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GOVERNORS AT WHITE HOUSE

President Roosevelt Addresses Leading Men of the Nation.

THEME TO PRESERVE RESOURCES

Executive Says It is Greatest Problem Confronting American People—Means Much for Good of Posterity.

(Continued from First Page.)

on the right of the platform, with the vice president on his left, Rev. Everett Hale, chaplain of the senate, arose and, leaning with one arm on the back of the president's chair, read a portion of the scripture descriptive of the promised land and then pronounced a feeling invocation, in which he asked heaven's help in the deliberations to be had.

At the conclusion of the invocation the president, without preliminary ceremony, began his address to the governors. He said:

"I welcome you to this conference at the White House. You have come hither at my request so that we may join together to consider the question of the conservation and use of the great fundamental sources of wealth of this nation. So vital is this question, that for the first time in our history the chief executive officers of the states separately, and of the states together forming the nation, have met to consider it.

"With the governors come men from each state chosen for their special acquaintance with the terms of the problem that is before us. Among them are experts in natural resources and representatives of national organizations concerned in the development and use of these resources; the senators and representatives in congress; the supreme court, the cabinet, and the inland waterways commission, have likewise been invited to the conference, which is therefore national in a peculiar sense.

"This conference on the conservation of natural resources is in effect a meeting of the representatives of all the people of the United States called to consider the weightiest problem now before the nation; and the occasion for the meeting lies in the fact that the natural resources of our country are in danger of exhaustion if we permit the old wasteful methods of exploiting them longer to continue.

Relation of Man to Nature.

"With the rise of peoples from savagery to civilization, and with the consequent growth in the extent and variety of the needs of the average man, there comes a steadily increasing growth of the amount demanded by this average man from the actual resources of the country. Yet, rather curiously, at the same time the average man is apt to lose his realization of this dependence upon nature.

"Savages and very primitive peoples generally concern themselves only with superficial natural resources, with those which they obtain from the actual surface of the ground. As peoples become a little less primitive their industries, although in a rude manner, are extended to resources below the surface; then, with what we call civilization and extension of knowledge, more resources come into use, industries are multiplied and foresight begins to be-

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in Alexandria, adjoined Mount Vernon, and took up the consideration of interests commerce by the only means available, that of a conference. Further conferences were arranged, first at Annapolis and then at Philadelphia. It was in Philadelphia that the representatives of all the states met for what was in its original conception merely a waterways conference; but when they had closed their deliberations the outcome was the constitution which made the states into a nation.

Need of a Constitution.

"The constitution of the United States thus grew in large part out of the necessity for united action in the wise use of one of our national resources. The use of all of our natural resources, which are our national resources as well, is the great material question of today. I have asked you to come together now because the enormous consumption of these resources and the threat of imminent exhaustion of some of them, are so reckless and wasteful use, once more calls for common effort, common action.

"Since the days when the constitution was adopted steam and electricity have revolutionized the industrial world. Nowhere has the revolution been so great as in our own country. The discovery and utilization of mineral fuels and alloys have given us the lead over all other nations in the production of steel. The discovery and utilization of coal and iron have given us our railways and have led to such industrial development as has never before been seen. The vast wealth of lumber in our forests, the richest of the world, and the discovery of gold and mineral oils, combined with the efficiency of our transportation, have made the conditions of our life unparalleled in comfort and convenience.

"The steadily increasing drain on these natural resources has had the effect of extraordinary degree the complexity of our industrial and social life. Moreover, this unexampled development has had a determining effect upon the character and opinions of our people. The demand for efficiency in the great task has given us vigor, effectiveness, decision and power, and the capacity for achievement which in its own lines has never yet been matched. So great and so rapid has been our material growth that there has been a tendency to lag behind in spiritual and moral growth; but that is not the subject upon which I speak to you today.

Prosperity and Intelligence.

"Disregarding for the moment the question of moral principles, it is safe to say that the prosperity of our people depends directly on the energy and intelligence with which our national resources are used. It is equally clear that these resources are the final basis of national power and perpetuity. Finally, it is obviously evident that these resources are in the course of rapid exhaustion.

"This nation began with the belief that its landed possessions were illimitable and capable of supporting all the people who might care to make our country their home; but already the limit of unsettled land is in sight, and, indeed, but little land fitted for agriculture now remains unoccupied except what can be reclaimed by irrigation and drainage. We began with an unapproached heritage of forests; more than half of the timber is gone. We began with coal fields more extensive than those of any other nation and with iron ores regarded as inexhaustible, and many experts now declare that the end of both iron and coal is in sight.

