

PLANS TO BRING POWER INTERESTS INTO AGREEMENT

National Conservation Association Offers Platform to End Long Controversy; Federal Sphere Limited.

By John E. Lathrop.
Washington, Dec. 17.—The National conservation association is working on a plan to bring together the opposing forces in the water power controversy, those who have been known as advocates of federal regulation, and those who stood for state regulation. The plan is approved by Gifford Pinchot, president of the association, but it has been laid before competent engineers of wide experience in water power development, and officers and managers of hydro-electric power companies who have criticized it and approved it.

The plan was drafted by Philip P. Wells, attorney for the association, former law officer of the forest service. He had a large share in devising the system of water power regulation in the national forests. The plan is offered as a platform on which both sides in the controversy may unite to protect the public interest, and at the same time encourage the development of the many millions of horsepower now going to waste in the mountain streams of the west and the great rivers of the central and eastern parts of the country.

Benefits to All is Claimed.
The plan contemplates developing, without delay, waste or sacrifice of other and higher uses of flowing water. Mr. Wells says:

"Under this plan private capital must be aided by the state or nation to corporate franchises, condemnation of private property and licenses to use public lands and obstruct public waters. The power company would have certainty of tenure for a reasonable time, and a chance for generous profits upon their actual development. For the public the plan promises good service, fair prices, full publicity as to cost, honest, capitalization, and fair rentals for public property used by the companies."

Federal Jurisdiction Limited.
"It is conceded in the plan that the federal government has no jurisdiction unless its land is to be occupied or navigable rivers affected. Even in such cases the regulation of service and prices is to be the function of the state, leaving to the national government the duty of securing prompt, full and orderly development and reasonable time limit for releasing publicly as to financing and fair rentals for federal property used, perhaps paying a part of the proceeds to the state."

With reference to water power sites not owned by the United States, and which do not affect navigation, Mr. Wells concedes that they are wholly in state jurisdiction, and as to them he argues that the state governments should secure all of the public objects set forth in his plan. He says:

Scope for Conservation Work.
"There should also be development, not speculation, a reasonable public control under good water laws, public storage reservoirs constructed by the state, at the expense of power site owners on the waters below, as proposed by the New York state water supply commission. There are very great opportunities here for conservation work by the state."

It is earnestly hoped that the plan may remove the subject of water power sites from the bitter controversy of the past few years, and afford a basis upon which all the conflicting factions may come together.

LAND MONOPOLIES ARE PASSING IN IRELAND

Dublin, Dec. 17.—There is general rejoicing throughout the country over the breaking up of the various big estates and the purchase of them by the tenants who live on them. The landlords are apparently satisfied, as they get their money in a lump sum. The estates commissioners met at Ballinrillek and proceeded with the distribution of the Carraghmore ranch, containing 200 acres and formerly held by Sir Jocelyn Gore Booth Linsdell, Sligo. All the tenants were duly considered and additions of land in some cases up to 15 acres were made. Booth is an old Irish nobleman who would never wear a collar and made it a practice to curse England every time it was mentioned.

The news that the negotiations for the purchase of Castleby by the county district board has been brought about has been received with jubilation. "The Willis Sandford estate, on which the town is situated, was the first sold under the land act of 1903, with the exception of the town and demesne. Now the balance of the estate, including the town and the demesne, containing 750 acres, and the beautiful mansion of Mr. Sandford, has been purchased by the board. The estate commissioners propose to acquire compulsorily lands in Ards. The area proposed to be acquired is 95 acres, the rated occupier Mrs. Caroline Darley.

The tenants on the Major Dawson estate, an extensive property in Westmeath and Louth, have signed purchase agreements. Other land monopolists will be forced to sell or suffer boycotts.

RUSSIA LAYS TAX ON "RACE SUICIDE"

By George Fraser.
(Publishers' Free Landed Wire.)
St. Petersburg, Dec. 17.—Two acts of the duma are of more than local interest. One is the imposition of a tax on unmarried men and women of marriageable age. The tax is graduated according to the incomes of the offenders. Russia has suffered in common with the balance of the world from the tendency of modern civilization to avoid the duties and responsibilities attendant on the rearing of families and the tax is meant to insure from those who decline to do their duty to the state by rearing families, some compensation. It is probable this action will be followed by similar legislation for the parents of families above the normal, to be paid from the receipts from the taxes on the single.

The other law is one just passed restricting the privileges of the duma in the state as a result of the disclosures at the trial of Baron Ungern-Sternberg, the Association of Press Correspondents in the Russian duma has been informed that journalists are henceforth absolutely forbidden to enter the duma without an official permit signed by the secretary of the house.

