

sented to the President, and to James R. Garfield, then Secretary of the Interior. Both the President and Mr. Garfield instantly appreciated the fundamental importance of the matter, and on December 9th, 1908, the phosphate lands of the West were formally withdrawn from private entry, thus retaining these deposits of fundamental importance to the future of the nation as its property."

"Indeed," says President Van Hise, "by the statesmen of foreign civilized nations exportation of phosphates would be regarded as unthinkable folly." And he urges, to use his own words, "that there should be a law which prohibits absolutely the exportation of a single pound of phosphate rock."

From this illustration it may be gathered that where foresight has shown that the people of the United States will need a natural resource, effort has been made to retain such a resource for the people of the United States.

Now as a result of special investigation carried out in the interests of the National Conservation Commission of the United States, it seems clear that the known coal fields of the United States are within measurable distance of exhaustion. Some authorities contend that under existent rates of consumption the hard coal may be exhausted in about another half century.

That the time may come when it may be deemed expedient to reserve to the United States her supply of coal is not an impossibility. Indeed, the subject has already been broached. Mr. George Otis Smith, Director of the United States Geological Survey, and one of the most prominent officials of the United States Government, after commenting upon the supplies of coal, says:—

"This glance at the world's reserves of coal shows plainly not only that the United States leads all other countries in production, our annual output being nearly 40 per cent. of the total, but also that it possesses the greatest reserves. Yet in respect to no mineral is there greater need to emphasize the folly of exporting the raw material. Let us keep our coal at home, and with it manufacture whatever the world needs."

Mr. Smith advises: "Let us keep our coal at home and with it manufacture whatever the world needs." Is it without significance that such a policy should even be suggested?

When Mr. E. B. Borron, in 1891, made his report to the Ontario government on the lakes and rivers, water and water-powers of the Province of Ontario he drew special attention to the fact that Ontario has no true coal. Mr. Borron says:—

"Thus it will be seen that in respect of fuel, and consequently of steam power, Ontario occupies on this continent, a very unfavorable, one might say, 'unenviable,' position, as compared with the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, and with many, if not most, parts of the United States, and still worse as compared with England, Belgium and other great manufacturing countries in Europe. As was well said in *The Monetary Times* a few days ago, 'Ontario has to import her motive power, and the Dominion commits the folly of taxing it.' To which might have been added—'with the possibility of being denied even that poor privilege should at any time commercial intercourse with our neighbors to the South be suspended or interrupted.'"

We have not yet had the supply of coal suspended, but the winter of 1902-3 is still fresh in our memories, when the coal supply was interrupted by the coal miners' strike, and the people of Ontario paid up to fifteen dollars and more per ton for their hard coal supply. How would the people of Ontario fare were the United States to carry out any such policy as that suggested by Mr. Smith of keeping their coal at home?

Now, for both power and heat there is a partial substitute for coal to be found in hydro-electric power.

I am not here considering the substitutes of wood and peat. Of hydro-electric power Ontario possesses probably sufficient for all needs. Let it be known, however, that the amounts of water-power which may be economically transmuted into electrical energy are much less than are popularly supposed. Ontario and Canada may yet require every unit of electrical energy as much as the United States may yet require "every pound" of phosphate rock.

Certainly the people of Ontario and Canada are in better circumstances to maintain a supply of heat and power if their water-powers, including their full share of international water-powers, are reserved to themselves and not permitted to be exported except upon terms and conditions which will conserve absolutely the present and future interests of the citizens of Canada. Not only would the water-powers of Canada provide, to a certain extent, a substitute for the coal supply of the United States as a means of furnishing light and heat and power, but control of these water powers would secure a basis upon which negotiations for coal could be conducted in a possible day of need. Canada would be in a position to exchange, if need be, part of her electric energy for part of the coal supply of the United States. It is obvious, however, that if United States interests should control both the coal and the water-powers the situation of Canada would become exceedingly grave.

Far-sighted men have realized how dependent the people will yet be upon the hydro-electrical energy, and, backed by great capital, certain syndicates have been acquiring all the possible power sites available. Such monopolizing power syndicates have been denied again and again. Let the following testimony be considered upon this point. Charles Edward Wright, Assistant Attorney to the Secretary of the Interior at Washington, writes:—

"Far-sighted Captains of Industry, realizing what the next generation will bring forth, reduction in the fuel supply with its complement, an enhancement of cost, and anticipating the advancement that will come in the art of utilizing hydro-electric power, have already seized advantageous points, and even now a small group of 'interests' controls the third of the present water power production; that is, produces power the equivalent of that proportionate part. With this portentous concentration of power production, the States, in part, must contend. This, and preceding generations, have realized the significance of monopoly in those things which are vital factors in the lives of all consumers, whether it be heat, light, food products, or transportation. Yet all of these united must be multiplied to be tantamount in power to the monopolistic Colossus which is yet but a suckling, nurturing itself at the breast of its foster-parent, the public. For heat, light and transportation, and the power that turns the spindles and grinds the corn, will be the product of transmuted water power within the lifetime of our children."

Commenting on this condition of water-power monopoly, President Roosevelt said:—

"The people of this country are threatened by a monopoly far more powerful, because in far closer touch with their domestic and industrial life, than anything known to our experience. A single generation will see the exhaustion of our natural resources of oil and gas, and such a rise in the price of coal as will make the price of electrically transmitted water power a controlling factor in transportation, in manufacturing, and in household lighting and heating. Our water power alone, if fully developed and wisely used, is probably sufficient for our present transportation, industrial, municipal and domestic needs. Most of it is undeveloped and is still in national or state control. To give away without conditions, this, one of the greatest of our resources, would be an act of folly. If we are guilty of it, our children will be forced to pay an annual return upon a capitalization based upon the highest prices which 'the traffic will bear.' They will find themselves face to face with powerful interests entrenched be-