

UNIQUE CONFERENCE OPEN

(Continued from Page 1) actual surface of the ground. As a people become a little less primitive, their industries, although in a rude manner, are extended to resources beneath the surface; then, with what we call civilization and the extension of knowledge, more resources come into use. Industries are multiplied, and foresight begins to become a necessary and prominent factor in life. Crops are cultivated; animals are domesticated; and metals are mastered.

MANKIND'S PROGRESS. Every step of the progress of mankind is marked by the discovery and use of natural resources previously unused. Without such progressive knowledge and utilization of natural resources population could not grow, nor industries multiply, nor the hidden wealth of the earth be developed for the benefit of mankind.

From the first beginnings of civilization, on the banks of the Nile and the Euphrates, the industrial progress of the world has gone on slowly, with occasional setbacks, but the whole steadily, through tens of centuries to the present day. But of late the rapidity of the progress has increased at such a rate that more space has been actually covered during the century and a quarter occupied by our national life than during the preceding six thousand years that took us back to the earliest monuments of Egypt, to the earliest cities of the Babylonian plain.

A DIFFERENCE OF DEGREE. When the founders of this nation met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia the conditions of commerce had not fundamentally changed from what they were when the Phoenician vessels first furrowed the waters of the Mediterranean. The differences were those of degree, not of kind, and they were not in all cases even those of degree. Mining was carried on fundamentally as it had been carried on by the Pharaohs in the countries adjacent to the Red Sea.

The wares of the merchants of Boston, of Charleston, like the wares of the merchants of Nineveh and Sidon, if they went by water, were carried by boats propelled by sails or oars; if they went by land were carried in wagons drawn by beasts of draft or in packs on the backs of beasts of burden. The ships that crossed the blue seas were no better than the ships that had once crossed the Aegean, but they were of the same type, after all—they were wooden ships propelled by sails, and on land, the roads were not so good as the roads of the Roman Empire, while the service of the posta was probably inferior.

In Washington's time anthracite coal was known only as a useless black stone, and the great fields of bituminous coal were undiscovered. As steam was unknown, the use of coal for power had not even dreamed of. Water was practically the only source of power, save the labor of men and animals, and this power was used in the most primitive fashion. But a few small iron deposits had been found in this country, and the use of iron by our countrymen was very small.

Such was the degree of progress to which civilized mankind had attained when this nation began its career. It is almost impossible for us in this day to realize how little our revolutionary ancestors knew of the great store of natural resources whose discovery and use have been such vital factors in the growth and greatness of this nation, and how little they required to take from this store in order to satisfy their needs.

THE INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE. Since then our knowledge and use of the resources of the present territory of the United States have increased a hundredfold. Indeed, the growth of this nation by leaps and bounds makes one of the most striking and important chapters in the history of the world. The growth has been due to the rapid development, and alas! that it should be said, to the rapid destruction, of our natural resources, and to the fact that we in this day are not so wise as our fathers, though they knew so little of the resources of the country, exercised a wise forethought in reference thereto. Washington clearly saw that the perpetuity of the States would only be realized on the basis of an economic union. In other words, that it must be based on the development and use of their natural resources. Accordingly, he helped to outline a scheme of commercial development, and by his influence an Inter-State waterways commission was appointed by Virginia and Maryland.

It met near where we are now meeting, in Alexandria, adjourned to Mount Vernon, and its deliberations in regard to Inter-State commerce by the only means then available, that of water. Further conferences were arranged, first at Annapolis and then at Philadelphia. It was in Philadelphia that the representatives of all the States met for what was its original conception, mercenary and selfish considerations, but when they had closed their deliberations the outcome was the constitution which made the States into a nation.

THE CONSTITUTION. The constitution of the United States thus grew in the great and wise use of one of our natural resources. The wise use of all of our natural resources, which are our national resources, and utilization of them, is the question of to-day. I have asked you to come together now because the enormous consumption of these resources, and the threat of imminent exhaustion of some of them, is so reckless and wasteful use, once more calls for common effort, common action.

