

OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Prest. Taft Discusses Them in a Special Message to the Congress.

STRONG FOR CONSERVATION.

Under Old Land Law Much Public Domain Has Been Lost.

Deals With Water Power Site Question—No Federal Control of Forestry Without Federal Ownership.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Representative Mondell of Wyoming, chairman of the house committee on public lands, has declined to stand sponsor for President Taft's bills designed to carry out his program for conservation of natural resources. He offered to introduce the measure "by request" but the proffer was declined.

Washington, Jan. 14.—President Taft's special conservation message was delivered to the house by Mr. Latta, assistant secretary to the president, soon after that body convened today.

Pension legislation was interrupted for the reading of the document and the speaker advised members to pay close attention thereto, because no printed copies had arrived for distribution among them.

Practically all of the members present remained in their seats and followed the reading closely and carefully.

When the reading of the message had been concluded a roar of applause arose from the Republican side of the chamber and several Democratic members also joined in the demonstration of approval.

To the senate and house of representatives:

In my annual message I reserved the subject of the conservation of our natural resources for discussion in a special message as follows:

"In several departments there is presented the necessity for legislation looking to the further conservation of our natural resources and the subject is one of such importance as to require a more detailed and extended discussion than can be entered upon in this communication. For this reason, I shall take an early opportunity to send a special message to Congress on the subject of the improvement of our waterways; upon the reclamation and irrigation of arid, semi-arid and swamp lands; upon the preservation of our forests and the re-forestation of suitable areas; upon the reclassification of the public domain with a view of separating from agricultural settlement, mineral, coal and phosphate lands and sites belonging to the government bordering on streams suitable for the utilization of water power."

In 1860 we had a public domain of 1,055,912,288 acres. We have now 731,754,691 acres, confined largely to the mountain ranges and the arid and semi-arid plains. We have in addition, 26,935,975 acres of land in Alaska. The public lands were, during the earliest administrations, treated as a national asset for the liquidation of public debt and source of reward for our soldiers and sailors. Later on they were donated in large amounts to aid the construction of wagon roads and railways in order to open up regions in the west then almost inaccessible.

OLD LAND LAWS.

The principal land statutes were enacted more than a quarter of a century ago. The homestead act, the pre-emption act, the mineral act, the coal land and the mining acts were among these. The rapid disposition of the public lands under the early statutes and the lax methods of distribution have led many to think, to the belief that these lands should rapidly pass into private ownership, gave rise to the impression that the public domain was being rapidly depleted through their development. The truth is that title to millions of acres of public lands was fraudulently obtained, and that the right to recover a large part of such lands for the government long since ceased by reason of statutes of limitation.

There has developed in recent years a deep concern in the public mind respecting the preservation and proper use of our natural resources. This has been particularly directed toward the conservation of resources of the public domain.

The problem is how to save, how to utilize, how to conserve and still develop; for no sane person can contend that it is for the points of its use, known as "water power" sites.

ROOSEVELT REFORMS.

Among the most noteworthy reforms initiated by my distinguished predecessor, were the vigorous prosecution of land frauds and the bringing to public attention of the necessity for preserving the remaining public domain from further spoliation, for the maintenance and extension of our forest reserves, and for the enactment of laws amending the obsolete statutes so as to retain the government control over that part of the public domain in which there are valuable deposits of coal, oil and phosphate, and in addition thereto, to preserve control, under conditions favorable to the public, of lands along the streams in which the fall of water can be made to generate power to be transmitted in the form of electricity many miles to the points of its use, known as "water power" sites.

Investigations into violations of public land laws and prosecution of land frauds have been vigorously continued under my administration, as has been

POWER SITE WITHDRAWALS.

Since March 4, 1909, temporary withdrawals of power sites have been made from 102 streams and these withdrawals therefore cover 29 per cent more streams than were covered by the withdrawals made prior to that date.

The present statutes, except so far as they dispose of precious metals and purely agricultural lands, are not adapted to carry out the new plan of the best disposition of public lands to private ownership, under conditions private on the one hand, sufficient inducement to private capital to take them over for proper development with restrictive conditions, and on the other, which shall secure to 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 would 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, under the circumstances, full of difficulties. It seems to me that it is the duty of Congress now, by a statute, to validate withdrawals which have been made by the secretary of the interior and 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.

LAND CLASSIFICATION.

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, which has existed in the past has arisen from the lack of an official and determinative classification of the public lands as to their principal value or use.

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 phosphorus 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 minerals.

