

PRESIDENT SENDS STRONG MESSAGE

ACCOMPANYING REPORTS OF THE CONSERVATION CONGRESS

URGES NEEDED LEGISLATION

Document in a Measure Is a Defense of the Retiring Administration—Duty of the Present Generation to Its Descendants Pointed Out—Obligations of Citizenship—Urgent Need for the Development of the Country's Water Power.

Washington.—With the transmission of the report of the national conservation commission and accompanying papers, President Roosevelt also sent a message to congress. The following is a comprehensive synopsis of the document: The president declares his entire concurrence with the statements and conclusions of the report and proceeds: "It is one of the most fundamentally important documents ever laid before the American people. It contains the first inventory of its natural resources ever made by any nation. In condensed form it presents a statement of our available capital in material resources, which are the means of progress, and calls attention to the essential conditions upon which the perpetuity, safety and welfare of this nation now rest and must always continue to rest.

"The facts set forth in this report constitute an imperative call to action. The situation they disclose demands that we,



President Roosevelt.

neglecting for a time, if need be, smaller and less vital questions, shall concentrate an effective part of our attention upon the great material foundations of national existence, progress, and prosperity.

"The first of all considerations is the permanent welfare of our people; and true moral welfare, the highest form of welfare, can not permanently exist save on a firm and lasting foundation of material well-being. In this respect our situation is far from satisfactory. After every possible allowance has been made, and when every hopeful indication has been given its full weight, the facts still give reason for grave concern. It would be unworthy of our history and our intelligence, and disastrous to our future, to shut our eyes to these facts, or attempt to laugh them out of court. The people should and will rightly demand that the great fundamental questions shall be given attention by their representatives. I do not advise hasty or ill-considered action on disputed points, but I do urge, where the facts are known, where the public interest is clear, that neither indifference and inertia, nor adverse private interests, shall be allowed to stand in the way of the public good. The great basic facts are already well known. We know that our population is now adding about one-fifth to its numbers in ten years, and that by the middle of the present century perhaps 150,000,000 Americans, and by its end very many millions more, must be clothed and fed from the products of our soil.

"We know now that our rivers can and should be made to serve our people effectively in transportation, but that the vast expenditures for our waterways have not resulted in maintaining, much less in promoting, inland navigation. Therefore, let us take immediate steps to ascertain the reasons and to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan for inland-waterway navigation that will result in giving the people the benefits for which they have paid but which they have not yet received. We know now that our forests are fast disappearing, that less than one-fifth of them are being conserved, and that no good purpose can be met by failing to provide the relatively small sums needed for the protection, use, and improvement of all forests still owned by the government, and to enact laws to check the wasteful destruction of the forests in private hands.

"We know now that our mineral resources once achieved are gone forever, and that the needless waste of them costs us hundreds of human lives and nearly \$300,000,000 a year. Therefore, let us undertake without delay the investigations necessary before our people will be in position, through state action or otherwise, to put an end to this huge loss and waste, and conserve both our mineral resources and the lives of the men who take them from the earth.

"This administration has achieved some things; it has sought, but has not been able, to achieve, others; it has doubtless made mistakes; but all it has done or attempted has been in the single, consistent effort to secure and enlarge the rights and opportunities of the men and women of the United States. We are trying to conserve what is good in our social system, and we are striving toward this end when we endeavor to do away with what is bad. Success may be made too hard for some if it is made too easy for others. The rewards of common industry and thrift may be too small if the rewards for others, and on the whole less valuable, qualities, are made too large, and especially if the rewards for qualities which are really, from the public standpoint, undesirable, are permitted to become too large. Our aim is so far as possible to provide such conditions that there shall be equality of opportunity where there is equality of energy, fidelity and intelligence; when there is a reason-

able equality of opportunity the distribution of rewards will take care of itself.

"The unchecked existence of monopoly is incompatible with equality of opportunity. The reason for the exercise of government control over great monopolies is to equalize opportunity. We are fighting against privilege. It was made unlawful for corporations to contribute money for election expenses in order to abridge the power of special privilege at the polls. Railroad rate control is an attempt to secure an equality of opportunity for all men affected by rail transportation; and that means all of us. The great anthracite coal strike was settled, and the pressing danger of a coal famine averted, because we recognized that the control of a public necessity involves a duty to the people, and that public intervention in the affairs of a public service corporation is neither to be resented as usurpation nor permitted as a privilege by the corporations, but on the contrary to be accepted as a duty and exercised as a right by the government in the interest of all the people. The efficiency of the army and the navy has been increased so that our people may follow in peace the great work of making this country a better place for Americans to live in, and our navy was sent round the world for the same ultimate purpose. All the acts taken by the government during the past seven years, and all the policies now being pursued by the Government, fit in as parts of a consistent whole.

