I could not help thinking to myself whether it might not be possible some day or other to awaken the people of the Mississippi valley to a realization of the fact that forestry is a problem extending from New Orleans to the continental divide of the Rocky mountains on the west, to Canada on the north and to the crest of the Alleghanies on the east, where the Ohio river has its source; and that failure and destruction are inevitable if it shall be expected in the years to come to control that great flood by increasing the levees to protect the sugarbowl of the nation. The time will come when they cannot build them higher and the country will revert to a swamp condition and be as desolate as it is today where the St. Francis basin is covered with water through which you may look down and see the tops of trees that once grew on dry land. How are you going to prevent that?

This great problem of forestry, is not alone a matter of sentiment. It is just as much a cold blooded question of business. The speakers who preceded me have spoken upon the importance of forestry to mining. I have listened with much interest to their masterly discussion on the relation of forestry to mining, and it brought more forcibly than ever to my mind the conviction that the whole country and those engaged in all its industries are fast coming to recognize the importance of forestry. I regret that we cannot include the lower house of congress. They do not seem to have yet waked up to it.

How to Get Things Done.

I am not going to take up your time with any further dissertations upon the importance of forestry. But I want to offer some practical suggestions as to what we should do to get what we want done. I listened with the greatest interest and pleasure to the president's address yesterday and one of his sentences struck me very forcibly. He said: "We want to change the hope of accomplishment to the knowledge of things done." If we are going to do that we must have a clear cut idea of what we are going to do and of what we want Congress to do—so plain and clear that there is no possibility of any man being so stupid that he cannot understand it.

We have listened to these gentlemen here today telling of the necessities of the mining industries and of the injustice brought about by insufficient laws. There is a most simple way to get all the things done that they have recommended, and more, too. The first is to come to a perfect understanding with a business bureau of the government, if we can create such a bureau, and the way to do that is to pass the bill consolidating the forest reserves under the control of Gifford Pinchot. (Applause.) And after you have done that and he has consulted with the lumberman and the miner and the farmer and understands what they want, then back him up and make your congressman help to get it done.

A Case of Masterly Inactivity.

Let us look at the business end of that proposition. Other things besides bees have business ends. For a number of years the president of the United States, the secretary of the interior and the commissioner of the general land office have been trying to impress upon congress, without success, the necessity of repealing the timber and stone act. I want to give the exact facts. The president, in December, 1902, more than two years ago, called the attention of congress in the strongest possible language to the necessity of doing something to stop the frauds and depredations upon the public domain under the timber and stone act. The secretary said in his annual report more than two years ago:

"The timber and stone act will, if not repealed or radically amended, result ultimately in the complete destruction of the timber on the unappropriated and unreserved public lands."

I find these words in the report of the senate committee on the public lands, and the date is February 19, 1903:

"It can be plainly seen that all the valuable timber lands of the United States will be owned by speculators within three years if the opportunity to acquire them at $2.50 an acre is continued."

That was February 19, 1903. It is now pretty close to February 19, 1905, and one year from that date the three years will be exhausted and all the timber land will be gone according to this official statement.

Has the bill been repealed? No!

Has the house of representatives done anything to stop this shameful waste of the public property under the timber and stone act? No!

They have done nothing whatever to stop the abuses and frauds constantly being committed under that act.

President Sees the Necessity.

Again the following year the president in his message to congress made substantially the same recommendations. They were reiterated by the secretary of the interior. The senate committee on public lands recommended a bill to repeal the timber and stone act and the senate passed the bill in the last session of congress. It went to the public lands committee of the house of representatives. T. B. Walker appeared before that committee and waved his magic wand and they gave two votes for the repeal of the bill out of eighteen members of the committee. Two votes! And the bill is lying there in that committee yet.

In this session of congress without waiting for anything, or for anybody to do anything, they passed a resolution in the public lands committee of the house continuing this whole subject over until the next session of congress.

The next session of congress will convene at a time within two months of the expiration of the three years within which the senate committee told congress that all the timber land would be gone unless they got action.

In the two years that have expired since the president has called the attention of congress to that timber and stone law there have been located under the timber and stone act over 3,000,000 acres of timber land, the greater part of it the magnificent timber of the northwest, which, according to the report of the secretary of the interior and the commissioner of the general land office, is worth anywhere from $20 to $100 an acre for the mere value of the stumpage, to say nothing of the young timber or the land itself.