"The mere increase in our consumption of coal during 1907 over 1906 exceeded the total consumption in 1878, the Centennial year. The enormous stores of mineral oil and gas are largely gone. Our natural waterways are not gone, but they have been so injured by neglect, and by the division of the waterways into a lack of system in dealing with them, that there is less navigation on them now than there was fifty years ago. Finally, we began with soils of unexampled fertility and we have so impoverished them by injudicious use and by failing to check erosion that their crop producing power is being rapidly and irreversibly diminished. In short, we have thoughtlessly, and to a large degree unnecessarily, diminished the resources upon which not only our prosperity but the prosperity of our children must always depend.

Time to Take Accounting.

"We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources and we have just reason to be proud of our growth. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils shall have been still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields, and obstructing navigation. These questions do not relate only to the distant future, but to the next generation. It is time for us now as a nation to exercise the same reasonable foresight in dealing with our great natural resources that would be shown by any prudent man in conserving and wisely using the property which contains the assurance of well-being for himself and his children.

"The natural resources I have enumerated can be divided into two sharply distinguished classes accordingly as they are or are not capable of renewal. Mines if used must necessarily be exhausted. The minerals do not and can not renew themselves. Therefore in dealing with the coal, the oil, the gas, the iron, the metals generally, all that we can do is to try to use them as they are wisely used. The exhaustion is certain to come in time.

"The second class of resources consists of those which cannot only be used in such manner as to leave them undiminished for our children, but can actually be improved by wise use. The soil, the forests, the waterways come in this category. In dealing with mineral resources man is able to improve on nature only by putting the resources to a beneficial use which in the end exhausts them; but in dealing with the soil and its products man can improve on nature by compelling the resources to renew and even reconstruct themselves in such manner as to serve increasingly beneficial uses—while the living waters can be so controlled as to multiply their benefits.

"Neither the primitive man nor the pioneer was aware of any duty to posterity in dealing with the renewable resources. When the American settler felled the forests he felt that there was plenty of forest left for the sons who came after him. When he exhausted the soil of his farm he felt that his son could go west and take up another. So it was with his immediate successors. When the soil-wash from the farmer's fields choked the neighboring river he thought only of using the railway rather than boats for moving his produce and supplies.

On Verge of Timber Famine.

"Now all this is changed. On the average the son of the farmer of today must make his living on his father's farm. There is no difficulty in doing this if the father will exercise wisdom. No wise use of a farm exhausts its fertility. So with forests. We are over the verge of a timber famine in this country, and it is unparadise for the nation or the states to permit any further cutting of our timber save in accordance with a system which will provide that the next generation shall see the timber increased instead of diminished. Moreover, we can add enormous tracts of the most valuable possible agricultural land to the national domain by irrigation in the arid and semi-arid regions and by drainage of great tracts of swamp land in the humid

regions. We can enormously increase our transportation facilities by the canalization of our rivers so as to complete a vast system of waterways on the Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf coasts and in the Mississippi valley, from the Great Plains to the Alleghenies and from the northern lakes to the mouth of the mighty Father of Waters. But all these vast uses of our natural resources are so closely connected that they should be co-ordinated, and should be treated as part of one coherent plan and not in haphazard and piecemeal fashion.

"It is largely because of this that I appointed the Waterways commission last year and that I have sought to make it a part of my work. I wish to take this opportunity to express in hearty fashion my acknowledgment to all the members of the commission. At great personal sacrifice of time and effort they have rendered a service to the public for which we cannot be too grateful. Especial credit is due to the initiative, the energy, the devotion to duty and the far-sightedness of Clifford Pinchot, to whom we owe so much of the progress we have already made in handling this matter of the co-ordination and conservation of natural resources. If I had not been in this convention neither would nor could I have been called.

Right to Guard Resources.

"We are coming to recognize as never before the right of the nation to guard its own future in the essential matter of natural resources. In the past we have admitted the right of the individual to injure the future of the republic for his own present profit. The time has come for a change. As a people we have the right and the duty, second to none other, to protect ourselves and our children against the wasteful development of our natural resources, whether that waste is caused by the actual destruction of such resources or by making them impossible of development hereafter.

"Any right thinking father earnestly desires and strives to leave his son both an unimpaired name and a reasonable equipment for the struggle of life. So this nation as a whole should earnestly desire and strive to leave to the next generation the national honor unimpaired and the national resources unimpaired. There are signs, that both the nation and the states are waking to a realization of this great truth. On March 10, 1908, the supreme court of Maine rendered an exceedingly important judicial decision. This opinion was rendered in response to questions as to the right of the legislature to restrict the rights of private land for the prevention of droughts and floods, the preservation of the natural water supply, and the prevention of the erosion of such lands, and the consequent filling up of rivers, ponds and lakes. The forests and water power of Maine constitute the larger part of its wealth, and form the basis of its industrial life, and the question submitted by the Maine senate to the supreme court and the answer of the supreme court alike bear testimony to the wisdom of the people of Maine, and clearly define a policy of conservation of natural resources, the adoption of which, I believe, is the duty of every state, and especially of Maine, but to the whole country.

