

TAFT FOR LAND AND WATER

Laws Now on Books Not Ample to Protect Public.

MONEY FOR RECLAMATION WORK

Congress Should Immediately Take Necessary Steps to Conserve Interest of Public in Woods and Streams.

(Continued from First Page)

the public that character of control which will prevent a monopoly or misuse of the lands or their products. The power of the secretary of the Interior to withdraw from the operation of existing statutes tracts of land, the disposition of which under such statutes would be detrimental to the public interest 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 circumstances, full 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 authorize 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.

One of the most pressing needs in the matter of public land reform is that lands should be classified according to their principal value or 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 the confusion, fraud and contention which has existed in the past has arisen from the lack of an official and authoritative classification of the public lands and their contents.

What to Withhold. 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 use of so much 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 minerals could be disposed of by lease on a royalty basis, with provisions requiring a certain amount of development each year, and in order to prevent the use and cessation of such 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 interest of persons participating in such monopoly. Such law should apply to Alaska as well as to the United States.

It is exceedingly difficult to frame a statute to retain government control over a property to be developed by private capital in such manner as to secure the governmental purpose 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.

Phosphate and Public Power. The extent or 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 water power in the rivers except so far as that owned by riparian proprietors. I do not think it necessary to go into a 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 construction of the plant by which the power is generated and converted and securing a right-of-way thereover for transmission lines. Under these conditions, if the government owns adjacent land—indeed, if the government is the riparian owner—it may control the use of the water power by imposing proper conditions on the disposition of the land necessary in the creation and utilization of the water power.

To avoid monopoly. The development in electrical appliances for the conversion of water power into electricity to be 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 the streams to a large extent will take the place of natural fuels. In the disposition of the domain already granted, many water power sites have come 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 fifty years with proper means for determining a reasonable graduated rental, and with some equitable provision for fixing terms of renewal 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.

Saving the Soil. In considering the conservation of the natural resources of the country, the feature that transcends all others, including woods, waters, minerals, is the soil of the country. It is incumbent upon the government to foster by all available means the resources of the country that produce the food of the people. To this end the 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 that they may conserve the soil, improve the old soils, drain wet soils, ditch swamp soils, levee river overflow soils, grow trees on thin soils, pasture hillside soils, rotate crops on all soils, discover methods for cropping dry land soils, find grasses and legumes for arid soils, feed grain and milk feed on the farms where they originate, that the soils from which they come to be enriched.

A work of 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 is 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.

By which, in semi-arid parts of the public domain, the area of the best lands has been enlarged from 100 to 200 acres and has resulted most beneficially in the extension of "dry farming" and in the demonstration which has been made of the possibility, through a variation in the character and methods of culture, of raising substantial crops without the presence of such supply of water as has been heretofore thought to be necessary for agriculture.

Money for Reclamation. But there are millions of acres of completely arid land in the public domain which, by the establishment of reservoirs for the storing of water and the irrigation of the lands, may be made much more fruitful and productive than the best lands 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 a 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 the best projects should be selected among those suggested, and to direct the reclamation service, with the funds at hand and through the engineers in its employ, to construct the works.

No one can visit the far west and the country of arid and semi-arid lands without being convinced that the most important methods of the conservation of our natural resources that the government has entered upon. It would appear that over thirty projects have been undertaken, and that a few of them are likely to be unsuccessful because of the lack of water or for other reasons. Generally the work which has been done has been well done and many important engineering problems have been met and solved.

One of the difficulties which has arisen is that too many projects in view of the funds available under the reclamation statute are inadequate to complete these projects, within a reasonable time. And yet the projects have been begun; settlers have been invited to take up and, in many instances, have taken up, the public land within the projects, relying upon their prompt completion. The failure to complete the projects for their benefit is, in effect, a breach of faith and leaves them in a most distressed condition. I urge that the nation ought to afford the means to lift them out of the 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 an over-realous desire to extend the benefit of reclamation to as many acres and as many states as possible. I recommend therefore, that authority be given to issue, not exceeding \$30,000,000 of bonds, from time to time, as the secretary of the interior shall find it necessary, the proceeds to be applied to the completion of the projects already begun and their proper extension, and the bonds running ten years or more, to be taken up by the proceeds of returns to 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 proceeds from the public lands, together with the rentals for water furnished through the completed enterprises, would quickly create a sinking fund large enough to retire the bonds within the time specified. I hope that, while the statute shall provide that these bonds are to be paid out of the reclamation fund, it will be drawn in such a way as to secure interest at the lowest rate and that the credit of the United States will be pledged for their redemption. I urge consideration of the recommendations of the secretary of the interior in his annual report for amendments of the reclamation act; proposing other relief for settlers on these projects.

