

LEGISLATION IS URGENT BY MR. TAFT IN MESSAGE ON CONSERVATION

Congress Is Asked to Validate, by Statute, Withdrawals of Public Lands, Which Have Been Made by Secretary of Interior and President, and to Authorize Other Temporary Withdrawals.

POWER SITE PROBLEM; SUGGESTIONS OFFERED

Conservation of Lands Biggest Problem—Inland Waterways—Arid and Semi-arid Lands, Etc.

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

Roar of Applause. 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. When the reading was concluded, a roar of applause arose from the republican side of the chamber, and several democratic members joined in the demonstration.

The speaker, on motion of Majority Leader Payne, referred the document to the committee of the whole house, after which the house returned to consideration of the pension bill. To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In my annual message I reserved the subject of the conservation of our national 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 national 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 that 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, semiarid, and swamp lands; upon the preservation of our forests and the reforestation 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 1850 we had a public domain of 1,255,911,248 acres. We have now 721,254,081 acres, confined largely to the mountain ranges and the arid and semiarid plains. We have, in addition, 268,035,975 acres of land in Alaska.

The public lands were, during the earliest administrations, treated as a national asset for the liquidation of the public debt and as a source of reward for our soldiers and sailors. Later on they were donated in large amounts in aid of the construction of wagon roads and railroads, in order to open up regions in the West then almost inaccessible. All the principal land statutes were enacted more than a quarter of a century ago. The homestead act, the preemption and timber-culture 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 prevailing, due, I think, to the belief that private lands should rapidly pass into private ownership, have led to the impression that the public domain was legitimate prey for the unscrupulous, and that it was not contrary to good morals to circumvent the land laws. This prodigal manner of disposition resulted in the passing of large areas of valuable land and many of our national resources into the hands of persons who felt little or no responsibility for promoting the national welfare 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 the resources of the public domain. A vast amount of discussion has appeared in the public print in generalized form on this subject, but there has been little practical suggestion. It has been easy to say that the natural resources in fuel supply, in forests, in water power, and in other public utilities, must be saved from waste, monopoly and other abuses, and the general public are in accord with this proposition, as they are with most truths. The problem, however, is how to save and how to utilize, for no to conserve and still develop; for no sane person can contend that it is for the common good that Nature's blessings are only for unborn generations. 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 resources, and for the enactment of laws amending the obsolete statutes so as to retain governmental control over that part of the public domain in which there are valuable deposits of coal, oil, and of phosphate, and, in

BOTH IN NEED OF CONSERVATION

Mr. Pinchot Thinks Natural Resources and Popular Government Are Both at Stake Just Now.

FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY DEPOSED FORESTER

He is Only Willing to Support Administration When it Moves Toward the Right End.

Washington, Jan. 14.—"The conservation of national resources and the conservation of popular government are both at stake. The one needs conservation no less than the other."

This statement epitomizes the formal announcement made public by Gifford Pinchot, who was recently removed as chief of the forest service. The former official declares the great moral issue that now faces the country is not the loss of natural resources, so much as whether special interests or the people shall rule. The statement, in part, is as follows:

"At this time I have no comment to make upon recent events. Whether in or out of the government service, I propose to stay in the fight for conservation and equal opportunity. Every movement and measure, from whatever source, that tends to advance conservation and promote government by men for human welfare I shall try to help. Every movement and measure, from whatever source, that hinders conservation and promotes government by money for profit I shall endeavor to oppose. The supreme test of movements and measures is the welfare of the plain people. I am as ready to support the administration when it moves toward this paramount end as I am to oppose it when it moves away."

Mr. Pinchot expresses his profound regret at leaving the forest service and pays tribute to the faithfulness and high quality of service rendered by the men with whom he worked. Out of the work of the forest service he proceeds, grew the conservation movement.

"Today that movement expresses one of our deepest national convictions," he says, "and the principles for which it stands are received as axiomatic. It is only the execution of them which remains in doubt."

Mr. Pinchot then traced the recommendations of the conference on conservation at the white house in May, 1908, the subsequent creation of the national conservation commission which he says together with President Roosevelt's message to congress on the subject set forth a comprehensive, definite scheme for the conservation of our natural resources, which he applauds and endorses. Then he proceeded:

