

Gifford Pinchot on the Conservation Crisis.

The late Chief Forester, Gifford Pinchot (pp. 25, 26, 32, 40), on the 13th gave out a statement relative to the purposes of the conservation movement launched at the Conference of Governors in May, 1908 (vol. xi, p. 179), and reminding the public that the recommendations of the Conservation Commission still wait for action. Mr. Pinchot warns that—

Unless Congress acts the water powers will pass into the hands of special interests without charge and without limit of time. So with the phosphate deposits on public lands when the withdrawals which now protect them are removed. So with the enormously valuable coal deposits in Alaska, which the present law would sell for \$10 per acre. The danger of bad legislation is no less serious. The special interests must no longer be allowed to take what they choose out of the great property of all the people. Those who steal public lands steal homes from men and women who need them. Congress can stop the pillage or Congress can let it go on.

Mr. Pinchot calls upon every "man of good will" to make clear to his representatives in Congress his firm intention to hold them personally responsible for safeguarding the "rights and property of the people." He continues:

The first great immediate danger is that the water powers will be lost; the second that the coal lands will be lost. These specific dangers of public loss are merely parts of the great issues between the special interests and the rest of us. That issue is whether this country shall be managed by men for human welfare or by money for profit. It is a tremendous moral issue, far greater than any man's personal feelings or personal fortunes. It lies between the people and their representatives on one side, and the interests and their representatives on the other; between progress and reaction; between special privilege and square deal. I repeat that the supreme test is the welfare of the plain people. It is time to apply it.

The keynote of the statement was:

The conservation of natural resources and the conservation of popular government are both at stake. The one needs conservation no less than the other.

Mr. Taft spoke at the Conference of the Civic Federation in Washington (p. 37) on the morning of the 17th, and Mr. Pinchot in the afternoon of the same day. The greeting accorded him was something phenomenal from so staid a conference. It is thus described by the Chicago Inter-Ocean: "Alton B. Parker was presiding. He called the name of Pinchot and in the minute that it required for the conservationist leader to walk from his seat in the back of the hall to the speaker's platform there was pandemonium. The dignity of the whole serious-minded Federation was thrown to the winds. No mere handclapping greeted Pin-

chot. The speakers who had preceded him had been accorded a moment or so of that. Pinchot got cheers—real American hurrahs that made the old Arlington hotel rock. Men stood in chairs waving hats and umbrellas, while the women shook their handkerchiefs. The cheering lasted nearly five minutes. Judge Parker twice attempted to quell it for a moment, but it broke out afresh." Mr. Pinchot endorsed President Taft's conservation message, saying:

For the second time a President of the United States has indorsed these principles in a message to Congress. Most of the recommendations which the recent message contained are well known to the friends of conservation and well approved. If it has omissions or passages with which I disagree, I have no concern with them today. The President urges that the measures he recommends shall be taken up and disposed of promptly, without awaiting the investigation which has been determined upon. I echo his desire. There can be no reason to await the result of the investigation before acting on these measures. They stand by themselves.

Henry S. Graves, Director of the Yale Forestry School, was appointed Chief Forester on the 12th, in place of Gifford Pinchot, dismissed. A. W. Potter (p. 32) was named as Associate Forester.

Statehood Vote in Congress.

For the third time the House of Representatives on the 17th passed a bill giving separate Statehood to the territories of Arizona and New Mexico (vol. ix, p. 751).

A New Democratic League in Illinois.

The Illinois Democratic League, newly incorporated, at a meeting at the Chicago Press club on the 15th, elected the following temporary officers: President, Todd Lunsford; vice presidents, J. C. Vaughan, Don Farnsworth, Colonel John S. Cooper; secretary, Maxwell Edgar; treasurer, James F. Bowers. The League is planning to hold three celebrations, as follows:

Washington's birthday, Feb. 22—Banquet for Chicago members.

Jackson's birthday, March 16—Conference of State Democrats and dinner.

Jefferson's birthday, April 2—National conference and banquet.

Announcement was made at the meeting that Mayor Gaynor of New York has accepted an invitation to make an address at the Jefferson's birthday celebration, and that the League is making an effort to get Stuyvesant Fish to speak on railroad questions, and Lawson Purdy to discuss tax and tariff questions.

Insurgents Winning in Nicaragua.

General Estrada appears to be advancing suc-