ONTARIO OPEN TOWN, MODEL ORDINANCE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Ontario, Or., Dec. 17.—Ontario is now an open town with four saloons in operation. At a meeting of the city council Thursday night licenses were granted to H. C. Whitworth for the Carter house hotel bar, Lyte Howard of the Mist, J. J. Cortright of the Club and R. A. Stewart of the Elk saloon. Ontario has been on

the water wagon for two years when Malheur county voted dry at the general election in 1908, but during this time all of the above places have operated as near beer resorts.

An attempt was made at one time to prevent the sale of this beverage in the county on the grounds that it was intoxicating, but the efforts through the courts were unsuccessful, and at the last November election Malheur county again joined the wet counties, and North Ontario, having given a majority against prohibition, the council at the December meeting passed an ordinance licensing and regulating saloons in North Ontario. South Ontario, having voted for prohibition at the last election, that

part of the city is still dry, and no saloons or near beer joints can be opened or conducted there.

The same condition exists at Vale, North Vale being wet and South Vale dry. Nysse remained in the dry territory by only one majority. The Ontario saloon ordinance is very strict and rather unique, inasmuch as it automatically revokes the license issued to any one who violates any of the provisions of the ordinance. The license fee is fixed at \$100 per month, and if at the end of the month it transpires that any proprietor of a saloon has violated any one of the provisions of the ordinance the council is prohibited from granting him a new license.

OUTLOOK PROMISING FOR COMING YEAR

(Publishers' Free Landed Wire.)
New York, Dec. 17.—The close of the harvest season and industrial developments during November and the early part of December conspire to make the business outlook for the opening of the year 1911 altogether promising. An average wheat crop and an abundance of corn crop, with good average prices

prevailing has brought much prosperity to the farmers of the middle and western states.

An 11,100,000 bale cotton crop, as is indicated by the ginners' report, now that the cotton season is about over, has caused the price to continue high, which has brought much ready money into the cotton belt. This will have the effect of bringing a heavy Christmas trade to the merchants and large purchasers of farming implements, stock and fertilizers by the planters with the opening of the new season.

A leader of the great enterprises which will affect industrial business is the Pennsylvania Railroad company, which has given an order for 150,000 tons of steel rails, for 1911 delivery.

The order is considerably larger than they had expected to make it. For 1910 delivery the company originally ordered about 140,000 tons, but following orders made the total for the year 210,000 tons.

Delays of the Law Discussed.
Boston, Dec. 17.—The causes of delay in the administration of justice in civil actions and plans to remedy the evil were exhaustively discussed here today at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Bar association. The recommendations of the association will be submitted to the general assembly for legislative action.

Journal Want Ads bring results.

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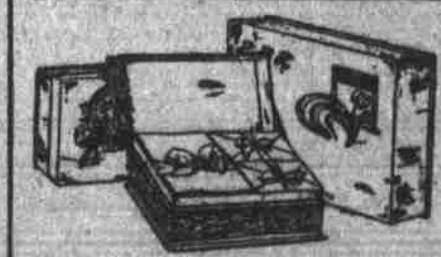
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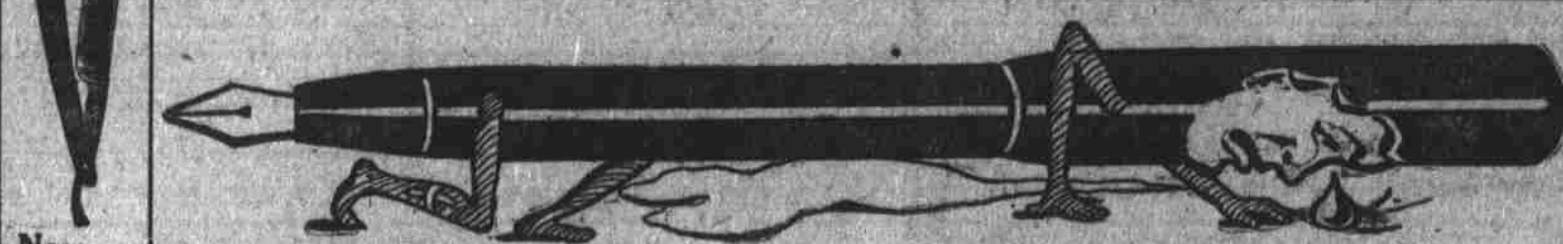
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