

# 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 discussion in a special message, as follows: In 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 preservation of our forests and the re-forestation of suitable areas, upon the restriction 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 1890 we had a public domain of 1,655,911,283 acres. We have now 721,254,081 acres, confined largely to the mountain ranges and the arid and semi-arid plains. We have, in addition, 306,035,915 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. Later on they were donated in large amounts in aid of the construction of wagon roads and railroads in order to open the country to the west then almost inaccessible. All the principal land statutes were enacted more than thirty years ago. The public domain, the homestead act, the pre-emption act, the reclamation act, the coal land and the mining acts were among these.

The rapid disbursement of 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 profane manner of disposition resulted in the passing of large areas of public lands 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 right to recover 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 natural 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 generalized form on this subject, 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 should be preserved from waste, monopoly, and other abuses, and the general public is in accord with this proposition, as they are with most truisms. The question now is how to save and how to utilize, how to conserve and still develop, for no sane person can contend 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 recent presidents have been the vigorous prosecution of land frauds and the bringing to public attention of the necessity for preserving the remaining public lands from further spoliation, for the maintenance and extension of our forest resources, and for the enactment of laws amending the obsolete statutes which have placed governmental control over that part of the public domain in which there are valuable deposits of coal, oil, and of phosphate. In addition thereto, 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, as has been the withdrawal of coal lands for classification and valuation and the temporary withholding of power sites. Since March 4, 1901, temporary withdrawals of power sites have been made on 132 streams and these withdrawals therefore cover 23 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 of the present day, and a sound judgment inducing to private capital to take them over for proper development with restrictive conditions. To 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 has been given by the secretary of the interior and the president to draw from the operation of existing statutes tracts of land, the disposition of which under such statutes would be detrimental to the public interests. It 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 present laws a matter 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 temporarily to withdraw lands pending 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 of confusion, fraud, and contention which has existed in the past 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 consent of the latter as may be required for the extraction of the deposits. The surface might be disposed of as 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 of a certain amount of development each year; and in order to prevent the use andcession of said lands with others of similar character so as to constitute a monopoly forbidden by law, the lease should contain suitable provision subjecting to forfeiture the right 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 constitute a monopoly for profit, and at the same time not frighten away the investment of the necessary 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, this will be a product which will probably attract the greed of monopolists. 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 territorial governments as they become states, included the right of 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 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 transmission lines, the plant by which the power is generated and converted and securing a right of way therefor and the right of way under these conditions, if the government owns the adjacent land—indeed, if the government is the riparian owner—it has control of 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 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 streams to a large extent will take the place of natural fuels. In the disposition of the domain already granted, water power now privately owned 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 union for purposes of monopoly with other water power sites, and 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 means for determining a reasonable graduated 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 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 and our farmers. The new soils, improve the old soils, drain wet soils, ditch swamp soils, levee river overflow soils, grow trees on thin soils, pasture landside soils, rotate crops on all soils, discover methods for cropping dry lands, 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. At 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 homesteads has been reduced from 160 to 80 acres has resulted most beneficially in the extension of "dry farming" and in the demonstration which has been made of the possibility of raising crops of the character and mode of culture, of raising substantial crops without the presence of such a supply of water as would be heretofore thought to be necessary for agriculture.

But there are millions of acres of completely arid land in the public domain and 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 creates 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 work and the passage of the reclamation act. The proceeds of the public lands creates 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 work and the passage of the reclamation act. The proceeds of the public lands creates 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 work and the passage of the reclamation act.

No one can visit the far west and the country of the establishment of reservoirs without being convinced that this is one of the most important methods of the conservation of our natural resources that can be undertaken, and that a few of these are likely to be unsuccessfull 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.

**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 the government is invited to take up, and in many instances, have taken up the public land within the projects, relying upon their present completion. The failure to complete the projects for their benefit is, in effect, a breach of faith and leaves them at a disadvantage. I urge that the nation ought to afford the means to lift them out of this very desperate condition in which they now are.

This condition does not indicate any excessive waste or any corruption on the part of the reclamation service. It only indicates that unless there be some way to extend the benefit of reclamation to as many acres and as many states as possible, I recommend that the authority be given to issue, not exceeding \$30,000,000 of bonds from time to time, as the secretary of the interior shall determine, for the purpose of proceeds to be applied to the completion of the projects already begun and their proper extension, and the bonds to be issued for the purpose of the reclamation fund, which returns, as the years go on, will increase rapidly in amount.

