

LAW TO ATTRACT CAPITAL ADVISED

Secretary Fisher Would Encourage Development of New Water Power.

PRESENT SYSTEM OPPOSED

Co-operation of States to Protect Streams Only Theoretical—Desirable Settlers Greatest Need of Land Projects.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 15.—The immediate formulation and adoption of a practical Federal water-power policy which will encourage the development, and at the same time adequately protect the interests of the public, is strongly urged by Secretary Fisher in his annual report to the President. The Secretary condemns the present law governing water power on the public domain, and seeks to impress upon Congress and upon the country the necessity for enacting a new law that will induce capital to avail itself of innumerable opportunities for hydro-electric development, particularly in the Western States.

Indirectly, the report is a criticism of Congress for its failure to take up and dispose of this subject in an intelligent manner.

Rate Regulation Left to States.
The secretary, as he has heretofore made known, is opposed to transferring to the states full jurisdiction over water-power development, but proposes a system of Federal regulation and control, not designed to sell the land in the Federal treasury, but to extend the improvement of streams and watersheds in those states where water power can be developed. He would also leave to the states the function of regulating the service and the rates of hydro-electric public utilities.

Secretary Fisher condemns the present law, which proceeds on the theory that the only way the public interests can be protected is to stipulate that the permit under which water power is developed may be revoked at any time by the official granting the authority. This theory, says he, neither promotes development nor protects the public interests in an effective manner. The evocable feature of the existing law is a serious and unjustifiable obstacle to the development and utilization of this great natural resource, he declares.

Theoretically, he says, the states can develop and protect the streams and watersheds of the streams within their respective borders, and if the streams are interstate, can co-operate in this work. Practically, he says, this is not done. States jointly interested in the development and disposition of interstate waters not only do not co-operate, but are in fact antagonistic.

Alaska's Need of Fuel Shown.
Alaska coal lands were much in the limelight one year ago. This year the subject is passed with scant mention. "The conditions surrounding the coal-bearing areas of Alaska have not changed essentially," says the Secretary, "except that the distressing need of cheap native fuel for the development of the territory's other resources has been even more strongly emphasized by the prolonged period of Congressional inaction. The Governor reports that the residents of the territory generally are willing to accept any measure which will cause the fuel resources to be opened to development—so much so that the comparative advantages of a Federal coal lease plan, or Government operation have ceased to be a matter of discussion."

The reclamation fund, up to June 30, 1912, had received \$77,000,000, says the Secretary, not counting the \$20,000,000 loan authorized by the Borah law. In general, the Secretary commends the work of the Reclamation Service, and says that on a proper basis of comparison the cost of works built by the Reclamation Service is less than the cost of those of equal magnitude built by private enterprise. The Government works, he finds, are far more substantial, and will not have to be rebuilt. In a word he dismisses complaints of some settlers that Government works are unnecessarily expensive.

The Secretary also objects to the general policy of extending the time of payments for settlers on Government projects, though recognizing the justice of extensions in certain cases for cause. He would lighten the burden on the settler during his early years, has already authorized graduation of payments, and would amend the law to allow a postponement of residence on reclamation entries until two years after settlement is made.

Competent Settlers Greatest Need.
The greatest present need of the Government projects, he says, is to bring in of a competent class of settlers to the lands, and the exclusion of speculators.

Secretary Fisher devotes considerable space to pointing out again the inadequacy of the present land laws, and urging a comprehensive revision. Piecemeal conservative legislation, he shows, is harmful to the West, as, for instance, the enactment of a law authorizing the withdrawal of certain classes of mineral lands, without an accompanying law providing for their use or disposition after they have been withdrawn. Yet the Department is blamed for sewing up millions of acres of land so they cannot be used. The Secretary renews his recommendation that the remaining public lands be classified according to their adaptation for use, and that appropriate laws be passed providing for the disposition of each class of lands. He would segregate the homestead land, having one law for ordinary agricultural lands, another law for dry lands, and a third law for irrigated lands.

