

DEVELOP OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

SECRETARY LANE SAYS MANY NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC MEASURES ARE DEVELOPING OUR COUNTRY.

Two years ago I presented in my report what might be termed a program of internal development with respect to land; a railroad into the interior of Alaska; a coal leasing law for Alaska; a new reclamation act extending the time within which payments were to be made by water users and under which land would be forced into use; a water-power bill governing the use of public lands for hydro-electric development; a general development bill providing for a practicable method of disposing of our oil, gas, coal, phosphate, and potash without danger of monopoly or non-use. Of this program the larger portion has been adopted, and the last two have been successful in the house. The plan is to make the west help in its own development. The royalties from oil, gas, coal and phosphate lands and

from water power developed on public lands should be used for the reclaiming of the arid country and then divided with the states.

The Alaskan railroad is being built. The Alaskan coal leasing bill has already been put into effect in a small way by the granting of permits for the operation of small and isolated tracts for industrial and local use. The lease under which the larger fields have been reserved may be taken up has been drafted in co-operation with some of the most eminent mine operators of the country. Its utilization must, of course, await the opening of means of transportation. The new reclamation act has brought courage to the water users, who found their difficulties almost overwhelming, so new and strange to the people of our northern blood are the problems of irrigation.

The need for the general development bill is not difficult to present. The lands of the Pacific coast are being used intensely in some parts and these lands call for fertilization. One of the elements which must be restored to the soil is phosphorus. This is native in most soils but is needed by all after long use. The orange orchards of California and the apple orchards of Oregon and Washington, not to speak of others, draw heavily upon the soil. And for its replenishing the orchardists are buying phosphate rock in Florida, which is carried 5,000 miles by water and then inland, while in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming we have under withdrawal nearly 3,000,000 acres of land that are underlain with phosphate rock. There is no law today under which this can be secured. In Montana and elsewhere throughout the west are smelters which produce the sulphuric acid necessary for the conversion of this rock into practicable fertilizer. So that the development of this industry waits only upon the passage of a law which will put this mineral at the command of those who need it.

Our coal lands are now subject to sale at appraised values based upon an estimate of the content of the land. This is at best an expert's guess, and converts each purchase into a gamble, both on the part of the government and the purchaser. The bill does not exclude this method, but supplements it with a simple provision which the purchaser, instead of buying at hazard may pay a royalty upon what he produces. It gives the man of moderate means an opportunity to secure a mine.

As to oil and gas, the house committee had extensive hearings at which no practical man engaged in the industry offered any objection to the plan proposed. The existing law, under which such lands have been taken up, is to be characterized by no plainer word than as a plain misfit. Oil is found hundreds and sometimes thousands of feet below the surface of the earth, yet the law applicable to its acquisition is the placer law, intended to apply to the recovery of superficial minerals. This law is of romantic origin, for it is the outgrowth of the experience of the argonauts who went to California in the days of '49. The measures adopted by these men for the government of their claims along the mountain streams, where they did no more than lift the river sands to the pan or rocker, finally were incorporated into law. And the governing principle of this law was, that before a man could claim ownership in a placer claim he must have found gold there; and until he did, others might, at their bodily risk, to be sure, attempt to make prior discovery. The utter inapplicability of such a principle to a mineral found perhaps 2,000 feet below the surface, and where the discovery must be made at a cost of twenty, fifty or a hundred thousand dollars, is clear beyond comment. Now, under this impossible law a large amount of public land was "taken up" and by that is meant that it was located on and thereafter became a general basis for speculation and sometimes was developed. That the law is as hazardous to the investor as it is unsatisfactory to the government is universally conceded, and in its stead should come a measure under which the government would give a permit at first, an exclusive permit for drilling, and upon discovery within a given time an area be given as a reward for proving the ground, and adjacent lands leased upon a royalty basis.

