

## CONSERVATION OF COAL SUPPLY URGED

Sir William Ramsay Declares England Keeps Eye on Power Resources.

## FUEL FAMINE PREDICTED

Scientist Suggests Appointment of Committee to Guard Country Against Disaster.

LONDON, Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Sir William Ramsay, the distinguished chemist, before the British Association at Portsmouth devoted a considerable portion of his remarks to a discussion of ancient and modern views of the nature of the chemical elements, in the light of recent researches, in which he has had so large a share, on the inert gases of the atmosphere and on radium. Like several distinguished chemists in the past, he is evidently attracted by the idea that matter is unitary in its nature, that what we know as elements are in some way compounded of different proportions of some primary material. But whether the considerations he brought forward substantially strengthen the case for such a view, from an experimental as opposed to a theoretical and sentimental standpoint, is perhaps open to doubt.

It is true that the atomic weights of more than half the elements are, on the most recent computations, within one-tenth of a unit above or below an integral number, and Sir William Ramsay has the assurance of Professor Karl Pearson that the mathematical chances against such a coincidence being accidental are 20,000 millions to one. Still, after the most elaborate precautions have been taken to insure accuracy, the fact remains that the numbers are not exactly integral.

Existing Gaps Filled. It is true, again, that in the periodic classification of the elements elaborated by Mendeleeff and others, which has served chemists so well, merely to record but also to predict, that perhaps not unreasonably they show a tendency to raise it to the dignity of a physical law. Several of the existing gaps have been satisfactorily filled up by the results of recent discoveries, and to that extent its claims to validity have been enhanced.

Yet a considerable number of the gaps still await occupants, and though by calling in the aid of the newer rare earth metals and of the products of the transformation of radium—which, however, like their progenitor, contract the orthodox conception of an element, in that they can be split up, or rather split themselves up, into constituent parts—enough elements can be found to fill the empty spaces, unfortunately their properties are not always of the required character, and to accept them for the vacancies merely because of their numerical qualifications would destroy the whole meaning and value of the periodic scheme. But, even were all the atomic weights ascertained to be integral, and were the periodic table completely and satisfactorily filled, the unitary hypothesis would not be adequately proved, and there would still remain for solution the baffling problem why substances made up of different multiples of the same primary stuff should present the wide divergences of character and behavior found in the elements as we know them.

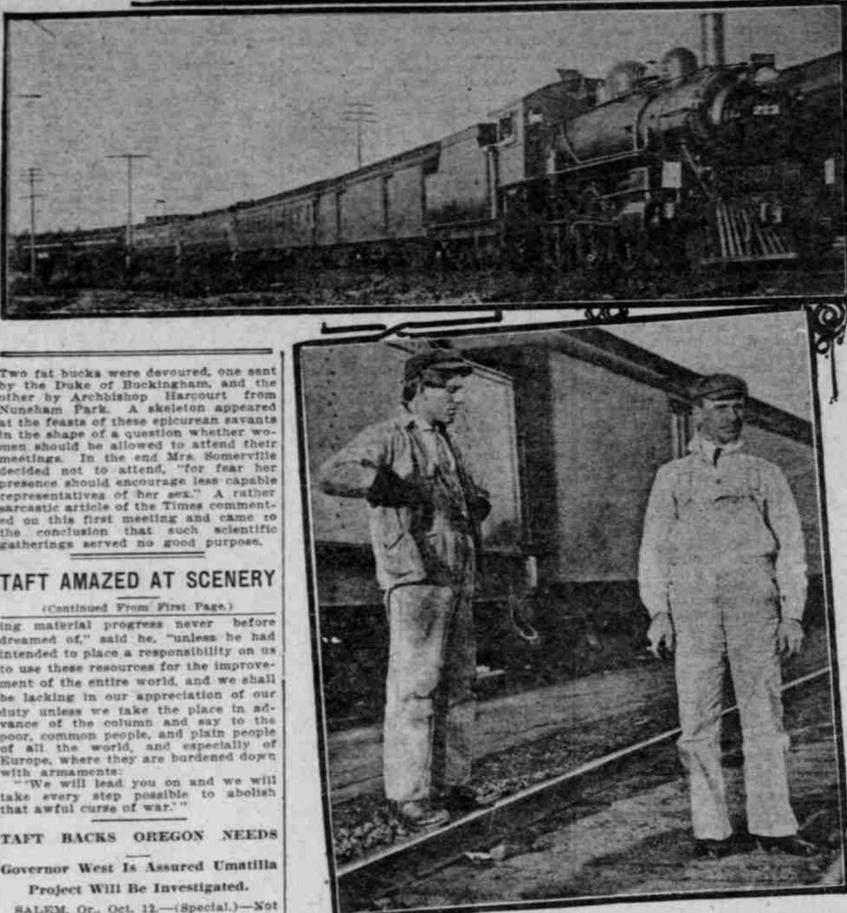
Radium Supply Too Small. A reference to the enormous store of energy concentrated in radium and liberated during its disintegration led Sir William Ramsay to the subject of the energy available to the world in general and to Great Britain in particular. Radium itself probably exists in quantities far too small to be of any practical use as a source of energy, but supposing that, like it, the other so-called elements are changing though very slowly, with evolution of energy, and supposing that some means could be discovered of making the change proceed at a useful rate, he pointed out, as a new source of energy, that if the energy available to the world would be put at the disposal of mankind which would alter the whole future of the race. But he made it clear that, in his opinion, he has no warrant whatever for relying on so remote a possibility—"it would be folly to consider seriously a possible supply of energy in a conceivable form, in the liberation of energy by atomic change"—and other sources which have been suggested, such as the tides, the heat of the sun, and the internal heat of the earth, are all equally hopeless as far as can be seen at present.