There is no doubt at all that if these bonds were to be allowed to run ten years, the government would be able to extend the benefit of reclamation to as many acres and as many states as possible. I recommend that the authority be given to issue, not exceeding \$30,000,000 of bonds from time to time, as the secretary of the interior shall determine, for the purpose of proceeds to be applied to the completion of the projects already begun and their proper extension, and the bonds to be issued for the purpose of the reclamation fund, which returns, as the years go on, will increase rapidly in amount.

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

That 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, which has given close attention to the problem of the disposal of these lands under such conditions as to invite the private capital necessary to their development, and the maintenance of the restriction necessary to prevent monopoly and abuse from absolute ownership on the other. These recommendations, which are 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 be promptly adopted, and that doubt as to the necessity of the secretary of the interior to withdraw lands for the purpose of submitting recommendations as to the 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 19,000,000 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 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 amount of lumber, and to produce a large supply of fuel, 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 people of the country from forest lands on watersheds and the promotion of the growth of trees in places that are now denuded and that once had great value for the people, without saying, the control to be exercised over private owners in their treatment of the forests which they own is a matter for state action. The secretary of the interior has proposed that 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. It 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 of a great 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 ascertainable, and the 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 the improvement would afford is probably 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, while the total required is 50. The remaining cost is known to be \$23,000,000. 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 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.

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 one foot. These projects have been pronounced practical by competent boards of army engineers, their cost has been estimated and there is no business which will follow the improvement.

As these improvements are being made, and the traffic encouraged by them shows 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 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 of freight. For reasons which I do not deem necessary here to state, congress has seen fit to order an investigation into the inland waterway system of the United States, the results of that investigation are not needed to determine the value of, and the necessity for, such improvements. I have recommended in respect to the public lands and in respect to reclamation, I earnestly urge that the measures be taken and disposed of promptly without awaiting the investigation which has been determined upon.

**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 in 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.

It is than that the woodpecker reaps the harvest his wisdom has provided, at a time when the ground being covered with snow, he would experience a difficulty otherwise in obtaining suitable or palatable food.

**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.'"

**Zoological Puzzle.** Italian zoologists have a puzzle to solve, owing to the discovery on Mount Blanc of the body of a white bear, played by the forests of Aosta. The puzzle is 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.

**Adopting a Lamb.** In case an ewe loses her lamb she should be made to adopt a twin, and this is often a difficult thing to do. One of the best methods is to strip the skin from the dead lamb while it is yet warm and place it over the body of the lamb that is to be adopted, tying it on by wrapping a light string about it many times. Then if this little orphan in another's clothing is placed with the mother, nine times out of ten she will adopt it without protest. As soon as the lamb has suckled two or three times the skin may be removed and no further difficulty will be experienced.

**Feed the Lambs.** The lambs that are to remain on the farm should not be forced so fast. They need plenty of food, but the grain ration should be small and no corn should be used. They should be given plenty of exercise and an abundance of good pasture when possible. Corn tends to fatten, and will produce uncertain breeders of short season. Wheat bran and oats are probably the safest food materials that can be used.

# BRONZE TURKEY RESULT OF SCIENTIFIC CROSS

Beautiful Rich Plumage and Its Size Comes from Wild Progenitor and to Maintain Qualities Crosses Are Made.



The Bronze Turkey.

The bronze turkey probably originated from the cross between the wild and the tame turkey. Its beautiful rich plumage and its size have come from its wild progenitor. To maintain these desirable qualities crosses are continually made. In this way the mammoth size has been gained. Their standard weight ranges from 16 to 36 pounds, according to age and sex. Probably more of this variety are grown each year than of all others. They have been pushed on all sides almost to the exclusion of the others until within a year or two. If possible the bronze turkey has developed too much in the direction of size. While size, within reasonable limits, is to be desired and encouraged, when it is confined to length of thigh and shank, it is a gain of weight with little additional value.

