WT - - -

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A Shape for Every Face

ple at large from the waste and dissipa- Oregon, Washington, Idaho. Montana, Col tion of our national wealth is not one orado and Wyoming, except by act of conple of the older communities, because its of Agriculture that the government owns pansion and development is so strong that gress that the ilmitation herein imposed the danger is scoffed at or ignored. Among shall be repealed. In the present forest statute, scientific men and thoughtful observers, reserves there are lands which are not however, the danger has always been pres- properly forest land and which ought to be ent, but it needed some one to bring home subject to homestead entry. This has the crying need for a remedy of this eyil caused some local irritation. We are careso as to impress itself on the public mind fully eliminating such lands from forest and lead to the formation of public opinion and action by the representatives of the practicable, listing them for entry under

party, but as president of the whole peoof all of us-of our children and our children's children. I urge that no good can' come from meetings of this sort unless we ascribe to those who take part in them, and who are apparently striving worthly in the cause, all proper motives, and unless we judicially consider every measure or method proposed with a view to its effectiveness in achieving our common purpose, troversy.

Coal Lands. to farm the surface, while the coal beneath likely to be abused. the surface is retaided in ownership by the government and may be disposed of by it under other laws.

There is no crying need for radical reare really agricultural lands. The present Homestead law has encouraged the successhas done and is doing in this regard.

created of the proceeds of the public lands drawn from entry and await classification. of the United States with which to con- In addition 256,000 acres have been classisuitable system of canals and ditches, the 10,168,000 acres. water is to be distributed over the arid "Under the laws providing for the disand subarid lands of the government to be position of coal lands, the minimum price has much to answer for in not having sold to settlers at a price sufficient to at which lands are permitted to be sold is given proper attention to the government pay for the improvements. Primarily, the \$10 an acre; but the secretary of the interior of Alaska and the development of the control o projects are and must be for the improve- has the power to fix a maximum price and ment of public lands. Incidentally, where to sell at that price. By the first regulaprivate land is also within the reach of tions governing appraisal, approved April the country. I would not force developthe water supply, the furnishing at cost 8, 1907, the minimum was \$10, as provided ment at the expense of a present or future or profit of this water to private owners by law, and the maximum was \$100, and the waste of resources; but the problem as to by the government is held by the federal highest price actually placed upon any sourt of appeals not to be a usurpation land sold was \$75. Under the new regulaof power.

Limitations of Constitution. would be exceedingly valuable for agriculture and contribute to the general wei- \$608. fare by extending the area of cultivation. I deprecate the agitation in favor of such legislation. It is inviting the general govinstance of the state. In these days there 201,242, or a total of 19,168,623 acres, valued the existing placer mining law, although is a disposition to look too much to the at \$471,847,571. federal government for everything, I am tion. There is an easy way in which the about 60,000 acres for \$1,305,000. constitution can be violated by congress without judicial inhibition, to-wit: by ap-

be habitually disregarded in this manner. matter of conservation than the treatment the government. The question which re- a leasing law. In their natural occurrence. of our forcet lands. It was probably the mains to be considered is whether the ex- oil and gas can not be measured in terms of ruthless destruction of forests in the tating law for the sale of the coal in the acres, like coal, and it follows that exolder states that first called attention to ground should continue in force or be rewas recognized by congress by an act adopted. Under the present law the abso- cace. Oil should be disposed of as a comauthorizing the executive to reserve from lute title in the coal beneath the surface modity in terms of barrels of transport entry and set aside public timber lands as passes to the grantee of the government, able product rather than in acres of real national forests. Speaking generally, there. The price fixed is upon an estimated estate. This is, of course, the reason for has been reserved of the existing forests amount of the tone of coal per acre beneath the practically universal adoption of the about 70 per cent of all the timber lands of the surface and the prices are fixed so leasing system wherever off is in private

cause, I shall do, not as president of a treated according to modern rules of forestry. The usual destructive waste and makes its value per agree from \$50 to 5500 that the supply shall equal the needs of the conservation is not a question of the conditions to which the supply shall equal the needs of the country. It is uncertain whether the placer ply, and the proposed solution of them. In the conditions to which they are country. It is uncertain whether the placer ply, and the proposed solution of them. In the outset I alluded to the fact that con-away from it as cowards, lest in the atpolitics, or of factions, or of persons. It forests owned by private persons and coris a question that affects the vital welfare porations. It is estimated that fire alone destroys \$50,000,000 worth of timber a year. The management of forests not on public land is beyond the jurisdiction of the federal government. If anything can be done by law it must be done by the state legislatures.

