and Office, Frederick H. Newell, Chief Engineer of the Reclamation Service and Gifford Pinchot, Chief of the Bureau of Forestry, has during the course of two years made a study of the public lands' condition and has brought in a report which has been forwarded to Congress by the President with a special message recommending the repeal of the Timber and Stone Act and the substitution of a rational forest policy dealing only the stumpage from the public timber lands, retaining the lands for future timber growth; recommending the radical amendment of the commutation clause of the Homestead Act and a like amendment of the Desert Land Act in such manner as to require actual residence and improvement under both of the latter named laws, amounting to their practical repeal.

The provisions of this report are highly satisfactory to the Forestry and Irrigation Committee of the National Board of Trade, which believes that their enactment into law, strictly enforced, would do away with land and timber grabbing and promote these policies on this subject for which the Board has consistently striven.

The present indefensible land policy of the United States is resulting in an actual money loss to the government of tens of millions of dollars annually, in the denuding of our watersheds and the destruction of all chances for a future timber supply, in the building up of lordly landed estates in the West of tens and hundreds of thousands of acres in single ownerships, instead of providing for the creating of thousands of small rural homes—in short in the mismanagement and waste of the greatest resource ever possessed by any nation on earth.

The attention of our lawmakers in Congress should be urgently called to the fact that while they are attempting economy in the expenditure of money, they are allowing laws to remain in force under which by far the most valuable asset of the nation is being recklessly wasted.

Under the Timber and Stone Act, the sales of public timber lands during the last five years have been as follows:

Year.	Acres.
1901	396,445.61
1902	545,253.98
1903	1,765,222.43
1904	1,306,261.30
1905	696,677.06
	4,709,860.38

A large portion of these lands have been in the heavily timbered belt of the far Northwest and is of the class of timber described by the Secretary of the Interior in his report for the fiscal year ended, June 30, 1903, in which he says:

"The Timber and Stone Act will, if not repealed or radically amended, result ultimately in the complete destruction of the timber on the unappropriated and unreserved public lands. The rapidity with which the public timbered lands are being denuded of their timber—and the opportunity offered under the Timber and Stone Act for the fraudulent acquisition of title to public timbered lands at the uniform price of $2.50 per acre when they are in many instances worth forty times that ($100) has been heretofore set forth in the pages of my annual reports and those of my predecessors."

Hundred Million Dollar Waste.

But estimating the values only of the 4,709,860 acres of timber land disposed of in the last five years, and at only $25 per acre, the government has, in that time, parted with the title of land worth $117,746,500. The price received for this land has been at the uniform rate of $2.50 per acre, or $11,774,650, a loss to the government of over $100,000,000. Your committee endorses the recommendation of the President and his Public Lands Commission for the repeal of this Timber and Stone Act and the substitution of a rational forest policy, by which the title to the public timber lands shall remain forever in the government, the stumpage only to be disposed of, at its market value.

Under such a plan as this, and under an agreement whereby one half the proceeds could be devoted to the Forestry Service and the other half to the Irrigation Fund, two policies of great internal improvement and importance could be generously maintained, while at the same time the forestry question would be to a great extent solved, public forest lands being lumbered in such a manner as to preserve the young growth and leave the forest as a perpetual source of income to the nation and at the same time conserve the water supply.

If the $100,000,000 which have been lost to the government under the above showing were at hand, a score or more of enormous irrigation projects could be immediately constructed, reclaiming from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 acres of desert land, and enormous areas of Eastern forest reserves created through the purchase of mountain timber lands east of the Mississippi.

In this connection, your committee is much impressed with the importance of the creation of federal forest reserves to preserve the water supply of eastern steams, upon the continued flow of which depends much of our manufacturing activity. The western half of the United States has over 100,000,000 acres set aside in national forest reserves, as a source of future timber supply and for the preservation of the flow of streams for irrigation; but the east has no such an advantage, whereas, the menace to her water supply from forest destruction is equally as great. Large areas in the Southern Appalachian and White Mountain Ranges should be created into forest reserves.

