land, can be made much more fruitful and productive than the best lands in a climate where the moisture comes from the clouds. Congress recognized the importance of this method of artificial distribution of water on the arid lands by the passage of the reclamation act. The proceeds of the public lands needed to store and furnish the necessary water, and it was left to the secretary of the interior to determine what projects should be started among those suggested and to direct the reclamation service, with the funds at hand and through the engineers in its employ, to construct the works.

No one can visit the far west and the country of arid and semi-arid lands without being convinced that this is one of the most important methods of the conservation of our natural resources that the government has entered upon. It would appear that over 30 projects have been undertaken, and that a few of these are likely to be unsuccessful because of lack of water, or for other reasons, but generally the work which has been done has been well done, and many important engineering problems have been met and solved.

Funds Inadequate for Service.

One of the difficulties which has arisen is that too many projects in view of the available funds have been set on foot. The funds available under the reclamation statute are inadequate to complete these projects within a reasonable time. And yet the projects have been begun; settlers have been invited to take up and in many instances, have taken up, the public land within the projects, relying upon their prompt completion. The failure to complete the projects for their benefit is, in effect, a breach of faith and leaves them in a most distressed condition. That the reclamation act should afford the means to lift them out of the very desperate condition in which they now are.

This condition does not indicate any existing or any contemplated violation of the provision subjecting to forfeiture the interest of persons participating in such monopoly. Such law should apply to Alaska as well as to the United States.

Cheap Rail Rate Necessary.

I am informed that the investigation by the waterways commission in Europe shows that the existence of a waterway by no means assures traffic unless there is traffic adapted to water carriage at cheap rates at one end or the other of the stream. It also appears in Europe that the depth of the stream is rarely more than six feet, and never more than nine. But it is certain that enormous quantities of merchandise are transported over the rivers and canals in Germany and France and England, and it is also certain that the existence of such methods of traffic materially affects the rates which the railroads charge, and it is the best regulator of those rates that we have, not even excepting the government regulation of the interstate commerce commission. For this reason, I hope that this congress will take such steps that it may be called the inaugurator of the new system of inland waterways. For reasons which it is not necessary here to state, congress has seen fit to order an investigation into the interior department and the forest service of the agricultural department. The results of that investigation are not needed to determine the value of, and the necessity for, the new legislation which I have recommended in respect to the public lands and in respect to reclamation. I earnestly urge that the measures be taken up and disposed of promptly without awaiting the investigation which has been determined upon.

New Law Required.

Respecting the comparatively small timbered areas on the public domain not included in national forests because of their isolation or their special value for agricultural or mineral purposes, it is apparent from the evils resulting by virtue of the imperfections of existing laws for the disposition of timber lands that the acts of June 2, 1878, should be repealed and a law enacted for the disposition of the timber on public lands after the removal of the timber to be subject to appropriation under the agricultural or mineral land laws.

What I have said is really an epitome of the recommendations of the secretary of the interior in respect to the future conservation of the public domain in his present annual report. He has given close attention to the problem of disposition of these lands under such conditions as to invite the private capital necessary to their development on the one hand, and the maintenance of the restrictions necessary to prevent monopoly and abuse from absolute ownership on the other. These recommendations are incorporated in bills he has prepared, and they are at the disposition of the congress. I earnestly recommend that all the suggestions which he has made with respect to these lands shall be embodied in statutes and, especially, that the withdrawals already made shall be validated so far as necessary and that doubt as to the authority of the secretary of the interior to withdraw lands for the purpose of submitting recommendations as to their disposition of them where new legislation is needed shall be made complete and unquestioned.

Disposition of Forest Reserves.

The forest reserves of the United States, some 100,000,000 acres in extent, are under the control of the department of agriculture, with authority adequate to preserve them and to extend their growth so far as they may be benefited. The importance of the maintenance of our forests cannot be exaggerated. The possibility of a scientific treatment of forests so that they shall be made to yield a large return in timber with the least reduction of the supply has been demonstrated in other countries, and we should work toward the standard set by them as far as their methods are applicable to our conditions.

Upwards of four hundred millions acres of forest land in this country are in private ownership, but only three per cent. of it is being treated scientifically and with a view to the maintenance of the forests. The part played by the forests in the equalization of the supply of water on watersheds is a matter of discussion and dispute, but the general benefit to be derived by the public from the extension of forest lands on watersheds and the promotion of their growth, or the re-creation of places that are now denuded and that once had great flourishing forests, goes without saying. The control to be exercised over private owners in their treatment of the forests which they own is a matter for state and not national regulation, because there is nothing in the constitution that authorizes the federal government to exercise any control over forests within a state, unless the forests are owned in a proprietary way by the federal government.

Improvement of River.