"When President Roosevelt became fully advised of the necessity for the change in our disposition of public lands, especially those containing coal, oil, gas, phosphates, and wholly without regard to who proposes or water-power sites, he began the exercise it or who will claim the credit for its of the power of withdrawal by executive adoption. The problems are of very great order, of lands subject by law to homestead difficulty and call for the calmest con- and other methods of entering for agrisideration and clearest foresight. Many of cultural lands. The precedent he set in this to time in the year and from year to yearthe questions presented have phases that matter was followed by the present adare new to this country, and it is possible ministration. Doubt had been expressed in supply established, the expert of the geologthat in their solution we may have to at- some quarters as to the power in the executempt first one way, and then another. the contempt first one way, and then another. the to make such withdrawals. The conWhat I wish to emphasize, however, is that; fusion and injustice likely to arise if the
would be an excessive prefit in the Alaska
ty-nine rivers in one way, and then another the to make such withdrawals. The conwould be an excessive prefit in the Alaska
time 3,475,442 acres have been restored for
a satisfactory conclusion can only be courts were to deny the power led me to
coal mining because the price at which
a satisfactory conclusion can only be courts were to deny the president the coal could be sold would be considerreached promptly if we avoid acrimony, appeal to congress to give the president imputations of bad faith and political con- the express power. Congress has complied. ably lowered by competition from these The law as passed does not expressly fields and by the presence of crude fuel validate or confirm previous withdrawals, off. "The present congress passed a bill of and therefore as soon as the new law was great importance, severing the ownership passed, I myself confirmed all the withof coal by the government in the ground drawals which had theretofore been made from the surface and permitting homestead by both administrations by making them entries upon the surface of the land, which, over again. This power of withdrawal is a Pacific slope should be given the benefit of when perfected, give the settler the right most useful one, and I do not think it is the comparatively cheap coal of fine qual-

Sale of Coal Lands. "By the reclamation act a fund has been lands; while 79,788,000 acres remain with-

price was increased to \$300, except in re-

"Buggestions have been made that the glons where there are large mines, where United States ought to aid in the drainage no maximum limit is fixed and the price of awamp lands belonging to the states or is determined by the estimated tons of coal private owners, because if drained, they to the acre. The highest price fixed for to the acre. The highest price fixed for about 1,500,000 acres in Louisiana, of which any land under this regulation has been only 6,500 scres were known to be vacant classified as coal lands and valued under and 174,000 acres in Wyoming, making a the new regulations is shown to be as foi- total of nearly 4,000,000 of acres. In Seplows: 4,303.921 acres, valued under the old tember, 1989, I directed that all public oil erament into contribution from its treasury regulation at \$77,644,229, an average of \$13 lands, whether then withdrawn or not, toward enterprises that should be conducted either by private capital or at the valued under the new regulation at \$394, congressional action, for the reason that

ilberal in the construction of the constitu-tion with reference to federal power; but I am firmly convinced that the only safe course for us to pursue is to hold fast to 176 entries, embracing an area of 23,413 the limitations of the constitution and to acres, which sold for \$608,815; and down to changed, and new withdrawals aggregatregard as sacred the powers of the states. August, 1910, there were but seventeen en-We have made wonderful progress and at tries, with an area of 1,720 acres, which the same time have preserved with judicial sold for \$33,910.60, making a disposition of exactness the restrictions of the constitu- the coal lands in the last two years of

Leasing System Considered. "The present congress, as already said. propriations from the national treasury for has separated the surface of coal lands. astitutional purposes. It will be a either classified or withdrawn for classifisorry day for this country if the time ever cution, from the coal beneath, so as to percomes when our fundamental compact shall mit at all times homestead entries upon the surface of lands useful for agriculture and Nothing can be more important in the to reserve the ownership in the coal to