Since the days when the constitution was adopted, steam and electricity have revolutionized the industrial world. Nowhere has the revolution been so great as in our own country. The discovery and utilization of mineral fuels and alloys, have given us the lead over all other nations in the production of steel. The discovery and utilization of coal and iron have given us our railways, and have led to such industrial development as has

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never before been seen. The vast wealth of lumber in our forests, the riches of our soils and mines, the discovery of gold and mineral oils, combined with the efficiency of our transportation, have made the conditions of our life unparalleled in comfort and convenience.

DRAIN ON OUR RESOURCES. The steadily increasing drain on these natural resources has promoted to an extraordinary degree the complexity of our industrial and social life. Moreover, this unexampled development has had a determining effect upon the character and opinions of our people. The demand for efficiency in the great task has given us vigor, effectiveness, decision, and the capacity for achievement which in its own lines has never yet been matched. So great and so rapid has been our material growth that there has been a tendency to lag behind in spiritual and moral growth; but that is not the subject upon which I speak to you to-day.

Understanding for the moment the question of moral purpose, it is safe to say that the prosperity of our people depends directly on the energy and intelligence with which the natural resources are used. It is equally clear that these resources are the final basis of national power and perpetuity. Finally, it is eminently evident that these resources are in the course of rapid exhaustion.

This nation began with the belief that its landed possessions were illimitable, and capable of supporting all the people who might care to make their home; but already the limit of unsettled land is in sight, and indeed is being rapidly approached. Agriculture now remains unoccupied save what can be claimed by irrigation and drainage. We began with an unapportioned inheritance of forests, more than half of the timber is gone. We began with coal fields more extensive than those of any other nation and with iron ores regarded as inexhaustible, and many experts now declare that the end of both iron and coal is in sight.

COAL CONSUMPTION. The mere increase in our consumption of coal during 1904 over 1903 exceeded the total consumption in 1876, the Centennial year. The enormous stores of mineral oil and gas are being rapidly exhausted. Our natural waterways are not gone, but they have been so injured by neglect, and by the division of responsibility and utter lack of interest in their betterment, that there is less navigation on them now than there was fifty years ago. Finally, we began with soils of unexampled fertility and we have, by injudicious use and by failing to check erosion that their crop producing power is diminishing instead of increasing. In short, we have thoughtlessly, and to a large degree unnecessarily, diminished the resources upon which not only our prosperity but the prosperity of our children must always depend.

TIME TO TAKE THOUGHT. We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources and we are proud of the greatness of our growth. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils shall have been still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the banks, and obstructing navigation. These questions do not relate only to the next century or to the next generation. It is time for us now as a nation to consider the right and the right of our children in dealing with our great natural resources that would be shown by any prudent man in conserving and wisely using the property which would assure him and his children for himself and his children.

The natural resources I have enumerated can be divided into two sharply distinguished classes accordingly as they are or are not capable of renewal. Mines if used must necessarily be exhausted. The minerals can not be renewed themselves. Therefore in dealing with coal, the oil, the gas, the iron, the metals generally, all that we can do is to try to see that they are wisely used. The exhaustion is certain to come in time.

The second class of resources consists of those which can not only be used in such manner as to leave them undiminished for our children, but can actually be improved by wise use. The soil, the forests, the waterways come in this category. In dealing with these resources, man is able to improve on nature only by putting the resources to a beneficial use which in the end exhausts them; but by dealing with the soil, the products man can improve on nature by compelling the resources to renew and even reconstruct themselves in such manner as to serve him as well as the immediate necessities of the living waters can be so controlled as to multiply their benefits.

