

the State of Minnesota. The entire area of surveyed and unappropriated land within the United States is only two and a half times that amount.

At the present rate, therefore, every acre of public land would disappear within the next fifteen years. But as a large percentage of the lands included in this estimate are wholly or partially unfit for tillage, it is literally true to say that our arable public lands have almost disappeared. And where are our children to find standing room, and the tens of millions of the future a place for wholesome industry? This is an intensely practical question. It is immediate. For within twenty years we must house and employ in some fashion fifty millions of additional population; and by the middle of this century, at a time when the child now born will be in the prime of life, there will be approximately two and a half times as many people in the United States as there are to-day.

No nation in history was ever confronted with a sterner question than this certain prospect sets before us. What are we to do with our brother, whose keeper we are? How are we to provide our own children with shelter and their daily bread?

Rational consideration of our potential resources and of available future employment for this great multitude must, of course, proceed together. Labour must have material to work upon; and labour and material must also be so conjoined that the sum total shall be an increase of product equal to the advancing demands upon it, while at the same time our natural