"The enactment of a pure food law was a recognition of the fact that the public welfare outweighs the right to private gain, and that no man may poison the people for his private profit. The employers' liability bill recognized the controlling fact that while the employer usually has at stake no more than his profit, the stake of the employe is a living for himself and his family.

"We are building the Panama canal; and this means that we are engaged in the giant engineering feat of all time. We are striving to add in all ways to the habitability and beauty of our country. We are striving to hold in the public lands the remaining supply of unappropriated coal, for the protection and benefit of all the people. We have taken the first steps toward the conservation of our natural resources, and the betterment of our country life, and the improvement of our waterways. We stand for the right of every child to a childhood free from grinding toil, and to an education for the civic responsibility and decency of every citizen; for prudent foresight in public matters, and for fair play in every relation of our national and economic life. In international matters we urge a system of diplomacy which puts the obligations of international morality on a level with those that govern the actions of an honest gentleman in dealing with his fellow-men. Within our own border we stand for truth and honesty in public and in private life; and we war sternly against wrongdoers of every grade. All these efforts are integral parts of the same attempt, the attempt to enthrone justice and righteousness, to promote the freedom of opportunity to all of our citizens, now and hereafter, and to set the ultimate interest of all of us above the temporary interest of any individual, class, or group.

"The nation, its government, and its resources exist, first of all, for the American citizen, whatever his creed, race, or birthplace, whether he be rich or poor, educated or ignorant, provided only that he is a good citizen, recognizing his obligations to the nation, and the rights and opportunities which he owes to the nation.

"The obligations, and not the rights, of citizenship increase in proportion to the increase of a man's wealth or power. The time is coming when a man will be judged, not by what he has accumulated in getting for himself from the common store, but by how well he has done his duty as a citizen, and by what the ordinary citizen has gained in freedom of opportunity because of his service for the common good. The highest value we know is that of the individual citizen, and the highest justice is to give him fair play in the effort to realize the best there is in him.

"The tasks this nation has to do are great tasks. They can only be done at all by our citizens acting together, and they can be done best of all by the direct and simple application of homely common sense. The application of common sense to common problems for the common good, under the guidance of the principles upon which this republic was based, and by virtue of which it exists, spells perpetuity for the nation, civil and industrial liberty for its citizens, and freedom of opportunity in the pursuit of happiness for the plain American, for whom this nation was founded, by whom it was preserved, and through whom alone it can be perpetuated. Let the parties—larger than any party differences—higher than any class prejudice, broader than any question of profit and loss—there is room for every American who realizes that the common good stands first.

"Accompanying this message are explanations and recommendations of work to be done for the future good of the country. The president says: "It is especially important that the development of water power should be guarded with the utmost care both by the national government and by the states in order to protect the people against the upgrowth of monopoly and to insure to them a fair share in the benefits which will follow the development of this great asset which belongs to the people and should be controlled by them.

"I urge that provision be made for both protection and more rapid development of the national forests. Otherwise, either the increasing use of these forests by the people must be checked or their protection against fire must be dangerously weakened. If we compare the actual fire damage on similar areas on private and national forest lands during the past year, the government fire patrol saved commercial timber worth as much as the total cost of caring for all national forests at the present rate for about ten years.

"I especially commend to congress the facts presented by the commission as to the relation between forests and stream flow in its bearing upon the importance of the forest lands in national ownership. Without a better understanding of this ultimate relation the conservation of both these natural resources must largely fail.

"The time has fully arrived for recognizing in the law the responsibility to the community, the state, and the nation which rests upon the private ownership of forest lands. The ownership of forest land is a public trust. The man who would handle his forest as to cause erosion and to injure stream flow must be not only educated, but he must be controlled."

In conclusion the president urges upon congress the desirability of maintaining a national commission on the conservation of the resources of the country. He adds: "I would also advise that an appropriation of at least \$50,000 be made to cover the expenses of the national conservation commission for necessary rent, assistance and traveling expenses. This is a very small sum. I know of no other way in which the appropriation of so small a sum would result in so large a benefit to the whole nation."