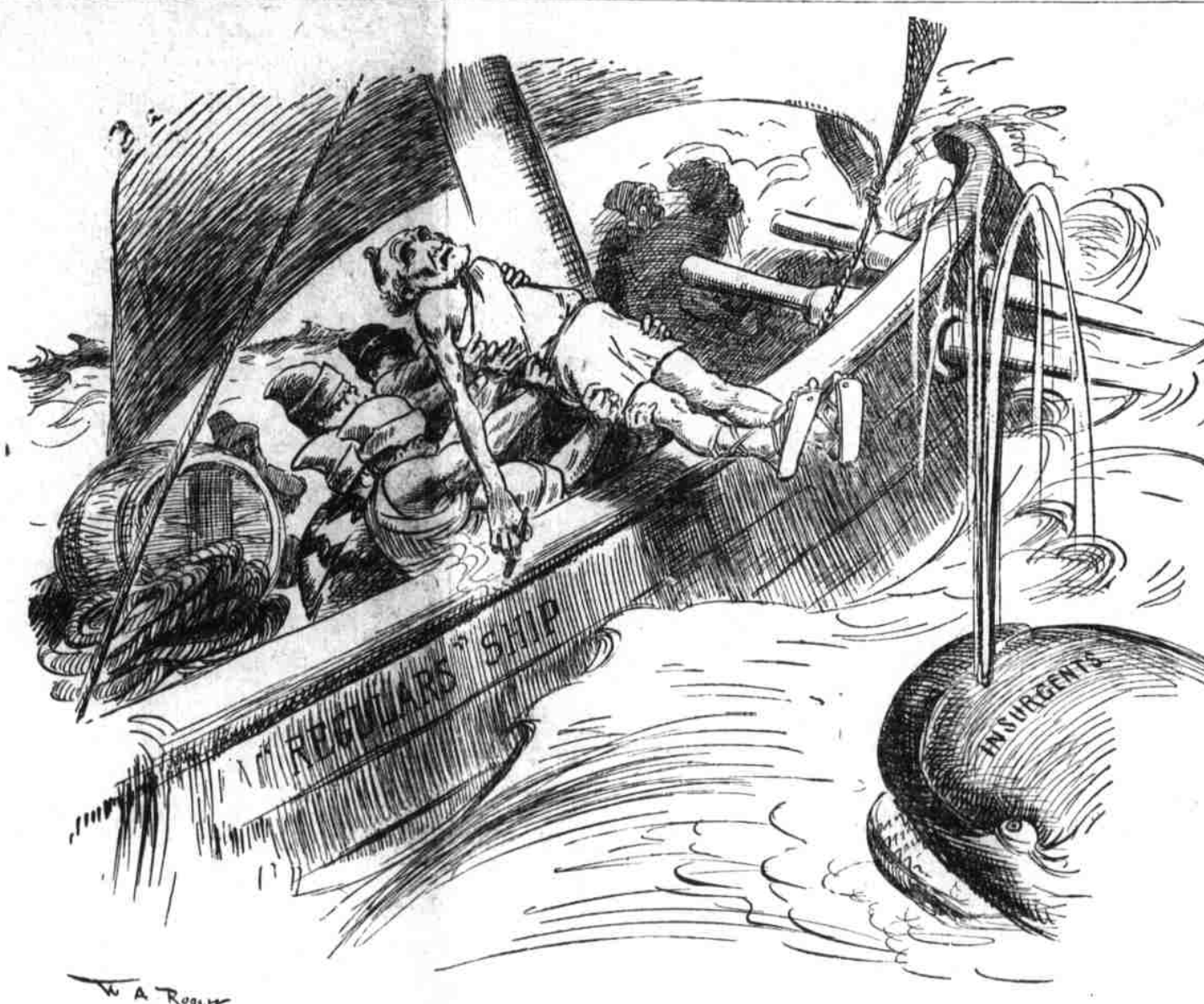
"At this critical period, when the goal was in sight, enemies of conservation in congress not only succeeded in preventing an appropriation with which to pursue the work but attempted to forbid its progress by the Tawney amendment to the last civil bill. Thereupon the work of the national conservation commission was stopped."

"These recommendations of the commission still wait for action. All wise men will agree that the situation is serious. The Tawney amendment was more than a mistake—it was a deliberate betrayal of the future. The dangers which confront conservation today must be met by positive action in congress. No action will be equivalent to had action and will have the same results."

"Unless congress acts, the water powers will pass into hands of special interests without charge and without limit of time. So with the phosphate deposits on public lands when the withdrawals which now protect them are removed. So with the enormous valuable coal deposits in Alaska which the present law would sell for ten dollars per acre."

"The danger of had legislation is no less serious. The special interests must no longer be allowed to take what they choose out of the great property of all the people. Those who steal public lands steal homes from men and women who need them. Congress can stop the pillage, or congress can let it go on."

THE WEATHER: Forecast until 8 p. m. Saturday for Asheville and vicinity: Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday; colder tonight.



New York Herald and The Gazette-News.

POOR UNCLE JONAH

THEY TELL TALES ON ARTIST CHISTRY

Knocked Down and Sat on His Wife: Hugged and Kissed Models as a Pastime.