PRIMITIVE MAN IRRESPONSIBLE. Neither the primitive man nor the pioneer was aware of the relation of his activity in dealing with the natural resources. When the American settler felled the forests, he felt that there was plenty of forest left for the sons of his father after him. When he exhausted the soil of his farm he felt that his son could go West and take up another. So it was with his immediate successors. When the farmer's fields were choked by the neighboring river he thought only of using the railway rather than boats for moving his produce and supplies. Now all this is changed. On the average the son of the farmer of today must make his living on his father's farm. There is no difficulty in doing this, for the father has exercised wisdom. No wise use of a farm exhausts its fertility. So with the forests. We are over the verge of a timber famine in this country, and it is unparagonable that the father should permit any further cutting of our timber save in accordance with a system which will provide that the next generation shall see the timber increased instead of diminished. Moreover, we can add enormous tracts of the most valuable possible agricultural land to the national domain by irrigation in the arid and semiarid regions and by drainage of swamps and lowlands in the humid regions. We can enormously increase our transportation facilities by the canalization of our rivers so as to complete a great system of waterway with the Pacific and Gulf coasts and in the Mississippi valley, from the Great Plains to the Alleghenies and from the Alleghenies to the Gulf, with the mighty Father of Waters. But all these various uses of our natural resources are so closely connected that they should be co-ordinated, and should be treated as parts of one coherent plan and not in haphazard and piecemeal fashion.

THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION. It is largely because of this that I appointed the waterways commission last year and that I have sought to perpetuate its work. I wish to take this opportunity to express in heartfelt fashion my acknowledgement to all the members of the commission. At great personal sacrifice of time and effort they have rendered a service to the public for which we can not be too grateful. Especial credit is due to the initiative, the energy, the devotion to duty and the far-sightedness of

Gifford Pinchot, to whom we owe so much of the progress we have already made in this matter. It is the co-ordination and conservation of natural resources. If it had not been for him this convention neither would nor could have been called.

We are coming to recognize as never before the right of the nation to guard its own future in the essential matter of natural resources. In the past we have admitted the right of the individual to injure the future of the republic for his own present profit. The time has come for a change. As a people we have the right and the duty, second to none other but the right of obeying the moral law of requiring and doing justice, to protect ourselves and our children against the wasteful development of our natural resources, whether the waste is caused by the actual destruction of such resources or by making them impossible of development hereafter.

NATION AND STATES AWAKENED. Any right thinking father earnestly desires and strives to leave his son the best and the most valuable and usable equipment for the struggle of life. So this nation as a whole should earnestly desire and strive to leave to the next generation the national honor and the national resources unimpaired and unexhausted. There are signs that both the nation and the States are waking to a realization of this great truth. On March 19th, 1905, the Supreme Court of Maine rendered a decidedly important judicial decision. This opinion was rendered in response to questions as to the right of the Legislature to restrict the cutting of trees on private land for the prevention of droughts and floods, the preservation of the natural water supply, and the prevention of the erosion of such lands and the consequent filling up of rivers, ponds and lakes. The forest and water power of Maine constitute the larger part of her wealth and form the basis of her industrial life, and the opinion submitted by the Maine Senate to the Supreme Court and the answer of the Supreme Court alike bear testimony to the wisdom of the people of Maine, and clearly define the national right of natural resources, the adoption of which is of vital importance not merely to Maine but to the whole country.

Such a policy will preserve soil, forest, water power, and the health of the children and the children of the children for an enactment that provides for the wise utilization of the forests, whether in the hands of the private owner, or for the conservation of the water resources of the country, must necessarily be legislation that will promote both private and public welfare; for forest preservation, water power development, protection of the soil, and improvement of navigable rivers are all promoted by such a policy of forest conservation.

The opinion of the Maine supreme bench sets forth unequivocally the principle that the property rights of the individual are subordinate to the rights of the community, and especially that the waste of wild timber land derived originally from the State, involved as it is in the ownership of the State and its people and therefore of defeating one great purpose of government, may properly be prevented by State restrictions.