In these islands coal is the only considerable source of energy at command, and on England's power to produce it as a relatively cheap price depends her commercial supremacy and her ability to compete with other European nations. Yet, in spite of its paramount importance for them the English behave as if the store were inexhaustible. While Belgium raises three and one-half tons per head of her population every year, and Germany only two and one-half tons, England raises six tons, and if she continues to draw on her reserves at the same increasing rate, as during the last 40 years, they will be exhausted in less than two centuries. In these circumstances it is plainly England's duty to promote economy in the use of coal by every possible means, and careful consideration is deserved by Sir William Ramsay's suggestion that, following the example of America, England should establish a conservation commission, charged with the duty of keeping watch on the diminution of stores of natural energy and of taking steps to lessen its rate.

Impossible is Expected. The ordinary man, if he can be induced to pay any consideration to this question, usually consoles himself with the comforting reflection that something will turn up to fill the breach. This loose optimism may be a touching tribute to the powers of scientific workers, who are no doubt expected to produce the "something" in the same way as a conjurer produces a rabbit from an empty hat, but it is also a sign of total lack of the scientific spirit. Progress in science, as Sir William Ramsay insists, consists in developing a spirit of prevision; in attempting to forecast the future not by vague surmise, but by the orderly marshaling of facts and by deducting from them their logical outcome, and chiefly in endeavoring to control conditions which may be utilized for the lasting good of the people.

Meetings of the British Association are now marked by Spartan simplicity in comparison with the brilliant debut at Oxford during the summer term of 1911. There were the days of gargantuan eating and drinking and there was lavish hospitality. In addition to daily dinners, there were open-air breakfasts in the college gardens, and "free refreshments" at all meetings.

## TRAIN THAT CARRIED PRESIDENT TAFT TO PORTLAND AND MEN WHO WERE IN THE CAB.



ABOVE—PRESIDENT'S TRAIN AT UNION DEPOT. BELOW—FIREMAN NISCHAL AND ENGINEER DREW.

## TAFT AMAZED AT SCENERY

(Continued From First Page.)

ing material progress never before dreamed of," said he, "unless he had intended to place a responsibility on us to use these resources for the improvement of the entire world, and we shall be lacking in our appreciation of our duty unless we take the place in adversity of the column and say to the poor, common people, and plain people of all the world, and especially of Europe, where they are burdened down with armaments.

"We will lead you on and we will take every step possible to abolish that awful curse of war."

## TAFT BACKS OREGON NEEDS

Governor West Is Assured Umatilla Project Will Be Investigated.

SALEM, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Not only did President Taft deliver two speeches here today and become an honorary member of the Philodorian Literary Society of Willamette University, the oldest literary society on the Coast, but his visit to Salem assumed unmeasurable importance when he signed his application to Governor West that he would make a complete investigation of Oregon's needs as far as reclamation funds are concerned and bend every energy toward seeing that the Umatilla project is completed and that Oregon secure its share of this fund.

In addition, he promised that he would request the Secretary of the Interior to appoint a Federal agent to co-operate with an agent appointed by the state to determine what swamps belong to Oregon and allow them to be developed for the benefit of the state.

These two moves, which for practical results to the state are probably the most important of any made in Taft's visit to Oregon, were brought to an assurance in the automobile parade this morning after Governor West had slipped into the front seat of the automobile beside the President.