Heritage for Posterity.

"Such a policy will preserve soil, forests, water power as a heritage for the children and the children's children of the men and women of this generation; for any enactment that provides for the wise utilization of the forests, whether in public or private ownership, and for the conservation of the water resources of the country, thereby promoting legislation that will promote both private and public welfare; for flood prevention; water power development, preservation of the soil, and improvement of navigable rivers are all promoted by such a policy of forest conservation.

"The spirit of the Maine decision is best set forth unequivocally in the principle that the property rights of the individual are subordinate to the rights of the community, and especially that the waste of wild timber land derived originally from the state, involving as it would the impoverishment of the state and the loss of a great purpose of government, may properly be prevented by state restrictions.

"The court says that there are two reasons why the right of the public to control and limit the use of private property is peculiarly applicable to property in land. First, the land is a natural resource, and the productive labor, but is derived solely from the state itself, the original owner; second, the amount of land being incapable of increase, if the owners of large tracts can waste them at will without state restriction, the state and its people may be helplessly impoverished as a result of government default. We do not think the proposed legislation would operate to 'take' private property within the inhibition of the constitution. While it might restrict the owner of wild and unutilized lands in his use of them, might delay his taking of the product, might delay his anticipated profits, it would thereby might cause him some loss of profit, it would nevertheless leave him his lands, their product and increase untouched, and without diminution of title, estate or quantity. He would still have large measure of control and large opportunity to realize his profit, and he would not be deprived of his property. The proposed legislation *** would be within the legislative power and would not operate as a taking of private property for which compensation must be made."

Other Court Decisions.

"The court of errors and appeals of New Jersey has adopted a similar view, which has recently been sustained by the supreme court of the United States. In delivering the opinion of the court on April 10, 1908, Justice Hill said: 'The state as guardian of the public has a standing in court to protect the atmosphere, the water, and the forests within its territory, irrespective of the assent or dissent of the private owners of the land most immediately concerned by its action. It appears to us that few public interests are more obvious, indisputable and independent of particular theory than the interest of the public of a state to maintain the rivers that are wholly within its substantially undiminished, except by such drafts upon them as the guardian of the public interest may permit for the purpose of turning them to a more perfect use. This public interest is omnipresent wherever there is a state, and grows more pressing as population grows. *** We are of opinion, further, that the constitutional power of the state to insist that its natural advantages shall remain a lawyer's view. But the state is not required to submit even to an aesthetic analysis. Any analysis may be inadequate. It finds itself in possession of what all admit to be a great public good, and what it has it may keep and give no one a reason for its will.'"

"These decisions reach the root of the idea of conservation of our resources in the interests of our people.

National Efficiency.

"Finally, let us remember that the conservation of our natural resources, though the gravest problem of today, is yet but part of another and greater problem to which this nation is not yet awake, but to which it will awake in time, and with which it must hereafter grapple if it is to live—the problem of national efficiency and the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the nation. When the people of the United States consciously undertake to raise themselves as citizens, and the nation and the state in their several spheres, to the highest pitch of excellence in private, state and national life, and to do this because it is the first of all the duties of true patriotism, then and not till then the future of this nation, in quality and in time, will be assured.

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which this nation is not yet awake, but to which it will awake in time, and with which it must hereafter grapple if it is to live—the problem of national efficiency and the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the nation. When the people of the United States consciously undertake to raise themselves as citizens, and the nation and the state in their several spheres, to the highest pitch of excellence in private, state and national life, and to do this because it is the first of all the duties of true patriotism, then and not till then the future of this nation, in quality and in time, will be assured.

President to Continue Commission.

"The disposition to express frankly their sentiments was indulged in on the part of the governors throughout the president's speech, which occupied ten minutes short of an hour. He was applauded and cheered many times and after giving a praising estimate of the work of the inland waterways commission, he remarked:

"The commission ought to be perpetuated and if congress does not see fit to do so, I will do it myself. The gathering was fairly stamped by cheers, applause, shouts and laughter.