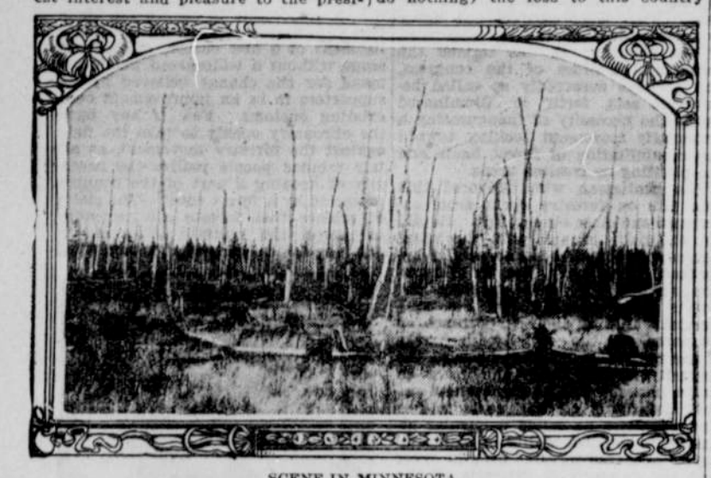
Four Million Dollar Loss.

In other words, as a result of the deliberate delay of the public lands committee of the house, instead of having the value of the stumpage from that 3,000,000 acres of timber in the national treasury we have parted with the timber and the land and the young growth and everything for $2.50 an acre. Taking the value of that timber at what the stumpage actually sold for upon some of the government land in Minnesota, $15.06 an acre, the government has lost $40,000,000 by that proceeding. But the stumpage on the 3,000,000 acres located during the last two years was much more valuable than that. And if the government had managed its timber land business as any business man or any man of sense would have managed it we might just as well as not have realized $70,000,000 from that stumpage and have had our young forest trees planted in southern California and the surplus left over. (Applause.)

A Few Suppositions.

We are told that there is going to be a deficit this year in the treasury of the United States of $22,000,000. If we had not thrown away that $70,000,000 we could have covered that deficit at least twice over and still have had money left in the treasury. In other words the public lands committee of the house has thrown away over $70,000,000 of the people's money in the last two years. If we should put this total loss at only $50,000,000 for the two years it has amounted to over $2,000,000 a month or about $70,000 a day.

Now suppose some enterprising and ingenious person had succeeded in tunneling under the United States treasury and cut a hole into the vaults and carried off $70,000 a day. Don't you suppose we could get the people of the United States to wake up the public lands committee if it required some action by it to stop that stealing? That is exactly what is going on; for if the house public lands committee does nothing in this session of congress (and it has already voted to do nothing) the loss to this country of $70,000 a day—$2,000,000 a month—$25,000,000 a year, and it is much more than that—will go right along and continue until all the timber land of the government has been stolen. That will be a little over a year, according to the report of the senate public lands committee. And after the land is all gone—after the horse has been stolen—the house public lands committee will awaken from its Rip Van Winkle slumbers and close the stable door with a bang.



SCENE IN MINNESOTA.
Timber Devastation After Lumbering and Fire.

Some Things to Do.

Before I close I wish to specify some definite and specific things which should be done:

First—Repeal the timber and stone act.

Second—Pass the consolidation bill putting the government forests under the management of the bureau of forestry.

Third—Provide by national legislation that every acre of agricultural land that can be reclaimed under the national irrigation system must be saved for the homemaker who will go there and make a home upon it.

In that way you can break up the timber combinations, and in that way only; because the land thieves of North Dakota, under the commutation clause; the land thieves of Montana, under the desert land act; the land thieves under the timber and stone act in—well, perhaps I might be permitted to mention Oregon (laughter) are working together. You will have to explode some of those Japanese shells among them to break up the combination.

To show you why we cannot depend upon congressmen from the timber states of the west to correct this enormous evil, a year ago both Oregon senators and both representatives from Oregon were bitterly opposed to any change in the land laws. Representatives Hermann and Williamson both went before the committee and protested against any change. Mr. Hermann was before the committee. At that exact moment the Oregon grand jury was in session in the city of Portland, composed of men drawn by lot from all over the state, and that grand jury urged the repeal of all those laws—the timber and stone act, the desert land act and the commutation clause—and sent a memorial to the public lands committee to that effect. Now the grand jury has had some business with Mr. Hermann since that time. (Laughter and applause.)

In all those western states the state has the power to form districts for local public improvements, such as irrigation districts, sanitary districts, drainage districts or levee districts, and I for one do not believe that that is the right policy that the national government should assume the burden of protecting from fire forests now owned by men who have gotten them from the government for one-tenth of their value. The state and nation should co-operate to form forestry districts and have assessments levied on all private lands in the district, and every acre should contribute its proportion to the cost of preserving it from fire. (Applause.)

