

Medford Daily Tribune

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CONSERVATION MEANS LIFE.

The report of the national conservation commission tendered to congress a few days ago, is merely a rough estimate of the natural resources of the United States, together with an equally rough outline of the principal channels through which our appalling waste passes. Yet with all its roughness it is a tremendous piece of work. The vastness of its territory, coupled with the fact that there were no existing tables upon which to shape it, accounts for the roughness and gives promise of better things to come.

A few of its significant facts, taken from the report at random, briefly follow:

Our coal supply will approach depletion before the middle of the next century.

High-grade iron ores cannot be expected to last beyond the middle of the present century, nor will petroleum last longer.

The waste in the extraction and treatment of mineral products in 1907 was equivalent to more than \$300,000,000.

The average yield of wheat in the United States is less than 14 bushels per acre, in Germany 28 bushels and in England 32 bushels.

The greatest unnecessary loss of our soil is preventable erosion. Second only to this is the waste, non-use and mis-use of fertilizer derived from animals and men.

Our wild game and fur-bearing animals have been largely exterminated. With game birds the story is much the same.

Not less than 50,000,000 acres of forest is burned over yearly.

One-fourth of the standing timber is lost in logging. The boxing of long-leaf pine for turpentine has destroyed one-fifth of the forests worked. The loss in the mill is from one-third to two-thirds of the timber sawed.

Of each 1000 feet which stood in the forest an average of only 320 feet of lumber is used.

By reasonable thrift we can produce a constant lumber supply beyond our present needs, and with it conserve the usefulness of our streams for irrigation, water supply, navigation and power.

In dealing with these figures of such elemental bigness, the commission seems to make its chief recommendation in the following paragraph:

For the prevention of waste the most effective means will be found in the increase and diffusion of knowledge, from which is sure to result an aroused public sentiment demanding prevention.

In other words, the commission has as its greatest task the education of the public. This will be found to be its continuous task, although its specific plans for legislation will be presented as rapidly as possible.

In making education of the public along lines of economic waste its greatest duty the commission has struck at the heart of the matter. Americans, while they have been proud of their resources, have never given thought to the need of conserving them, nor have they been aware of the wasteful methods of manufacture and production. But with its campaign of diffusing knowledge newer and better standards will be established. And with education will come an insistent demand that the wasteful processes of the past cease.

CONCERNING THE WEATHER.

(With apologies to William F. Kirk.)
"Wait till the rain is over," said the barber in the shop. As he rubbed his rusty razor on the surface of a soap.
"I've been here all of thirty years, and since I was a kid I never saw such weather here—honest, I never did!"
And all the time the barber was explaining it was raining, raining, raining, raining, raining!

"Just wait," said the head waiter, "in another week or so you'll see a valley of the Rogue with flowers all aglow; you'll see green hills and purpling hills, and sunsets that are dreams. And banks and banks of blossoms, with their lovely color schemes."
And all the time this waiter's voice was soaring it was pouring, pouring, pouring, pouring, pouring!

"Don't go," exclaimed the pioneer, "be patient for awhile. You'll love this glorious state of ours—wait till you see it smile. I've sojourned here for fifty years, and take this tip from me. We haven't had such a rain as this since eighteen sixty-three."
And all the time the pioneer was speaking it was leaking, leaking, leaking, leaking, leaking!

"Don't judge our climate harshly," said the gent behind the bar. "It's just a little damp at times, as other climates are. Come, stranger, take a nip with me, and don't be feeling blue. I'll have a tiny cocktail—what can I offer you?"
Then the stranger glanced outside and said: "I oughter take some water, water, water, water, water!"

NEVADA SHERIFF BALKED WITH PREY IN SIGHT

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Jan. 28.—Although Sheriff Smith of Lincoln county, Nevada, is in the city with a warrant for the arrest of Homer G. Taber, former president of the defunct Searchlight bank, for whose return to Nevada Governor Gillett has honored a requisition, he has not been able to serve it.

When Smith arrived he was met by counsel for Taber, who informed the sheriff that the bank president had left the city, but agreed to surrender him provided the sheriff would not smuggle the prisoner out of the county or state, but would give the courts time to pass on habeas corpus proceedings.

Sheriff Smith waited until this morning, then held another conference with Taber's attorneys. What the outcome of this conference was neither side will say.

A rumor says Taber is across the Mexican border at Tin Juana.

STATES HAVE ONLY 90 DAYS TO MOVE BUILDINGS

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 28.—Under the order of the court, the time in which states owning buildings on the Jamestown exposition grounds have to take up the option contracts for the purchase of the sites upon which the buildings stand will expire tomorrow. The states are allowed 90 days from tomorrow to remove their buildings from the sites, if it is not desired to buy them.

TRAIN ROBBER GETS LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR CRIME

HELENA, Mont., Jan. 28.—George Frankhauser, convicted of holding up a Great Northern train a year ago and stealing \$40,000 from the registered mail, was today sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Hunt of the federal court. He will be taken to the Fort Leavenworth prison.

MONDELL'S LAND BILL FAVORABLY REPORTED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Claiming that the enactment of the bill is both "wise and necessary," the house committee on public roads has reported favorably on the bill introduced by Mr. Mondell of Wyoming authorizing the secretary of the interior to have surveys made whenever he may deem it essential after investigation. It was formerly the practice to accept the sworn statement of surveyors without first examining the survey, and the work was often carelessly done.

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ASYLUM MATTER TO GO TO STATE BOARD

SALEM, Or., Jan. 29.—Unable to agree on the location of the branch asylum either in Baker or Umatilla county, the delegations from the two counties have decided to pass the matter up to the state board and allow the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer to make the selection and purchase the ground.

NEPHEW OF ADMIRAL ENLISTS AS SEAMAN

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 28.—Robert Grant Cushman, aged 21, a nephew of Rear Admiral Merrill Miller, U. S. N., retired, enlisted here today in the United States navy as a seaman. The young man, who is a son of a well-to-do Emporia, Kan., family, offered no reason for his enlistment. Admiral Miller now resides in Berkeley.

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