Zanesville, O., Jan. 14.—There was a diversion in the life of Howard Chandler Christy, the artist, according to the testimony of Charles F. Hall today in habeas corpus proceedings for the possession of Christy's 13 years old daughter, Natalie. Mrs. Hall also testified. She told of the home life of Mr. and Mrs. Christy in New York and of Christy knocking his wife down, and "sitting upon her." Mrs. Hall is related to Mrs. Christy and was the model for the artist in drawing "Hearts Are Trumps." Hall mentioned the names of women models with whom Christy was upon familiar terms, witness said, hugging and kissing in a common pastime. Hall said Christy would hold and caress a model and call her "baby doll." A trip of Christy's to an alleged sanitarium for inebriates was described.

COTTON \$13.30 A BALE BELOW HIGH FIGURES

Panicky Condition Developed Late Today, With Net Loss of 94 Points Over Yesterday.

New York, Jan. 14.—The cotton market developed a panicky condition in late trading today. Within less than an hour May contracts broke from 14.85 to 12.80, this price showing a net loss of 94 points or \$4.70 a bale from the closing figure last night, and a decline of \$13.30 a bale from the recent high record.

The Drop at New Orleans. New Orleans, Jan. 14.—The slump in cotton market futures at New York and New Orleans again carried prices down \$2.50 a bale below the high levels of the day at New Orleans. The March option dropped 53 points, going to 14.31, and May option went from 15.19 to 14.50.

Secretary Dickinson Returns. Washington, Jan. 14.—Secretary of War Dickinson returned this morning from Porto Rico, Santo Domingo and Cuba. The secretary left the Mayflower at Charleston, and returned to Washington by train.

Judge Trux Dead. New York, Jan. 14.—Charles H. Trux, retired from the New York Supreme court bench, died today of pneumonia, following an attack of grip.

SLEET AND SNOW TIES UP TRAFFIC

One of the Most Serious Train Blockades in the History of Chicago Noted Today.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—Following several inches of sleet and snow, one of the most serious train blockades in the history of Chicago was reported today. Telegraph wires were crippled, especially north and south of Chicago. Wires east were working poorly.

THURMAN SPINNER IS ELECTROCUTED

The Negro Was Convicted of the Murder of a Popular Young White Man Who Lived in Bedford Co.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 14.—Thurman Spinner, a negro, was electrocuted in the state penitentiary this morning for the murder of Charles Noel, the popular young white man who lived near Cliff, Bedford county. Saturday night, September 29, the party of young men were out o'possum hunting. In the party were young Noel and a negro who carried the axe to cut down the trees. Noel and the negro had an altercation. On the return home the negro hid in the shadow of a tree and struck Noel from behind with an axe.

A mob went to the Bedford jail to lynch Spinner, but the sheriff outwitted the mob by taking the negro to Lynchburg.

COLORADO FOLK ARE WITH PINCHOT

Both Forestry Department and the Live Stock Association Gave Him This Endorsement.

Denver, Jan. 14.—Gifford Pinchot, the deposed government forester, has received the formal endorsement of the Colorado Forestry association, and of the Colorado Live Stock association.

NOT CONSIDERING THE PRESIDENCY

Governor Harmon of Ohio Makes Statement in Letter to a Personal Friend.

Mobile, Ala., Jan. 14.—Governor Harmon of Ohio, writing a personal friend here, states that he will not give the presidency consideration until after the fall elections. He will be a candidate for re-election to the governorship.

TWO RHINOCERUSES SHOT BY COL. THEODORE ROOSEVELT

The Party Now in Camp at Rhino, on the Congo Side of Bard-Eld-Jebel River.

Butaba, Uganda, Jan. 14.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt shot a white rhinoceros and a young rhinoceros the first night the party was at camp at Rhino, the present stopping place on the Congo side of the Bard-Eld-Jebel river.

NO PUNISHMENT FOR THE WAITER?

His Lawyer Says Cohen Has Committed no Crime—De Janon Girl is a Nervous Wreck.

Philadelphia, Jan. 14.—After a hearing this afternoon, Ferdinand Cohen, who ran away with Miss De Janon, was committed to the county prison without bail for a further hearing two weeks hence on a charge of kidnaping.

Philadelphia, Jan. 14.—There is possibility that Ferdinand Cohen, the hotel waiter, will go unpunished for the part he took in the escapade with Miss Roberta De Janon, the young heiress. The police today made the emphatic statement that Cohen did not harm the girl, and the young runaway still adheres to the story, corroborated by Cohen, that she was alone responsible for the affair; that she induced Cohen to leave the city with her. After an interview with the waiter in his cell, his lawyer told the reporters that Cohen under the law had committed no crime. Cohen spent the night in a cell in the fifth floor of City hall. The girl is still in a private apartment of a hospital, under care of a nerve specialist, nervous system badly upset by the events of the last few days. It is likely she will be kept in the hospital some days.

Mrs. Julia Cohen, the deserted wife, who was taken to a hospital last night in a state of nervous collapse, was better today and left the institution.