The preliminary work on the free bridge which St. Louis is erecting, was destroyed by the ice.

DANGER POINT IN THE KANSAS AT TOPEKA PASSED

Topeka, Kan., Jan. 14.—The danger point in the Kansas river here is passed. The gage shows a fall of six feet since Thursday morning, the stage now being 12.2 feet. The river is still filled with ice, but aside from the loss of three bridges in this county little damage has been done. Santa Fe trains are tied up near Lakeview because of an ice blockade over the tracks.

swamp soils. levee river overflow soils, grow trees on thin soils, pasture hills, rotate crops on all soils, discover methods for cropping dry land soils, find grasses and legumes for all soils, feed grain and mill feeds on the farms where they originate, that the soils from which they come may be enriched.

A work of the utmost importance to inform and instruct the public on this branch of the conservation of our resources is being carried on successfully in the department of agriculture, but it ought not to escape public attention that the 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 soils in the manner above indicated.

The act by which, in semi-arid parts of the public domain, the area of the homestead has been enlarged from 160 to 320 acres has resulted most generally in the extension of the farming area, the demonstration which has been made of the possibility, through a variation in the character and mode of culture of raising substantial crops on the land, and the supply of water as has been heretofore thought to be necessary for agriculture.

IRRIGATION.

But there are millions of acres of completely arid lands 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 act authorized the secretary of the interior to build the works needed to store and furnish necessary water and it was left to the secretary of the interior to determine what 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 this is the most important method of conservation of our natural resources that the government has entered upon. It would appear that over 20 projects have been authorized and that many of these are likely to be unsuccessful because of the lack of water or for other reasons, but generally the work which has been done has been well done and many important engineering problems have been met and solved.

One difficulty which has arisen is that so many projects, in view of the available funds, have been set on foot. The funds available under the reclamation statute are inadequate to complete these projects within a reasonable time, and the result is that many projects have been begun, but have not been completed, and in many instances have taken up, and within the projects, requiring much more money than was available. The failure to complete the projects for their benefit is, in effect a breach of faith and leaves them in a most distressing condition.

NATION SHOULD AID THEM.

I urge that the nation ought to afford a means to lift them out of the very desperate condition in which they are now. This condition does not indicate any excessive waste, or any corruption on the part of the reclamation service, but only indicates an over-zealous 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 projects already begun and their proper extension, and the bonds running 10 years or more, to be taken up by the proceeds from the reclamation fund, which returns as

FLOOD WATERS ARE RECEIVING

Ice Gorge at St. Louis Breaks And River Fell More Than Five Feet in Three Hours.

BOATS LEFT HIGH AND DRY

Levee Strawn With Wreckage—Weather Reports Indicate Mississippi Is Rising to the North.

St. Louis, Mo. Jan. 14.—The Mississippi river front at St. Louis presented a devastated appearance today. The river, gorged with ice, rose from 22 feet Wednesday night to 21.9 feet early today and then the gorge broke. Inside of three hours the river fell more than five feet and at 8 o'clock the gage read 26.1 feet.

The boats on the river were left high and dry by the rapid fall and the levee was strewn with wreckage. The property loss will exceed \$200,000.

The gorge which formed late yesterday after the breaking of the gorge which had held for three weeks, gave way at dawn under the pressure of ice and water which had come down the Missouri river into the Mississippi.

Weather bureau reports indicate the Mississippi river is rising north of St. Louis. The maximum height of the river at St. Louis is 21.9 feet above the danger stage. The railroad tracks on the levee were inundated and the falling water left them covered with debris and ice.

The gorge at Alton, 23 miles north of St. Louis, broke this morning and will reach here during the day. The bridge at Alton caused the ice floes to back up again and another gorge is forming there.

South of St. Louis the river is full of floating ice to below Chester, Ill., 60 miles down the river.

The Illinois and Missouri rivers are rising. Here the river continued to fall.

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WHY IS THE COST OF LIVING SO HIGH IN SALT LAKE? WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF 1900 AND 1910.

This interesting subject will be treated in

—THE—

Saturday News

TOMORROW

Other exclusive features for this issue are, A State Workshop for the Adult Blind, illustrated.

King Edward as a Moral Censor Comes as a Surprise to England, illustrated.

Romantic Narratives of American Series, "The Peggy O'Neal War," illustrated.

English Polo Players Prepare to Clean Out Alleged Grafters, illustrated.

American Artists Rarely Represented in Europe, illustrated.

"Purity in Fiction" Cry Has Aroused English Authors.

