KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

THESIS

FOREST PRESERVATION AND FOREST LAW

by

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Introduction.

In this short treatise of an almost inexpansible subject it will be our aim to treat only in general of the two topics chosen above, and give in brief their influence in general upon practical forestry as practiced today.

Of All of our natural resources there is none of more importance to the general welfare of mankind than the forests. Strange to say, it is one of the last in every case to receive due recognition and coupled with this wanton disregard and neglect are themany destructive agencies that tend, only too rapidly to bring its very existance to a close.

To state in full all of the various stages through which the forests have passed in the various countries of the world would be simply a repetition in every case of the immeasurable waste, pilfrey, destruction, and disregard of the future welfare as has, as has up to the present time, existed in the United States. Unless promoted by thought of pleasure or being subjected to dire necessity, people as a whole look upon a forest as an occupant of valuable soil and a retarder of civilization. The desires of the exploiter of the forest are simply to accumulate wealth now and for himself alone, while the state exists with an idea of continuancy and, as a nation is prone to use its natural resources, just to that extent will it live and only so for although the energies of a people might be excited to the utmost, the only sustaining element is the material backing that rewards such activities properly directed.

That forests will grow successfully upon the exposed areas and also upon poorer soils, is of economic importance and should ever be borne in mind. Proper management and proper legislature are/the two primary/conjunctions that alone will save us from the threatening devastation.

The last we may say is at this writing very seriously threatened by the head of one of our representative legislative bodies to which much has been entrusted and in return for such trust a whole nation is mocked in its attempt to pass righteous measures and the lives and property of the people who gave such power are placed in jeopardy.

I refer to the bill known as the White Mountain-Appalachian Bill and the opposition that has been made by the present speaker of the House and the obstacles that he put before the Committee that passed favorably upon the bill and presented it to the house. That all legislation should be from the Govt. direct is readily apparent in that forest policy of one state might be beneficial to that particular state, yet very disastrious to the adjoining state: For example if the forest should be cut at the head waters of a stream that had its course thru both states.

The voice of the people is necessary to proper forest policy and although we have, today, a far better method of management than a few years ago, it is still in no state of perfection, and as the present policy must either improve or go backward, it behooves the American people as a whole to lend a concentrated voice in the preservation of this, their birth-right.

By an act of Congress on February 1, 1905, the National forest reserves were transferred to the care of the Bureau of Forestry, or as it is now known, the Forestry Service. Therefore on that day there devolved upon the Bureau, the duties of which had here-to-fore been confined to the giving of expert supervision and advice, the full administrative control of sixty three million acres of public forests, with all the business that such control demanded.

The administrative system that under the control of the Department of Interior was transferred to the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture. By the mergeing of two such widely and yet correlated branches, was not merely to coordinate the two relative organizations, but to secure for them the advantages of both technical and practical forestry and by so doing, secure from them their fullest possible value with a fore-thought of their permanancy.

With this change has come a re-organization of the whole Bureau, and for its efficiency, more minor branches have been established to secure and digest the accumulated data and provide for field investigations and forest surveys. By such surveys and careful field operations, the location and resources of all land at the Government's disposal is made known or easily attainable and by allowing a large executive authority to rest upon a local officer, vexatious delays are done away with to such an extent as is consistant with conservative control, embodying the necessary safeguards and the practical uses of the forest to the people whose wants they serve.

As thorough inspection lies at the foundation of forest efficiency, a section of inspection has been established to examine and report upon the work and progress in the Service. The publication of authentic works and statistics is important in that it may reach and educate the holders of small forest tracts and cause them to realize the very important economic relation that such holdings embody and to what extent this influence is effected by the milling and subsequent devastation of the forest tracts owned by large concerns. The lumbermen are a class who are quick to see the practical bearing of forestry upon their own interests which, of course, are the converse of the practice of Forestry. Consequently the Forest Service, in order to preserve such forests in the best possible manner, has established a scientific form of management that combines, wisely both technical and practical experience and investigation. Such a policy of management is offered to all but not all are ready yet to receive it.

correlated, closely, with such management comessillics and under this section the coordination and classification of an all data gathered from which we glean the following: The total stand of Southern Yellow Pine was estimated in 1905, to be 300, 000, 000, 000 board feet. As this estimate considerably exceeds that set by southern lumbermen, it is safe to say that the forest stand does not exceed that amount and as 10,000,000,000 board feet constitutes the annual cut, it is a conservative estimate when we hold that in twenty-five years Southern Pine will have ceased to be an important commercial commodity.

