

FORESTRY AND HOMECROFTS

ADDRESS OF GEORGE H. MAXWELL, DEAN OF THE HOMECROFTERS GILD OF THE TALISMAN.

Before the Biennial Convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, at St. Paul, Minn., June Fourth, 1906.

MADAME PRESIDENT AND DELEGATES—LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

When I received the invitation to be with you here to-day and speak upon the subject "Forestry and Homecrofters," as it is announced on the program, I felt that the occasion was one of so much importance, and the opportunity one which I so greatly appreciated, that I ought to do something which I rarely do, and that was to at least think out a speech in advance. I was asked for a manuscript of it for the press, but I felt that it was unsafe to give it because I never did that yet that something didn't happen that made me lay aside my speech and talk about something else.

I have a speech, I prepared which was planned to last for half an hour, and there it is (holding up a card). Now, I have fifteen minutes to speak, and I am going to save that speech for some other occasion, in some other place, and talk to you about something which has been suggested to me here this morning by the address. I've just listened to from Mr. Mills.

I was born in California and spent my life there (applause from the California delegates) until within a very few years when my work in the National Irrigation Movement took me away from my native state. But I want to take advantage of this opportunity to stand here and make a plea for the preservation of those Temples of God—the Big Trees of California. (Applause.)

I question very much whether those who are here to-day realize the power that is yours, in bringing about right action, whether it be in congressional or state legislation. We often say that this is a government of the people, and that it is controlled by their votes. So it is. But behind the vote is the thought of the people. It is public opinion which controls this country. The vote is merely a registering of that opinion; and the thought of the people which precedes that opinion and brings about reforms, is, in my judgment, often a thing that springs from the minds of the women of the country rather than from the minds of the men of the country.

I am free to say that in my earlier years, and before I had a wider experience and opportunities of observation, I was not a believer in giving the ballot to the women. I am not here to make a plea for that to-day, because I am not so much impressed with the importance of it as others who think that the ballot is the main thing. It is the conversation of the home circle and the thoughts that spring most often from the minds of the mothers of the country that control this country. (Applause.)

And although I believe to-day that the status of the man and the woman, so far as their rights of citizenship and rights before the law are concerned, should be the same, I want to lay that conclusion before you simply as a basis for the broader statement that women can control this country by the power of thought without the ballot. If the women who are here to-day and those who are affiliated with you in this great organization, would take up one or two things as the result of this conference and go hence and agitate it in every home circle, and in every village club, and in every village and city, and through the columns of every newspaper in the land, and by correspondence, you could accomplish within the next twelve months two great things which would be a record of accomplishment sufficient for one year of hard work for your organization, and that is, first, to save the big trees of California (Applause); and, second, to secure the passage of the bill providing for forest reserves in the White Mountains and on the Appalachian Range. (Applause.)

If those great trees in California were once destroyed they could not be replaced in centuries and probably never. They were there when Christ walked the earth. They were there when Rome shone resplendent in all her glory. They were there when Carthage nestled amid green fields and vineyards on the southern shores of the Mediterranean. They were there when Palmyra, with all her magnificence, was the meeting place of the caravans traveling between Asia and the Mediterranean country. And to-day they stand there pleading with their out-spreading branches against ruthless destruction to satisfy the greed of man.

We may go back through history, and ruined city after ruined city shows how ephemeral is everything that man builds. Did it never occur to you, has it never occurred to those who are interested in uplifting and increasing the power for good of the church, and in carrying its missionary work into the cities and into the slums and into the tenements, where, God knows, it is needed most of anywhere on this earth—has it never occurred to you that a child nurtured in the tenements and in the slums and in the City flats, and seeing nothing around it but bricks and mortar and asphalt and trolley-cars and things that man has made, lives where there is nothing to create a conception of a higher power, and lacks the influence of the splendid manifestations of nature, which are the most convincing revelation that we have that there is a Creator, and that there is a God, and that there should be a faith in religion in the heart of every man.

If you want to make this a religious nation, you must if it is to be preserved, you must get the children of the cities back to nature, and under the spell of its influence, or at least rear them in an environment where they can see and be convinced by the miracles of nature's mysteries that there is a God who Rules the world and Rolls the ages on. (Applause.)

And so through you I appeal not only to the women of the country, but to the churches of the country, to put forth every influence, not only to save

those great trees in California, but to aid this whole great movement for the preservation of the forests we have, by their right use, for the planting of new forests, and for the scattering through this great nation, in every state and territory, of forest plantations that, when they come to maturity a generation from now, will supply every state with wood and timber of every kind for every purpose from Forests and Tree Plantations within its own borders.

