

Preparing For Congress

Many Eminent Men and Women Will Attend Meeting In October.

ACTIVE preparations are being made for the entertainment of the national conservation congress to be held at Indianapolis Oct. 1, 2, 3 and 4. The board of managers, appointed by the Commercial club, which got the convention for Indianapolis, has complete charge of the details and arrangements.

The board of managers is composed of some of the most prominent men in Indianapolis. Each member of the board is chairman of a committee that will have charge of a special feature of the entertainment.

Richard Lieber is chairman of the board of managers. J. W. Lilly is treasurer, Joseph C. Schaf is vice chairman and L. H. Lewis is secretary of the board. Other members are W. H. O'Brien, William J. Mooney, Orlando D. Haskett, Albert E. Metzger, George L. Denny, Carl G. Fisher, Frederick M. Ayres, C. C. Hanch and Edgar H. Evans.

The importance and significance of the congress may be seen in the fact that 15,000 visitors were present on two different occasions at the congress at Kansas City last year. It is believed the attendance will be even greater this year.

The congress is attended by the most representative men and women in the country. Eminent men from all parts of the United States and Europe are expected to attend and take part in the discussion of questions bearing on the conservation movement.

While the question of conserving natural resources will play a prominent part in the deliberations of the congress, it is expected that considerable attention will be paid to the question of conserving human life. This is a matter that has never received the undivided attention of the congress. Judging from the interest that is already manifest it is expected that several advanced theories will be expounded as to how the span of life may be lengthened.

Prolongation of Life.

An interesting statement regarding prolongation of life appeared recently in connection with a report on "National Vitality—Its Wastes and Conservation," by Professor Irving Fisher of Yale university, who was a member of a commission that made an exhaustive investigation before compiling the report.

"The question has been raised," said Professor Fisher, "whether reduction in infant and child mortality will not weaken rather than strengthen the race by interfering with natural selection and favoring the survival of the unfit. It is pointed out that the mortality at later ages of life has not decreased as has that in the earlier ages. There is probably, however, a sufficient explanation of this in the fact that the improvement in hygienic living has not yet affected adults as much as children. Parents are quick to apply for the benefit of their children new methods of preventing disease, such as sterilizing milk, but do not take the same precaution themselves. The hurry and stress of modern life have, in fact, tended to produce in some respects more unhygienic habits among adults than prevailed under the simpler conditions of a generation ago.

Mortality of All Ages.

"It must be borne in mind also that the same children's diseases and other causes which tend to kill the unfit child also tend to injure the proper development of the fit. Consequently a lessening of other children's diseases will have the effect of not only prolonging weak lives, but also of prolonging and developing the strong. Statistics, so far as available, appear to show that where infant mortality is the highest mortality at all ages is high.

"So far as we can judge from statistics of the average duration of life, it has been on the increase for 350 years and is now increasing more rapidly than ever before. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the increase was at the rate of about four years a century. During the first three-quarters of the nineteenth century the rate was about nine years. At present in the state of Massachusetts life is lengthening at the rate of fourteen years a century, in Europe about seventeen, and in Prussia, the land of medical discovery and its application, twenty-seven. In India, where medical progress is practically unknown, the life span is short—twenty-five—and remains stationary.

Preventives of Tuberculosis.

"It is possible to estimate the effect on the length of life of the partial elimination of various diseases. Using the statistics, experience and estimate of eighteen physicians as to the preventability of each of the list of ninety causes of death, we find that the length of life could easily be increased from forty-five to sixty, an increase of one-third, or fifteen years. This would result in a permanent reduction in death rate of about 25 per cent. It would be feasible to prevent at least 75 per cent of cases of tuberculosis of the lungs and thereby to lengthen life by about two years. If the deaths from

Conservation In Indianapolis

Prolongation of Human Life a Leading Topic For Discussion.

violence were reduced only 35 per cent human life would be increased by .89 a year. The prevention of 45 per cent of cases of pneumonia would lengthen life by .94 a year. These diseases alone could easily be reduced by these amounts so as to lengthen life by several years. This could be done simply through insistence by the public on pure milk, pure water, pure air and reasonable protection from accidents.

Influence of Hygiene.

"The estimate of fifteen years is a safe minimum estimate of prolongation of life because, first, it takes no account of future medical discoveries, such as a method of curing or preventing cancer and of postponing old age, as would Metchnikoff; second, it takes little account of the cumulative influence of hygiene. The full benefit of hygiene cannot be felt until it is practiced throughout life and not at the approach of specific danger. Most so called 'causes' of death are merely the last straws which break the camel's back. When a pure water supply prevents deaths from typhoid fever it prevents two or three times as many deaths from other causes. Third, it takes no account of the racial effects of new health ideals, leading in a general way, as they must, to healthier marriages.

Need For Longer Life.