When the president had finished he made the suggestion that at the afternoon session a committee on resolutions be appointed. Merely as a suggestion, he said, the following names for this committee had been mentioned: Governor Blanchard of Louisiana, Fort of New Jersey, Carter of Utah, Davidson of Wisconsin and Ansel of South Carolina. After the president had stated, further, that it might expedite the work of the conference to have all suggestions for action referred to this committee and its personnel be adopted by the convention. This motion was put by the president and carried without discussion or opposition. The suggestion of the president that all speeches by experts be limited to twenty minutes duration also was made a rule of the convention on motion of Governor Johnson.

Informal Reception.

The session ended at noon, when the president and vice president gave an informal reception to those who had attended the meeting. Immediately afterwards he met the governors, members of the supreme court and others who were his dinner guests last night in the blue drawing room. After the reception the governors assembled on the portico of the White House with the president and vice president and the specially invited guests, which included William J. Bryan, Andrew Carnegie, J. J. Hill and Gustave Schwab, where several group photographs were made. While the group was being formed President Roosevelt chatted enthusiastically

with Governor Hughes of New York, also with Mr. Hill, Mr. Bryan and others.

Mississippi Governor in Chair.

President Roosevelt opened the afternoon session of the conference at 2:40 o'clock. He called Governor Noel of Mississippi to the chair to preside, explaining that his duties would not permit of his being in constant attendance. The president expressed the belief that the convention would be glad to hear Mr. Bryan toward the end of the afternoon session, which invitation the latter gratefully accepted. The president also requested Governor Johnson of Minnesota to preside at tomorrow's meeting, and he accepted. Both suggestions were greeted with tremendous applause.

Introductory to his remarks on the conservation of ores and minerals, Mr. Carnegie departed somewhat from his written remarks when he declared that most presidents follow precedent, but that President Roosevelt initiated them.

Waste of Fuel Resources.

J. C. White, state geologist of West Virginia, spoke on "The Waste of Our Fuel Resources." He detailed the practices, especially in coal and oil industries, closing as follows:

What will it profit this nation to have won the wreath of industrial supremacy, if in our thirst for gold and sudden riches we permit corporate greed, as well as individual avarice, and selfishness to waste and devastate the very sources of our prosperity. For just as sure as the sun shines and the sun of two and two is four, unless this insane riot of destruction and waste of our fuel resources which has characterized the last century, shall be speedily ended, our industrial power and supremacy will, after a meteor-like existence, revert before the close of the present century to those nations that conserve and prize at their proper value their priceless treasures of carbon.

Whatever is possible in the shape of legislation for the protection of our fuel resources should be done by the individual states which you represent. Twenty-nine of the forty-six states of the union produce coal and twenty-four of these produce more than 1,000,000 tons annually, while practically the same number produce vast quantities of both petroleum and natural gas. The percentage of coal left in the ground beyond recovery, as we have seen, varies from 40 to 90 in the different fields, while the waste of natural gas, the most precious fuel of all, is so vast that no one can even approximate the percentage. The task before you and your constituencies is indeed formidable. The forces of greed and selfishness are so entrenched behind corporate power and influence, that to attack them may often appear to you as useless as the labor of Sisyphus. But as you love your states and country I adjure you to take up this fight for the conservation of our fuel resources with the determination never to surrender until the forces of greed and avarice which are so rapidly sapping the very foundations of our country's greatness, capitulate, and agree to cease and desist.

wild riot of destruction that has characterized the past.

Address of Andrew Carnegie.

In concluding his paper Andrew Carnegie, after giving an exhaustive statement of conditions and supply of minerals, said: "No practical man can study our mineral supplies without seeing that they are melting away under our national growth at a geometrically increasing rate, and without realizing that unless the loss is checked his descendants must suffer; nor can he consider ways of preserving the supply without realizing the need of wider and deeper knowledge than we now possess. It was not resources alone that gave this country its prosperity, but inventive skill in the use of resources, that the next generation and the next may be saved from want—but especially I urge research into and mastery over nature, in order that two blades may be made to grow where one grew before, that the golden grain may be made to replace woody grass, that crude rocks may be made to yield fine metals.

In conclusion, Mr. President and government of our states, it seems to me our duty is: First, conservation of forests, for no forests, no long navigable rivers, no rivers, no cheap transportation. Second, to systematize our water transportation, putting the whole work in the hands of the reclamation service, which has already proved itself highly capable by its admirably work. Cheap water transportation for heavy freight brings many advantages and means great saving of our ore supplies. Railroads require much steel; water does not. Third, conservation of soil. More than a thousand millions of tons of our richest soil are swept into the sea every year, clogging the rivers on its way and filling our harbors. Less soil, less crops; less crops, less commerce, less wealth. A general discussion was opened by John Mitchell, former president of the United Mine Workers of America.