There is another charge to be made against the existing law more serious than its unworkability. It is supremely wasteful. If the land is leased some control can be exercised over the manner of development. Millions of barrels of oil have been wasted by being allowed to flow into the streams, by being mixed with water or by evaporation. There has been no such waste, I am told, in other mining. And petroleum is a priceless resource, for it can never be replaced.

Accompanying the general development bill in its passage through the house was a measure intended to promote hydroelectric development on public lands, named after the chairman of the public lands committee of the house, Mr. Ferris. This bill was called for by the fact that existing

GOV. LEE CRUCE WILL ENTER CAMPAIGN

BEGINS SPEAKING CAMPAIGN IN NEW MEXICO ON OCTOBER 12—WILL COME HOME TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY.

Former Governor Lee Cruce, who is now with his daughter in Arizona, will soon be in the campaign for the democratic national ticket. He addressed a vast crowd of voters in Tucson on the 29th of September in the interest of the Wilson-Marshall ticket and on the 12th of October he will begin a ten days' speaking campaign in New Mexico under the auspices of the Chicago democratic headquarters. From New Mexico he will be sent to Kansas where he will continue in the campaign until the date of the election, November 7. This will place him near his home, and he will be here to vote. Following his brief visit here on election day it is his intention to return to Arizona until next spring.

His daughter, Miss Lorena Cruce, is reported as doing nicely in her new surroundings. It was on account of her ill health that she was taken to that state. Her physician has recommended that she be kept quiet and that she rest. She was prohibited from even writing letters for several months. This is not due to any alarming condition, but the physicians seem to be changing their methods of treatment from exercise and sunshine and "roughing it" to a complete rest from all exercise or labor of any kind.

legislation permitted only a revocable permit to be granted for such use, and this was regarded by engineers and financiers as too tentative and hazardous a tenure where millions of money were needed for the installation of the necessary plant.

The Ferris bill meets this difficulty by proposing a lease of these lands for a definite term of 50 years. The objection is made that the lands should be given outright. To this there are several answers of substance. No enlightened government gives such a franchise. There is danger, very real danger, too, of a complete monopolization of such water power sites if the lands go forever from the people. The value of water power is not yet fully realized, and its full value cannot be known at this stage in our industrial life. The purpose of the government in transferring these lands is to secure their use, because it does not choose to use them itself, but the time may come when it may be most desirable to the full development of our life that they should be operated by the nation or the states or the municipalities in the states, and to transfer them forever would cast a burden upon the future which would be unforgivable, and is moreover, unnecessary. The people desire these lands used, not held as a mere basis for speculation in stocks or bonds. Where there is need for such a plant the lands should be available on most generous terms.

At the end of the fifty-year period, what becomes of the plant? If it has been managed as to test serve the country there would be no reason why the holding company should not have a new lease. If it has been so managed the plant should not have a new lease. If it had not been so managed the plant should be bought at its value by whoever the new lessee might be, or by those who took over the lands on which it was situated, the state, for instance.

As already said, with the passage of these two measures there will be no land or resource that will not be at the full service of the people. And yet, the romantic enterprise of revealing America will not be done. To get from our resources their fullest use—this is our goal. And this is nothing less than a challenge to the capacity of a democracy.

WONDERFUL IS FORTRESS AT VERDUN

CORRESPONDENT TELLS GRAPHIC STORY OF THE PLACE THAT HAS BEEN STUMBLING BLOCK OF GERMAN CROWN PRINCE.

Verdun, Sept. 30.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—Just west of here, in the forest of Argonne, there is a remarkable military tunnel, 45 feet underground, running right up to within 300 yards of the German trenches. It is one of the most hard-pressed points around Verdun, but through this tunnel reinforcements move forward without danger, relieving every two hours the men on the firing line.

There was a very American atmosphere about this tunnel when the Associated Press correspondent visited it for the curious fact developed that the two officers in command were American residents, one a stock-raiser in Alberta, Canada, and the other a bank official of the Franco-American Bank at Los Angeles, California. Both were born in France and when the war broke out, left their American business to come home and fight. And now they are in full charge of this underground highway, leading up to one of the most desperate positions along the front. They are so American that they speak English instead of French, and the commandant's headquarters—a little nest in the clay—has a big picture of Uncle Sam hanging on the wall.