ALASKA'S GREAT EXPOSITION



VEGETABLES GROWN AT COLDFOOT NORTH OF ARCTIC CIRCLE



VEGETABLES GROWN AT LORING

When Alaska years ago conceived the idea of an exposition in order that it might more perfectly reveal to the world in general and the United States in particular the wonderful resources and development of that far northern territory she realized the impracticability of holding such exposition upon her own soil. It was then that Seattle, Wash., stepped forward with the cordial invitation to make that city the scene of such a great fair. The invitation was accepted, plans have grown and developed and now the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exhibition is desperately busy erecting the splendid buildings and preparing the places where the extensive exhibits are to be placed. The cordial attitude of the Canadian government and the fact that South American republics will be splendidly represented make the international success of the fair certain. The way the far northwest people do things to a finish is well illustrated in the work on the exhibition grounds. Everything connected with this Pacific world's fair will be ready ahead of time. The first visitor on the ground will see the completed buildings—something never before accomplished in any pretentious national fair.

Alaska's work on this proposition will be tremendous in showing the enormous possibilities of this virgin country. Take the following from an information bureau's pamphlet:

Alaska will exhibit \$1,000,000 in virgin gold, dust, nuggets and brick at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exhibition.

The greatest salmon fisheries in the world are on Puget sound.

The value of the gold output of Alaska since the northern country was purchased by the United States is 15 times the amount of the purchase price.

A copper nugget weighing three tons will be exhibited by Alaska.

The fishing and fur industries have produced 25 times as much as was originally paid to Russia for the northern country.

More than 1,000,000 plants are now growing in the nursery gardens of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exhibition.

The first exhibit to be received on the grounds is 3,000 boxes of red apples, which will form a part of the Oregon state exhibit.

Fox farming for skins is the latest industry to be developed in Alaska.

There are as many churches in Alaska, according to population, as in any section of the United States.

All of the countries bordering on the Pacific ocean are now actively engaged in preparing exhibits, and the reports that have been received by the management are highly satisfactory. Fine sites have been held for the use of Japan and China, and the Oriental display will be one of the big features of the 1909 world's fair. The Japanese government has shown a very friendly interest, and assurances have been received by the Seattle-Japanese association from high officials of the government that Japan will be well represented.

The association recently sent a request to the government of Japan that some of the ships of the Japanese navy be stationed in Seattle harbor during the exhibition period. Assurances have been received that this will be done, and it is expected that at least two of the battleships will be ordered to Seattle early in June to anchor in the harbor with the Pacific fleet of the United States navy, which will be stationed at Seattle during the entire time of the fair.

This is the first world's fair to be held for the purpose of exploiting the countries of the Pacific ocean, and every country whose shores are washed by the Pacific ocean is a partner in the great enterprise. The tour around the world of the Atlantic fleet of the United States navy has attracted attention to the Pacific from every country on the globe, and it is the purpose of the management to show the conditions, natural resources and commercial importance of every country bordering on the Pacific.

Probably the most unique farm in the world is located on Hound Island, Alaska, where Harry Pride, a well-

known Alaskan, is engaged in the cultivation of foxes. Mr. Pride has established his fox farm on scientific lines and breeds only the variety of fox that produces the most valuable fur. Most of the stock on his farm now is of the silver tip and silver gray varieties.

"A fox skin depends largely upon its shade and coloring," says Mr. Pride, "and by scientific breeding I expect to produce only the very best furs. An ordinary fox-skin is frequently worth no more than 50 cents, while the silver gray variety frequently sells for \$600 to \$800 per skin, and has been known to bring as high as \$1,000.

"The fox is a very intelligent animal, and is easily tamed. They can be even taught to perform, but this takes considerable time and patience. Some of the animals on Hound Island have become so tame that they will eat out of a plate held in the hand.

"It is very rarely that hunters and trappers have ever taken any large number of foxes alive, and I propose to have a fine exhibit from my farm at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition. I believe it will be the first exhibit of live foxes of the silver tip and silver gray species ever shown.

"As my experiments advance I am more than ever convinced that fox breeding will become one of the most valuable industries of the north. The animals breed very rapidly and with proper care a fox farm should pay large returns."

"It will unquestionably be the most beautiful exposition ever held in the world, and the remarkable progress you have made so far ahead of the opening date amazes me," said Charles Dana Gibson, the creator of the "Gibson Girl." After a trip over the grounds where the west is building the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition, which will be held in Seattle from June 1 to October 16, 1909.