RIGHTS OF PUBLIC. The court says that there are two reasons why the right of the public to control and limit the use of private property is peculiarly applicable to property in land: "First, such property is not the result of productive labor, but is derived from the bounty of the State itself, the original owner; second, the amount of land being incapable of increase, if the owners of widely scattered lands are permitted to dispose of their property as they wish without State restriction, the rights of their people may be helplessly impoverished and one great purpose of government defeated." "We do not think the proposed legislation would curtail the property rights of the individual within the inhibition of the constitution. While it might restrict the power of wild and uncultivated lands in his use of them, might delay his taking of some profit, might even delay his anticipated profits and even thereby might cause him some loss of profit, it would nevertheless leave him his lands, their product and increase, and would not result in the destruction of his property, or in the loss of his title, estate, or quantity. He might still have large measure of control and large opportunity to realize values. He might suffer delay but not deprivation of his property, or loss of his title. "We would be within the legislative power and would not operate as a taking of private property for which compensation must be made."

The court further says that the States in New Jersey has adopted a similar view, which has recently been sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States. In delivering the opinion of the court on April 10th, Justice Holmes said: "The State is a quasi-sovereign and representative of the interests of the public has a standing in court to protect the atmosphere, the water, the soil, and the air of its territory, irrespective of the assent or dissent of the private owners of the land most immediately concerned. It appears to us that few public interests are more important, independent and independent of particular theory than the interests of the public of a State to maintain the rivers that are wholly within it substantially undiminished, and to drag upon them as the guardian of the public welfare may permit for the purpose of turning them to a more perfect use. This public interest is omnipresent and unimpaired. It grows more pressing as population grows." "We are of opinion, further, that the constitutional power of the State to insist that its natural advantages shall remain as they exist, and that its territory is not dependent upon any estimate of the extent of present use or speculation as to future needs. The legal conception of the necessary and reasonable uses of the river, and its rudimentary wants, and there are benefits from a great river that might escape a lawyer's view. But the State is not required to submit even to an aesthetic analysis. Any analysis is adequate. It finds itself in possession of what all admit to be a great public good, and what it has it may keep and give no one a reason for its will."

ROOT OF THE IDEA. These decisions reach the root of the idea of conservation of our resources in the interests of our people. Finally, let us remember that the conservation of our natural resources, though the gravest problem of to-day, is yet but part of another and greater problem to which this nation is not yet awake, but to which it will awake in time, and with which it must hereafter grapple if it is to live—the problem of national efficiency, the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the nation. When the people of the United States consciously unite to raise themselves as citizens, and the nation and the States in their several spheres, to the highest pitch of excellence in civility, State, and national life, and to do this because it is the first of all the duties of true patriotism, then and not till then the future of this nation, and its quality in time, will be assured.

The President's speech ended the morning session. He with the Vice President shook hands with each

member of the assemblage. The Governors and delegates were photographed with the President on the porch of the White House. The picture will show also William Jennings Bryan, Andrew Carnegie, J. Hill and Gustav Schwab, especially invited participants. The President met in the blue drawing room his dinner guests of the night before, including the Governors and others.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION. It was at the afternoon session that the real work of the conference began, and which proceeded through 4:45 and lasted until 8:00 o'clock. The President finds it impossible to devote his entire time to the conference meetings. He will call to order each session and will preside. A Governor to preside. This honor fell to-day on Governor Noel of Mississippi, with the intimation from the President that to-morrow he should call upon Governor Johnson, of Minnesota. Then, after this announcement, the President suddenly called upon Mr. Bryan to interrupt the program and address the meeting. Mr. Bryan acknowledged the enthusiasm his name aroused by lifting his hands, and then indicated a desire to speak.

It was from the utterance of Mr. Carnegie and those who followed him that the gravity of the problem to be considered would give weight. Two hundred years of coal supply and half that of iron was the prediction of the famous iron master.