Governor West called the attention of the President to the fact that the money derived from the sale of public lands goes into the reclamation fund and that Oregon had contributed more than any other state toward this fund and had received the smallest returns from such contribution.

"I appreciate the fact that no matter where the money is spent it will inure to the benefit of someone," said the Governor in his talk with Mr. Taft. "But the State of Oregon feels that it is getting the worst of it. We have one project—the Umatilla—which is peculiarly situated so as to be an ideal location. It is approachable both by rail and plane and is in the heart of a well-settled country.

The plans are all completed for this project and the money is available. The people here believe that you owe it to the state, as President of the United States, to give a few minutes of your time in investigation of this project."

The President declared to the Governor that he realized there is a sentiment in Oregon that the state has not received its share of the reclamation fund and that he believed the Umatilla project is entitled to his most careful consideration.

"I earnestly hope that my findings will be such as to warrant at the earliest possible moment," he said.

Governor West also called his attention to the fact that the state was granted lands under the swamp land act of 1850, thousands of acres of which belong to the state and have never been patented.

The President said he would be pleased to request the Secretary of the Interior to appoint an agent to confer with an agent appointed by the state and if the Governor would communicate with him by letter he will make such a request immediately upon his return to Washington.

Governor West is elated over the result of his conference relative to the Umatilla project, as he is confident that it will mean a rejuvenation of that system and will result in the completion of the project as he does that there is merit in the project and that the result of the President's investigation can scarcely result in any other way.

President Taft arrived in Salem this morning at 2:30 o'clock and that his smile is ever in evidence was attested to by the fact that some early morning enthusiasts stood under his car window and saluted him shortly after his arrival. The President's face appeared at the window, his eyes opened and the smile lighted his face as he bowed to the crowd outside.

The first official act on the programme was the entertainment of the President at breakfast at the Marion Hotel, when members of his party and leading citizens of Salem and Oregon were guests of the local reception committee. Governor West sat at the right of the President and Mayor Lachmund at the left. Representative Hawley, Postmaster Farrar, Colonel Hofer, publisher of the Capital Journal, R. J. Hendrick, publisher of the Salem Statesman; H. L. Pittock, publisher of The Oregonian; Secretary of State Olcott; F. G. Deckebach, C. L. Dick, Charles L. McNary, President Homan, of Willamette University; County Judge Bushy; Judge P. H. D'Arcy and Max O. Hurst, President of the Board of Trade, and Charles Roth, president of the Salem Business Men's League, were among the guests as well as newspaper correspondents and representatives of railroad lines and telegraph companies.

Following the breakfast, President Taft and the party were taken about the city in automobiles and on one place in their trip were stopped by a

small army of school children, who greeted the President by singing "America."

At the courthouse the speech of the day was delivered before at least 5000 persons.

Governor West spoke briefly, calling attention to the laws of Oregon, to the fact that Oregon has the recall, which applies to the judiciary as well as to other public officers.

"But our judges are so upright and true that we do not need to exercise the recall," he said. "I may differ from you in politics, but we like you here. We like you as President of the United States and because you wear the smile that never comes off."

Representative Hawley introduced President Taft as "the man who has already written himself in history by his policies and his acts as one of the most conscientious and honest Presidents that the country has ever had."

In the morning President Taft was forwarded a resolution from J. O. Stearns, Jr., and Merton R. DeLong, urging him to become an honorary member of the Philodorian Society of Willamette University, the oldest literary society on the Pacific Coast. In his broad hand the President readily signed his application and he is now a full-fledged honorary member of that society.

One of the surprises given the Presidential party while in this city was the quality of the roses which could be grown in Salem residents' yards in October. The Women's Relief Corps had collected from a number of Salem people a large collection of pink La France and other beautiful roses. These were tastefully arranged into a large bouquet by a special committee and sent by a messenger to be placed in the President's private car where he would find them upon his leaving the city.

## CROWDS SEE BANQUET HALL

"Political Golf Field" Attraction at Commercial Club.

Hundreds of persons gathered yesterday afternoon and last night at the Commercial Club to get a glimpse of the banquet hall where President Taft and 250 others enjoyed an elaborate banquet Wednesday night. The decorations were left intact and the "Political Golf Field" display kept in operation.

The decorations for the President at the Commercial Club and the Army were taken down today. At the Knights of Columbus Hall the decorations will be left for several days.

