

Conservation of the Waters

tions at length and I ask your attention to the report and recommendations. I call special attention to the need of strict economy in expenditures. The fact that our national needs forbid us to be negligent in providing whatever is actually necessary to our well-being, should make us doubly careful to husband our

national resources, as each of us husbands his private resources, by scrupulous avoidance of anything like wasteful or reckless expenditure. Only by avoidance of spending money on what is needless or unjustifiable can we legitimately keep our income to the point required to meet our needs that are genuine.

hoarding it, have no proper application in a dry country.

Right of Use Only. In the arid states the only right to water which should be recognized is that of use. In irrigation this right should attach to the land reclaimed and be inseparable therefrom. Granting perpetual water rights of others than users without compensation to the public, is open to all the objections which apply to giving away perpetual franchises to the public utilities of cities. A few of the western states have already recognized this, and have incorporated in their constitutions the doctrine of perpetual state ownership of water.

Through the Monroe doctrine we hope to be able to safeguard independence and secure like permanence for the lesser among the new world nations.

Our attitude in Cuba is a sufficient guaranty of our own good faith. We have not the slightest desire to secure any territory at the expense of any of our neighbors. We wish to work with them hand in hand, so that all of us may be uplifted together, and we rejoice over the good fortune of any of them, who, glad to hail their material prosperity and political stability, are not concerned and alarmed if any of them fall into the hands of a political chameleon. We do not wish to see any old world military power grow up on this continent, or to be compelled to become a military ally of any of the nations of the Americas can prosper best if left to work out their own salvation in their own way.

believe, at least as efficient as those of any other army in the entire world. It is our duty to have a well-trained force of a kind to insure the highest possible expression of power to these units when acting in combination.

Amend the Interstate Commerce Law.

In 1887 a measure was enacted for the regulation of interstate railways, commonly known as the interstate commerce act. The cardinal provisions of that act were that railway rates should be just and reasonable and that all shippers, localities and commodities should be accorded equal treatment. A commission was created and endowed with what were supposed to be the necessary powers to execute the provisions of this act.

That law was largely an experiment. Experience has shown its wisdom for its purposes, but has also shown, possibly, that some of its requirements are wrong, certainly that the means devised for the enforcement of its provisions are defective. Those who complain of the management of the railways allege that established rates are not maintained; that rebates and similar devices are habitually resorted to; that the preference is usually in favor of the large shipper; that they drive out of business the smaller competitor; that while many rates are too low, many others are excessive, and

that gross preferences are made, affecting both localities and commodities.

Upon the other hand, the railways assert that the law by its very terms tends to produce many of these illegal practices by depriving carriers of that right of concerted action which they claim is necessary to establish and maintain nondiscriminatory rates.

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Work of the Department of Agriculture.

The department of agriculture during the past fifteen years has steadily broadened its work on economic lines, and has accomplished results of real value in upbuilding domestic and foreign trade. It has done more to increase the production of our agricultural products than any other department of our government.

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Forest Preservation and Irrigation.

Public opinion throughout the United States has moved steadily toward a just appreciation of the value of the forest, whether planted or of natural growth. The great part played by them in the creation and maintenance of the national wealth is now more fully realized than ever before.

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Reclamation of Arid Lands.

The reclamation of the unsettled arid public lands present a different problem. Here it is not enough to regulate the flow of streams. The object of the government is to dispose of the land to settlers who will build homes upon it.

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Weighty Problem of the Philippines.

In the Philippines our problem is larger. They are a very rich tropical island, inhabited by many varying tribes, representing widely different stages of progress toward civilization. Our earnest effort is to help them upward along the stony and difficult path that leads to self-government. We hope to make our administration of the islands honorable to our nation by making it the highest and most beneficent that has ever been shown to a people.

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Our Zeal Disinterested.

History may safely be challenged to show a single instance in which a masterful race such as ours, having been forced by the exigencies of war to take possession of other lands, has behaved to its inhabitants with the disinterested zeal for their progress that our people have shown in the Philippines. To leave the islands at this time would mean that they would fall into a worse and more anarchic state than they are in now.

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Additional Legislation.

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Not to Permit This to be Done.

Not to permit this to be done is to do a wrong to the Philippines. The franchises must be granted and the money must be paid to the Indians against any kind of improper exploitation. But the vast natural wealth of the islands must be developed and the capital which it develops must be given the opportunity. The field must be thrown open to individual enterprise.

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What the Spanish War Proved.

The result was seen in the short war with Spain, which was decided with such rapidity because of the infinitely greater preparedness of our navy than that of the Spanish navy.

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Necessity of a Pacific Cable.

I call your attention most earnestly to the crying need of a cable to Hawaii and the Philippines, to be continued from the Philippines to points in Asia. We should not defer a day longer that necessary construction of such a cable. It is demanded not merely for commercial but for political and military considerations.

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Foreign Relations and Monroe Doctrine.

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Guard the Efficiency of the Army.

It is not necessary to increase our army beyond its present state at this time. It is necessary to keep it at the highest point of efficiency. The individual units should be made identical with those provided for

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Militia Law Worthless.

Action should be taken in reference to the militia and to the raising of volunteer forces. Our militia law is obsolete and worthless. The organization of the militia should be made to conform to the needs of the national guard of the several states, which are treated as militia in the appropriations by the congress, should be made identical with those provided for

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