I come now to the improvement of the inland waterways. He would be blind indeed, who did not realize that the people of the far west, and especially those of the Mississippi valley, have been clamorous to the need there is for the improvement of our inland waterways. The Mississippi river, with the Missouri on the one hand and the Ohio on the other, would seem to offer a great natural means of interstate transportation and traffic. How far, if properly improved

they would relieve the railroads or supplement them in respect to the bulkier and cheaper commodities is a matter of conjecture. No enterprise ought to be undertaken the cost of which is not definitely ascertained and the benefit and advantage of which are not known and assured by competent engineers and other authority. When, however, a project of a definite character for the improvement of a waterway has been developed so that the plans have been drawn, the cost definitely estimated, and the traffic which will be accommodated is reasonably probable I think it is the duty of congress to undertake the project and make provision therefor in the proper appropriation bill.

One of the projects which answers the description I have given is that of introducing dams into the Ohio river from Pittsburg to Cairo, so as to maintain at all seasons of the year, by slack water, a depth of nine feet. Upward of seven of these dams have already been constructed and eight are in progress. While the total required is 20. The remaining cost is known to be \$3,000,000.

It seems to me that in the development of our inland waterways it would be wise to begin with this particular project and carry it through as rapidly as may be. I assume from reliable information that it can be constructed economically in ten years. I recommend, therefore, that the public lands, in river and harbor bills, make provision for entering into contracts to undertake this improvement, and I shall recommend in the future, if it be necessary, that bonds be issued to carry it through.

What has been said of the Ohio river is true in a less complete way of the improvement of the upper Mississippi from St. Paul to St. Louis to a constant depth of six feet, and of the Missouri, from Kansas City to St. Louis to a constant depth of six feet and from St. Louis to Cairo of a depth of eight feet. These projects have been pronounced practical by competent boards of army engineers, their cost has been estimated and there is business which will follow the improvement.

As These Improvements Are Being Made,

and the traffic encouraged by them show itself of sufficient importance, the improvement of the Mississippi beyond Cairo down to the gulf, which is now going on with the maintenance of a depth of nine feet everywhere, may be changed to another and greater depth if the necessity for it shall appear to arise out of the traffic which can be delivered on the river at Cairo.

WILLIAM H. TAFT.

A Bird's Savings Bank.

In California the woodpecker stores acorns away, although he never eats them. He bores several holes, differing slightly in size, at the fall of the year, invariably in a pine tree. Then he finds an acorn, which he adjusts to one of the holes prepared for its reception. But he does not eat the acorn, for, as a rule, he is not a vegetarian. His object is storing away the acorns exhibits foresight and a knowledge of results more akin to reason than to instinct. The succeeding winter the acorns remain intact, but, becoming saturated, are predisposed to decay, when they are attacked by maggots, which seem to delight in this special food.

His "Penitential Den."

"And now I must show you what I call my penitential den," said a popular author. "This," he continued, "as he drew open a door, 'is where I occasionally spend an hour or so when I am developing symptoms of that by no means uncommon malady among successful men called 'swelled head.'"

The Room was a Charming Little

snuggery about seven feet square, the only remarkable feature of which was the wall-covering. "If you look closely," explained the host, "you will see that my wall paper consists, on two sides of the room, of those too-familiar and unwelcome printed forms on which editors express their regrets at declining one's pet manuscripts."

The Fur Coat.

On the fur coat we are shown metallic buttons fastened up each side of the front, a braided belt, a straight collar, metal trimmed. This is equaled in correct outline by cloth street suits, the skirts of which are straight and plain (far more like trousers than a plaited skirt would be) and the coats of which resemble closely the best military cut. They are strapped across the chest with wide or narrow braids; they are fastened with regular army frogs or they are decorated with horizontal bands of narrow fur from button to button down the double-breasted center panel.

The Zebra Gown.

One of the most startling and not unpleasing gowns is called the zebra. It is made of black and white striped velvet, and is draped in long lines that give height and slenderness. The one touch of color, unless one calls the white lace yoke a color, is a rose of burnt orange satin that is pinned to the bodice.

The Hat that Goes with This Is of

white kid, trimmed with thick black short tips and a huge buckle of deep yellow crystals.

Everybody's Magazine.

"How far is it between these two towns?" asked the lawyer. "About four miles as the fow cries," replied the witness. "You mean as the cry flows." "No," put in the judge, "he means as the fly crows."

And they all looked at each other, feeling that something was wrong—Everybody's Magazine.

WOMAN'S INTERESTS

IN FANCY CROCHET UNIQUE IDEA OF TRIMMINGS

Embroidery and Bands of Fur in Combination is the Latest of Fashion's Ideas.