"With increase of knowledge the period of education of preparation for life must constantly increase. This fact creates a need for a longer life, with the later periods of life increased in proportion. The result of such a prolongation will be not the keeping alive of invalids, but the creation of a population containing a large number of vigorous old men. Metchnikoff says: 'The old man will no longer be subject to loss of memory or to intellectual weakness. He will be able to apply his great experience to the most complicated and most delicate parts of social life.'

"It is usually recognized that human life is abnormally short, but no exact determination has ever been made of what constitutes a normal lifetime. Florens maintains that a mammal lives five times the length of its growing period, which would mean, since the growing period for man does not cease until about thirty, a normal human lifetime of 150 years.

Old Age Abnormal.

"Another method of estimating normal life is to reckon the length of normal life as the time of old age now sets in, eighty-three years. But clearly, if Metchnikoff is right in thinking that old age is abnormal, the normal lifetime must exceed eighty-three. Many remarkable cases of longevity are on record, but most cases of reputed centenarians are not authenticated, and he lived to be 146. Mrs. Wood of Portland, Ore., recently died at 120. To what extent these exceptional cases could be made common cannot as yet be known."

Value of Increased Activity.

Professor Fisher discusses at length the factors that contribute to lessening the span of life and pays particular attention to the money value of increased vitality. Discussing the general value of increased vitality, he says: "Money estimates of waste of life are necessarily imperfect and sometimes misleading. The real wastes can only be expressed in terms of human misery. Poverty and disease are twin evils, and each plays into the hands of the other. From each spring vice and crime. Again, whatever diminishes poverty tends to improve health, and vice versa.

Conservation of Resources.

"The conservation of our natural resources—land, raw materials, forests and water—will provide the food, clothing, shelter and other means of maintaining healthy life, while the conservation of health likewise tends, in many ways, to conserve and increase wealth. The more vigorous and long lived the race the better utilization it will make of its natural resources. This will be true for two reasons in particular: First, the greater inventiveness or resourcefulness of vigorous minds in vigorous bodies. Civilization consists chiefly in invention, and the most progressive nations are those whose rate of invention is most rapid. Second, the greater foresight and solicitude for the future. As it is usually the normal healthy man who provides life insurance for his family, so it will be the normal healthy nation which will take due care of its resources for the benefit of the generations yet unborn.

Support of Health Boards.

"Federal, state and municipal boards of health should be better appreciated and supported. Their powers of investigation, administration and disseminating information should be enlarged. School hygiene should be practiced and personal hygiene more emphasized. The multiplication of degenerates should be made impossible."

COUNTRY NEVER RICHER IN GOLD

More In Treasury Than In That of Any Other Nation.

\$1,220,932,997 OF THE METAL

The Money Is Not All In the Washington Vaults—Storage Double What It Was Ten Years Ago—How the Vast Sum Is Made Up.

There is more gold in the vaults of the United States treasury than ever before in the history of the country, and, according to the government's fiscal experts, there is now more gold in the possession of the treasury than has ever been stored in the vaults of any nation at one time.

At the close of business on Sept. 3 the gold in the vaults of the treasury amounted to \$1,220,932,997.68. It was made up in this way:

A reserve fund of \$710,000,000, of which \$100,000,000 was in gold coin and \$50,000,000 in gold bullion held for the redemption of United States notes and of treasury notes of 1890, this reserve fund being fixed by law at \$150,000,000 at all times.

A trust fund of \$1,054,375,269 in gold held for the redemption of gold certificates of that amount outstanding, and of this enormous fund of over a billion in gold \$888,925,973 is in gold coin and \$165,449,296 is in gold bullion.

When the Great Was Reached. A fund of \$10,557,728.68 in gold coin is held in the general fund in the treasury offices for daily use in the current operations of the treasury.

To be more accurate, the crest of this greatest aggregation of gold in the federal treasury was reached at the close of business on Aug. 28, when the total reached \$1,222,000,000 in round numbers, and it has since been in that neighborhood.

This gold is not all in Washington. In fact, most of it is outside of Washington.

It is in treasury vaults, but some of these vaults are in the subtreasuries, some are at the mints, and others are in the assay offices. But all of it is held by the treasury to back up its credit and the good faith of the government's currency in gold.

Compared With Ten Years Ago.

Treasury records show that this vast treasure of gold in Uncle Sam's vaults is more than double the amount there ten years ago. The total amount of gold in the treasury on Oct. 1, 1902, was \$572,807,525.09, of which \$150,000,000 was held in the reserve fund, \$344,612,080 was in the trust funds and \$77,195,736.00 was in gold coin in the general fund.

What it means to have nearly a billion and a quarter of gold coin and bullion stored in the vaults of Uncle Sam may be better appreciated from the fact that according to estimates by the director of the mint, carried along from year to year, the total production of gold in the world from the discovery of America until and including the year 1909 was 647,853,700 ounces, valued at \$13,392,328,200.