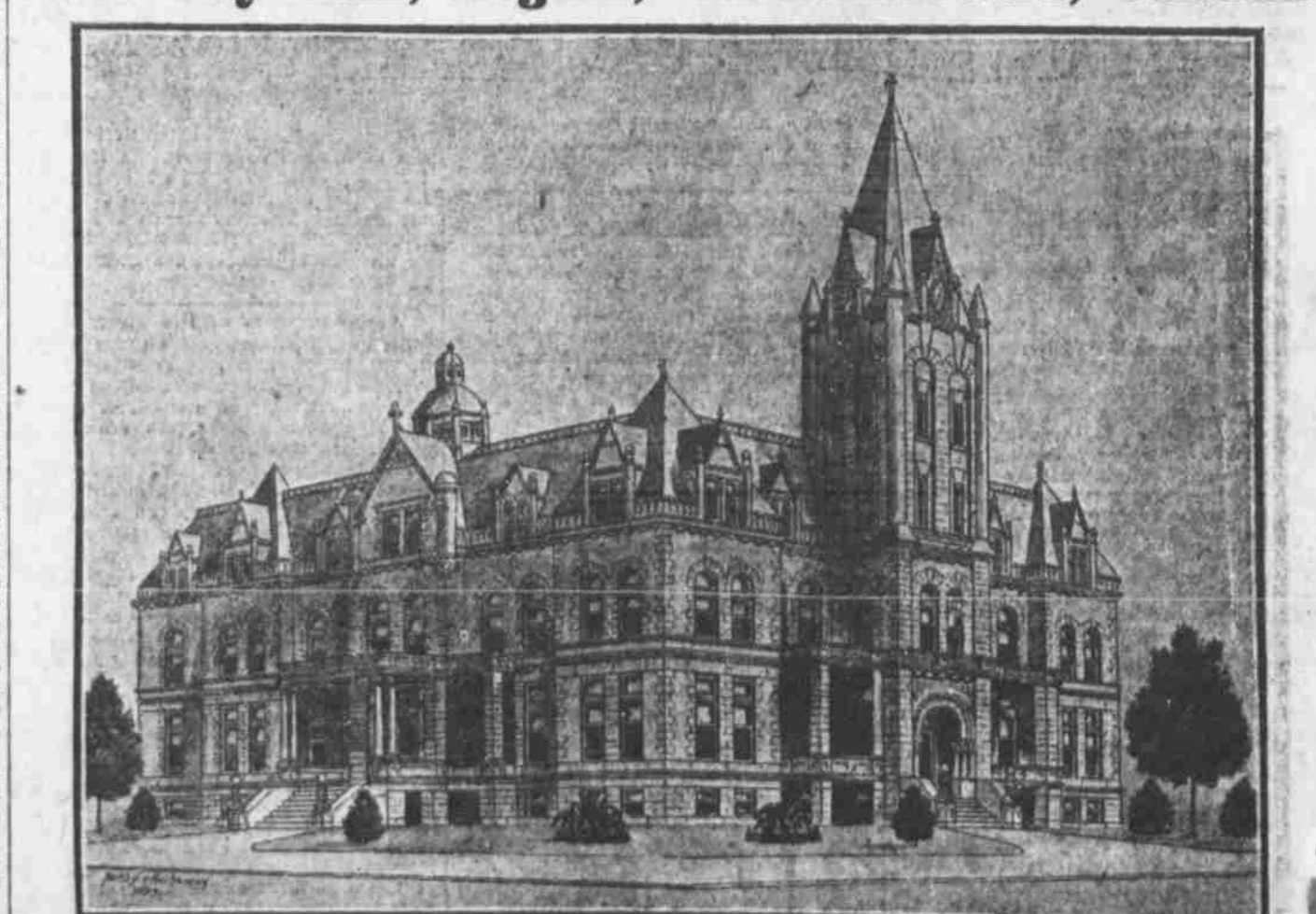
ANTI-LEASING PLANK IN VIEW

Democrats Plan to Insert One in Wyoming Platform.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., May 12.—As the lines are now drawn, an anti-land leasing plank will be incorporated in the platform which is to be adopted by the democratic state convention, which will meet in Cheyenne tomorrow. The convention will send to the national convention in Denver a delegation unanimously instructed for Bryan.

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New City Hall, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada



The unique position of the corporation of the city of Regina, Canada, in owning her townsite enabled the city to build this beautiful building from the sale of a few lots, thereby not costing the rate payers one cent. This fact, no doubt, is one of the inducements which are resulting in increasing the rate payers' interest in making public improvements. The city still owing over Two Million Dollars worth of real estate, Regina can continue "making a city" without burdening the rate payers—a pointer for capitalists.