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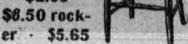
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 5.)

ment, a branch of the federal execucourts to be decided by lawsutis.

al resources of the country. There and in the west, in the Adirondacks, great damage would be done by the

are, of course, two kinds of natural the White mountains, and the Appa- reckless destruction of our forests. It resources. One is the kind which can lachians, and in the Rocky moun- is difficult to have patience with the only be used as part of a process of tains, where we can already see for arguments of these persons. Thanks exhaustion; this is true of mines, nat- ourselves the damage in the shape of to our own recklessness in the use of ural oil and gas wells, and the like. permanent injury to the soil and the our splendid foreson, we have already as good as when new. Ladies are ural oil and gas wells, and the like. fective only if it is vested with full The other, and of course ultimately by river systems which comes from reckfar the most important, includes the less deforestation. It matters not resources which can be improved in the process of wise use; the soil, the the actual reckless cutting of timber, tive, carrying out a federal law; it rivers, and the forests come under to the fires that inevitably follow such can never be effective if a divided re- this head. Any really civilized nation reckles cutting of timber, or to recksponsibility is left in both the states will so use all of these three great na- less and uncontrolled grazing, espeand the nation; it can never be ef- tional assets that the nation will have cially by the great migratory bands fective if left in the hands of the their benefit in the future. Just as a of sheep, the unchecked wandering of farmer, after all his life making his which over the country means destruc-If there is any one duty which more living from his farm, will, if he is an tion to forests and disaster to the than another we owe it to our chil- expert farmer, leave it as an asset of small home makers, the settlers of dren and our children's children to increased value to his son, so we perform at once, it is to save the for- should leave our national domain to ests of this country, for they consti- our children, increased in value and blinded to the future by desire to tute the first and most important ele- not worn out. There are small sec- make money in every way out of the

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whether this deforestation is due to

Shortsighted persons, or persons ment in the conservation of the natur- tions of our own country, in the east present, sometimes speak as if no

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crossed the verge of a timber famine in this country, and no measures that we now take can, at least for many years, undo the missaid that has already been done. But we can prevent further mischief being done; and 't would be in the highest degree reprehensible to let any consideration of temporary convenience or temporary cost interfere with such action, espacially as regards the national forests which the nation can new, at this very

moment, control. What has happened in northern China, what has happened in Central Asia, in Palestine, in North Africa, in parts of the Mediterranean countries of Europe, will surely happen in our country if we do not exercise that wise forethought which should be one of the chief marks of any people calling itself civilized. Nothing should be permitted to stand in the way of the preservation of the forests, and it is criminal to permit individuals to purase a little gain for themselves through the destruction of forests when this destruction is fatal to the well-being of the whole country in the

Until the work of river improvement is undertaken in a modern way it cannot have results that will meet the needs of this modern nation. These needs should be met without further dilly-dallying or delay. The plan which promises the best and quekest results is that of a permanent commission authorized to co-ordinate the work of all the government departments relating to waterways, and to frame and supervise the execution of a comprehensive plan. Under such a commission the actual work of construction might be entrusted to the reclamation service; or to the military engineers acting with a sufficient number of civilians to continue the work in time of war; or it might be divided between the reclamation service and the corps of engineers. Funds should be provided from current revenues if it is deemed wise-otherwise from the sale of bonds. The essential thing is that the work shoud go forward under the best possible plan, and with the least possible delay. We should have a new type of work and a new organization for planning and directing it. The time for playing with our waterways is past. The country demands results.

I am happy to say that I have been able to set aside in various parts of the country small, well-chosen tracts of ground to serve as sanctuaries and nurseries for wild creatures

Denatured Alcohol.

I had occasion in my message of May 4, 1906, to urge the passage of some law putting alcohol, used in the arts, industries and manufactures, upon the free list; that is, to provide for the withdrawal free of tax of alcohol which is to be denatured for those purposes. The law of June 7, 1996, and its amendment of March 2, 1907, accomplished what was desired in that respect, and the use of dena-

(Continued on page 7.)

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