Making Text Books for the Chinese, Frank G. Carpenter, illustrated.

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 10 years, the proceeds from the public lands, together with the rental for water furnished through the completed enterprises, would quickly create a sinking fund large enough to reimburse the government for the expenditure. I hope that, while the statute shall provide that these bonds are to be paid out of the reclamation fund, it be also provided that the proceeds of the sale of the bonds be applied to the reclamation fund, and that the credit of the United States will be pledged for their redemption.

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EIGHT SPANISH OFFICERS ARRESTED

Military Club in Madrid Was Surrounded and Many Members Prisoners.

PLOT HAS BEEN DISCOVERED

Was Widespread—Captains-General of Four Principal Cities Have Been Removed.

Paris, Jan. 14.—A news dispatch received here today from Madrid says that the building occupied by the Military club was surrounded by the police today and 80 army officers who were in the building arrested.

PRINCE PIGNATELLY PUT UNDER ARREST

Madrid, Jan. 14.—Prince Pignately, alleged to have been involved in the recently discovered plot through which the Conservatives are said to have aimed to embroil the army with the government, was arrested today.

The Liberal press strongly approves the energetic action taken by the government. The Liberal says the measures were severe but indispensable. El Pais says the plot was designed to force the resignation of Minister of War Luque and thus precipitate the fall of Premier Morcuende Prendergast and the cabinet. The articles in the Correspondencia Militar, which revealed the plot were written by Senor Lorenas, a Carlist deputy and officer, who used a pseudonym. The basis of the plot was supposed to be the demonstration of army officers was made in front of the newspaper office.

The police raided the office and on the evidence furnished by the cabinet hurriedly assembled under the presidency of King Alfonso, who sanctioned the removal of Count De Villar as captain-general of Madrid and the arrest of the officers implicated.

That the affair had widespread ramifications was indicated by the subsequent removal last night of the governor-general of Valencia, an Valadolid and Corona. General Linares, ex-minister of war, was the first to congratulate Minister Luque on the prompt action.

The award of honors to the officers of the Mellin expedition, which was celebrated by the Correspondencia Militar was in accordance with the official recommendation of Gen. Marina, governor of Mellin. The affair has created little popular excitement as the government has acted before the existence of the conspiracy became generally known.

WARRINER TAKEN TO PRISON TO BEGIN SENTENCE

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 14.—Charles L. Warriner, who confessed to having killed the \$25,000 while running the Big Four railroad in this city, was taken to Columbus, O., penitentiary today to begin a sentence of six years which was imposed upon him following his plea of guilty to the embezzlement of \$200.

Warriner issued a signed statement denying the various rumors that he was protecting "some one higher up."

COL. T. H. SWOPE MAY HAVE BEEN MURDERED

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 14.—"An arrest probably will be made in a few days," said John H. Atwood, an attorney for the Swope estate, who was called to the city with the examination of the vital organs of Col. Thomas H. Swope, the aged philanthropist, who died suddenly on Jan. 12.

Death was at first attributed to apoplexy, but a quick succession of deaths and illness among heirs of the Swope estate led to the extension of the autopsy in the exhuming of the body of Col. Swope and the removal of his stomach for purposes of an autopsy.

"There is not a particle of doubt in my mind," continued Atwood, "that both Thomas and Christian Swope were poisoned."

It is understood that no warrant will

of our land waterways it would be wise to begin with this particular project, and to extend it as rapidly as may be. I assume from reliable information that it can be constructed in the shortest time.

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 the Gulf to a constant depth of 6 feet, and from St. Louis to Cairo of a depth of 8 feet. These projects have been proposed and authorized by competent boards of army engineers, their cost has been estimated and the necessary funds have been appropriated for their improvement.

I recommend, therefore, that the present Congress should authorize and appropriate a certain amount for each year to be used by the government to institute reforestation at the sources of certain navigable streams, with a view to determining the practicability of such improving and protecting the streams for their benefit. I think a moderate expenditure for each of these purposes, which has been made by the government for a period of 5 or 10 years, would be of the utmost benefit in the development of our forestry system.

INLAND WATERWAYS.

I come now to improvement of 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 by the transportation of goods and passengers by railroads and canals in Germany and France and England, and it is also certain that the distance of such transportation materially affects the rates which railroads charge and it is the best regulator of our rates that we have not even excepting governmental regulation through the interstate commerce commission.

UTAH AUTOMOBILE SHOW. FEB. 19-26.

be asked until the examination of the stomach of Col. Swope, which was in progress at Rush Medical college in Chicago under the direction of Dr. Hektoen of that institution, is completed.

