

# BORAH'S ADVICE TO EAST IS POINTED

Learn to Conserve Your Own Resources Before You Teach Us, He Says.

## WEST QUITE COMPETENT

Idaho Senator Points Out to Brooklyn Audience Decline in Value of Farms in New York—Citizens Lacking in Knowledge.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Jan. 4.—(Special.) "Learn to conserve the natural resources of your own states before undertaking to instruct us," was the burden of a speech delivered tonight by Senator Borah, of Idaho, before the Brooklyn Institute of Fine Arts and Sciences. In the course of his talk, the Idaho Senator explained the Western idea of conservation, and then showed what theoretical conservation, as it has been practiced, has done for the West.

Following upon this, the Senator called the attention of his Eastern audience to the glowing fact that while they had been reaching out and attempting to "conserve" the resources of the West, they had overlooked an opportunity to try out their theories at home. He showed the vast need of practical conservation in the state of New York, and hinted very pointedly that the people of the East were in no way equipped to direct the work of conservation beyond the Missouri River.

### Westerners Not Lunatics.

At the outset, he attempted to disabuse the minds of his audience of the idea that the people of the West should be either in the penitentiary or in the asylums. He spoke in highest terms of the people of the West, eulogized the pioneer and defended his own section against the attacks that have been made upon it by muckrakers and their ilk. Turning, then, to the subject of conservation, he said in part:

"The time for discussion of abstract propositions is at an end. While we engage in this remarkable exhibition of dialectics, waste and monopoly go on with rapid pace. The present system, for want of practical application of sane principles, is one of waste and one entirely to the benefit of monopolists.

### Conservation Congress Farce.

"We had a conservation congress at St. Paul last Summer. It was a great political convention. So far as any advance being made toward a practical solution of the great questions of conservation, the convention was a cruel and brutal farce. I say cruel and brutal advisedly, for while men were watching and spying upon one another for political advantage, while suspicion and misrepresentation went on and academic discussion proceeded, millions of dollars' worth of timber were being destroyed, homes and homesteads burned, and not an intelligent nor an earnest suggestion concerning the matter or as to how to provide against a future recurrence of this catastrophe."

Getting down to specific details, Senator Borah said:

"There are at least 3,000,000 acres of lands in the forest reserves in my state which are as good agricultural lands as are now untaken. Why not throw open most of these lands to the homesteader? There is no timber upon most of them, and no merchantable timber of any moment upon any of them.

### No Good Served.

"These lands can serve no good purpose in the reserves, and it is waste to withhold them from production. Not only that, but they are a menace to the reserves, as they make the reserves more expensive and more difficult to take care of and protect from fires.

"What is true of Idaho is true in other states to an even larger degree. From the most careful investigations which I have been able to make, I believe there are 20,000,000 acres of good agricultural lands in our forest reserves not covered by merchantable timber and never will be. It seems to me shortsighted, if not worse, to withhold from the homesteader and the bona fide homebuilder these agricultural lands. The real timber lands should be held in the reserves, and there may be here and there a piece of land not now in the reserve which should be included. But the agricultural lands ought to be open to entry, and it is a menace to the reserves to keep them as they are.

### Regulations Held Faulty.

"When they say to you that under the law a man may take agricultural lands in the reserves, I say, yes, under the law he may. But under the rules and regulations of the Department he cannot as a practical proposition. If I say to you that you may go upon that piece of land of mine and if you reduce one-half of it to cultivation in three years and the balance in five, I will give you a deed to it, you will likely go if you want the land. But if I say to you that if you go upon that piece of land and work upon it for two years, and if I like your work, I will give it to you, you will not go unless you are blessed with far more credulity as to human nature than most people are. Especially you will not go if you know I am not going to give it to you if I can avoid it when the question of avoidance rests solely within my own discretion. That is the effect of these rules and regulations.

### "Room Delightful" for a Child.

"Room Delightful" for a child, every stick of the furniture made out of old soap and drygoods boxes, is to be one of the features of the Home Life Section at the New York Child Welfare Exhibit.

The purpose of this room is to prove that a child can be made happy and comfortable at home without any large expenditure of money. The room—a typical New York flat room—has been furnished throughout with pictures, plants and ornaments entirely within the reach of any family having as much as \$1200 a year income, says the New York Tribune.

Pictures on the walls are taken from old magazines, and when framed cost only a few cents each. The main point about these pictures is that they are hung on a level with the child's eyes, where he can enjoy them. The plants in the room are grown from sweet potatoes or from seeds which can be obtained free. Paper, hangings and curtains are all of the cheapest kind and yet in perfect taste.

All the furniture is transformed boxes, ordinarily sent as a nuisance down the dumbwaiter to the janitor. Out of these boxes, with simple tools and cheap paints and stains, Miss Louise Brigham has made every piece of furniture that

a child can want for play or work. A small table, chairs, a bookcase, and all sorts of comfortable contrivances which children like, have been provided from this grocery box lumber pile, and every article is solid, well made, and beautiful in line and coloring.

Such furniture, Miss Brigham says, can be made by any father or big brother, who has any manual skill at all, and therefore is in the reach of any family. In another room a beautiful doll's house illustrates another destination than the dust heap for a grocery box. This doll's house has been considered handsome enough to put in the sample parlor—a very unusual parlor by the way, as instead of a Turkish corner it has a child's corner, where his social rights are preserved and where he can play as a bona fide member of the family society.