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AMERICA'S PLEA FOR CONSERVATION OF
THE NATION'S MATERIAL RESOURCES

A CONFERENCE on the conservation of America's natural resources was held at the White House in Washington, D. C., on May 13-15, 1908, while William Taft was president. Prominent in the gathering were Andrew Carnegie, James J. Hill, Theodore Roosevelt and the late Chief Justice of the United States supreme court. These men have passed from the field of earthly usefulness, but their pleadings, though unheeded, are still reverberating in the hearts of the American people and are voiced through the press and by the faithful sentinels in public and private life who mourn the unabated destruction carried on. Nearly sixteen years have passed since that conference was held, but all these earnest and thoughtful expressions have accomplished little, save a "hail" to the thought of conservation. In the intervening period the people of America have witnessed a more wanton destruction of the nation's natural resources than in any previous period of time. The mineral veins have been tapped to satisfy greed. The oil lands have been converted through sale and leases to private individuals and corporations who are amassing great wealth by draining these vital arteries of national defense. The forests are being mowed down in the face of rational and patriotic conservation appeals while only slight attention is given constructive plans for reforestation. Where yesterday the untold millions of giant trees towered to the sky, on the hills and through the valleys of the great American timber arsenal of the West, only stumps and roots are left behind to tell the story of this era of hideous destruction.

If Americanism has any meaning, Congress should find means to protect our natural resources. The Forest Service should be engaged in promoting reforestation over the vast stretches of denuded hills and uplands where the soil adapted for forest growth may continue to produce wealth and prosperity for generations to come.

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PORTLAND, OREGON