Pine stumpage in the south twenty years ago was rated at fifty cents a thousand (M)--the same is now held as high as \$5.00. Timber land twenty years ago that sold for \$1.50 an acre is now rated from \$20.00 to \$30.00 per acre.

Summing up the above it is shown that everything points to the devastation of the most important building timber tree that we have today. Under proper supervision of thoroughly qualified authorities such areas could be made to yield a permanent profit and with the more intensive methods the devastations by fire, the wash of land, unrestrained torrents upon the water sheds, and the destruction of the second-growth timber, would be done away with and the balance of nature would be undisturbed. J. G. Peters, Forest Assistant; says, in this connection; "The Tack of supervision and the high stumpage price paid by the lumber company, go hand in hand as the two great factors to which the waste may be attributed." A feature markedly in evidence after the logging is the number of part merchantable culls that would yield a valuable log. By measurements, over 300 acres of yellow pine in the sough shows 7 % of the culls left as part merchantable timber. Most of these trees were of large size and affording a butt cut of sound lumber. Moreover, if such culls are not taken, now, they will be absolutely an unmenchantable product by the time of the next cutting.

Again many trees are downed, broken, and splintered by the falling of timbers or are cut for skid poles or "bed trees" in order to insure a good "fall" for the timber tree.

Measurements further show that of the total number of sap

trees that might have been left standing, 25 % were broken, knocked down, or uprooted or in some other way incapacitated for further growth by careless logging. Conclusions are: Some merchantable timber is left that will become culls by the next cutting; Many small sap trees are destroyed by careless logging; The best results are obtained where the trees for removal, are marked.

The waste resulting from the loss of wood by its use as skid poles which are left behind when the logging is over is also also of great importance. Small trees five to eight inches in diameter are cut down for these skid poles. These are taken from the the nearest source and as the basis of the future yield must be the growing trees that remain after the cut, it is readily seen that if no use is made of the trees after the cutting, the selection should be made from the inferior and unhealthy trees. From data gathered on this subject it is shown that of the number of young trees distroyed by logging, onefifth were cut as skid poles. In the south or Gulf States, where the rainy season is experienced, beginning in November and continuing through March, the ground is soft and marshy and what is known as "Corduroying" is resorted to, to enable the logger or the narrow guage railroad to make his or its way thru the forest. In corduroying, small trees are cut three to eight inches in diameter and laid crosswise and close together on right-of-way. This gives the grees a solid footing and thus raises the rails above the bog.

In selecting corduroy timber, as has been shown in the selection of skid poles, no discretion is exercised and a cull and

a straight tree stand equal chances of being cut. Therefore, it is essential that tops, culls, slabs, availabe hardwoods, or any unmerchantable or poor growing lumber can be used as cordurily material.

Wind-fall, among the shallower rooted trees especially, is quite prevalent, and in most cases such windfalls are not removed, though the heart wood is absolutely sound. Generally speaking windfalls are large trees because the percentage of sap-wood is generally small. Tables on merchantable lumber show a tree of eight inches heart-wood as a profitable log and certainly there is no reason to leave such trees in a forest to add to the danger of fire and the killing of saplings by shade. In many cases, areas are found killed by weevil or girdled by various bark insects. Usually in such cases are found treeswilt solid bark and only the sap injured, the latter being in the Pines and Blued, and Soured. If such trees were cut before the insects had boured into the inner wood, the product would be merchantable. Such, however, is rarely the case. Left standing, such infested trees act as breeding places for the insects and further depredations are produced. If, in all cases, such infested trees were cut out and either hauled to the open and disposed of or dumped into some near-by stream, the insects would be burned or drowned and in general the product of the forest be bettered.

In this connection might be mentioned the number of trees girdled by the guy cables of the steam skids. As a rule, however, these are logged. To all the above damages some passing some permanent, might be added a score of other things that

are of equal importance, such as the effect upon the land, climate, precipitation, and rate of water flow, velocity of wind, destruction of game cover, and the occupancy of the soil by some undesirable growth. Such are only a few of the facts that tend to point to the absolute destruction of only one of the forest specientrees of today. That absolute destruction would follow is beyong doubt if the forest police remained unchanged, and such is, in a small sense, at least, appreciated by all.

To take up every specie of tree within our own country and trace its life history would in the end be but a repetition of the facts set forth in the life of the Southern Pine. The White Pine of the Lake States lends a striking example of the rapid devastation of the forests. In 1879 to 1882, White Pine furnished more lumber upon the markets of the United States than any other tree--today it is almost an unattainable commodity.

Our country is today just entering upon the stage relative to forest management that has been reached by European countries years ago. It seems that the first thought in forest preservation in every country is the same, where the betterment or enjoyment of self, is the first to enter in. As such, forestry and forest management found its first expression in the preservation of forests as a harbor and cover for game.

