

LANE FAVORS CONSERVATION

Present Policy, He Says, Has Effect of Preventing Monopoly.

IT ALSO STOPS DEVELOPMENT

Secretary of Interior Advocates Broader Scheme that Will Encourage Enterprise and Improvement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—With bold strokes Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, today outlined in his annual report to the president a broad policy in the conservation of the vast natural resources of the United States which yet lie within the regulatory powers of the government, and pointed to the important results that may be achieved through the development of these resources under proper supervision.

Comparatively, the report is brief. It likewise is wholly unique, in that it contains not a single recommendation. Suggestions for action, which Secretary Lane observes emphatically is what the country desires and needs, are numerous; but he prefers to propose general policies to the making of flat recommendations. Two notable and interesting predictions are indicated rather than made in the report. One is that the time is not far distant when coal of too low a grade "to stand storage or transportation will be converted into electricity at the mouth of the mines and widely distributed for heating, heat and power"; the other, that the gigantic force now wasting itself in the rivers of the country will be so controlled by dams as to provide heat, light and power to the people and that "within a generation I believe the people will be as alive to the value of public ownership of hydro-electric power plants as they are today to municipally-owned water works."

Question of General Policy. In the opening lines of the report Secretary Lane takes up a serious situation which obtains in a great section of the country.

"There exists a feeling in the west," says he, "that its affairs and needs have not been given that consideration at the hands of the national government which it merits. This feeling is not confined to speculators or exploiters. It is the sentiment of many who are without selfish motive and regard the matter wholly from the standpoint of national growth."

There is one very simple explanation for the existence of this feeling. We have adventured upon a new policy of administering our affairs and have not developed adequate machinery. We have called a halt on methods of application which existed, to the great benefit of many, but we have failed to substitute methods, sane, healthful and progressive, by which the normal enterprise of an ambitious people can make full use of their own resources. We abruptly closed opportunities to the monopolist, but did not open them to the developer."

Criticism of Land Policy. The land policy put into force, he says, "caused dismay and discontent. The congress had been most generous in its disposition of the public lands. They were given to the railroads and to the states. To classify them was too difficult a task. They would classify themselves when they arrived in individual ownership. And so the door was opened for monopoly and for fraud."

If the government did not appreciate the invaluable nature of its assets there were men who did. The nation wanted home makers, but found its lands drifting into the hands of corporations, which were withdrawing them from the market. A reaction was inevitable. If lands were to be withdrawn from public service, why might not the government do the withdrawing itself?"

A new policy was evolved, the secretary points out—that of using the land for the purpose to which it is best fitted. "To this policy," he says, "I believe the west is now reconciled. The west no longer urges a return to the hazards of the 'land is land' policy. But it does ask action. Already the congress has recognized the appositeness of this policy, but it is for yourself and congress further to extend this thought into our legislation."

Future of Alaska.

The largest body of unused and neglected land in the United States is Alaska. In the forty-six years intervening since its purchase, "we have given it little more than the most casual concern, yet its mines, fisheries and furs alone have added to our wealth the grand sum of \$600,000,000. For almost a generation it was the rich harvest field of a single company. Individual fortunes have been made in that country larger than the price paid to Russia for the whole territory. It has been estimated that there are 50,000,000 acres of this land that will make homes for a people as sturdy as those of New England. Whether this is so or not, it would appear that Alaska can be made self-sustaining agriculturally."

"This vast and unexplored asset lies almost undeveloped. A territory one-fifth the size of the United States, contains less than 1,000 miles of anything that can be called a wagon road."

This "unfortunate condition," in Secretary Lane's judgment, is not due to "the inhospitality of the Alaska climate," because "some of southeastern Alaska has a climate more temperate and more equable than that of the city of Washington, while much of the greater portion of the north has a kinder climate than Stockholm or St. Petersburg. There is more railroad building 500 miles north of the Canadian border than there is for the same distance south of it."

Why has not this land been developed? The frank answer is that we did not realize until within a few years that it was worth developing. As soon as we discovered its value as a national asset we became alarmed and drew back, frightened at the thought that we might lose it or at least that it would become the property of those who would exploit it without respect to the public interest.

"We have withdrawn Alaska from the too aggressive and self-serving exploiters. What have we to substitute as a safer servant of public interest? To this question I have given much thought, and my conclusion is that if we are to bring Alaska into the early and full realization of its possibilities we must create a new piece of governmental machinery for the purpose. We should undertake the work in the spirit and after the method of a great corporation which is judged the way to deal with the problem of Alaskan resources is to establish a board of directors to have this work in charge. Into the hands of this board or commission I would give all the national assets in that territory, to be used primarily for its improvement—its lands, fisheries, Indians, Eskimos, seals, forests, mines, waterways, railroads—all that the nation owns, cares for, controls or regulates. Congress should determine in broad outline the policies which this board in a liberal discretion should elaborate and administer, much as is done as to the Philippines. This board would, of course, have nothing whatsoever to do with the internal affairs of the organized territory of Alaska, for it would exercise no powers save such as congress granted over the property of the United States in Alaska."