CORRECT DRESS FOR MEN AND BOYS

Shrewd Buyers

Look for the best their money can buy. They recognize the economy of buying the best made—most Fashionable and most Perfect Fitting Clothes—and a great number have learned that THE BERG CLOTHING CO. are the leading and largest sellers of correct clothes for men and young men in Omaha, and in buying these clothes you get more for your money than any other store in Omaha can give—and that means at the original price. But NOW at HALF, there's nothing to it—but money in your pocket—for on the cheapest suit we sell you, which is \$5, you save \$5—on a \$12 garment, you save \$6—and on a \$15 garment you save \$7.50, and so on up to \$40, you save \$20. Then—smart, snappy styles for the chap that wants to be IT, or quiet, refined, stylish clothes for the man of affairs.

The Money Saver—The shrewd investor is welcome.



Our Boys' Suits and Overcoats

Divided into three great lots for Saturday— \$1.45, \$2.95, \$3.95 and there's the proper amount of sturdiness along with the styles in the make of these garments. As we never deal in trash. At either price we have named you are positive of a genuine bargain—at half price and even less.

Fancy Half Hose

25c 30c and 35c qualities, at 17c Three pairs for 50c. Men here's a chance to get busy. Fine cotton, lisle and mercerized hose.

Underwear

Broken lines and odd suits of men's winter plain and fancy, that sold up to \$3.50 a garment—NOW, a garment..... 85c

Men's Sweater Coats

With pockets—all the variety of colors and combinations, worth up to \$3.00—now..... \$1.85



Sweaters

The turtle neck styles, for hunting and other outdoor comfort; our whole assortment, qualities and colors—worth to \$5.00; all go at \$1.85

Special in Neckwear

All our grand assortments of Holiday Neckwear that sold at \$1.00 and \$1.50, at one price now..... 65c All our 50c and 75c Neckwear, 35c; three for..... \$1.00

A Shirt Sale Worth While

All of our \$1.50 and \$1.75 Shirts— 85c at..... All of our \$2.00 and \$2.50 Shirts— \$1.35 at.....



Patterns to suit most tastes—some gay and sporty—others plain, and the right fitting kind, too. Stars, Excellos and E. & Ws.—none better that we have knowledge of.

25% discount on all Union Underwear, including "Vasar" and "Superior."

Fancy Vests

In attractive patterns and worth up to \$5.00, \$1.85 for.....

How Much Must I Spend?

Last spring a man spent a total of \$16,000 advertising a new fabric. In ninety days he had secured 700 new accounts, sold 1,250,000 yards more than he had expected, at an average net advance of 3c. per yard.

And, during the same year, another advertiser in a kindred line, who has been in our columns continually for nineteen years, spent \$80,000 in our publications.

Success in merchandizing of fabrics depends not so much on the size of the appropriation as upon the intelligence and thoroughness of method. As the foremost women's publication, THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL would naturally be the first medium in a fabric-merchandizing campaign. And yet— "Method," rather than space selling, is what we would first like to discuss with you. The Curtis Publishing Company Philadelphia New York Chicago Boston The circulation of THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL is more than 1,500,000 copies each month. The same force which has created THE JOURNAL'S unique circulation here, at the same time, is an advertising medium of unique power.

of the receipts from the forestry business of the government to institute reforestation at the sources of certain navigable streams, to be selected by the geological survey, with a view to determining the practicability of thus improving and protecting the streams for federal purposes. I think a moderate expenditure for each year for this purpose, for a period of five or ten years, would be of the utmost benefit in the development of our forestry system.

Waterways Improvement. I come now to the improvement of the inland waterways. He would be blind, indeed, who did not realize that the people of the entire west, and especially those of the Mississippi valley, have been aroused to the need there is for the improvement of our inland waterways. The Mississippi river with the Missouri on the one hand and the 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 ascertained and the benefit and 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 waterways has been developed so that the plans have been drawn, the cost definitely estimated, and the traffic which will be accommodated is reasonably probable, I think it is the duty of congress to undertake the project and make the 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 Pittsburg to Cairo, so as to maintain at all seasons of the year, by slack water, a depth of nine feet. Upwards of seven of these dams have already been constructed and six are under construction, while the total required is fifty-four. The remaining cost is known as \$65,000,000.