Complete Committee of the Committee of t

their money in the plants necessary for the Hence it is important that if the governa term of years varying from twenty to thirty and forty years, under conditions of wells on its own property. requiring the erection of a proper plant and money in the development of the mines. and fixing a rental and a royalty, sometimes an absolute figure and sometimes me proportioned to the market value of the coal. Under this latter method the owner of the mine shares in the prosperity of good, and also shares to some extent in their disappointment when the price of coal he has leased by reason of control of drill-

report made at the instance of President Roosevelt upon the disposition of coal lands in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. their experience ought to be most valuable. In all these countries the method for the disposition and opening of coal mines orig- the first cost of the ailinally owned by the government is by granting leasehold, and not by granting an absolute title. The terms of the leases run all the way from twenty to fifty years, while the amount of land which may be to 2,000 acres. It appears that a full exwhich quickly impresses itself on the peo- gress. I am informed by the Department shown. It is possible that at first consid- Tennessee. The government phosphate to the furnished to the public, and forbidmost obvious instances do not occur in other tracts of timber land in these states executive in drafting these forms of lease, Florida. Prior to March 4, 1909, there were a combination of others made for the purtheir neighborhood, while in the newer which should be included in the forest re- but as soon as experiment shall show which 4,000,000 acres withdrawn from agricultural pose of monopoly by forbidding assignment part of the country the sympathy with ex- serves. I expect to recommend to com- is the most workable and practicable, its entry on the ground that the land covered of the lease save by consent of the govern- and prevented waste and by the sympathy with exuse should be provided for specifically by phosphate rock. Since that time, 2,322,000 ment.

> Comparative Value of Coal Lands. "The investigations of the geological surcific coast is for about 4,500,000 tons a year. rock are now withdrawn from entry. It would encounter the competition of cheap fuel oil, of which the equivalent of 12,000,000 tons of coal a year is used there It is estimated that the coal could be laid down at Seattle or San Francisco, a highgrade bituminous at \$4 a ton and anthrafrom \$4 to \$12 a ton . With a regular coal

Alaska Field Should Be Opened. "In my judgment it is essential in the proper development of Alaska that these coal lands should be opened, and that the ity which can be furnished at a reasonable price from these fields; but the public, "The next subject, and one most impor- through the government, ought certainly to tant for our consideration, is the disposi- retain a wise control and interest in these tion of the coal lands in the United States, coal deposits, and I think it may do so form in the methods of disposing of what and in Alaska. First, as to those in the safely if congress will authorise the grant-United States. At the beginning of this ad- ing of leases, as giready suggested for laws have worked, well. The enlarged ministration there were classified coal lands government coal lands in the United States, amounting to 5,676,000 acres, and there were, with provisions forbidding the transfer of ful farming of lands in the semiarid regions. Withdrawn from entry for purposes of the leases except with the consent of the Of course the teachings of the Agricultural classification 17,867,000 acres. Since that government, thus preventing their acquisidepartment as to how these subarid lands time there have been withdrawn by my or- tion by a combination or monopoly and may be treated and the soil preserved for der from entry for classification 77,648,000 upon limitations as to the area to be inuseful culture are of the very essence of acres, making a total withdrawal of \$6,515,- cluded in any one lease to one individual, Then conservation of agri- 000 acres. Meantime, of the acres thus and at a certain moderate rental, with cultural lands is shown in the reclamation withdrawn. 11,371,000 have been classified royalties upon the coal mined proportioned of arid lands by irrigation and I should and found not to contain coal, and have to the market value of the coal either at devote a few words to what the government been restored to agricultural entry, and Seattle or at San Francisco. Of course 4,356,000 acres have been classified as coal such leases should contain conditions requiring the erection of proper plants, the proper development by modern mining methods of the properties leased and the of the United States with which to conin addition sands without prior withdrawal,
struct works for storing great bodies of fied as coal lands without prior withdrawal,
water at proper sittudes from which, by a thus increasing the classified coal lands to
and device for saving the life of the miners.

"The government of the United States and future use can be wisely and safely tions, adopted April 10, 1909, the maximum settled in one session if congress gives it carful attention:

"In the last administration there were withdrawn from agricultural entry 2,820,000 acres of supposed oil land in California; The appraised value of the lands unappropriated land; 75,000 acres in Oregon made applicable to deposits of this char-"For the year ending March 21, 1909, 227 acter, is not suitable to such lands, and for form of all existing withdrawals was ing 2,750,000 acres were made in Arizona California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Field examinations during the year showed that of the original withdrawnis, 2,170,000 acres were not valuable for oil, and they were restored for agricultural entry. Meantime, other with drawals of public oil lands in these states were made so that July 1. 1910, the outstanding withdrawals then amounted to 4,550,000 acres.