Purpose of the Plan. In concluding his reasons for the creation of such conservation machinery for Alaska, Secretary Lane says: "In short, I would construct the administrative machinery that would most surely lead to a prompt and continuous development of Alaska as a part of the United States upon a plane commensurate with its possibilities, industrially, agriculturally and socially."

Alaska should not, in my judgment, be regarded as a mere storehouse of resources upon which the people of the states may draw. It has the potentialities of a state. And whatever policy may be adopted should look toward an Alaska of homes, of industries, and of an extended commerce.

"Strongly as I would urge this method of management—for it offers a rare opportunity to exhibit the efficiency of a republic—I would not have Alaska wait for needed legislation until the merits of such a plan could be passed upon by congress. Those things which appeal to me as of immediate necessity upon which independent action may be taken are (1) the construction of railroads in the territory and (2) the opening of its coal lands."

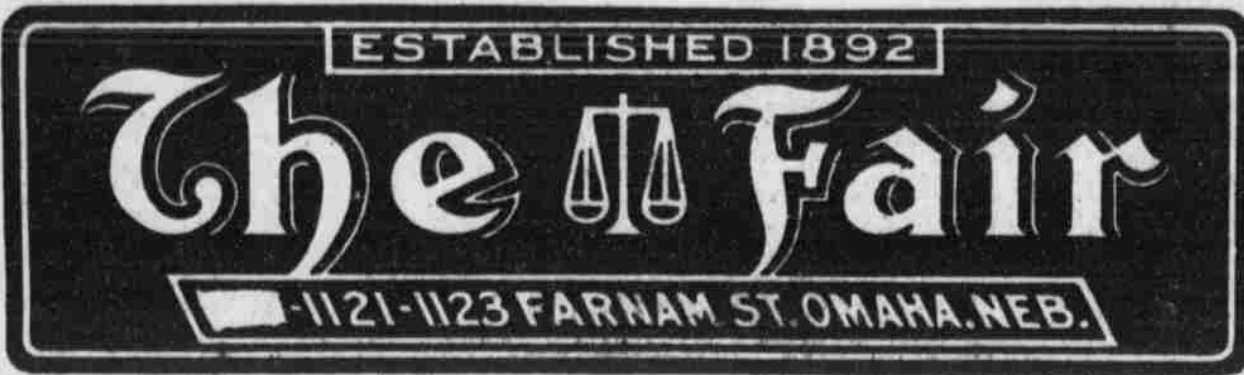
Secretary Lane expresses the opinion that privately owned railroads would not be constructed in Alaska for many years, except as adjuncts to private enterprises.



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A SALE OF ODDS AND ENDS AFTER A MOST SUCCESSFUL AND PROSPEROUS YEAR OF BUSINESS. A SALE FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, BEGINNING AT 8:30 A. M. WONDERFUL BARGAINS IN MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S WEAR; USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL GIFTS CAN BE PURCHASED HERE AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES. COME TO S. E. CORNER 12TH AND FARNAM ST.; IT IS ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE HIGH PRICE DISTRICT, WHERE, ON ACCOUNT OF THE ENORMOUS RENT AND OTHER EXPENSES YOU ARE OBLIGED TO PAY DEAR FOR WHAT YOU BUY.

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plotter. What have we to substitute as a safer servant of public interest? To this question I have given much thought, and my conclusion is that if we are to bring Alaska into the early and full realization of its possibilities we must create a new piece of governmental machinery for the purpose. We should undertake the work in the spirit and after the method of a great corporation which is judged the way to deal with the problem of Alaskan resources is to establish a board of directors to have this work in charge. Into the hands of this board or commission I would give all the national assets in that territory, to be used primarily for its improvement—its lands, fisheries, Indians, Eskimos, seals, forests, mines, waterways, railroads—all that the nation owns, cares for, controls or regulates. Congress should determine in broad outline the policies which this board in a liberal discretion should elaborate and administer, much as is done as to the Philippines. This board would, of course, have nothing whatsoever to do with the internal affairs of the organized territory of Alaska, for it would exercise no powers save such as congress granted over the property of the United States in Alaska."

He regards it wise, therefore, for the government to undertake their building. Government to Build Roads. The rates and service of such railroads should be fixed with reference to Alaskan development—not with regard to immediate returns. The charges fixed should be lower for years to come than would justify private investment. Alaskan railroads are to be built, he says, "to create a commonwealth. If this is our task, it should be done wholeheartedly and with a consciousness that the dollar spent today on an Alaskan railroad will yield no more immediate return on the investment than the dollar spent on the Panama canal."