"I have made no particular hobby of expositions," continued Mr. Gibson, "but I have been to all those held in recent years, and from what you have already here, combined with the lavish manner in which nature has done her share for you, I think I am safe in saying that this will be the most attractive one ever held. I had no intention when I left New York of coming to this country again for some years, but I will be back here next June to see your fair. I wouldn't miss the completed picture for anything."

Curiosity of Men.

"Before I got this job," said the drug clerk, "I shared with the rest of the human race the belief that woman's curiosity is to man's curiosity as 100 is to one. Now I have reversed the ratio. The behavior of the sexes when telephoning has convinced me of my former injustice. Very often a man accompanied by a woman stops here to telephone, or maybe it is the woman who wishes to talk over the wire. If it is the man who talks, the woman, apparently unconcerned as to what he has to say, sits quietly at the far end of the store and lets him talk as long as he pleases; but if the woman talks, the man hangs around the booth, holding the door half open and popping his head inside the booth every few seconds. Now, I call that a complete refutation of popular opinion. You can explain the situation any way you like. I don't know anything about the cause of the phenomenon; it is the phenomenon itself that interests me."

New Meanings from Girls.

Girls in a fashionable seminary not a hundred miles from Fifth avenue, in examination papers, recently turned out a new batch of delightful definitions. It is evident from their answers that several of them, while they may not be trained thinkers, have more or less logical processes of thought. One defined "red tape" as "the inability of any one holding a political position to do anything necessary without special orders," showing she had read her "Little Dorrit" to advantage, to say nothing of "Bleak House." Another girl, asked "Why goes a ship float the right way up?" replied, "Because if it did not the people in it would tumble out." One ingenious girl suggested "foxiet" as a noun for a young fox, which certainly is more specific than puppies. And a young person, evidently determined not to let herself be humbugged, said "B. Sc." meant "Bad science."—New York Press.

Trees of the City of Paris.

There are 85,840 trees in Paris, and each tree has its number, age, history and condition recorded in the books at the Hotel de Ville. The appropriation for this department is 450,000 francs a year. The work could not be done for any such sum had it not been so thoroughly done in the beginning in the reign of Napoleon III.—Technical World Magazine.

The Lost Button

By JAMES FRANCIS DWYER

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Somebody has defined crime as "the momentary victory of an hereditary craving over common sense." In the case of the two Gillfills, the same craving manifested itself in each man at the same moment. This was peculiar. The desire came upon each of the brothers to possess two blood horses belonging to a neighbor, and common sense was routed in the struggle to suppress the craving.

The Gillfills got the horses, and, incidentally, the sheriff got the Gillfills. A stern judge conducted the judicial inquiry, and, unable to see that the brothers were victims of a craving, handed down from a horse-loving ancestor, he sent them to Enlota penitentiary for seven years.

This was unfortunate. The younger Gillfill was consumptive, and Enlota's "Little Hell" was not an ideal health resort. Three months after sentence the boy was sent to the jail hospital, and became firmly imbued with the feeling that he would not recover his health. The sentence had smashed up the last ounce of vitality that was holding the fort against the disease, and the prisoner was sinking rapidly.

Now, prisoners in jail hospital receive no tobacco. Whether the prison medico believes that the brand supplied to the numbered inmates is a compound that can only be safely consumed by the physically strong is not known, but the woe supply allowed to a prisoner on the "works" is immediately cut off if he is taken to the hospital. The death of tobacco affected the consumptive Gillfill. He craved a "chew," and in distress he acquainted the brother of his craving by what is in jail parlance known as a "stiff." With a pin the sick man scratched his wants on the loose leaf of a hymn book, and in due time the pitiful note, after passing through the hands of a dozen prisoners, reached



Ripped a Button from His Striped Jacket.

the healthy brother, who was learning to manufacture boots in the prison workshop.

The elder Gillfill had deep pools of sentiment beneath a rough exterior. Furthermore, he took no heed of consequence. He pictured the sick brother, waiting tobaccoless in the dreary hospital, and he took a chance to supply him. The chance was a risky one. While passing the barred hospital yard he dexterously jerked a small cube of tobacco to the white-faced brother, who happened to be walking up and down inside, and he breathed a tremendous sigh of relief when he became certain that the warden in charge of the squad had not noticed the action. The elder Gillfill was not afraid of any punishment that might fall upon himself; he was afraid lest the morsel of tobacco would be taken away from the sick youth who craved the delicacy.