The second cause follows as a natural consequence in that it is dire necessity that forces the more economical use of the existing forests. Such an instance is plainly shown by restrict tive measures take in regard to the excess of the forest in the years 1857 ato 1865, and the subsequent devastations of the

White Pine of the Superior region a few years later. Every nation of the world has to a greater or less extent experienced the various stages that precede a conservation form of forest management and history repeats itself in the case of the United States. Consequently as great advance has been made in the last years (1905) 108) by introducing proper methods of using the national forests. It is now very evident that the surplus timber has been marked and a care and a system are now not only advantageous, but absolutely required. States in many cases have, in a small way, given material aid and in twelve states, issue Arbor Day, annals of which in their description and illustrations of native, trees are made of planting, protection, use and propagation from instructive reports on forestry.

The variety of industried affected and the magnitude to which they are influenced was shown by the number represented at the American Forestry Congress that met at Washington in January of 1905 to discuss problems in forestry.

Up to December 31, 1905, there were 101 reserves in the U. S. and Alaska, including an area of 97,773,617 acres. Also in this connection a notable progrees has been made in the estabilishing of game reserves which both directly and indirectly effects forestry and forest reserves. Both Federal and State laws have been effected in the establishment of such game covers and by an act of Congress, approved Jan 24, 1905, the President was authorized to set aside such portion of the Wichita Forest reserve in Oklahoma as he deemed suitable for a game refuge and in January, 1905, by executive order, he established the entire

Wichita Forest Reserve of 57,120 acres as a game reserve.

Numerous examples, such as the lease of 160 acres by the state game commission of Illinois, for the propagation of pheasant, quail, etc. N. Y. has a forest set aside for cover to deer--the 576,000 acres of land immediately south of the Yellowstone Park in Wyoming has been set aside for game cover. All these examples are of importance in that they effect forestry in that within such reserves practical forestry will be practiced and the animals which it covers have a direct and important bearing upon the future of forestry. Previous to 1900 the protection of animals in Forest Covers was limited to three reserves, namely; Yellowstone Park in Wyoming, established in 1872; National Zoological Park in the District of Columbia, established in 1890; and Abognak Island, off the southern coast of Alaska, established in 1892; and placed under the jurisdiction tion of the Bureau of Fisheries.

By the presidents order of December 17, 1904, the whole Forestry Reserve Service was classified and fifteen grades were established, ranging from supervisors to forest guard in order of their prominence. (See next page) Provisions are made for the work on the Reserves to be closely supervised and frequently examined to be made by forest inspectors. Trained foresters are to be assigned as technical assistants to the supervisors in all the reserves. All officers in charge of special lines of work are inspectors; also in their respective lines and all assistants and general inspectors are under their direction in forest surveys, lumbering plans, planting, operations, plans

Forester

Fiscal Agent Associate Forrester

Inspection
Reserve Boundries
Publication and Education
Siloics
Forest Law
Forest Resource
Timber Sales
Privileges & Claims
Grazing
Executive & Protective Forces.

Mensuration

Forest Computations.

Management
Public Lands
Commercial Taxed
Private Lands

Extension

Cooperative Planting Forest Replacement Reserve Planting

Drendrological Studies
Exhibitions
Library

Products

Timber Tests
Drendrology Chemistry
Wood Preservation
Lumber Trade

Records
Accounts
Supplies
Files & Stenography
Quarters
Photographic Laboratory.

for protection from fire, insect pests, etc.

Rangers are authorized to transact all of the business relative to the parts under their care and the minor points that the supervisors may designate to them.

The Act of Feb. 1905, beside establishing the Bureau of Forestry in full control of reserves, provided for the selection of supervisors and rangers from the qualified citizens in the state or territory in which such reserve was located. As right-of-way within reserves for the construction and maintenance of dams, water plants, reservoirs, ditches, channels, canals, etc., that may be necessary for municipal or mining purposes and such grants shall be given by the Sect'y. of Interior.

By an Act of Congress on July 1, 1901, the division of Forestry became a bureau with only four lines established but w with call for better management and extended control. There have sprung up, thirty sub-divisions, one of which is very important in connection with forest laws.

From the compiled statutes, we shall state in the briefist and most digested way possible, the various laws that have been enacted between the year 1817, and the present time. By such statutes, the Secy. of the Navy is authorized, under the direction of the President, to secure for that department all unappropriated land on which Live Oak and Red Cedar are the principle stands. Surveyors are appointed by the President to locate, map, and report on vacant timber lands. For the protection of the forest the President has placed at this command the entire Army and Navy forces.

