

CONSERVE RESOURCES FOR MAN OF FUTURE

Governor Chamberlain's Address to Commission at Washington Praised by Press and President--Suggests Stronger Federal Control of Streams and Forests

Governor Chamberlain on Tuesday last delivered the address on behalf of the governors before the national convention for the conservation of the natural resources of the nation. The address was spoken in terms of high praise by President Roosevelt and by the eastern press, and was an effort dealing in a clear and comprehensive manner with the question under discussion. After reviewing briefly the history of the movement for the conservation of resources, Governor Chamberlain said in part:

We are probably all agreed upon one point. Conservation of the natural resources is necessary to the well being of our country. The conservation of our institutions and cooperation of state and federal authorities to accomplish beneficial results.

It was undoubtedly timely that the forestry and reclamation branches of the federal government first sounded a warning as to the wanton destruction of the forests and the resultant consequences, fuel famine, soil erosion, flood waters at certain seasons and at others an insufficient supply for domestic, industrial, irrigation and navigation purposes. If this warning, unsupported in other directions, would have been sufficient to arouse the people to vigorous action. But the distinguished president of the United States, with the energy which has come to him in his official life, early took up the subject and on the fourteenth day of March, 1907, appointed the inland waters commission, not only to prepare and report upon a comprehensive plan for the improvement and control of the river systems of the United States, but upon the correlated subjects of forests and their conservation, soil erosion, and generally upon the control and uses of the navigable and other waters of the country for navigation and industrial purposes.

Forests' Preservation Vital.

The conclusion reached by the forestry and reclamation departments were sustained and strengthened by the investigations of the inland waters commission. All were practically agreed that the navigability of our waterways and the maintenance of uniformity of depth and flow, depended upon the tributary supply streams, and these in turn upon the protection of the forests along the watersheds and upper reaches of such tributary streams. In other words that the preservation of the forests, the distribution of water for irrigation, domestic and industrial purposes, its uses for the generation of power, light, heat and mining, and the navigability of our waterways, are related and interdependent that the consideration of means for the preservation of one, meant the consideration of means for the preservation and protection of all.

From the earliest days of the republic the public lands, agricultural and mineral, arid and semi-arid, the waters on and under the earth and all the resources of sea and land have been given away with a most wanton and reckless prodigality, until much that is most valuable and essential to national strength has passed into individual or corporate ownership.

The Few Are Enriched.

As a result magnificent resources that should have remained under government control for the use and enjoyment of the whole people have been dissipated and uneconomically administered to the enrichment of the few and the impoverishment of the many. The forests of the country, on the mountains at the headwaters of many of the navigable streams, are being denuded, until now the date can almost be named when, if present methods be pursued without reforestation, there must inevitably be a lumber famine with all that such a condition entails: the coal mines are being exhausted, with an ever increasing fuel demand; natural oils and gases are being used extravagantly and wasted wantonly as though the supply were inexhaustible; soil erosion is taking place so rapidly by the denudation of the forests that vast areas of agricultural lands are being washed into the navigable waterways, impairing the navigability of these important avenues of commerce, and the increasing demands for iron and steel seriously threatens the exhaustion of the mines, and no step has been taken to call a halt to this kind of extravagance or to safeguard to present and future generations the little of these resources that remain. I do not underestimate the creative and inventive genius of our people, but it is no excuse to the charge of wasteful extravagance in the use of our magnificent resources to say that substitutes for them all may be found whenever necessity arises. That is not the history of other countries, and of other peoples who have ruthlessly squandered the gifts of a beneficent providence.

As to Federal Control.

One of two policies must be adopted in order to succeed, and it must be either national or state. As to the authority and jurisdiction of the federal government over the undistributed portions of the public domain, there can be no question. There the power of congress is unquestionably supreme with respect to the soil, the mine, the forest and the streams tributary to the navigable waterways and their use therein in so far as such use might interfere with navigation.