But Nemesis was galloping on the heels of the two Gillfills. Warden Bulstrode, looking down from his perch on the south tower, saw the movement, and Bulstrode was a conscientious officer. Five minutes after, the younger brother was stripped of the miserable gift, and the giver was dragged before the chief warden and sentenced to seven days' dark cell for a breach of prison discipline. In jail, charity is a virtue that is promptly smothered when the powers that be become aware of its existence.

It was the elder Gillfill's first introduction to the dark cell. When he was pushed into the windowless chamber, the horrible, intense, suffocating darkness closed in upon him like a smothering pall. Blind and stupefied, he groped his way around the bare walls, the horror piercing him through and through like an icy sword. Afterwards he flung himself on the stone floor and lay like a man stunned by a terrific blow.

Some hours later he thought of the button. A medical student, who had once undergone a term of imprisonment at Enlota, had promulgated a

theory by which the mental agony produced by dark cell treatment could be considerably relieved. He advised all prisoner friends who might visit "The Doghole" to toss a button into the air, and while away the time by searching for it on hands and knees stood the value of little things, and he recognized the fact that a continuous hunt for a missing button would drag the mind away from the black abyss of insanity.

Gillfill, groping blindly in the darkness, remembered the advice. He ripped a button from his striped jacket and tossed it into the thick air. Listening intently he heard it fall in a far-away corner of the cell, and on hands and knees he started to search for it.

The sport fascinated him. When he discovered the metal disc he spun it up and again started in pursuit. The leaden hours rolled by slowly, but the game continued. Gillfill blessed the button. He began to feel a love for it. He called to it when it hid from him in the cracks between the cold stones, and he cried hysterically over it when he discovered it after a long search. It seemed alive. It became a companion to him in that horrible, black vault into which not one single ray of light came to pierce the darkness. It was on the evening of the sixth day that Nemesis clinched with Gillfill. The prisoner had, up to that moment, thrown the button up a thousand times and found it in each occasion by laboriously searching on hands and knees. But on the evening of the sixth day a peculiar incident happened.

The prisoner threw the button up into the blackness, but it did not come down again.

Gillfill waited with aching ears to hear the tinkle of the metal on the stone, but he heard no sound. The button didn't fall, and the silence that filled the cell as he stood listening, hurt him. He clenched his teeth to stifle a scream of terror that fear pushed to his lips. What was wrong?

The prisoner's trembling knees gave way under him and he sank to the floor. His hands moved out into the darkness and commenced to feel the stone flooring, but every nerve was taut.

On every other occasion when he had tossed up the button he had heard it fall distinctly, but he was certain that there was not the slightest sound after the last toss. Still, he would search.

The hot hands crept over the stones eagerly, feverishly. The fingers worked madly, but the bare floor mocked their search. There was no button. Again and again and again the prisoner searched. Through the cold hours of the night he crawled backwards and forwards till each joining between those tombstones of Hope seemed familiar to his blind fingers. But there was nothing on the floor. The button had not fallen after he had jerked it into the blackness.

Gillfill tried to think. Why had it not returned? he asked himself. What had happened to it? There was nothing above him but bare walls, and yet—! Where was it? Again and again he whispered the question of the thick black pall that seemed to heave around him. He asked it in a louder tone. He screamed it. Then something like a laugh came from one corner of that brain-destroying pit of horror, and Gillfill was panic stricken.

Imagination, contrary to the opinion of scientific experts, lies in the stomach, and the bread and water diet that Gillfill had been receiving was not sufficiently weighty to keep it down. The prisoner began to see things. The thick waves of curse-incrusted darkness welled up from the corners and smothered him. Invisible hands grasped his throat and strangled him. He kicked at the door leading into the dark corridor opening into the main wing, but Warden Tomlinson, of the night watch, was slightly deaf, and did not hear him. He raced around the cell with Terror—grasping, gibbering Terror—at his heels, and the stone vault echoed his wild screams of agony.

When Warden Dunworth opened the door on the morning of the seventh day to acquaint Gillfill of the fact that his term in dark cell was over, the hands of Terror had completed their work. The prisoner's face was battered beyond recognition where he had dashed against the walls in his mad race, and he shrieked wildly when the warden attempted to drag him into the light.

Eleven years afterwards, when an enlightened prison controller did away with the dark cells, the masons, tearing down the black vault at Enlota, found a jacket button securely fastened in a thick cobweb near the ceiling of the cell. But in the criminal ward of Enlota insane asylum a prisoner still spends his days and nights hunting for that button.

Marriage Licenses.

Marriage licenses are required in all states and territories except Alaska, New Jersey (if residents, otherwise required), New Mexico and South Carolina.