In other words, the store of gold in the treasury vaults is now almost one-tenth of the total world production of gold since Columbus found America, and the comparison is all the more striking when the fact is taken into consideration that much of this gold has gone into arts and manufactures. The total stock of gold in the monetary systems of the world is about \$3,000,000,000, of which nearly \$5,000,000,000 is in banks and public treasuries, the balance in circulation.

LEGLESS BOY SWIMS.

Philadelphia Lad of Fourteen Masters Art Despite Affliction.

Charles F. Parvis, instructor of swimming attached to the Philadelphia board of education, has just accomplished the extraordinary feat of teaching a legless boy to swim in the public bathhouse.

The boy who has accomplished the feat of swimming is Tyson Detwiler, fourteen years old. When he was six years of age he was so badly injured by a freight train at a grade crossing that he has had to get along the best he could on crutches ever since. Despite his affliction he is in the seventh grade in school.

This summer the boy told his father he wanted to learn to swim, and he was taken to the public bathhouse. He has mastered several difficult strokes so effectively that he can swim at least half a mile without changing his arm movement.

CORSETS PREVENT DISEASE.

Such Is Opinion of German Professors After Research.

Two Berlin medical experts, Hirschfeld and Loewy, appear as champions of women's corsets. Their advocacy is qualified, but so far as it goes it is whole hearted, for they have satisfied themselves that corsets may be preventives of disease in the possessors of "paralytic thorax," who are particularly prone to consumption.

The professors reached this opinion through exhaustive experiments with respiration, aided by the X rays. They say, however, that if the disease has already developed the corsets are harmful.

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Australia Following In Footsteps of United States.

"Australia Invites Immigration from America," said David Jones, a merchant of Melbourne, to a Washington Post reporter on a recent visit to that city.

"The capital of the United States is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever visited," said Mr. Jones. "It is the cleanest city, I think, I have ever seen. Its broad avenues are a revelation. There are more beautiful cities in Europe, perhaps—Paris, Vienna and Berlin—but none of these latter will compare with Washington, I venture to say, fifty years from now.

"Australia is taking lessons from the United States. We are building a national capital, and the plans are being drawn along the lines of the capitol in Washington. In many ways Australia is more like the United States than it is like the mother country, England. Our people are more like Americans, and I believe their sympathies run more along the lines of Americans than those of Englishmen."

RAISE FOR MAIL CARRIERS.

About \$100 More a Year For 42,000 Rural Letter Deliverers.

Under authority granted by the last postal appropriation law Postmaster General Hitchcock issued an order increasing on Sept. 30 next the salaries of 42,000 rural mail carriers.

The compensation of the carriers on standard routes, of which there are 30,000, is increased from \$1,000 to \$1,100, with proportionate increase for shorter routes. The order involves about \$4,000,000 a year. An advance from \$900 to \$1,000 a year for standard routes was made in 1911. When rural delivery was started sixteen years ago the carriers got \$200 a year.

Mr. Hitchcock has also directed that rural carriers shall have fifteen days annual leave with pay.

A PREHISTORIC MANSION.

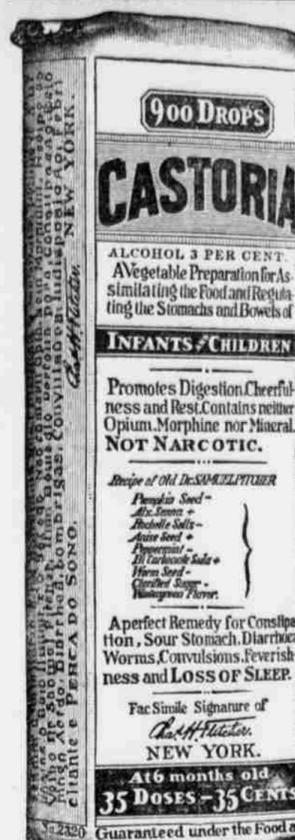
New York Expedition Finds Seventy-two Room House in New Mexico.

A remarkable archaeological discovery is reported from Stanley, N. M.

An exploring expedition headed by N. C. Nelson, representing the American Museum of Natural History of New York city, has unearthed a stone building of seventy-two rooms. In the rooms were found a large collection of human skeletons, pottery and other relics which may throw new light upon the prehistoric civilization of the southwest.

A short distance from this building a big stone dam and other evidences of a large system of irrigation were uncovered.

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LIST OF PROPERTIES IN HONESDALE, PA.:

Vacant lots at Blandin; 1 dwelling house on Park street, Honesdale; 1 dwelling house on Court street, Honesdale; 2 dwelling houses on East Street Extension; 1 dwelling house and vacant lot on 16th street; 1 dwelling house on 13th street; 1 dwelling house on 17th street. Also farms, hotels, and business properties.