Again, the federal government under the interstate commerce clause of the constitution has jurisdiction over the navigable waterways of the country. About this, too, there can be no question. In the exercise of jurisdiction over the navigable waterways, how far can congress or the courts go in the matter of the certain control of streams which, though non-navigable, are nevertheless tributary to the sources of supply of and so affect the navigation of the flow of waters in the navigable highways?

Here Governor Chamberlain discusses the case of the United States vs. Rio Grande Dam & Irrigation company, 174 U. S. 690, dealing with the point raised. The decision is that the government can, within just limits, regulate tributary waters for the conservation of natural resources. Continuing the governor said:

Uniform Code Proposed.

If this power and jurisdiction be recognized, may it not be insisted that it is within the powers of congress to enact a uniform code not only to safeguard the waters tributary to the navigable waterways against such division of jurisdiction, but also to provide for the distribution of such waters for beneficial use in the reclamation of the arid and semi-arid lands of the country?

If the position assumed is correct, congress has jurisdiction over many of the most valuable resources of the country, and why may not a law be passed creating an interstate conservation commission, authorizing them to work in connection with the departments of government now having jurisdiction over the public lands, the forests, navigation, reclamation and kindred subjects, making appropriations for the purchase of deforested lands in the Appalachian range and elsewhere, with authority to reforest them, empowering them to exercise the

right of eminent domain in such cases as might be necessary, authorizing the adoption of rules for the distribution of the waters of all streams tributary to the navigable waterways and particularly those which are interstate?

Such an act would vest in the national government jurisdiction over by far the larger part of the world's resources, conservation and would create a central administration system which would result in great and lasting good and be more effective than any other system.

But it may be asked, why may not the states exercise the powers herein suggested as likely to be better performed by the national government?

Why State Control Insufficient.

First--The states as a rule do not seem disposed to act for the preservation of their natural resources either with respect to the land owned by them or by the exercise of their police power. There are, however, some notable exceptions to this rule.

Second--Even in cases where the states have legislated with reference to the subject of the distribution of waters, whether from interstate or intrastate streams, there is such a lack of uniformity in legislation as well as in judicial interpretation, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine the rights of individual citizens.

It is well known how unpopular was the policy of national forest reserve creation in its inception in all the states. The range user as well as the small settler along the edges of the forests had come to feel that he had a right by prescription to use as he saw fit the unsold portion of the public domain. I myself was of the number who opposed the policy, but that opposition was the result of the lack of information as to the co-relation of water conservation, soil erosion, flood and drought, and the uniform distribution of waters for reclamation of the semi-arid regions of the West. The movement, I assure you, now meets my hearty approval.

Reserves Now Approved.

The unpopularity of the forest reserve is gradually giving way to acquiescence and approval, and all opposition, I am sure, will vanish when the rules for their administration can assume the order and method of a code, and people come to understand better the objects and purposes underlying it all.

Who doubts for a moment that state forest of Gifford Pinchot, who deserves a tireless felled, and that but for the persistence, indomitable and intelligent effort of Clifford Pinchot, who deserves a very warm place in the hearts of his countrymen, even national effort would have come to naught?

States Lack Uniformity.

While it is true that some of the states have adopted fairly good laws governing the distribution of water for irrigation and other purposes, yet even

DOWAGER EMPRESS



The dowager empress of Russia, a plot against whose life was recently discovered.

In these there is a lack of uniformity and a conflict of judicial interpretation. There are many cases where a stream has its source in one state and its waters are used for irrigation and power purposes in another; the latter state has no power or authority, if the necessity should arise, to go into the former and construct storage reservoirs, no matter how valuable they might be.

I would not for a moment be understood as claiming that congress has any power, jurisdiction or authority, to disturb rights to water which have been vested through national or state laws. On the contrary, I insist that such rights should be protected and will be promoted by the course here suggested for national control and administration. It is in the interest of these rights, as well as for those yet to accrue, that radical and immediate action should be taken. Who could have foreseen when the constitution was adopted, or even a quarter of a century ago, the change that has taken place in the semi-arid regions through the distribution of water? The beginning has only been made, and the prediction may safely be hazarded, that by the construction of dams and storage reservoirs and the enactment of laws for the proper distribution of water for reasonable and beneficial uses, hundreds of thousands of acres of land which today are considered worthless, will in the next quarter of a century be reclaimed and will furnish homes for thousands of sturdy men and women.