The alleged murder plot, said to have been planned with great deliberation, had for its supposed end the extermination of all the Swope heirs. It is stated that shortly before Christian Swope's death, which occurred on Dec. 2, just two months after that of his uncle, Col. Swope, a man visited the office of a well known bacteriologist in Kansas City and secured some typhoid germs. With these death-balls, it is asserted, the man hoped to inoculate the members of the Swope family.

Added credence is given this hypothesis by the fact that during the month of December, six members of the Swope household became ill with typhoid fever.

That the typhoid epidemic was not due to unsanitary conditions about the Swope residence was shown by the report of two physicians who made thorough investigations of the premises, assisted by plumbers.

CORPORATION TAX LAW.

Sixty Commercial Bodies Want Publicity Feature Repealed.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—Two hundred and fifty delegates, representing important commercial and industrial organizations of the country met here today to take action towards the repeal of the publicity feature of the new corporation tax law. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Illinois Manufacturers' association.

Laverne W. Noyes, president of the Illinois Manufacturers' association, who opened the conference, said the publicity clause would in no way stop the great majority of evils and violations of the law now existing in the "criminal corporations."

"Had a liberal prize been offered by such mischief-makers for the best method of making corporate control by the government odious," said Mr. Noyes, "nothing better could have been devised than the gathering and posting of the names of the stockholders and the details of the business of the small corporations. A cunning hand inserted the publicity clause in the corporation tax law, thereby making the law a mockery and should remedy this defect."

ROBERTA DE JONAN SHOWS GOOD GRIT

Philadelphia, Jan. 14.—Both Roberta de Janon and Mrs. Ferdinand Cohen, with whose husband the young heiress eloped, spent last night in hospitals in this city. The man over whom the woman and girl have become practically nervous wrecked, is confined to a cell in City hall and will be arraigned today for a hearing.

Just what charge to lodge against Cohen is a question which perplexes the police officials and counsel for Robert Buist, the girl's millionaire grandfather.

The girl, in spite of a cross-examination which ran practically from the time she was turned over to the Philadelphia detectives until she was taken to a hospital last night, refused to admit that any exception herself was to blame for the escape.

The deserted wife, after a fearful interview with Cohen, promised to stand by him.

THAW IN GOOD CONDITION.

New York, Jan. 14.—Reports that Harry Thaw was dangerously ill in the state asylum for the criminal insane at Matteawan, were denied today by Asst. Superintendent Keib of that institution. Thaw is in better physical condition now than at any time since his incarceration, the asylum officials stated.

KING MANUEL TO WED VICTORIA PATRICIA

Paris, Jan. 14.—A special dispatch received here from Lisbon quotes from an authorized source affirming that the marriage of King Manuel, of Portugal, and Princess Victoria Patricia, youngest daughter of the Duke of Connaught, will be solemnized next May.

EXPRESS COMPANIES SEVERELY ARRAIGNED

Washington, Jan. 14.—Arraigning the express companies for making enormous profits on an infringement of the government's right to monopoly of transporting mail and criticizing the postoffice department for surrendering that right to the express companies, Kansas today introduced a long resolution calling on the postmaster general to make provision for continuing contracts to complete these improvements.

These improvements are being made, and 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 6 feet, and the improvement of the Ohio river to a depth of 8 feet, which is now being carried on with the maintenance of a depth of 6 feet, and the improvement of the Missouri from Kansas City to the Gulf to a constant depth of 6 feet, and from St. Louis to Cairo of a depth of 8 feet. These projects have been proposed and authorized by competent boards of army engineers, their cost has been estimated and the necessary funds have been appropriated for their improvement.

MILHOUSE HELD TO TRIAL COURT

Pleads Guilty to the Many Larceny Charges Against Him.

SIX MONTHS FOR BLANKE

Owing to Destitute Circumstances of His Family He Escapes Felony Charge.

Henry Milhouse was the stellar attraction in Judge Bowman's galaxy of offenders in the criminal division of the city court this morning, and Mrs. Milhouse shared "honors" with her husband. The man is charged in three complaints with burglary in the second degree, and it developed that his thievery dragged into the case three other persons.

Milhouse is the man who conceived the get-rich-quick idea, by stealing not stocks and bonds, but hay, chickens and furniture. He is the man who made at least one family wonder whether or not they had moved and forgotten the circumstance, as he took from their place of abode about everything that was not nailed down.

According to the prosecution when the job got too big for Milhouse, Mrs. Mil