A crowd was started in the morning when an announcement was made that a loaded revolver was found near the entrance to the Army by the police. The report was circulated that the gun had been dropped by some person who had plotted to assassinate the President, but the story fell through when Edward C. Clement, postal inspector, reported that the weapon belonged to him. He had acted as one of the secret service men when the President left the Army and had dropped the gun while running for the President's automobile when it left the Army to go to the Knights of Columbus Hall. The revolver was picked up by a policeman who saw it drop from the inspector's pocket.

A committee of the Portland Ministerial Association, comprising Rev. Albert Ehrhart, Rev. William Parsons and Rev. C. E. Cline, reported yesterday that its efforts to secure an interview with President Taft regarding the enforced resignation of William B. Johnson, chief special officer of the Indian Bureau, had not been granted.

## MEDFORD GIVES TAFT FRUIT

Chief Executive's Voice at Last Gives Out Under Strain.

MEDFORD, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Filling his car with Jonathan apples and Bartlett pears and the air with shouts of welcome, 2000 men, women and children greeted President Taft as he passed through here tonight on his way to San Francisco. Although he expected to make a ten-minute talk, a sudden fit of hoarseness prevented his delivering but a few words of welcome and thanks for his cordial reception.

Congressman Hawley introduced the President, commenting upon his service to the Nation, particularly in the way of promoting the world's peace, and as the President stepped to the back of the platform the crowd broke into prolonged cheers.

"I don't know whether any of you people have ever been subjected to the continual use of the voice that has

been my lot the last few days," said Mr. Taft, "but hoarseness is a particular regret on such an occasion as this, when your greeting deserves a sincere expression of appreciation. I thank you for coming. Goodbye, and good fortune to you all."

Although the crowd was disappointed they seemed to appreciate the President's predicament and cheered lustily as the train pulled out.

## TAFT HAS PRAISE FOR HAWLEY

President Says Oregon's Representative Is Influential.

ROSEBURG, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—The striking feature of President Taft's five-minute address in Roseburg this afternoon was his laudation of W. C. Hawley, Representative from the Second Congressional district. The President said that Mr. Hawley was one of the most influential men in Congress and that he should be re-elected at the expiration of his present term.

"It is not policy to change Representatives often," continued the President, "for the reason that little can be accomplished by a Representative or Senator during his first term. It is during the later terms that his influence is felt and he succeeds in securing the chairmanships of important committees."

President Taft also spoke in high terms of the Umpqua Valley and Western Oregon.

"I have traveled extensively," said Mr. Taft, "but never have enjoyed natural scenery as today. You have a paradise on earth, a country which can well be termed a heaven."

It is estimated that fully 4000 persons greeted the President upon his arrival in Roseburg, hundreds of whom came from the remote districts of the county. Conspicuous among the gathering were many gray-haired veterans from the Soldiers' Home, many of whom insisted upon shaking the President's hand. While at Roseburg Mr. Taft was presented with a beautiful wreath of Douglas county roses and a dressed deer. He accepted the gifts with his usual smile.

## OREGON STRAWBERRIES GIFT

Eugene Reminds President of Rich Fruit Yields in Valley.

EUGENE, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Huge, ripe and luscious October strawberries will remind President Taft at dinner tonight of his visit to Eugene and the Willamette Valley. The berries were grown in the Mohawk Valley, and a sufficient quantity was presented to the President to supply the diner of his special train.

Fully 8000 persons gathered at the depot to welcome President Taft, the crowd surpassing that which greeted Colonel Roosevelt last Spring. Freight warehouses and every point of vantage in the railroad yards were black with people. President Taft spoke briefly of the great prosperity certain to come to Eugene through railroad building now in progress, and regretted the brevity of his stay. He spoke of the early completion of the Panama Canal, and elicited thunderous applause by the statement that if he has his way the battleship Oregon will be the first to steam through the canal.

A brief stop was made at the campus of the University of Oregon, where the President spoke briefly of the benefits of university education, and was cheered on his way by rousing college cheers.

## 4000 GREET TAFT AT ALBANY

President Talks of Oregon's Resources to Applause.

ALBANY, Or., Sept. 12.—(Special.)—Almost 4000 people greeted President Taft when his train stopped at Albany for seven minutes today. Besides an immense crowd of local people there was a large number here from Corvallis, including a big delegation of Oregon Agricultural College students and many persons from Lebanon, Brownsville, Halsey, Scio and other nearby towns.

The President's train arrived at 11:45, and Mr. Taft appeared on the rear platform at once and was greeted enthusiastically.

Introduced by Representative Hawley, the President talked until the train pulled out. He said he did not have time to discuss political issues, but talked in a happy vein of Oregon's resources and progress and the American spirit, as apparent in this state, of loyalty of people to their own localities. He was cheered enthusiastically.

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