Such railroads as may be constructed by individuals as feeders or tap lines of the government roads should be "under governmental supervision, capitalized and operated under the strictest regulation and be at any time subject to purchase by the government." Discussing the coal resources of Alaska, Secretary Lane declares the fields "should be opened not to speculators, but to operators. Those should have these lands who will use them. None should be opened as a basis for a gamble in future values." In his judgment they may be turned over safely to the public "under a leasing and royalty system similar to that under which the state of Minnesota leases its ore lands and the states of Montana and Colorado their coal lands." He adds that the money received might be used in the development of the country and that a large body of coal land in each field be reserved for the navy in time of need.

Coal and Its Substitutes. Vigorous suggestions looking to the conservative development of the coal lands of the west are made by Secretary Lane. "It is certainly not for the public interest," the report says, "that our coal deposits shall be opened rapidly and recklessly. I can not feel, however, that we should sacrifice any present need for fuel or willingly surrender ourselves to a demand for exorbitant prices because of fear that some day the coal supply may be exhausted. Already there has been developed a substitute for coal in the flowing stream. The turbine converts melted snow into heat and light, which can be distributed over a constantly widening area. I think we have now arrived at that point in scientific achievement which justifies the belief that the wheels of industry will not cease, nor our houses go unlighted or unheated, so long as dams may be built upon our streams. Water will be, indeed already is, the greatest conservator of

coal. We must seek to make use of our coal, the fullest use that efficiency requires. This principle seems a truism. But here lies the difficulty. We wish cheap coal, and at the same time, a minimum of waste. We wish society to take the lion's share of the profit and yield no more to the operator than will make his work sufficiently attractive to keep him at it. In short, we desire competition without waste, a frank impossibility. "Other countries have wrestled with this problem. Some have gone into government operation. But those who are nearest to us in institutions and tendencies have found that in a new country where there must be large development and higher rewards for enterprise, the safest practicable method is to lease the land, the government taking a modest royalty and retaining some measure of control over operation."

Government Should Own. Similar suggestions are offered as to the development of petroleum, phosphate and potash. Secretary Lane's idea is that such deposits ought to be developed under the leasing system, as in the case of coal, the government reserving necessary supplies. As to oil, he says: "We should, I believe, stimulate the search for oil and protect the prospector. I feel that we are not sufficiently rewarding the pioneer. A plan could readily be evolved by which anyone wishing to prospect for oil on the public lands could obtain a license from the government exclusively to prospect a large tract of land for a period of time—perhaps two years—and in the event that oil is found in commercial quantities the government should be paid a royalty fixed in advance. "The United States will need oil for its navy as well as coal, and probably in increasing quantities as the modern oil-burning or gas-burning engines are recognized. It would be economical to substitute oil for coal for many reasons; to reduce labor cost, to avoid the building and maintenance of colliers and the purchase and support of coaling stations. England's adventure in this direction will presumably force other nations into like enterprise, and yet England has no oil fields on which to draw, while we have already the largest producing oil fields in the world, and others are appearing. Under these conditions it would seem of the highest expediency that the government make such offers as will induce the opening of our lands, and of these proved lands, a sufficient to make our ships independent of the world and as fully competent as their rivals." Secretary Lane expresses frankly his dissatisfaction with the operation of the

homestead law as to the timber lands. He says the "homesteader," after getting patent to the land, promptly sells it for \$10,000 or \$20,000 to some lumber company, without making an effort to comply with the spirit of the law. "Thus the government loses the timber and the land does not gain a real home maker. Such homesteaders add nothing to the wealth of the nation. The law should punish them, in fact, as frauds. There is a remedy for this condition of things, and it lies in the selling of the land and the timber separately."

Much attention is devoted in the report to consideration of the reclamation of arid lands. Discussion of the subject is replete with interest to the farmers who locate on the various projects. Secretary Lane suggests that they be given a longer time than ten years in which to pay for their lands, because "they are genuine pioneers in a new field of work, on the success of which depends greatly the reclamation of a vast territory." Of these reclamation projects, Secretary Lane says: "The west can use profitably and wisely \$100,000,000 in the next ten years to the advantage of the whole country. If the government will place upon a leasing basis these western resources with which we have been dealing, it can have an increased fund for the continuance of this work and an increased assurance of the return of its advances."

In conclusion, Secretary Lane directs attention to the enormous details, all important, which the interior department administers, including care of the Indians and Eskimos, administration of national parks, payment of pensions, supervision of public lands, territories and many other important works.

Sick Headache. Sick headache is nearly always caused by disorders of the stomach. Correct them and the periodic attacks of sick headache will disappear. Mrs. John Bishop of Roseville, Ohio, writes: "About a year ago I was troubled with indigestion and had sick headache that lasted for two or three days at a time. I doctored and tried a number of remedies, but nothing helped me until, during one of those sick spells, a friend advised me to take Chamberlain's Tablets. This medicine relieved me in a short time." For sale by all dealers.—Advertisement.

Queen of Montenegro Ill. RICH, Switzerland, Dec. 23.—Queen Helena of Montenegro, mother of Queen Elena of Italy, is understood to be dangerously ill in the capital of the little Balkan kingdom. Dr. A. Ganhart of this

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