"The needed oil and gas law is essentially the government. The law now prohibits that the carnings will only be a remonable ownership. The government thus would not the reservation of any more forest lands in profit upon the amount paid and the invest- be entering on an experiment, but simply

ment necessary. But, of course, this is more putting into effect a plan successfully, or less guesswork, and the government operated in private contracts.

"One of the difficulties presented, espethe ground absolutely. Authorities of the cially in the California fields, lacthat the drawals, and many more, on 128 rivers seclogical survey estimate that in the Bouthern Pacific railroad wans every other and in eleven states. The disposition of nited States today there is a supply of section of land in the oil fields, and in these power sites involves one of the most about 3,000,000,000,000 of tons of coal, and those fields the oil seems to be in a com- difficult questions presented in carrying that of this 1,000,000,000,000 are in the public mon reservoir, or series of reservoirs, comomain.
"My investigations show that many owners of mining property of this country do or on the railroad territory generally, would in forest reserves by revocable leases, but not mine it themselves, and do not invest exhaust the oil in the government land. mining; but they lease their properties for ment is to have its share of the oil it should begin the opening and development ing is, of course, not a satisfactory one for

"Under the proposed oil legislation, espethe investment of a certain amount of cially where the government oil lands embrace an entire oil field, as in many cases, prospectors, operators, consumers and the public can be benefited by the adoption of velopment of all this immense amount the leasing system. The prospector can be protected in the very expensive work that that will prevent monopoly, and will prenecessarily antedates discovery; the oper-vent extoritonate charges, which are the his lessees when coal is high and the profits ator can be protected against impairmen of the productiveness of the wells which ing and pumping of other wells too alonely "I have looked with some care into a adjacent, or by the prevention of improper methods as employed by careless, ignorant or irresponsible operators in the same field which result in the admission of water to These are peculiarly mining countries and the oil sands, while of course the consumer will profit by whatever benefits the prospector or operator receives in reducing

Government Phosphate Lands.

nitrogen and potash. Of these three, phos leased to any individual there is from 320 phorus is by all odds the scarcest element in nature. It is easily extracted in useful amination was made and the opinions of form from the phosphate rock, and the all the leading experts on the subject were United States contains the greatest known solicited and given, and that with one ac- deposits of this rock in the world. They cord they approved in all respects the leas- are found in Wyoming. Utah and Florida. acres of the land thus withdrawn, was found not to contain phosphate in profitvey show that the coal properties in Alaska classified properly as phosphate lands, Durreserves or where their elimination is not 000,000,000 tons. This is, however, an underand lead to the formation of public opinion and action by the representatives of the
people. Theodore Roosevelt took up this
task in the last two years of his second administration, and well did he perform it.

"As president of the United States I have,
as it were, inherited this policy, and I rejoice fin my heritage. I prize my high opportunity to do all that an executive can
do to help a great people realize a great
toonal. It affects every man of us, every
woman, every child. What I can do in the
cause. I shall do, not as president of a

"As president of the United States I have,
as it were, inherited this policy, and I rethe forest homestead act. Congress ought
the fores estimate of the coal in Alaska, because fur- 2,115,000 acres. This rock is most important the ground one-half a cent a ton, which come greater, and it must be arranged so other Appalachian fields are worth from phosphate rock. There is, therefore, necescentral states from \$16 to \$2,000 an acre, legislation on this subject; and in aid of Of course, as I have referred only to the and in the Rocky mountains \$10 to \$500 such legislation all of the government public domain of the Federal government.