I have no time today to go into details, but if you will go into the South and see the actual conditions with reference to the water supply of the streams flowing from the Appalachian mountains, and study the benefits of that country, you will be converted in an instant to the necessity for the creation of the Appalachian Forest Reserve; and the same thing is true of the proposed White Mountain Forest Reservation in New England. Those Reserves are comparatively small things in the amount of money involved. If we can throw money to the birds, as a manure spreader throws it out of the back of a wagon into the field, to build the Panama canal and manage the conquest of the Philippine Islands, and to build huge battleships, I maintain that we can at least spare money enough to perpetuate the forests that God gave us and for the preservation of all the Internal Resources of our country at home. (Applause.)

I maintain another thing, and that is that if the women who are here to-day would go to their homes from this convention, and take up and study the possibilities of the development of Arizona and New Mexico under a policy which will reserve for national control the forests and the water supply which are the only things that keep that great country from going back to the desert, you would save this nation from the infancy of joining Arizona and New Mexico in the bonds of joint statehood. In the face of your opposition that great work could never be accomplished. All women in the land should rise up and protest against it, because it is abandoning the destiny and development of the foundation of all the resources for homemaking of those territories to the unrestrained legislative control of a legislature which will be dominated by the most evil political influences that ever existed in any state—the offshoots of the worst political rottenness that ever prevailed in Pennsylvania, coupled with the inequities that will prevail by reason of the fact that so large a proportion of the population of New Mexico cannot even speak the English language. The joint statehood bill proposes to give to the control of such a legislature as that, without any possible check or hindrance, a land grant of about twenty million acres to grab and speculate with and graft on and practically to do with as they please. (Applause.)

I only want to say in closing: If you find crime anywhere; if you find a man gone wrong anywhere; if you find political corruption or anything going wrong, in our political institutions, you will find it. If you trace it back, that the fault lies in its original source, at some place or other, in the fact that there was not the right kind of a home and the right kind of a mother. If you find a man of strong and sterling character (or a woman either) you trace it back, and you will find that it was because there was the right kind of a mother, and the right kind of a home.

We have heard a good deal lately about the "man behind the gun" and the "man behind the pick" and the "man behind the ballot" and the "man behind" a great many other things, but I want to tell you that you can pile them all one upon another like Ossa upon Pelion and all of them together are not of as much importance as the "Mother behind the Home" (Applause.)

You are to have the right kind of homes and the right kind of mothers everywhere throughout the length and breadth of this great and beautiful country of ours, you must make it easily possible for every man who works and lives by his toil to have a home of his own on the land—a HOME-CROFT, however small.

You must train every child in garden schools to know how to plant seeds and make things grow and get food directly from the bosom of Mother Earth. You must so train all boys and girls that their first great ambition will be to get a home of their own with a piece of ground around it large enough for a garden.

The Good Book tells us that "God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food."

God intended that every man and woman and every child should live next to nature and on the land, and every man who marries a woman should put her in a home in the midst of a garden.

The great movement which is now fairly under way, known as the HOMECROFT MOVEMENT, proposes to do that very thing, and the Creed and Platform of the Homecrofters tells how it may be done.

The slogan of the Homecroft Movement is: "Every Child in a Garden—Every Mother in a Homecroft—And Individual Industrial Independence for Every Worker in a Home of his Own on the Land."

It is not that a Cause which should have the ardent and enthusiastic support and co-operation of every man and woman, and especially of every mother in the land?

THE FIRST BOOK OF THE HOMECROFTERS
—BY—
George H. Maxwell
CONTENTS
THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN
CHARITY THAT IS EVERLASTING
THE SECRET OF NIPPON'S POWER
LESSON OF A GREAT CALAMITY
THE SIGN OF A THOUGHT
This book will be mailed to any address in the United States on receipt of twelve two-cent stamps, by
The Homecrofters Gild of the Talisman
143 Main Street, Watertown, Mass.

BE A HOMECROFTER

Learn by Doing. Work Together.
Give every Man a Chance.

THE SLOGAN OF THE HOMECROFTERS IS
"Every Child in a Garden—Every Mother in a Homecroft, and Individual Industrial Independence for Every Worker in a Home of his Own on the Land."