One new subject taken up by the Secretary is the question of taxing Indian lands. He says there is reasonable complaint that Indian lands are withheld from development and taxation, and to cure this abuse steps are being taken to issue patents to Indians entitled to allotments and competent to handle their own lands. This will result in rendering their lands taxable.

Lands Should Be Classified.
The Secretary emphasizes the recommendation made in his annual report last year for the need of a comprehensive land classification and of administration based thereon. The existing statutes, he says, attempt to recognize in a very general and ineffective way the fundamental differences between the different classes of agricultural lands still remaining in the public domain. The present system is not flexible enough to recognize the differences, he declares.

Secretary Fisher recommends the "adoption of constructive legislation with respect to water-power development and control, and the comprehensive application of the leasing system to the development of our public coal, oil, gas, asphalt, nitrate, potash and phosphate lands, with appropriate provision for the protection of prospectors during a reasonable exploration period preliminary to the leasing of the land."

DEAD AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO ENGLAND, HIS WIDOW, HIS LATE LONDON RESIDENCE.



ABOVE, DORCHESTER HOUSE—BELOW, MR. AND MRS. WHITELAW REID.

WHITELAW REID DIES

American Ambassador Succumbs to Short Illness.

BRITAIN MAY LEND WARSHIP

Ambassador's Wife Desires to Return to America as Soon as Possible—Details of Public Funeral Are Not Yet Arranged.

(Continued From First Page.)

Physician's Report Checks.

On October 31, however, he went to Wales and made an address in University College and from that time suffered from colds. He called in Sir William Osier, who examined him and declared there was nothing wrong. The Ambassador was cheered by this report and with his wife joined his guests at his country house.

He returned to Dorchester house on December 2 and his final illness began the next day. Mr. Reid continued to carry on his correspondence and signed official documents as late as last Wednesday. His family and household did not realize that he was in any danger, and although at times he showed much depression, it was attributed to the gloomy weather. The doctors, too, were optimistic, but advised him to remain within doors, and he did not join the party last week at West Park, which he had invited to meet the Prince and Princess of Teck.

Even in the last week several small luncheons, which the Ambassador and Mrs. Reid were accustomed to give to visitors from the United States had been arranged, just before his condition be-

CHIEF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY SECRETARY FISHER.

Adoption of comprehensive water-power policy for all streams in the United States.
Comprehensive classification of public lands and administration in accordance therewith.
Enlarged application of leasing principle to the public domain generally.
Amendment to mining law giving prospectors exclusive right for a term of years of possession and prospecting within limited area.
Legislation for development of transportation facilities and coal lands of Alaska.
Comprehensive leasing law for coal, oil and other mineral lands.
Withdrawal from entry of public lands in West to protect headwaters of streams.
Legislation for retirement and pensioning of civil employees of the Government.

came serious. These were cancelled when he was attacked by asthma Wednesday.

Condition Rapidly Grows Worse.

On Thursday the attacks became more severe, and Sir Thomas Barlow was summoned in consultation, and Dr. Rowlands was installed in the house to be in constant attendance. The attack became worse Friday, and for a time it was believed the Ambassador could not survive the night. He was greatly exhausted but the physicians got the paroxysms under control and later held out hope for his recovery. Mr. Reid did not, however, regain his strength, and on Sunday morning it was said that he was sinking. Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Ward, who had been in constant attendance since his condition became serious, were summoned. He soon lapsed into unconsciousness and lay quietly until the end came.

Whitelaw Reid, who came to England in 1905, spent some busy years here. The diplomatic duties are not so heavy in London as at some posts. He was greatly appreciated by the British people, and he was much in demand and more frequently called upon to make speeches and addresses than the other Ambassadors.