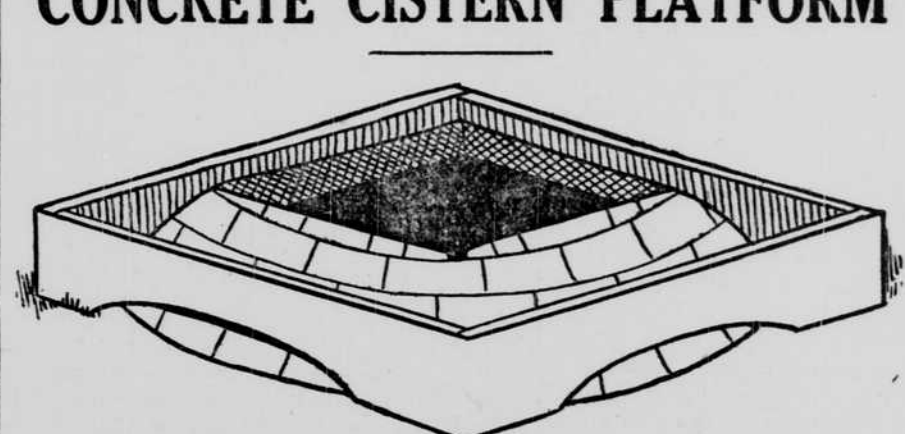
The coloring of this variety is a ground of black blueness or shaded with bronze. This shading is rich and glowing, and when the sun's rays are reflected from these colors they shine like polished steel. The female is not as rich in color as the male, but both have the same color and shadings. Much of this richness of color is lost through inbreeding, as it is improved by each cross with the wild specimens. Of all our domestic fowls none suffer from inbreeding so much as turkeys. This should be guarded against at all times, if it is hoped to gain the best results.

## ASH SIFTER FOR SAVING COAL



An ash sifter for saving the unburned coal and coke should find a place in every woodshed or coalhouse. A home-made sifter that will answer every purpose for which a sifter is used may be built by almost any man or boy, as shown in the accompanying illustration. It may be built of old dry goods boxes, or any old lumber, and the boys will enjoy sifting the ashes. If placed outside, covers the roof with any of the roofing felt now on the market. As shown in the end view, an old tub or box is placed in the center of the structure for catching the sifted ashes, the two pieces DD, are for catching any ashes that may fall outside of the tub. The ashes are poured through the small spout C, which should have a hinged door as shown. The sifter rests in the wood frame A, and is removed for cleaning through the door E. The sifter may be covered with screen wire. The building should be four or five feet square and about five feet high in front, and four feet at the rear. A door must be cut in the rear side for removing the tub, as shown in the rear view. Much coal and coke will be saved during the season, to say nothing of the many uses that will be found for the screened ashes. If the building is constructed of boxes, or lumber found around the place, the cost to build the entire device will be less than two dollars.

## CONCRETE CISTERN PLATFORM



Make a square box of 2x10-inch stuff, any size you want the platform. Six feet square is a nice size. Cut out the pieces as shown in the cut so the frame will fit the crown of the cistern. Clean off all the earth and old matter. Set the frame level and about two inches lower than the cistern curb. This will give full sufficient to lead all water away from the pump. Make a mixture of cement and sand or gravel. Put cement five parts sand and gravel. Mix all together, dry, then add water to make a stiff mortar. Pack in the form and smooth off with a straight-edged board. Run a seam from each corner to the crown to prevent cracking.

**Adopting a Lamb.** In case an ewe loses her lamb she should be made to adopt a twin, and this is often a difficult thing to do. One of the best methods is to strip the skin from the dead lamb while it is yet warm and place it over the body of the lamb that is to be adopted, tying it on by wrapping a light string about it many times. Then if this little orphan in another's clothing is placed with the mother, nine times out of ten she will adopt it without protest. As soon as the lamb has suckled two or three times the skin may be removed and no further difficulty will be experienced.

**The Dairy Cow.** The cow alone of all domestic animals is able to utilize profitable farm land worth \$150 an acre and up. The raiser and seller of grain or hay cannot use such land; it is too costly for the production of beef or mutton or pork, save as the hog is a by-product of the dairy. The silo is indispensable on such land, as is well kept poultry.

**The Orchard.** You can double the value of your orchard in one year when properly treated.

# CHICAGO MERCHANT MAKES STATEMENT.

After Spending Thousands of Dollars and Consulting the Most Eminent Physicians, He Was Desperate. CHICAGO, ILL.—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."



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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 cures. Barrenness, retained afterbirth, 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 Money" sent FREE. Ask your local dealer for KOW-KURE or send to the manufacturers. DAIRY ASSOCIATION CO. Lyndonville, Vt.

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THE BEST MEDICINE FOR COUGHS AND COLDS. Should be given at once when the little one coughs. It heals the delicate throat 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 West-ern 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.

A coyote can run 30 miles an hour with ease. A few days ago some Garden City hunters ran down a coyote and killed him with the wheels. That was considered a great hunting feat.

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 other end down in the hole. That soon brings the coyote out, and the race is resumed until the animal is bagged.—Chicago News.

**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 specialty 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.—(Beth Correspondence of Lewiston Co.) Journal.