"A little croft we owned—a plot of corn,
A garden stored with peas and mint and thyme,
And flowers for posies, oh! on Sunday morn,
Pucked while the church bells rang their earliest chimes."
—Wordsworth.

"The Citizens standing in the doorway of his home—contented on his threshold, his family gathered about his hearthstone, while the evening of a well spent day closes in scenes and sounds that are dearest—he shall save the Republic when the drum-tap is futile and the barracks are exhausted."
—Henry W. Grady.

"The slums and tenements of the great cities are social dynamite, certain to explode sooner or later. The only safeguard against such dangers is to plant the multiplying millions of our fast increasing population in individual homes on the land—homecrofts, however small, owned by the occupant, where every worker and his family can enjoy individual industrial independence."
—George H. Maxwell.



THE FIRST BOOK OF THE HOMECROFTERS

HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED AND AMONG ITS CONTENTS ARE THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES OF ABSORBING INTEREST BY

GEORGE H. MAXWELL
Executive Chairman of the National Irrigation Association

*The Brotherhood of Man
Charity that is Everlasting
The Secret of Nippon's Power
Lesson of a Great Calamity
The Sign of a Thought*

This book is the first of a Series that will Chronicle the Progress of the HOMECROFT MOVEMENT and inform all who wish to co-operate with it how they may do so through the formation of local Homecrofters' Circles, Clubs or Gilds to promote Town and Village Betterment, stimulate home civic pride and loyalty to home institutions, industries and trade, improve methods and facilities of education in the local public schools, and create new opportunities "At Home" that will go far to check the drift of trade and population to the cities.

The first Gild of the Homecrofters has been established at Watertown, Massachusetts. The Gildhall, Shops and Gardens are located at 143 Main Street, where the Garden School is now fully organized and over one hundred children are at work in the Gardens. The departments for training in Homecraft and Village Industries are being installed. The Weavers are already at work at the looms. It is not designed to build here an isolated institution, but to make a model which can be duplicated in any town or village in the country.

Copies of "THE FIRST BOOK OF THE HOMECROFTERS" can be obtained by sending twelve two-cent stamps with your name and address (carefully and plainly written) to The Homecrofters' Gild of the Talisman, 143 Main St., Watertown, Massachusetts.

There is New Hope and Inspiration for every Worker who wants a Home of his own on the Land in the CREED AND PLATFORM OF THE HOMECROFTERS' which is as follows:

"Peace has her victories no less renowned than war."
EDUCATION CO-OPERATION OPPORTUNITY HOMECROFTS

We believe that the Patriotic Slogan of the Whole People of this Nation should be "Every Child in a Garden—Every Mother in a Homecroft—And Individual Industrial Independence for Every Worker in a Home of his Own on the Land," and that until he owns such a Home, the concentrated purpose and chief inspiration to labor in the life of every wage worker should be his determination to "Get an Acre and Live on it."

We believe that the Slums and Tenements and Congested Centers of population in the Cities are a savagely deteriorating social, moral and political influence, and that a great public movement should be organized, and the whole power of the nation and the states exerted for the betterment of all the conditions of Rural Life, and to create and upbuild Centers of Social and Civic Life in Country and Suburban Towns and Villages, where Trade and Industry can be so firmly anchored that they cannot be drawn into the Commercial Maelstrom that is now steadily sucking Industry and Humanity into the Vortex of the Great Cities.

We believe that every Citizen in this Country has an inherent and Fundamental Right to an Education which will train him to Earn a Living, and, if he needs be, to get his living straight from Mother Earth; and that he has the same right to the Opportunity to have the Work to Do which will afford him that living, and to earn not only a comfortable livelihood, but enough more to enable him to be a Homecrofter and to have a Home of his Own, with ground around it sufficient to yield him and his family a Living from the Land as the reward for his own labor.

We believe that the Public Domain is the most precious heritage of the people, and the surest safeguard the nation has against Social Unrest, Disturbance or Upheaval, and that the Cause of Humanity and the Preservation of Social Stability and of our Free Institutions demand that the absorption of the public lands into speculative private ownership, without settlement, be forthwith stopped; and that the nation should create opportunities for Homecrofters by building irrigation and drainage works to reclaim

land as fast as it is needed to give every man who wants a Home on the Land a chance to get it.