Urgency is Apparent. 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 twelve years. 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 eight feet. These projects have been pronounced practical by competent boards of army engineers, their cost has been estimated and there is business which will follow the improvement. I recommend, therefore, that the present congress in the river and harbor bill make provision for continuing contracts to complete these improvements. As these improvements are being made and the traffic encouraged by them shows itself of sufficient importance, the improvement of the Mississippi beyond Cairo down to the gulf, which is now going on with the maintenance of a depth of nine feet everywhere, may be changed to another and greater depth if the necessity for it shall

appear to arise out of the traffic which can be delivered on the river at Cairo. I am informed that the investigation by the Waterways commission in Europe that the existence of a waterway by no means assures traffic unless there is traffic adapted to water carriage at cheap rates at one end or the other of the stream. It also appears in Europe that the depth of the non-tidal streams is rarely more than six feet and never more than ten. But it is certain that enormous amounts 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 which the railroads charge, and it is the best regulator of those rates that we have, not even excepting the governmental regulation through the Interstate Commerce commission. For this reason, I hope that this congress will take such steps that it may be called the inaugurator of the new system of inland waterways.

For reasons which it is not necessary to state, congress has seen fit to order an investigation of the interior department and the forest service of the Agriculture department. The results of the investigation are not needed to determine the value of, and the necessity for, the new legislation which I have recommended in respect to the public lands and in respect to reclamation. I earnestly urge that the measures recommended be taken up and disposed of promptly, without awaiting the investigation which has been determined upon.

WILLIAM H. TAFT. The White House, January 14, 1910.

Children like Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is pleasant to take.

Adventists May Build College

Biennial Convention Considering Construction of New School at St. Joseph. ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Jan. 14.—(Special)—Seventh Day Adventists of five states are in session here in the fourth biennial meeting of the central union conference. The meeting will continue ten days. About sixty delegates, one representing each church in the conference, are here and the headquarters have been established at the Young Men's Christian association. Among the business matters to be discussed at the biennial is the proposed construction of a \$75,000 college in St. Joseph. This, if the plan materializes, is to be built and supported by funds provided by the central union conference. Yesterday's sessions were principally devoted to the reception and enrollment of delegates. President Russell of Lincoln, Neb., in the afternoon addressed the delegates, speaking of "The Principles of the Adventist's Religion." In the evening E. R. Palmer of Washington, D. C., delivered a lecture illustrated by stereopticon views. An elaborate set of scenery to illustrate numerous prophecies of the Old Testament has been installed in the stage of the music hall of the Young Men's Christian association, where the sessions are held and figures of beasts, angels and men are mechanically operated to carry out the illustrations. One of the principles of the Seventh Day Adventists is the prohibition of the use of liquor and tobacco in any form and the majority of members of the faith do not drink tea or coffee. In explanation of this a delegate said that these articles contain poison and the Adventists consider it sinful to injure the body given by the Omnipotent. The officers of the conference are: Elder E. T. Russell, Lincoln, Neb., president; B. E. Huffman, College View, Neb., secretary; J. E. Wightman, Kansas City, Mo., secretary of religious liberty bureau; C. G. Bellah, Poplar Bluff, Mo., general missionary secretary; B. M. Emerson, Lincoln, Neb., treasurer; Prof. C. G. Lewis, College View, Neb., president of Union college; C. N. Miller, College View, editor of Christian Record, the denomination's official publication. The union conference includes the conferences of northern Missouri, southern Missouri, eastern Colorado, western Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas, and it is a compulsory part of the general conference of the international organization.

Storm on Dismal Anniversary. ILLINOIS, S. D., Jan. 14.—(Special)—In celebration of the twenty-second anniversary of the great blizzard that prevailed over South Dakota January 13, 1888, a "ivy snowstorm" prevailed here and throughout this section all day Wednesday. The storm created apprehension lest a real famine result. The supply of coal in this city and immediate vicinity is very limited. Skirts, Skirts, Skirts, Skirts. On sale Saturday at half price at the Parisian Cloak Co., 115 So. 16th St.

Advertisement for Washburn-Crosby Co. Gold Medal Flour, featuring a large 'NOW' graphic and a circular logo with 'Gold Medal Flour' text.