Both Roberta De Janon and Mrs. Cohen spent last night in a hospital in this city. The man over whom the woman and girl have become nervous wrecks was locked in the city hall. Just what charge to lodge against Cohen is a problem that is perplexing police officials and counsel for Robert Ruist, the girl's millionaire grandfather.

The girl, in spite of a cross-examination which lasted practically from the time she was turned over to the Philadelphia detectives, until she was taken to St. Agnes Hospital last night, refused to admit that any one except herself was to blame for the escapade.

It has been established that she suffered no wrong.

MITCHELL COUNTY TOWN SWEEP BY DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

Bristol, Tenn., Jan. 14.—Elk Park, a town of 1200, in Mitchell county, N. C., was swept by a destructive fire yesterday afternoon. Twenty buildings in the center of the town are in ashes with an estimated loss of \$75,000.

The burned buildings, all frame, include a bank, the railway station, a number of stores and several dwellings. Elk Park is without any fire protection and for a time the entire town was threatened with destruction. With apparatus sent from Johnson City, Tenn., by a special train the flames were finally brought under control.

There was comparatively little insurance on the destroyed property.

GRANT HOLDS PAPERS FAST

And so Signatures Cannot Be Scratched Off, no Matter How Badly It May Be Desired.

MOREHEAD AND COWLES NEARLY COME TO BLOWS

Quarrelled in Caucus—Grant Stands by Morehead—Story of Bond Suit from Rhode Island Sounds Improbable.

The Gazette-News Bureau, 46 Post Building, Washington, Jan. 14.

FRANK CARTER, in the interest of Mrs. Fannie J. Reed, the deposed postmaster at Baltimore, saw Postmaster General Hitchcock again today but declined to discuss his visit. He has received several telegrams from Asheville democrats who wish their names scratched off C. C. Greenwood's certificate of character. This is impossible for Congressman Grant, who has the Greenwood certificate in his possession, is holding on to them with a deathlike grip.

Clerk of the Court Mark Erwin wired: "I did not sign Greenwood's certificate of character for the purpose of bolstering up charges against Mrs. Reed. If used for this purpose I strike my name from it."

Sheriff T. F. Hunter wired: "I signed Greenwood's certificate upon his representation that it was a recommendation for census taker. Take my name off."

MR. MOREHEAD GETS POSITION ON THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE. Both Congressman Morehead and Congressman Cowles wished election as the North Carolina member of the republican congressional campaign committee. Mr. Grant sided with Mr. Morehead, which resulted in his election. Mr. Cowles tried to get Grant to take the place, and declared he would vote for him in caucus, but Grant stuck to Morehead. Hot words ensued between Morehead and Cowles at the caucus, which witnesses feared would result in a fight.

Morehead's position gives him control of the distribution of congressional campaign funds of the state this fall.

RHODE ISLAND'S SENATORS DISCUSS STORY AS TO BONDS

Senators Aldrich and Wetmore of Rhode Island told the North Carolina senators today that they did not believe the newspaper reports that Governor Pothier of Rhode Island had decided to sue the state of North Carolina for recovery of \$185,000 in fraudulent bonds. They discredited the story and said, moreover, that the sentiment of the people of Rhode Island would not countenance such a suit. State Treasurer Lacy wired the North Carolina senators about the matter.

FOURTH OF MARCH MAY LOSE PLACE

Joint Resolution Looking to Its Fame Being Given to the Last Thursday in April.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The passing of March 4 as "inauguration day" is forehanded by the expected adoption by the house at today's session of a joint resolution proposing to the states an amendment to the constitution.

Ratification by 25 states will be necessary after the resolution has been adopted by both houses of congress and approved by the president. It makes the last Thursday in April every four years the day on which the terms of the president and vice president shall begin. The amendment would have the effect of extending President Taft's present term of office nearly two months, but he would receive no compensation therefor. It also would lengthen the short session of congress for the same period.

WARRINER GOES TO PRISON. Man Who Confessed Embezzlement of \$633,000 Begins Six Years Term.

Cincinnati, Jan. 14.—Charles L. Warriner, who confessed embezzlement of \$633,000 while treasurer of the Big Four railroad, was taken to the Columbus penitentiary today, to begin his sentence of six years.

Samoan Island Natives Afflicted by Hookworm

Pago Pago, Jan. 14.—That from forty to fifty per cent. of the natives of the Samoan Islands are infected with the hook worm, is announced by Surgeon Rossiter, medical officer at the naval station, Tutuila. Rossiter found one white man and several half breeds in advanced stages of the disease.

Large Petition Circulated In Interest of C. W. Morse

Raleigh, Jan. 14.—A monster petition is now being circulated, and later will be presented to President Taft, asking a pardon for Charles W. Morse, the New York banker, now in the Atlanta penitentiary.