Embroidery and bands of fur are combined on many of the newest gowns, merely bits of these trimmings being used on the waist and skirt. Fashion does not favor continued straight lines in trimming, unless it be a straight border of fur around the bottom of the skirt or the edge of the coat. In the illustration the little irregularly shaped over-

WOOL SHOE FOR INFANT IS A PRETTY WORK.

Few Materials Required, and the Skill of the Operator is the Main Requisite—Full Directions Given Here.

Materials required: About half-ounce of fine wool and a bone hook, No. 12.

Work 11 chain stitches, turn and draw up a loop through the second from hook, and one through each of the three stitches, wool over, draw through all five loops at once, and make a chain stitch, * draw up a loop under the chain just made, one under the back thread of the last loop of the previous group, one through each of the next two stitches—six loops on hook—wool over, draw through all six at once and make a chain stitch, repeat from *, twice more—four patterns or groups—turn, three chain, draw up two loops through the chain and one through each of the three nearest stitches of previous row, back thread to be taken throughout (the sixth loop should always come on to a chain stitch), draw through and complete with chain stitch, work as before to end of row, turn, two more rows like last (four rows with four patterns in each), 15 chain, turn, and work back as usual. Do not break off, but with a fresh piece of wool work 12 stitches on to the other side of the front and fasten off, then continue the row already commenced, and work to the end of the chain.

There should now be six patterns on either side of the front—16 patterns in all. Turn with three chain, and work to and fro seven times, then omit the turning chain and work five trebles under both threads of every other chain stitch in the row, with a double crochet half-way between the groups of trebles. Turn and work a

dress is shown without any finish, but the same model, or one made upon similar lines, had this feature of the dress outlined with a narrow piece of skunk, making an effective costume for skating or for afternoon street wear.

The break in the waist is rather pleasing, reminding one of the line accentuated in sailor blouses. This one is formed by a tuck with an almost infinitesimal bit of braid showing on the edge and clusters of buttons placed on both sides so that they alternate.

Another dress after this style was cut with the overdress coming lower in front and across the square end was a band of fur and three triangular sections of heavy embroidery. When these two kinds of trimmings are used together it is important to have the needlework bold in design and done with coarse silk. The finer kinds of work are more or less lost by the addition of the fur, even when the embroidery shows a contrast in color. As a finishing touch a narrow bit of the fur is used sometimes on the high standing collar.

WIDE CHOICE IS OFFERED

In Yokes One May Have as Many Styles as Varying Fancy Dictates.

Sleeves are not the only parts of dress that are being strongly featured. Yokes are about as varied, and it is no uncommon thing for a single blouse or waist of apparent simplicity to comprise in its construction as many as three or four yokes. A smooth-fitting bodice may be cut low, two inches below the bust, in fact, and built up again with a plain section of contrasting material elaborately embroidered, and above all these comes the yoke proper, of net or allover lace. That in turn, may be supplemented with a small Dutch or circular yoke, with perhaps a stock of still another lace. And with so many pieces and so many materials there is no suggestion of a lack of continuity. The eye takes in the ensemble, and is not arrested by any one patch or spot, if the effect is successful. It goes without saying that cleverness is required to produce this ensemble effect that is so delightful and so emphatically a point in present fashions.

Lace Pieces.

Small lace pieces of one kind and another have a place this season among all dress trimmings. The smallest piece may enhance a new collar, the largest may build the foundation of a gown, but everything which can be used is put into service. If you have coarse pieces such as berthas, ready-made yokes, or cuffs and collar sets, you may, if you care for something novel, have them dyed to match a cloth suit. It is now possible to use in this way many old laces which are yellowed with age. Again, if laces are transparent, they may be placed over silver cloth, where the most can be obtained from the home-made trimmings with the glitter of tinsel beneath.

Call Fringe in Style.

The woman who is in doubt as to how to edge her sleeves or tunic or ash drapery can choose narrow ball fringe. It is quite fashionable. It is in all the metals and many of the crystals. It is sold by the yard and has a tiny braid finish. It is easy to adjust and sew.

Infant's Boot—Crochet.

single crochet in the back thread of each stitch, fasten off.

Re-commence from where the small piece of chain was added, and work a double crochet in each stitch to the other side of the shoe (48 stitches), turn, a double crochet in every stitch back again. Work to and fro in this way nine times, but in the last row take two stitches together on each side the middle of the toe. Join edge and foot on wrong side, either with single crochet, or with a needle and wool.

Thread round the top with baby ribbon, and tie round ankle with same, or with chain and tassels of wool. If the latter, the chain should be worked as follows:—

Wind the wool 12 times round two fingers and secure with chain stitch. * 1 chain, slip the hook under the back thread of the chain just made, draw through, wool over and draw through both loops at once. Repeat from * for the required length, and make a second tassel like the first.

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