

# 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 today:

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, following the receipt of reports from several departments there is presented the necessity for legislation looking to the further conservation of our national resources. It is the duty of the government to see that the best use is made of the land and water resources of this country. It is the duty of the government to see that the land and water resources of this country are conserved for the benefit of the people and for the benefit of the future generations.

In 1890 we had a public domain of 1,023,512,888 acres. We have now 71,254,000 acres, of which 1,000,000 acres are in the hands of private individuals and 70,254,000 acres are in the hands of the government.

**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. In the hands of the government they have become a source of revenue and a source of employment for the people.

The rapid disposition of the public lands under the early statutes was due to the methods of distribution prevailing, due, I think, to the belief that these lands should rapidly pass into private ownership, and to the impression that the public domain was a vast storehouse of wealth for the people. It was not until the late years of the nineteenth century that the public domain was recognized as a national asset and that the government began to exercise its responsibility for its conservation.

**Fraudulent Titles.** The title to millions of acres of public lands was fraudulently obtained and that the right to recover a large part of such lands for the government long since expired. There has developed in recent years a deep concern in the public mind respecting the preservation and proper use of the public lands. This has been particularly directed toward the conservation of the resources of the public domain. A vast amount of discussion has been had and many reports have been prepared on this subject, but there has been little practical success. It was not until the late years of the nineteenth century that the public domain was recognized as a national asset and that the government began to exercise its responsibility for its conservation.

**Water Power.** The development in electrical appliances for the conversion of the water power into electricity has progressed so far that it is no longer a problem, 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 domain already granted, many water power sites have been reserved for the government, and many of these sites are now being developed by private individuals. It is the duty of the government to see that these sites are conserved for the benefit of the people and for the benefit of the future generations.

**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 government should have a policy of conservation of the soil, and this policy should be based upon the principle that the soil is a national asset and that the government has a duty to see that it is conserved for the benefit of the people and for the benefit of the future generations.

**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 aroused to the need there is for the improvement of our inland waterways. The Mississippi river, with the Missouri on the one hand and the Arkansas on the other, would seem to offer a great natural means of interstate transportation and traffic. How far, if properly improved

the public domain, the area of the homestead has been enlarged from 160 to 220 acres has resulted most beneficially in the extension of the homestead and in the demonstration which has been made of the possibility, through a variation in the character and mode of culture, of raising crops which may be much more fruitful and productive than the best lands in a climate where the moisture comes from the clouds. Congress has created the fund to build the works 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 the importance of its employment, to construct the works.

No one can visit the far west and the country of arid and semi-arid lands without being struck by the fact that the most important methods of the conservation of our natural resources that the government has entered upon, it would appear that over 20 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 those which have been done have 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, and in many instances have taken up the public land under the projects, relying upon their own resources. The government has, in effect, a breach of faith and leaves them in a most distressed condition. It is the duty of the government to see that the means to lift them out of the very desperate condition in which they now are.

**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 advantage and to prevent the investment of the necessary capital. Hence, it may be necessary by laws that are really only expedient to determine from their practical operation what is the best method of securing the result aimed at.

**Public Land Along Streams.** With respect to the public land along the streams, there is an opportunity to convert water power into transmissible electricity, another important phase of the public land problem. There are valuable water power sites through all the public land states. The opinion is held that the transfer of government property from the federal government to the territorial governments as they become states, included the water power in the rivers extending so far as that owned by riparian proprietors. I do not think it necessary to go into discussion of this somewhat moot question of title, but it is 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 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 the site for the construction of the dam and converted and securing a right of way thereover for transmission lines. Under the present condition, 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 has progressed so far that it is no longer a problem, 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 domain already granted, many water power sites have been reserved for the government, and many of these sites are now being developed by private individuals. It is the duty of the government to see that these sites are conserved for the benefit of the people and for the benefit of the future generations.

**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 that may be practicable. The important feature of the forest reserves cannot be exaggerated. The possibility of a scientific treatment of forests so that they shall be made to yield a large return in the future is being demonstrated in other countries, and we should work toward the standard set by them as far as their methods are applicable to our conditions.

**Italian Zoologists Have a Puzzle to Solve.** Italian zoologists have a puzzle to solve, owing to the discovery on Mount Blanc of the body of a white bear, which has been brought to Aosta. It was thought at first that the bear must have died some three hundred years ago, and must have been preserved by the ice, since it has always been held that white bears vanished from the Alps three centuries ago. But it has since been demonstrated that death could only have taken place a few days previous to discovery. At this would seem to show that there are still white bears in the Alps, expeditions are to be sent to test the theory.

**Adam's Excuse.** His wife—"This paper says that a man's hair turns gray five years earlier than a woman's does. Her husband—if it does I'll bet a woman is the cause of it."

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**Carver of Figureheads.** William Southworth, the city's oldest wood carver, died the other day at the age of 83 years. He estimated only a short time before his death that he had made carvings for more than 500 vessels. His principal work was the carving of figureheads for vessels, this being a lucrative and important occupation at one time, until the rise of commercialism blotted out the poetic significance of these models.—Bath Correspondence of *Lowiston (Me.) Journal*

they would relieve the railroads or supplement them in respect to the bulkier and cheaper commodities is a matter of course. No one ought to be undertaken the cost of which is not definitely ascertained and the benefit and advantage of which are known to the assured by competent engineers and other authority. When, however, a project of a definite character for the improvement of the inland waterways is undertaken 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 Pittsburgh 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 six are under construction. The cost of the project is estimated at \$25,000,000.

It seems to me that in the development of our inland waterways, it is particularly wise to take 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 continuing contracts to complete this improvement, and I shall recommend in the future, if it is necessary, that bonds be issued to carry it through.