There is one more thing that I was going to urge as a mere matter of personal opinion. In making the suggestion I do not speak for California or for the National Irrigation Association, but for myself alone. I have been all my life a republican and in my earlier years advocated the republican doctrine of a tariff for protection in many political campaigns in my native state of California from the Oregon line to Mexico; but because I believe in preserving our industries and not in destroying them I believe that in order to preserve the forest industries of this nation we should repeal every tariff law imposing a tariff upon the products of the forest, whether timber or wood or wood pulp, at any rate for a limited number of years and until we shall have planted forests enough to harvest annually from our own forests all the wood and timber we may use in any one year.

There are a number of other things that I have in my mind to suggest that ought to be done:

Pass the Appalachian Bill.

One is to pass the Appalachian forestry bill, which is ready to be passed.

Another is to stop now and for all time all exchange of lands in forest reserves for other lands. If the government needs any such land let it buy them and pay for them their fair value and no more. All lieu land scrip should be called in and canceled and no more ever issued under any circumstances. The forest lieu land exchange law should be repealed.

The bill providing for the consolidation of the government forestry interests is ready to be passed by the senate and should be passed in this session of congress. It has already passed the house; and if this session of congress adjourns without the bill being passed by the house which has passed the senate, repealing the timber and stone act, every member of the public lands committee ought to be held up to popular obloquy and whipped at the cart's tail with a lash that would make him feel the full weight of an outraged national public sentiment. (Applause.) They are not liable to punishment criminally, but they are morally responsible for every fraud committed under the timber and stone act since they shelved the bill to repeal it passed by the senate in the last session of congress.

But it is not enough merely to repeal the timber and stone act. Every acre of public forest lands or brush or woodlands which conserves a water supply should be at once embraced in permanent forest reserves, the title to be always retained by the national government and the stumpage of matured timber only to be sold.

Wonderful Possibilities of the Arid Region.

The whole great plains region should be studied and developed as a vast area which can be transformed from a semi-arid region to one of great fertility and more humid climate by the planting of immense areas, hundreds of thousands of acres, of new forests by the national government on the wide level prairies and bare, rolling foothills which are now supposed to be among the waste places of the land and fit only for grazing ground for a few stray cattle and sheep.

It is the vast possibilities of forest planting and timber production in this region that make it almost a crime against future generations to part with the land in its present condition to stockmen under such a scheme as the Kinkaid bill for the creation of large grazing estates in private ownership.

The mining interests more immediately than any other ought to oppose this 640-acre homestead idea anywhere in the great plains or Rocky mountain states and help to inaugurate a great national policy of planting new forests, not only to furnish wood and timber for the mines but to conserve and increase the rainfall, regulate the flow of the rivers, stop floods and furnish water for irrigation.

NEW PUBLIC PRINTER.

AT THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF AGE HE HEADS THE BIGGEST PRINT SHOP IN THE WORLD.

His Office Pays Out Annually Over Four and a Half Million Dollars in Wages—Is One of the President's Youngest.

At the head of the biggest printing office in the world at the age of 34. That is the position in which Charles A. Stillings finds himself to-day. When the Hon. Frank W. Palmer resigned from the office of Public Printer last summer, President Roosevelt found himself facing the necessity of making one of the most important appointments that had ever fallen to his lot to consider. The printing required for the United States Government is so voluminous and of such diversified detail that it is necessary to operate the enormous plant in which the printing is produced, in the most perfect way. At the head of this great printery the President knew he must place a man who would be manly among men, strong of character, quick of decision and with a thorough grasp of every detail of the printing business in everyone of its many branches. Many men backed by strong political influence were presented to the President for his consideration in making the appointment for Public Printer, but none seemed to be possessed of all of the necessary qualifications, until his attention was directed to a progressive young man whose knowledge of the printing business covered the entire field and who had had practical experience in Boston, Philadelphia and Washington—one Charles A. Stillings. And so, after a thorough examination into Mr. Stillings' commercial career, the President, finding that Mr. Stillings' ability was just what he had been looking for, appointed him as the executive head of the Government Printing Office. The Senate promptly confirmed the President's appointment and so Mr. Stillings has become the active head of the establishment.

A brief idea of the volume of business conducted by the Government Printing Office may be obtained from the following figures. Last year they paid in wages to its various employees the sum of $4,616,781.70 and nearly three millions more were spent for various supplies, including paper, new machinery and maintenance of the plant. Every dollar of this great sum is expended under the check of the Public Printer and it is evident that much wisdom is needed in handling money where so large an amount is involved.

Mr. Stillings is especially fitted by training, inclination, and ability for the position. He forms an attractive addition to the ranks of the young men with whom President Roosevelt has surrounded himself in the administration of the Government affairs. He received his education in the Phillips Grammar School and the English High School at Boston. After leaving school he entered his father's printing office, where he received a varied and thorough experience in all branches of the trade, finally working up to the position of general manager and later becoming sales manager of the Griffith-Stillings Press, an organization which took over the business formerly conducted by Mr. Stillings, Sr.