For Eastern Forest Reserves.

In a speech at Raleigh, N. C., on October 20th, last, President Roosevelt, said: "It is the upper altitudes of the forested mountains that are most valuable to the nation as a whole, especially because of their effects upon the water supply. Neither state or nation can afford to turn these mountains over to the unrestrained greed of those who would exploit them at the expense of the future. We cannot afford to wait longer before assuming control in the interests of the public, of these forests; for if we do wait, the vested interests of private parties in them may become so strongly intrenched that it may be a most expensive task to oust them. If the eastern states are wise, then from the Bay of Fundy to the Gulf we will see, within the next few years a policy set on foot similar to that so fortunately carried out in the high Sierras of the west by the National government. All the higher Appalachians should be reserved. Such reserves would be a paying investment, not only in protection to many interests, but in dollars and cents to the government. The importance to the southern people of protecting the southern mountain forests is obvious. These forests are the best defense against the floods which, in the recent past, have, during a single twelve months, destroyed property officially valued at nearly twice that it would cost to buy the Southern Appalachian Reserve."

IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA APPALACHIANS.

The importance of the Appalachian forest cover to the cotton milling industry alone, in the Piedmont regions of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia is shown by the statistics of the mills operated by the water power derived from the streams having their sources in these mountains. In these three states there are 163 mills so operated, with a combined capital stock of $33,000,000, with 2,770,000 spindles and 50,926 looms and giving work to over 45,000 employees. The total annual production of these mills is approximately $64,000,000.

Virginia has interests also, which are not included in the above figures, as have also Tennesee and Kentucky, on the western side of the mountains.

A National forest reserve in the White Mountains of New Hampshire is also a matter of general concern and vital to the well being of the industries of all New England. We are upon the threshold of great industrial competition with the producing powers of the world; to maintain our supremacy we must retain our hold upon our cheap water power, which, through electrical invention is being utilized as never before and greatly aiding to our national prosperity.

The creation of the Appalachian and White Mountain Forest Reserves cannot be left to the states; the question is an inter-state and therefore a national one. Nearly all the rivers of New England head in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and it is of supreme importance to the industries of all the New England States, representing tens of millions of dollars, that the forest cover at the river sources shall be preserved and improved.

National delay in the acquisition of these "reserves" would be dangerous and wasteful. Timber land which a few years ago could have been purchased at $1.50 to $3 an acre has now trebled and quadrupled in value. Additional delay will mean a further increase in cost. Congress should act at once and preserve from destruction one of the greatest resources of the nation.

NICK LONGWORTH'S FATHER.

Was One of the First Men of Ohio—Interesting Incidents of Life.

Congressman Nick Longworth, the President's son-in-law, is a millionaire of Cincinnati. His family is one of the oldest and most aristocratic of that city. His father, Judge Longworth, was as able a man as ever sat on the supreme bench of the State, and withal, one of the youngest. He resigned this position as he did not care to take life too seriously after passing fifty. When he died he was a colonel on Gov. McKinley's staff, death resulting from exposure on an inauguration day.

Judge Longworth was a man not only beloved, but brilliant. His courtship of his wife, mother of the present Congressman, began when both were but six years old. She was then little Sue Walker. Some years before the judge died, he built a small steamboat for pleasure trips on the Ohio river. He called it the "C—O". It was an odd name, and people wondered what it meant. Some said it stood for Cincinnati, Ohio, others said it meant "Come off," but the judge would not make public the origin of such an odd christening. Years later, he told this story:

As a boy, he had fallen in love with Sue Walker, and confided his affection to his mother, who wished to encourage him in writing, and advised him to express his love in a letter. He did so but did not know how to spell Sue. He pondered a while, then reasoned that if d-o—spelled "do," c-o ought to spell Sue. That was the way he addressed his first love letter, and when he was a man grown, "dear C. O." became his wife and the mother of his son, the present congressman. The mother still keeps and prizes her first declaration of love.