MR. CARNEGIE'S IDEAS. There were ways by which both the coal and the iron supply might be conserved, according to Mr. Carnegie—by economies in mining and in use, and the development of water transportation facilities, and the use of both products. It was at the conclusion of Mr. Carnegie's address that the resolutions began to pour in. Two above referred to, which were read, and which were approved, that the prediction was made of their ultimate adoption.

Dr. I. C. White, of West Virginia, acknowledged his knowledge and prediction on the subject of coal and iron, in which he predicted the exhaustion of the Pittsburgh coal supply in 25 years, and the West Virginia fields in practically the same time.

MITCHELL'S PLEA FOR OPERATIVES. John Mitchell, former head of the United Workers of America Association, estimated that July 25 per cent of the coal in the mines already developed had been wasted in mining, and in a much greater percentage in use. Without such waste, which he believed might be overcome, the supply of coal would last 2,000 instead of 200 years, as predicted. He concluded with a plea for more attention to mine operatives, one of whom he said is killed and several injured with the mining of every 100,000 tons of coal.

Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, made a lively talk in which he took issue with the prediction that the iron mining in the Lake Superior region. Two problems, he said, confronted the conference, one was the conservation of the iron supply, the other the other the true development of industry. One, he said, was as great as the other.

Technical information was next supplied by the University of Michigan, and John Hayes Hammond, a mining engineer.

SEC. ROOT'S WORDS. The climax of the afternoon session was the speech of Secretary of State Elihu Root, who was received with great enthusiasm. "Forty-four sovereign States are represented here to-day," said Mr. Root, "and each one is a sovereign State, and each one is a sovereign State, and each one is a sovereign State. The invitation of the executive of the Sovereign nation—the United States. No one can overestimate the importance of maintaining each and every one of the sovereignties of the States and of conserving the sovereignty of the United States. The nation cannot perform the function of the States sovereignties. If it were to do so, it would break down the machinery would not be able to perform the duty. The pressure is already very heavy upon the national machinery, and it is our duty to see that the machinery of the States is not broken down. The correspondence between the States in the exercise of their sovereignties, in the exercise of the powers reserved to them, rest under a similar kind of duty to that which binds the people of any State to live upon itself alone. The institution of the United States prohibits the States from making any agreement with each other without the consent of Congress, but you can make any number of agreements with the consent of Congress. It is high time that the sovereign States of the Union should unite with the United States, with reference not only to their own individual local interests, but with reference to the common good. I regard this meeting as making a new departure in the history of the States of the Union which will exercise their reserved powers upon a higher plane of patriotism and love of country than has ever existed before."

PORTLEYOU FOLLOWS ROOT. The connection which the Treasury Department might bear to the questions under discussion was dwelt upon by Secretary George B. Cortelyou, who followed Mr. Root briefly. He is not to be confused with the Secretary of the State, but is a member of the cabinet, and his duties are of a different nature. The resolutions committee, which consists of Governors, Blanchard, of Louisiana; Fort of New Jersey; Cutler, Utah; Davidson, Wisconsin; Dunnington, South Carolina; and others, will meet to-morrow. Two sessions of the conference will be held to-morrow.

China Grove Firm Makes Assignment. Special to the Observer. —China Grove, N. C., May 15.—Dayvauvt Bros., dealers in general merchandise, late yesterday made an assignment for the benefit of their creditors, naming Mr. J. K. Link, of Salisbury, as assignee. The assignment was made yesterday and it is not known what the indebtedness amounts to. It is said that the cause of the failure is attributed to the continued depression of business and their inability to collect accounts due them. The firm is composed of Messrs. James and Charles Dayvauvt, who came here from Salisbury, N. C., and were introduced by Col. J. C. Bessant. Several other anti-prohibition speeches will be delivered here between now and the election.