In all of Mr. Stillings' transactions he has shown an unusual aptitude for organization, and, possessing a marked degree of personal magnetism has drawn into a close friendship with himself many men of dignity and position. Mr. Stillings is a Mason, having attained the honors of the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and is also a Mystic Shriner.

The Government Printing office —The Largest Print Shop in the World.

Charles A. Stillings, the New Public Printer.

Revolutionary Russia.

Like the Stuarts of Great Britain and the Bourbons of France, the reigning dynasty of Russia goes from blunder to blunder. Such a revolution as is in progress throughout European Russia cannot be suppressed by the sword. The thing to have done was to make concessions to the spirit of liberty when the agitation began. Grants that would have been hailed as liberal a year ago would be rejected with scorn to-day as wholly insufficient.

The revolution is strikingly like that of France, and there will be no stopping it. The proletariat has fought and tasted blood. Suppose they suppress the revolt in Moscow? It will break out at some other point—in Poland, or Lithuania, or Finland, or elsewhere between the Baltic and the Black seas. The army will be kept on the jump, and its loyalty put to the supremest test. Then, when order has been shot into the nation, and reigns everywhere as it once did at Warsaw, the revolution will break out afresh in Moscow or somewhere else, and it will all have to be done over, again.

Before the thing is finished, Russia will be a republic; not a free republic, but a revolutionary republic guided by a Cromwell or a Napoleon. And if such should be her destiny, she will be a mighty ugly customer in a quarrel with a neighbor, just as England was in the middle of the seventeenth century, just as France was at the close of the eighteenth century.

For a full 100 years republicanism has been driving autocracy to the wall in Europe. France is a pretty good republic and getting better every day. The Kaiser of the great German Empire has in the Reichstag a partner in the government, ofttimes a very meddlesome and a very obstinate partner at that. The Cortez holds the purse of Spain, and Italy is a constitutional monarchy. Austria-Hungary has a legislature, and the Scandinavian peoples have enjoyed liberty for ages.

Russia is rousing from the slumber of centuries and she cannot be put to sleep again. There will be battle and blood and terror, but it will end in a republic—at least, in a legislature—and then Russia will begin the new lesson of learning what liberty is and what to do with it.

Don't Ask Again.

An amusing incident is related of Nat Goodwin, the actor. Not long ago Goodwin was standing on the corner of Broadway and Thirty-fourth street, New York City, where three car lines converge, when a seedy-looking individual, apparently from the country, approached him questioningly.

"I want to go to the Brooklyn Bridge," he said, looking in perplexity at the cars rushing in six different directions.

"Very well," said Goodwin, severely, "you can go this time, but never ask me again."

An Improvised Excuse.

Tommy was absent from school for one entire day. But he brought a note of excuse the next morning, which would prove that he had been detained at home legitimately. The writing was hardly that of a feminine hand, and the note appeared to have been written laboriously. Furthermore, the penmanship seemed to be strangely familiar to his teacher. The note read as follows:

"Dear Teacher: Please excuse Tommy for not coming to stool yistidy, he couldn't come. I tore my pants. Yours truly, Mrs. Mulligan."

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But mighty tough for Abraham.

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Couldn't Milk the Bicycle.

Some years ago, soon after bicycles began to be freely used throughout the United States, an agent for a New York house turned up at a village in Central New York. He expatiated to an old farmer upon the virtues of the new machine, dwelling upon what a time-saver it was, and withal how fashionable it would be for the old farmer to be able to ride down to the village on one of the new-fangled machines whenever he wanted to.

"Why," said the salesman, "whenever you go to the postoffice, bank, or store, everybody will stop and stare at Farmer Wilson, and pretty soon you'll be the most-talked-of man in the whole county."

"That may be so," replied the farmer, "but I tell you I'm a-needin' a good new cow mo'n I am one o' them things you're a-talkin' about."

Nevertheless, the agent extracted a promise that the old man would save up his money and purchase a bicycle when the agent came around in the fall.

According to promise, the agent was on hand in the fall with the wheel. The farmer took him in charge and carried him out to the lot and showed him a fine Jersey cow.

"That's what I bought with the money I saved up for you," said the farmer. And without waiting for the agent to recover from his surprise he went on: "I 'lowed that I needed the cow mo'n I did the bicycle, an' there she is. Ain't she a beaut?"

When the agent recovered his breath he said: "You'll look funny riding that cow to town, won't you?"

"Ya'as," drawled out the old farmer, "but I'd look a darned sight funnier tryin' to milk a bicycle."

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