Mr. Reid gave much time to his addresses, particularly those made in the university, and was at this work long before other men in his position would be said. He dictated to his secretary or wrote for several hours before going to the embassy, where he was regular in attendance until illness overtook him, and there spent another three hours receiving visitors and attending to official correspondence. There were invariably engagements, official and unofficial, for the afternoon, and entertainments for the evening, which made his day complete. He was a member of several big clubs. The few he seldom visited, although a regular attendant at the meetings of the Roxborough, a club of booklovers, and the Titmarsh, a Thackeray club.

Until the last he was active in literary pursuits. One of the reasons he desired to give up the Ambassadorship and return home was that he might be enabled to write his memoirs, of which he had a mass of matter and to which his friends continually asked him to give his time.

One of the Ambassador's last letters was written December 4 to Robert Donald, editor of the Chronicle and a member of the committee of the Anglo-American peace centenary.

Illness Found Inevitable.

"I am finding once more this week there is never a convenient moment for being ill," it began, "but nothing has troubled me so much since the breakdown three or four weeks ago that followed my overwork in the autumn and early winter, as to learn that the physicians will not consent to my attending the public meeting of the Mansion House to help inaugurate our movement for celebrating the 100th anniversary of peace between our two countries. I especially wish to be present, because I regard this as an event of enormous importance, and I think that failure to give it such a celebration as should challenge the attention of the world would be a crime."

After congratulating Mr. Donald on his work and writings in behalf of the celebration, I then continued: "If I dared to promise to be present at the Lord Mayor's meeting, I would, and if by the time it comes I can escape so far from the thrallhold of the physicians, I surely shall be."

"In the meantime, I hope that the work is in as forward and promising a state in my own country, as here. I am sure that the centenary could not have come at a moment more helpful for the peace of the world."

OFFICER KILLS RIVAL

Candidate for Chief of Police, Defeated, Shoots.

SUICIDE ATTEMPT FAILS

Member of Riverside, Cal., Police Force, Enters Acting Chief's Office and Murders Him, Then Quietly Surrenders Gun.

RIVERSIDE, Cal., Dec. 15.—Patrolman Barrett shot and killed Deputy Chief of Police Baird in police headquarters early today, and after being taken to the County Jail, tried to commit suicide.

The two officers were candidates for the office of Chief of Police, which was made vacant by the death recently of Chief Coburn, and the tragedy was the outcome of their rivalry. Baird and Barrett were alone at the time. Policeman Lucas, who was in an outer room, heard three revolver shots. He rushed into Baird's office and there found the acting Chief dead on the floor and Barrett standing over him with a revolver in his hand. Baird had been shot three times.

"I guess you have done it," said Lucas, as he burst into the room. "Yes, I have," replied Barrett, calmly, as he handed over his weapon.

When he was transferred from the city prison to the County Jail Barrett tried to cut his throat with the fragment of a drinking glass which he had broken, but was prevented by the jailer. Baird was to have been named Chief of Police tomorrow.

Workers Secure Vacation.

FLORENCE, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—The Johnson-Anderson Company contractors on the Government work here, will close the work Tuesday evening for about a month, both to allow their men to spend the holidays at home and that they may avoid the frequent idle days usually made necessary by stormy weather at this season of the year.

NAGEL IS OPPOSED TO FIXING PRICES

Self-Regulation Declared Desirable in Supervision of Business Affairs.

OPEN FIELD HELD BEST

Reports Should Be Required Automatically of Corporations, Secretary Says—Repeal of Sealing Limitation Urged.

SALIENT FEATURES OF SECRETARY NAGEL'S REPORT.