**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 insures that 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 streams 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 of Europe, for instance, France and England, and it is also certain that the existence of such methods of traffic materially affects the rates of shipping by sea.

**The New Butler.** Mr. Stubb—I am so glad we can afford to keep that new butler, John. He has been employed by the first families of the town and is a regular well of information.

**When She Really "Arrives."** Mr. Stubb—Yes, Maria, but you'll find him a dry well.

**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.

**His "Penitentiary Den."** "And now I must show you what I call my penitentiary 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.'"

**Hot Stuff.** "Owing to numerous social affairs arranged in her honor, Mrs. Clarissa Mays Johnson, who has spent the past month in Bunktown, will prolong her visit to that beautiful city for some weeks."

**Very Probably.** "Was it a heated debate you attended?"

**It Gets There.** Manager—Why do you call this play "Dust?"

**Just Gossip.** "Mrs. Tewksley says she would like to join an aero club."

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## GATHERED SMILES

**NEEDED THE KNIFE.** Speaking of table etiquette some time ago, Gen. E. Burd Grubb told a story about a man who was justified in eating pie with a knife. Smith was standing in a hotel lobby one day, according to the general, talking to Jones, when the conversation turned to a dinner that had been given at the home of a mutual acquaintance named Brown.

**Reason Enough.** Mrs. Newlywed (weeping)—Henry, I am sure I have grounds for divorce. I am positive that you have deceived me.

**The Fly in the Amber.** "That man Grindle is a wonderfully interesting fellow. He has traveled so much and so far, and he is so highly cultured that it is always a pleasure to listen to him."

**Queer Language.** And when the fisher leaves the pool and gladsly home doth he, we get some il-kely stories with the accent on the lie.

**Down on the Farm.** New Arrival—What time do the summer boarders begin to thin out down here?

**Walters have the Palms.** "I'm sure I don't know why they call this hotel The Palms. Do you? I've never seen a palm anywhere near the place."

**Rather Strenuous.** Mr. Cassidy—Aunt will you listen to this, Nora? A Baltimore man golden his wife so tightly on the wedding that he broke two av her ribs.

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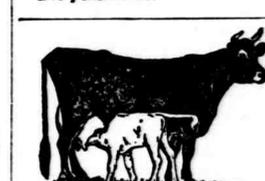
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## CHICAGO MERCHANT MAKES STATEMENT.

After Spending Thousands of Dollars and Consulting the Most Eminent Physicians, He Was Desperate. CHICAGO, ILLS.—Mr. J. G. Becker, of 134 Van Buren St., a well-known wholesale dry goods dealer, states as follows: "I have had catarrh for more than thirty years. Have tried everything on earth and spent thousands of dollars for other medicines and with physicians, without getting any lasting relief, and can say to you that I have found Peruna the only remedy that has cured me permanently. Peruna has also cured my wife of catarrh. She always keeps it in the house for an attack of cold, which it invariably cures in a very short time."



**KOW-KURE** is not a "food"—it is a medicine, and the only medicine in the world for cows only. Made for the cow and, as its name indicates, a cow cure. Barrenness, retained after-birth, abortion, scours, caked udder, and all similar affections positively and quickly cured. No one who keeps cows, whether many or few, can afford to be without KOW-KURE. It is made especially to keep cows healthy. Our book "Cow Honey" sent FREE. Ask your local dealer for KOW-KURE or send to the manufacturers, DAIRY ASSOCIATION CO., Lyndonville, Vt.

## Nebraska Directory

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## JOHN DEERE PLOWS

2-lb. Red Cans. Paxton's Gas Roasted Coffee. Paxton's Gas Roasted Coffee. Paxton's Gas Roasted Coffee.

## Per lb. 25c

2-lb. Air-tight Sealed Cans. Positively the highest value you can get anywhere for the money. You know you are always getting the same when you buy PAXTON'S Gas Roasted in red sealed cans.

## Ask Your Grocer for It

## MILLARD HOTEL

OMAHA Take Dodge Street Car at Union Depot. ROME MILLER TYPEWRITERS ALL MAKES. TAFT'S DENTAL ROOMS (1517 Douglas St., OMAHA, NEB. Reliable Dentistry at Moderate Prices.

## Birds & Animals OF ALL KINDS Mounted

J. E. WALLACE, Taxidermist and Furrier 920 Lake Street OMAHA, NEB.

## DEFIANCE STARCH

Save the Baby—Use PISO'S CURE THE BEST REMEDY FOR COLIC & CHOLERA

Should be given at once when the little one coughs. It kills the lice that breed and protects the lungs from infection—guaranteed safe and very palatable. All Druggists, 25 cents.

## CHASE GAME IN MOTOR CARS

New Sport That Is Said to Be Popular Among Hunters in Western Kansas.

Automobiles are revolutionizing methods of hunting wild game in western Kansas. A wolf hunt under the new plan is most exciting. One runs the automobile and another does the shooting. A machine can run miles and miles on the open prairie of the west without coming in contact with a fence or a creek. When a wolf or coyote is scared up the automobile takes after him. A wolf runs in an easy circle. He doesn't dodge back and forth. So it is comparatively easy for the driver to keep right behind him. But the automobile must have great speed.

When hunters used to chase coyotes on horses and with dogs there was never a record of where they drove the coyotes to their dens. But it is different with automobiles. Coyotes run until they are about to be taken in and then make for their dens. In order to "smoke them out" the driver attaches a rubber tube to the gas tank of his car and runs the hose down the hole. That soon brings the coyote out, and the race is resumed until the animal is bagged.—Chicago News.

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