Judge Longworth was once traveling in Italy. He was in a forward car with a friend; and when his wife sent word for him to come back to her, the judge remarked, "We had best take all our things as the dago marquis here might swipe them." This remark was made concerning a swarthy looking man in the opposite seat. The judge was only joking, thinking too, that the stranger did not understand English. When the train stopped, the Marquis handed the judge a card. He was a sure enough marquis and he knew English. The card meant a duel, but Longworth was equal to the occasion, for he responded, "Why hello Marquis, glad to meet you." The offended nobleman had to laugh and the two became good frineds.

At another time the judge conceived the plan of living a few days with the bandits in Thessaly. With several friends an expedition was organized and the party went into the mountains of upper Greece. They found a famous robber chief and told him they wanted to have a social visit with him and his men. A bag of gold was given the outlaws and for two weeks Longworth and his party saw much of a section and people which had been a sealed book to even the nearest inhabitants. They hunted and played games, but the robbers committed no crimes during the visit. When the stay was over the chief escorted them to the frontier and saw them in safe hands. There was a price on his head and beyond a certain line he dared not go. The judge often remarked that he never enjoyed a trip more.

Only hardshell nuts should be fed to park squirrels. The teeth of a squirrel grow so fast that he needs hard shell nuts to keep them at the proper length. A squirrel's teeth will grow so long that he cannot eat.

PIGMY ICELAND PONIES.

Pets in Parlors of London Society Twenty-Eight Inches High.

London society has a bad case of the zoological. Tiger cats, gentle little lemurs; gazelles, with their "soft brown eyes;" fretful porcupines and ant-eaters have in turn been made pets, but they have all been dethroned as rulers of petdom by the parlor ponies of Iceland.

These tiny creatures are the funniest little things imaginable. They are no larger than a Newfoundland dog, their height is twenty-eight inches, slightly less than that of the ordinary

LOOKS LIKE A BIG TOY.

table, are as woolly as sheep and quiet as lambs.

Seven of these little fellows were imported by Mr. Jamrach, the naturalist, and he insists that they are quite at home and well mannered in the house and that a baby might safely play with them. Two of the herd are chestnuts, two mouse, one bay, one black, but the "pick of the bunch," the smallest of all, has a long cream-colored coat and a tail that sweeps the floor.

All seven were bought at $75 each on the first day of their exhibition. One of the customers is an intimate friend of the Queen, so that it is quite probable that a pigmy pony will find a royal mistress.

Stoker in First Locomotive.

Letchworth Cox, who was a stoker on the first locomotive that ever got up steam in America, celebrated his ninety-first birthday at his home in Jamesburg, N. J., on Christmas Day. Mr. Cox was the son of Joseph and Hannah Cox and was born in Chester county, Pa., in 1814. He is still in possession of all his faculties.

They Must Gnaw.

Rats, mice and squirrels unceasingly gnaw at something, not out of pure mischief, as people generally imagine, but because they are forced to.

Animals of this class, especially rats, have teeth which continue to grow as long as the owner lives. This being the case, the rodent is obliged to continue his gnawing so as to keep his teeth ground off to a proper length.

The Old Folks Were Absent.

A man came up to a lecturer in a hotel in Kansas City, saying with enthusiasm: "Well, sir, I enjoyed your lecture very much last night." "I didn't see you there," remarked the lecturer. "Oh, I wasn't there." "Well, what do you mean by telling me you enjoyed my lecture, and you were not present?" "Oh, I bought tickets for my girl's father and mother, and they both went!"

THE NATION'S BRIDE.

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CAP—COLLEGE STYLE. Same material as shirt and pants. Fits your head. Handsome lining, long visor, eight-piece top with button.

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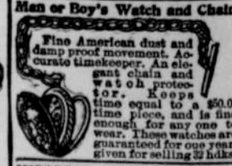
Man or Boy's Watch and Chain



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Gentlemen—I have just received your telescope, and must say it surpasses all expectations. It is far superior to one which we have had, which cost $15.00 some years ago. Just a few sights I have seen with it are worth more than double what it cost me.

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Yours truly, L. S. HENRY, The Saxon, New York, Nov. 4, 1905.

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