New Pythian Lodge Instituted. Special to the Observer. —Winston-Salem, May 13.—German Lodge No. 197, Knights of Pythias, was instituted Monday night by Deputy Grand Chancellor J. D. Nutt, of Wilmington, District Deputy Grand Chancellor A. B. Elyum, and representatives from Winston-Salem, Bethania, Rural Hall, Walkertown, and Walnut Cove. He new lodge starts out with sixteen charter members, sixteen of whom were present for the institution ceremonies.

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SOUTHERN'S APRIL BUSINESS. A Comparison Shows Increase of Loaded Cars Handled Over Same Month Last Year.

Special to the Observer. —Spencer, May 13.—A comparison of the business of the Southern Railway Company in April of this year as against the same month last year may be had from the following showing made by General Yardmaster R. L. Avery for the three divisions terminating at Spencer: Trains handled April of this year, 1,906; last year, 1,879. Cars handled April of this year, 51,717; last year, 51,462. The figures show that in April this year 113 more trains were handled here than in March, indicating an increase in business of about 15 per cent. Loaded cars handled April of this year, 48,467; last year, 47,713. Empty handled April of this year, 3,250; last year, 3,750, which indicates a considerable increase in the handling of loaded cars and a heavy decrease in empties. It is also known that the business has been handled with a smaller force of men than last year, meaning a much better revenue to the road.

Rev. M. F. Ham, Evangelist, to Wed Special to the Observer. —Asheville, May 13.—Of interest to many people in North Carolina will be the announcement of the approaching marriage of Rev. M. F. Ham, the prohibition lecturer and evangelist, to Miss Annie Laurie Smith, of Emulation, Ky. The wedding will occur June 3d. Mr. and Mrs. Ham will leave New York June 6th for a tour of six or eight months abroad, visiting Naples, Athens, Constantinople, the Holy Land and returning to Italy, spending four months in Naples, Rome, Florence, Venice and Milan. Mr. and Mrs. Ham will also spend some time in France, Germany, England, Scotland and Ireland before returning to America. Mr. Ham to-night concluded a three weeks' revival at the First Baptist church, which resulted in greater success than any revival ever conducted in Asheville. It was largely through the efforts of Mr. Ham that prohibition carried here last October. Mr. Ham will deliver a prohibition lecture at the Auditorium here to-morrow night and leave for Salisbury Friday.

FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS. I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Register of Deeds, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary. W. M. MOORE.

FOR TAX COLLECTOR, DISTRICT NO. 3. I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Tax Collector, District No. 3, subject to the action of the Democratic Primaries. R. C. FREEMAN.

FOR SHERIFF. I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Sheriff, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary. N. W. WALLACE.

FOR TAX COLLECTOR. I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Tax Collector of District No. 4, subject to the action of the Democratic Primaries. BEN E. CUNNINGHAM.

TAX COLLECTOR, DISTRICT NO. 1. I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Tax Collector, District No. 1, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary. T. W. C. MAULEY.

FOR COUNTY TREASURER. I hereby announce myself as a candidate for County Treasurer, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary. H. J. WALKER.

FOR COUNTY TREASURER. I hereby announce myself as a candidate for County Treasurer, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary. JAS. W. STINSON.

FOR SHERIFF. I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Mecklenburg County, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary June 16th. This is the first time I have ever asked for any office that is in the gift of the people. W. S. ORR.

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ECZEMA A few years ago I had a terrible case of eczema to break out on my foot. My foot became fearfully swollen and was covered with running sores. The itching and pain were past description, and it was for several weeks I was confined to my bed and not able to walk a step. My whole system became run down by the trouble after trying various medicines without avail, my physician suggested that I try Mrs. Joe Person's Remedy and Wash. In one week's time I was able to walk, and by the time I took two bottles I was well, and have never had a touch of eczema since. I cannot say too much for the Remedy and Wash, for it worked wonders in my case, and was not long in doing it, either. MRS. KATE E. DONALDSON. Dillon, S. C., Nov. 24, 1904.