By an act of June 3, 1878 (20 Stat. at Large, pg. 89) a tract of 160 acres may be sold to a person for the nominal price of \$2.50 per acre when such land, unfit for agricultural purposes, is valuable for its timber products. Exception to this is made only in a case where such land filed upon shall contain any of the raw or valuable materials, when such deposits are known by the purchaser previous to his date of filing in which case he will have perjured himself and be subjected to all the penalties of perjury.

Water sheds and mountains are not to be cut to such an extent as will cause floods and erosion; a homestead is not be be denied any settler with pure intent of purpose; and grazing in all such forest land is alloted in proportion to population and is open and free from charges. All land, when proved-up and properly certified to, a patent is extended to the purchaser or homesteader.

The power to establish and set aside forests and land for forest reserves and designate the boundries of such lands, is vested in the President of the United States, who, by procolamation, shall make known all such reserves.

Mining permits are granted in several states where gold and silver are to be found but in such cases only such timber as may be needed in mine construction are to be cut and used. In many cases where permits and grants are obtained through fraudulent misrepresentations, or character of the land, or otherwise make the conditions for timber growth impossible, or in any way threaten the existance of the forest or place in jeopardy the life and property of such other enhabitants of the

reserve as there may be, the president is empowered to revoke, modify, or suspend any or all of such permits, grants, executive orders or proclamations as he may deem fit.

Generally speaking the surveyors' plats are compiled by and under the direction of the Director of the Geological Survey, subjected to the instructions of the Secy. of Interior. No forest reservations is to be established except to improve or protect forests, govern the water flow of streams, prevent soil erosion, furnish a game cover and protect the various industries that may spring up along the course of streams.

The the Secy. of Interior is left the power to establish rules and regulations to fires and their prevention in all reserves, the occupancy of such tracts, the officers to be installed and the punishment to be dealt out in violation of such rules. This is in substance the effect of the lay as stated in the Penalty Clause of the Statutes, dated June 4, 1888. Now, however, I am quite sure that all such regulations come under the direct supervision of the Forestry Bureau.

When sales are made of timber lands either to corporations or private parties, the land is appraised and when not sold to the bidding public, private sales are acceptable. The idea that in turning a forest tract into a reserve is robbing people of their rights of homestead and settlement is a false idea and the destruction of land by those who are so meagerly enlightened is indeed a thrust at their own welfare instead of the welfare for whom it was intended and goes to show conclusively the predominance of self interests.

Provision is made by which the bona fide settlers, minors or other residents may under certain restrictions, make use of the timber, stone, fire-wood, fences, waters, and grass of the reservations in which they settle. Egress and ingress of settlers is not prohibited. Schools, and churches may be maintained and civil and criminal jurisdiction shall not be denied to those within the boundries of such reserves. The waters may, in all cases, be used for domestic, mining, milling, or irrigation purposes and are subject only to the laws of the state.

For the continuance of the forest and the propagation of new growth upon Indian sallotments, the president is authorized to cause all dead or fallen timber or insect infested trees to be cut and sold and the benefit arising from such sales is to go to the Indian or Indians who may at that time have the occupancy of such land. Exceptions are to be made when trees have been burned, killed, girded, or otherwise injured by the occupants, for the purpose of securing its sale under this act. Establishment of boundries and lines shall be under the immediate supervision of the Commissioner of the General Lans Office. Alaska, as well as the U. S. and Territories, comes under these general laws of supervision. Tramroads, canals, reservoirs, roads, railroads, and other highways, are granted the right-of-way, over reserves, where the public interest demands it, but such licenses must not be in incompatible with the public interest.

There are now seven Military timber reservations in the U.S. In connection with the laws that are enacted, there are a number of private and local laws granting to various parties

rights-of-way and similar privileges in some reservations that on account of not being of a general nature, are omitted here, but may be found in biennial volumes of the Statutes at Large.

The first steps in forestry where money was appropriated was by an act of Aug. 15, 1876 when \$4000.00 was set aside to be used by the Commissioner of Agriculture as a salary for a competent man to investigate forest conditions in the United States. Later, by an act of June 30, 1886, the Division of Forestry was made a permanent statutory part of the Department. In 1901, by provision of the Agri. Appropriation Bill, the Division was enlarged into the Bureau of Forestry. From this time on the rules and regulations are established by the Forester, whose knowledge has undoubtedly given him the clearest insight into the workings of this great branch of the Department. Many efforts are being made to insure reforestation. One, and probably the most important of which is that "Five Per Centum" of the timber must be left for the purpose of reforestation, where such land is sold and the lumber cut and in such cases the tops and brush-wood must be cleared and burned. All merchan table timber is to be removed. This includes wind falls, infested trees and dead timbers, and upon all such cuttings a time limit is placed when the contract is given.