> Problem of Power Sites. "Prior to March 4, 1909, there had been,

on the recommendation of the reclamation service, withdrawn from agriculural entry, because they were regarded as useful for time, there have been newly withdrawn world; for, after the public attention has 1,245,892 acres on vacent public land and been roused, such appeals are of doubtful

total of 1.455,899 acres. These withdrawals made from time to time cover all the power sites included in the first without practical conservation. The forest serv ice, under a power found in the statute, has leased a number of these power sites no such power exists with respect to power sites that are not located within forest reserves, and the revocable system of leasthe purpose of inviting the capital needed to put in proper plants for the transmutation of power,

to see to it that in the utilization and de water power, conditions shall be imposed accompaniment of monopoly. The difficulty of adjusting the matter is accentuated by the relation of the power sites to the water. the fall and flow of which create the power. In the states where these sites are the riparion owner does not control or own the power in the water which flows past his land. That power is under the control and within the grant of the state, and generally the rule is that the first user is entitled to the enjoyment. Now, the possession of the bank or water power site over which the water is to be conveyed in order Phosphorus is one of the three essentials to plant growth, the other elements being owner an advantage and a certain kind of control over the use of the water power. and it is proposed that the government in dealing with its own lands should use

this advantage and lease lands for power sites to those who would develop the power and impose conditions on the leasehold with reference to the reasonableness of the rates ing system. Its success is abundantly as well as South Carolina. Georgia and at which the power, when transmuted, is as to the validity of these withdrawals as erable latitude will have to be given to the lands are confined to Wyoming. Utah and ding the union of the particular power with

"On the other hand, it is contended that able quantities, while 1.678.000 acres was the control of the water-power site and the cover about 1,200 square miles and that ing this administration there has been with-there are known to be available about 15,- drawn and classified 437,000, so that today states, and then were disposed of for development to private lessees under the restrictions needed to preserve the interests of the public from the extortions and abuses.

plans be adopted.

Many Other Angles Refered To. "At the risk of wearying my audience I

an acre. The demand for coal on the Pa- lands known to contain valuable phosphate I have left untouched the wide field of conservation with respect to which a heavy responsibility rests upon the states and individuals as well. But I think it of the utmost importance that after the public attention has been roused to the necessity of a change in our general policy to prevent waste and a selfish appropriation to pricite at \$5 or \$6 a ton. The price of coal on power sites which ought not to be disthe Pacific slope varies greatly from time posed of as agricultural lands, tracts be controlled for the public benefit, those amounting to about 4,000,000 acres. The who urge conservation shall feel the newithdrawals were hastly made and in-cluded a great deal of land that was not can be practically carried out, and shall useful for power sites. They were in- propose specific methods and legal provi-

'It is the plain duty of the government

Geo. F. Gilmore, Pres. to make the power useful, gives to its to the people that practical reforms are intended Withdrawal of Lands.

t would relieve a complicated situation if control of the water were vested in the as the final step in the course of conservasame sovereignity and ownership, vis. the

of monopoly "I do not express an opinion upon the controversy thus made or a preference as to the two methods of treating water-power sites. I shall submit the matter to congress and urge that one or the other of the two

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specific course that the people should take or have their legislature take, in order to premote the cause of conservation. The rousing of emotions on a subject like this, which has only dim outlines in the minds of the people affected, after a while ceases to be useful, and the whole movement will, if promoted on these lines, die for want of

Reserve, \$125,000.00.

"I have referred to the course of the las

administration and of the present one is making withdrawals of government lands from entry under homestead and other laws and of congress in removing all doub a great step in the direction of practical conservation. But it is only one of two necessary steps to effect what should be sur purpose. It has produced a status quo position of the lands until the method for their proper disposition can be formulated But it is of the utmost importance that such withdrawals should not be regarded tion, and that the idea should not be al lowed to spread that conservation is the tying up of the natural resources of the government for indefinite withholding from use and the remission to remote generations to decide what ought to be done with these means of promoting present general human comfort and progress. For, if so, it is certain to arouse the greatest opposition to conservation as a cause, and if it were a correct expression of the purpose of conservationists it ought to arouse this opposition. Real conservation involves wise, non-wasteful use in the present generation, have attempted to state as succinctly as with every possible means of preservation may be the questions of conservation as for succeeding generations; and though \$10 to \$386 an acre, and the fields in the sity for some definite and well-considered deal more than what I have discussed here. take. As I have said elsewhere, the problem 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 should be stored only for unborn generations.

"I beg of you, therefore, in your delibers. tions and in your informal discussions when men come forward to suggest evils that the promotion of conservation is to remedy, that you invite them to point out the specific cyils and the specific remedies; that you invite them to come down to de talls in order that their discussions may flow into channels that shall be useful rather than into periods that shall be eloquent and entertaining, without shedding they do not contain power sites; and mean- the word mean every known good in the in congress and the state legislature do their intelligent bidding."

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