Safeguarding the Future.

It is to protect the men of the present day and age and their descendants in the enjoyment of their vested rights against the men of the future and those of the future against the unreasonable demands of the present that federal jurisdiction and legislation is here suggested.

There is no question that federal ad-

ministration and control would be more effective, and yet I realize that jealousy between the states themselves, and fear of federal encroachment upon the rights of the states, will make it difficult to agree upon a proper course of legislation. The work in hand is so important, not only to us of the present, but to future generations, that we ought to be able to lay aside all jealousies and endeavor in a spirit of the loftiest patriotism to reason together and formulate if possible a policy of administration that is best for all.

If a national administrative system does not meet with approval, then let it be state. The conflicting interests of the states, the different conditions which prevail in the humid and semi-arid regions, in soil, in climate, in topography and finally in laws and judicial interpretation will render the importation of a uniform code a task of great difficulty. It cannot be done here and now, but the initial steps may be taken for the appointment of commissioners from the different states to confer together and agree if possible upon a code for submission to the different state legislatures.

But whether the policy for the conservation of our resources be national or state, there should be hearty cooperation on the part of both the national and state governments, for without it, all effort must fail.

To you gentlemen of the east, the north and the south, to you, gentlemen from every section of our country in control of the federal government, we of the west promise our best efforts in the work of conserving all the natural resources of all these states for the benefit of all the people.

Notes From the Labor World

The number of union laborers in Holland is estimated at 75,000.

The Trade Unionist, published in Washington, D. C., has been taken out of the receiver's hands.

The cloth hat and cap makers of St. Louis have recently organized their first local union in that city.

An imposing Anglo-German workmen's peace demonstration was held at Berlin, Germany, recently. More than 20,000 German workmen, representing nearly every industry, gathered to wel-

come a delegation representing the British workmen in the interest of international arbitration.

Engineers in Germany who have run their locomotives for 10 years without accident are rewarded by the government.

A compilation of trades union statistics in the principal countries places the number of members in good standing at 9,000,000.

The International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Ways employees will hold its seventh biennial convention in New Orleans, La., next Monday.

In Austria and France the provision of rescue apparatus in mines is made compulsory. In Germany it is optional, but has been voluntarily adopted.

Farm laborers in the south, paid by the month the year, and winter supported by the land owner, receive 35 to 40 cents a day during working season.

The Iron Molders' union of North America is planning to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary next year in an appropriate manner. The date has not yet been set.

A free course of instruction in steam engineering for members has been arranged recently by the Stationary Firemen's union of Boston and it promises to be well attended.

A bill to provide for a state tax to be used for the aid of the injured miners and families of men killed in the mines of the state will be presented to the Pennsylvania state legislature.

Spinners and cardroom workers in Manchester, England, have adjusted their differences with the manufacturers, agreeing, temporarily, to accept a 5 per cent reduction.

The last available statistics show that in one year in Germany the sum of about \$30,000,000 was paid to invalid workmen to the number of \$1,000, in the form of old age pensions.

The Bakers' union of Memphis, Tenn., has started a label campaign which, the members hope, will produce good results. The idea is to place a value upon bread labels and thus encourage their use.

What is said to have been the first time in the history of the Westmoreland, Pa., coal region, religious services were conducted underground one day recent-

ly. The miners listened eagerly to the prayers and joined in the chorus of revival hymns.

The product of finished iron and steel in Pennsylvania in 1907 involved the employment of 137,712 persons, who earned \$91,413,354 during the year. More than one half of this product was manufactured in the county of Allegheny.

