## THE CAPITAL JOURNAL






## 

## Let orecon's conaress-

the most trempndous problem country has ever taced," writes Jobn
L. Mathews, in the current tasne of the Succese magarine. "This is the
problem of how to get back for the problem of how to get back for the
people on navigabie atreams the pow-or at the dama, or how to get
leasit a tax return on betuerments. "Usually, the state, tn giving per-
minumon for a dam to be erected, grante also a right of eminent do- do
main to condemn flowage land. Remain to condemn fowage land. Re-
cently, however, when blg corporatlona came begsting for help, congress
passed two luws which aro without precedent in the rights they give
to the rlch againat the poor, or against thone who do not wish to to
develop power at a given moment. The frat of these provided that if
any peran owntng tho tlparina land
on one ilde of a water power withed to butld a Aam and to give free
coit to the governmpnt the sito a lock (somethng every dam bulld
is compeneled to oo by haw), he mig
require the attorney United states to condemn, on behalf
of the nation, but at private expense. the other shore required for the dam.
"Then a
Ittle
inter, an tanocentlookting amendment was passed pro-
viding that if anyone (not necemar viding that if anyone (not necesaar-
Hy owning anything), withed to pulid a dam and give the government the lock site, the attorney genoral must
condemn both \&ides for him. That Is, It I own the land bestdo a waterpower, and do not thtend to develop
it at prosent (or perhapa I do), and mome corporatton covets it. It can
reguire the attorney general to ouat mo ind give to my lind and my op-
mo portunty at


 grant into perpotaty and without
tax or toll, all trits the kovernment
han at a water power stite to a private company. Several of thene paneed.
The most Important the pramident ve toed.

Already on the upper Mumatsatpp the power usera complatn ngatnat t
way the served water ta umed for nat tgatton. They declare that the po er ought to be constidered frut, and
althoumbt they pay no toll, and have no treht it the reaserved water, they vertination of thefr complatinta, It peralat untll they gatn thelr end.
It no one blocks them! That now for the people to do. The wh


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