Powers of the proposed commission to regulate his business should be well defined and restricted. Opposes giving such commission authority similar to that of Interstate Commerce Commission. It should not be empowered to fix prices. Self-regulation of business, to greatest extent consistent with public welfare, should be guiding principle of legislation. Corporations should be compelled to make automatic reports regarding capitalization, business, profits, controlling interests, etc. Bureau of Corporations should assist Federal Courts in reorganizing concerns dissolved under the Sherman anti-trust law. Approves an international conference to secure greater safety of life at sea, and raises question whether United States Government should take over all seacoast wireless stations. Suggests creation of board of arbitration to settle railroad labor disputes. During fiscal year 1912 \$38,172 immigrants were admitted; 70,000 aliens naturalized. Recommends repeal of law for five-year closed sealing season in Alaska.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Charles Nagel, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, would sharply define and restrict the powers and discretion of the proposed Federal commission to regulate industrial corporations. In his annual report submitted to President Taft today, the Secretary opposes the endowment of such a commission with far-reaching powers equal to those exercised by the Interstate Commerce Commission over railroads. He disapproves the suggestion that the commission have authority to fix prices of commodities.

Epitomizing his doctrine for Governmental supervision of business, Mr. Nagel says: "Instead of pressing Federal regulation as far as possible, the real desideratum in legislation affecting the country's business should be to preserve, to the greatest extent consistent with the public welfare, the element of self-regulation. The effort should be to lay down principles of conduct sufficiently specific to impose desired restraints, at the same time leaving a wide field for individual achievement."

Limited Discretion Advised.

"If such a trade commission is well defined," the Secretary says, "it may serve the general purpose of giving large industrial and commercial concerns much needed Federal authority and control. It is possible that, by joining in the commission well-defined discretion, an intelligent purpose may be served."

To make more effective the work of the Bureau of Corporations and pave the way for constructive legislation regulating business, the Secretary urges that Congress provide for the automatic submission by corporations engaged in interstate trade of certain fundamental data, such as facts relating to capitalization, property, business, investment, and controlling interests. Such information, subject to due protection against unnecessarily disclosing matters of no real public concern, adds the Secretary, would permit more prompt publicity than is possible under the present method of laborious investigation in each specific case.

Mr. Nagel believes the Bureau of Corporations should act in an advisory capacity to the Federal courts in formulating plans of reorganization of corporations founded in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, because he says the questions involved in restoring competition in a great business depend as much upon intimate knowledge of conditions in an industry as upon questions of law. Although he thinks the Bureau already has authority to render this assistance, he suggests that it be specifically authorized by statute.

Ships' Crews Should Be More Fit.
In connection with the awakening of the world by the Titanic disaster to the urgency of greater safeguards of life at sea, Mr. Nagel endorses the proposition to hold an international conference, and calls attention to the need of laws governing personnel of crews with a view of better guaranty of the fitness of men so employed.

The interest of the United States in this subject is keener than any other country in the world, not excluding Great Britain and Germany, the Secretary points out, because 2,000,000 persons annually cross the ocean to or from this country.

A year's operation of the act of August 13 last requiring the licensing of all wireless apparatus will demonstrate, in the judgment of Secretary Nagel, whether in this country, as abroad, the Government should take over all seacoast wireless stations and operate them jointly for public and commercial purposes.

A board of conciliation and arbitration to take the place of the provisions of the Erdman act for the settlement of disputes between railroads and their employees is suggested by Mr. Nagel.

Emigrants to Canada May Return.

One feature of the Secretary's re-



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port indicates that some American citizens who formed part of the great emigration to Canada during recent years are probably contemplating returning. Many of them are applying, the Secretary says, for the bulletins issued by the division of information of his department setting forth the labor needs, and small investment opportunities in the United States, especially in the agricultural districts.

During the fiscal year 1912, there were admitted to the United States \$38,172 immigrant aliens, a decrease of 40,415 as compared with the previous year. On the other hand, 233,262 emigrant aliens departed, an increase of 37,596 over 1911. Nearly 70,000 aliens were naturalized during the fiscal year.

The arrangement with Japan governing the admission of Japanese and Koreans to the United States is giving satisfactory results, the Secretary says. During the last fiscal year 5358 Japanese were admitted to this country proper and 3231 to Hawaii. The de-

partment admitted 5374 Chinese during the same period.



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