President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard, speaking at a meeting for the organization of the Massachusetts state child labor committee, declared that in his belief the rules of the labor unions on apprentices are a drawback to the workers against child labor.

In both England and Scotland several rescue stations have been organized in connection with experimental galleries

devised for the purpose of training colliers in the methods of effective rescue work in the event of explosions, pit fires and other underground accidents.

The annual conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain reported that the number of men employed in the districts represented by the federation was 747,500, and the number of men in the union 592,444. There was an increase in the number of employed compared with last year of 150,000.

Public baths for miners and lockers for their working and street clothes, so that they may cleanse themselves after their day's toil, and return to their homes looking like office employees, if they are so minded, is an ideal to be established at the new works of the Pittsburgh-Buffalo company, at Marietta, near Monongahela City, Pa.

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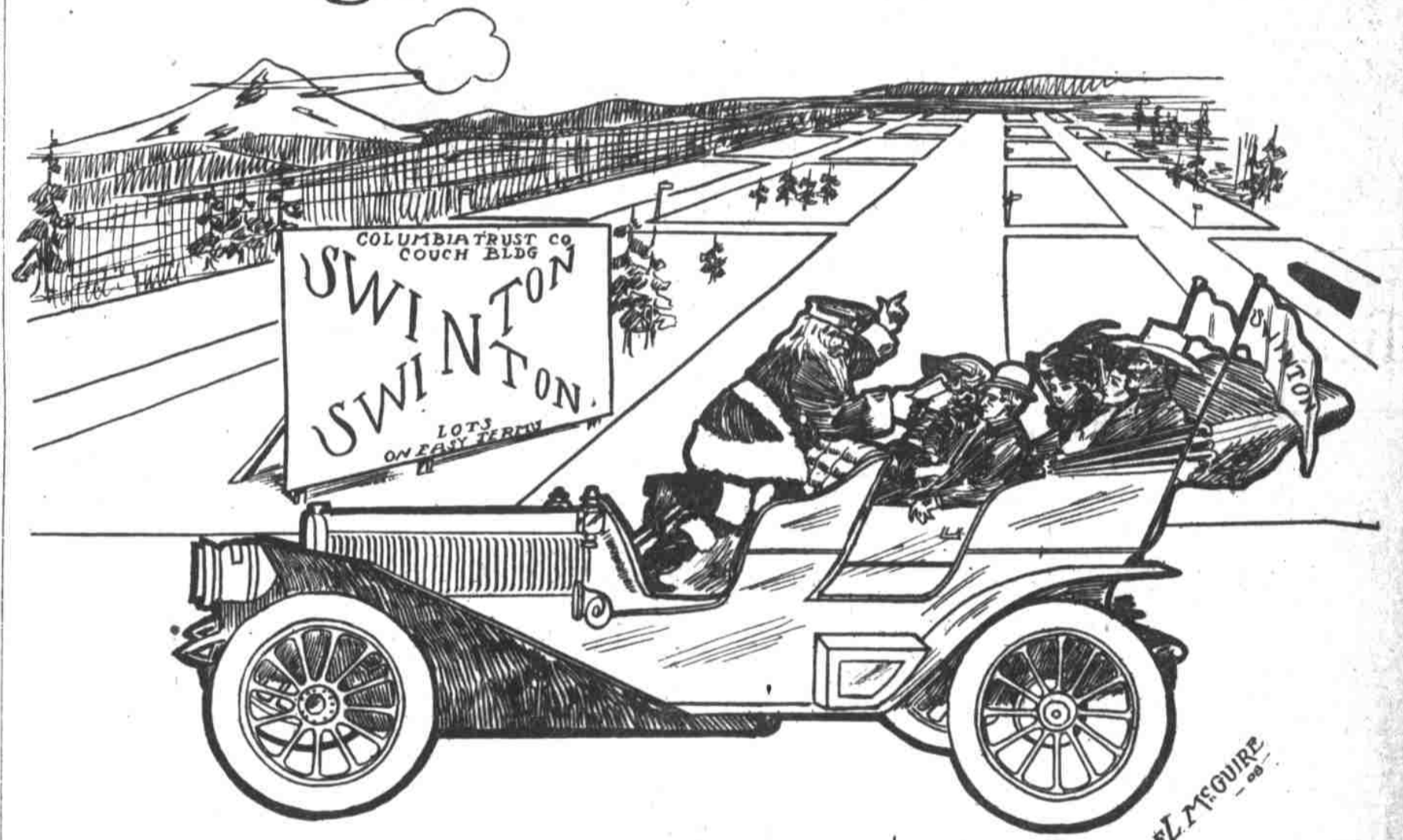
HOLLADAY'S ADDITION