We believe that, as a Nation, we should be less absorbed with Making Money, and should pay more heed to raising up and training Men who will be Law-Abiding Citizens; that the welfare of our Workers is of more consequence than the mere accumulation of Wealth; and that Stability of National Character and of Social and Business Conditions is of greater importance to the people of this country as a whole than any other one question that is now before them; and we believe that the only way to Preserve such Stability, and to Permanently Maintain our National Prosperity, is to carry into immediate effect and operation the Platform of the Talisman, which is as follows:
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND HOMES ON THE LAND.

pay the government the cost of construction of the irrigation works, and that the amount needed each year for construction, as recommended by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be made available by Congress as a loan from the general treasury to the Reclamation Fund, and repaid from lands reclaimed, as required by the National Irrigation Act.

SAVE THE PUBLIC LANDS FOR HOMEMAKERS.

6. That not another acre of the public lands shall ever hereafter be granted to any state or territory for any purpose whatsoever, or to any one other than an actual settler who has built his home on the land and lived on it for five years, and that no more land scrip of any kind shall ever be issued, and that the Desert Land Law and the Commutation Clause of the Homestead Law shall be made to conform to the recommendations of the Public Lands Commission appointed by President Roosevelt and of the Message of the President to Congress.

PLANT FORESTS AND CREATE FOREST PLANTATIONS.

7. That the Timber and Stone Law shall be repealed, and that all public timber lands shall be included in permanent Forest Reserves, the title to the land to be forever retained by the National Government, stumpage only of matured timber to be sold, and young timber to be preserved for future cutting, so that the forests will be perpetuated by right use; and

that the National Government shall, by the reservation or purchase of existing forest lands, and the planting of new forests, create in every state National Forest Plantations from which, through all the years to come, a sufficient supply of wood and timber can be annually harvested to supply the needs of the people of each state from the Forest Plantations in that state.

UNITED OWNERSHIP OF LAND AND WATER.

8. That it shall be the law of every state and of the United States, that beneficial use is the basis, the measure, and the limit of all rights to water, including riparian rights, and that the right to the use of water for irrigation shall inhere in and be appurtenant to the land irrigated, so that the ownership of the land and the water shall be united, and no right to water as a speculative commodity ever be acquired, held or owned.

RIGHT OF APPROPRIATION FOR BENEFICIAL USE.

9. That it shall be the law of every state and of the United States, that all unused and unappropriated waters are public property, subject to appropriation for a beneficial use, first in time being first in right, and that on all interstate streams, priority of use shall give priority of right, throughout the entire course of the stream, without regard to state lines, and that in each drainage basin the irrigators therein shall control the distribution of the water.

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SEEING IS BELIEVING

IT IS NOT AN EASY MATTER to make a million people believe that so good a magazine as Maxwell's Homecroft Magazine can be published for ten cents a year. But we are doing it because the magazine speaks for itself and tells its own story.

Here is what one of our subscribers at Crockett, Texas, writes:

"The March number of your excellent magazine is before me. It is certainly filled with helpful articles, and I would be glad to know that every family in Texas had the benefit of its teachings. The first article in this number, 'A Homecrofters' Garden,' should be preserved for reference. THE ARTICLE 'HEALTH IN THE HOME,' IF CAREFULLY FOLLOWED, WOULD SAVE SICKNESS IN EVERY FAMILY. Anything that I can do to assist you in extending your circulation in Texas will be gladly done."

Our circulation has grown so satisfactorily that with the April number we were able to enlarge the magazine and add several new features, and it will continue to improve every month.

If you have not yet seen the magazine, write for a free sample copy. It will convince you that for only ten cents a year you can get a magazine of more real genuine value than any other magazine that is published to every one who is really studying how to make the home life better and happier, how to lighten the housekeeper's labor, how to bring up the children and keep them and the whole family well and strong all the time, and do it all on a moderate income.

"The Delights of Gardening" in the April number would open the door of a new life in many a family if they would read it.

And here are some of the other Departments:
Stories and Sketches, Little Folks in the Home, Home Etiquette, The Home Garden, Garden Notes, Editorial Comment, The Home Study, Music in the Home, Entertaining in the Home, Home Sewing, Care of the Home, Health in the Home, Home Cooking, Building the House (with plan and design for a cottage home), Home Handicraft, Home Cheer.

You will get this April number and in addition ONE WHOLE YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION, covering twelve copies of the magazine, one each month for twelve months, if you will put one dime or five two cent stamps in an envelope with your name and address (write it plainly), and mail it to MAXWELL'S HOMECROFT MAGAZINE, 1405 Fisher Building, Chicago, Ill.

Do It Now—Don't Delay