Creeching through this tunnel toward the front line, the members of the visiting party knocked their steel casques on the roof, and plunged through water, ankle-deep. Paul Cravath, the New York lawyer, a man of large build, 6 feet 6 inches tall, was bent double in the struggle through the tunnel. Along the way they passed an electric plant, throbbing with energy, and pumping the fresh air which keeps the tunnel habitable. Further on, in a large clay hole, a kitchen was in full operation, with soldiers eating bowls of noodles.

"Let me introduce you to our chef," said the commandant, as a young soldier-cook came forward. "He is now the cook for this tunnel—and he ought to be a good cook, for before the war he was chef to the French ambassador at Rome."

Emerging from the tunnel into the front line French trenches, the German trenches were plainly visible on the crest only 300 yards away. The intervening space was swept clear as though by a cyclone. Instead of the beautiful green of the forest, that was left at the other end of the tunnel, here the whole outlook was gray and desolate; the ground jagged and torn as by eccentric ploughs; not a vestige of grass or verdure, and the few gaunt trunks of trees stripped of their last leaf and looking like so many scarecrows.

"This has been a rather quiet day—only two mine explosions," said the commandant—"two men injured, one in the shoulder, the other in the leg. That is little, for often we have 40 to 60 men killed or injured in these mine explosions, which go on continually as the Germans try to mine under our trenches and we try to mine under theirs."

Even beyond the front line French trenches, the French soldiers had pushed their observation posts into the fire-swept dividing line, 300 yards wide. Some of these daring men could be seen almost up to the crest where the German line ran. They were crouched behind heaps of boulders, rifles ready.

"Those men are only ten yards from the Germans," said the commandant. As he spoke, Mr. Cravath of New York said:

"I see a German; there he is on the crest; you can see his uniform with the round cap."

"And he sees you, too," said the commandant. "You have been under fire," he added as he led Mr. Cravath and the others to a more secure position.

"It's good that German didn't fire," remarked Cravath. "It might have been an international incident. Think of it—killing an American visitor to the French trenches."

Coming back from the front line trenches, one had a view of the many ceaseless activities in carrying on this great battle. At one point soldiers in shirt sleeves were digging graves in an improvised cemetery along the forest path. The cemetery was very large and had been given a name: "Maison Forrester," or Forest Home. Every grave had a wooden cross above it,

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INDOOR LIFE MAKES FAT

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People who are confined within doors and who are deprived of fresh, invigorating air and exercise must take precaution to guard against stoutness, as fat acquired by indoor life is unhealthy and a danger to the vital organs of the body. Lack of exercise in the fresh air is said to weaken the oxygen carrying power of the blood, so that it is unable to produce strong muscles and vitality and the formation of unsightly and unhealthy fat is the result.

If you are 15 or 20 pounds above normal weight you are drawing on your reserve strength and are constantly lowering your vitality by carrying this excess burden. Any persons who are satisfied in their own mind that they are too stout are advised to go to the City Drug Store or any other good druggist and get a box of oil of korein capsules, and take one after each meal and one just before retiring at night.

Even a few days' treatment has been reported to show a noticeable reduction in weight, improved digestion and a return of the old energy; footsteps become lighter and the skin less flabby in appearance as superfluous fat disappears.

Oil of korein is inexpensive, cannot injure, and helps the digestion. Any person who wants to reduce 15 or 20 pounds is advised to give this treatment a trial.

How Catarrh is Contracted. Mothers are sometimes so thoughtless as to neglect the colds which their children contract. The inflammation of the mucous membrane, at first acute, becomes chronic and the child has chronic catarrh, a disease that is seldom cured and that may prove a life's burden. Many persons who have this loathsome disease will remember having had frequent colds at the time it was contracted. A little forethought, a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy judiciously used, and all this trouble might have been avoided. Obtainable everywhere.