The one best place in Portland to buy. Geographical center and most desirable residence property of the city. Seeing is believing. Better go and see the many choice residences under construction and the improvements going on.

THE OREGON REAL ESTATE COMPANY

254 GRAND AVE. N. PORTLAND, OREGON.

A Progressive Santa Claus



Did you ever stop to think what becomes of your Christmas presents year after year? Perhaps you can show some of them today, but have any of them ever increased in value? Don't let this Christmas pass without making the most valuable gift possible. Make a payment and get a contract for a lot at SWINTON. Present this to some member of your family whom you are most interested in as to their future. If they happen to be making their own living, have the mkeep up the payments of 2 per cent per month. Almost any one can do it if they try and this obligation will be the making of them. The recipient of such a gift will look back to the Christms of 1908 as the brightest and most substantial of all.

Every man, woman and child should own some real estate in Portland these prosperous days, but the best opportunities are now offered on the Peninsula. The richest men in America made most of their money in real estate.

If you are not thoroughly convinced that Portland will be the New York City of the Pacific Coast you will not deny that it will grow many times greater than it is, hence the values of real estate will increase step by step with its growth.

Only a few reasons why Portland should be the largest and best city in the West:

It is the only fresh water harbor on the Pacific Coast. Has five transcontinental railroads. Is the healthiest city and has the lowest death rate of any city in the United States. It has an unlimited supply of pure water. It is the first in lumber and wheat exports on the Pacific Coast, and above all is a city of homes.

Hundreds of houses are contracted for in Swift & Co.'s townsite, Kenton, for their employes. Kenton is near SWINTON on the west and is one and a half miles south of the packing plant and stockyards. A trestle of that length is already built and streetcar rails laid thereon. By early summer this industry which is going to make a new Portland will be in operation. Part of SWINTON is only four blocks from Piedmont and is but three miles directly north of the steel bridge. Two city railroads are projected to run through SWINTON, as it is the center of the peninsula. SWINTON building restrictions will make it first class residential property. Columbia Trust Company is now grading streets to city engineer's stakes and putting in mains through each street for Bull Run water. While this improvement is going on we are making a reduction of 10 per cent on the price of our lots. We have made a new record for the sale of subdivision lots in Portland. Over 850 lots have been sold since the middle of September, which leaves less than 200 unsold. At this rate they will all be gone before Christmas. Each customer is a booster and most of them intend to build. Already numerous contracts have been let for substantial houses. Values will surely double in a year.

We will continue to run our automobiles out to SWINTON to show our lots while they last. Any day and any hour you elect, but by all means don't put it off. Get your choice while you can. Already some of our early purchasers have made good profits selling and reinvesting in this very property.

Base Line Acres Is Certain to Be the Popular Suburban Residence Section of Portland

Already people are flocking to the delightful country just east of Mount Tabor. Before many months there will not be so much as a 50-foot lot for sale in that vicinity. Prices will advance accordingly. At the present time you have the opportunity of purchasing an acre for less money than you would have to pay for a lot 50 by 100 feet. You can buy upon easier terms, be bound by no restrictions and plant your garden, keep a cow and a horse and live in perfect independence of the city at your door. Upon the completion of the Mount Hood Railway, you will be able to ride to the retail center in 35 minutes. Get our folder, THE MAN OF TOMORROW.

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