It is interesting to note in this connection, that no timber is to be cut except pine and when cuts are made upon Indian allotments Indian labor, when practicable, is to be employed as much as possible. Also after the merchantable timber (pine) is cut, the tract is then laid open as agriculture land and may be permanently homesteaded, except in cases of specified reserves of land unfit for agriculture purposes.

When by chance of a general survey and open boundry, agricultural land is included within the boundries of a reserve, such land may, by the consent of the forester, be set aside for agricultural purposes and be subject to homestead. All islands now existing as Indian reserves are to be kept as such.

Superintendents and assistants shall be appointed and under them shall come the direct supervision of the cutting. All current expenses are to be paid out of the proceeds from the sales of timber land.

There is a law in this state (Kansas) that in substance, is is as follows: Any person or persons who shall, between the first day of August, and the 15th day of May following, build a fire upon land not his own or their own or land not occupied by him or them as a tennant, and leave the same unextinguished, shall be guilty of a mindemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not to exceed \$50 ord imprisonment for one month. The closed season, as set forth here, though it may have special reference to grass, is nevertheless relative to forest protection. Malicious burning of woodlands, marshes, or prairie so as to damage any other person's property, is punishable by a fine of from \$50 to \$500. When fires are set with such intent or malice, the person setting such fire is liable to the other to the full amount of the property damaged. In such cases, of course, fires escaping from the burning of railroad rights-of-ways, are not included, as shown by the case of A. T. S. F. R. R. Co., VS.

Dennis, 38 Kansas, 424; and is not applicable to cases arising from unavoidable accident, as Hunt VS Haines, 25 Kansas, 210.

Nothing by or in the above laws shall be so constructed as to prohibit any person from back firing in order to save property.

The civil and criminal liability for timber trespass is such that if any person injure or in any way destroy a planted or growing tree may be used for any purpose upon the property of another the offender is required to pay the owner treble the value of the thing destroyed, the costs that may be a sequal of such destruction, is quilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not to exceed \$500.00. Treble damages are recoverable in all cases, although the trespass may not have been wilful or malicious and by the designating word "timber" any kind of trees or shrub growth is included. All damages are paid to the owner and any tennant or possessor is in the same way liable to the same indemnity. In the same respect any damage done to any public land of any kind upon which trees are set or growing is to be considered as a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not less than double the amount of damage done and not to exceed \$1000, coupled with imprisonment in jail for not less than one month nor more than six months. Complaints in such cases are sworn to before a Justice who is empowered to issue a warrant for such trespasser's arrest. Upon hearing, the trespassor may be released on \$2000 bail or committed to jail to await action of the District Court, as the Judge may see fit, and all fines thus collected are paid into the County Treasury to be used with the School fund.

When any fires are set by a railroad company in this state it is necessary only, for the plaintiff, in such case, to establish the fact that such fire was caused by the operating of such R. R. (which proof shall be prima facie evidence of negligence on the part of the R. R. Co.) Considering, of course, that no negligence of the plaintiff is contributory to such fire. Judgment rendered in such cases includes the prosecuting attorney's fee.

In this state it is lawful for the County Commissioners to pay a bounty for trees planted by the acre and properly cultivated. In such cases the distance apart and the number and kind are specified and the bounty is not to exceed \$10.00 for five years for each acre.

The general statutes provide for a commissioner of forestry in the state to be appointed by the Governor to hold office for a term of two years at a salary of \$1000.00 per annum. It is the business of this commissioner to cooperate with the Experiment Stations and issue seedling trees to Experiment Stations and residents of the state, give information by speech, circular, letter, make annual reports upon the conditions of forestry existing, and when requested, it is his duty to hold meetings to disseminate knowledge upon any subject of Forestry. The two commissioners in this state are H. E. Beaubieu, of Dodge City, and Francis H. Ridgeway of Ogallah. The principal investigations have been made in regard to the species adopted to the general west or "plains" regions.

Summing up things in general, it is safe to say that although there is much more heed paid to forestry and much more legilation now than formerly, yet it is of such a character as to protect only in a limited way, the forests that are so much in need. The pole tax on the forests of the West is a fitting example with which to illustrate. Here it is true, that attempted government intervention would meet with staggering opposition and perhaps defeat if the United States used its legal authority to bring into effect any possible solution of forest prepetuation. Although President Roosevelt has made many additional reserves, yet this does not reach the heart of the trouble.

Under the ordinary method of lumbering the large trees are sought for and although many poles and saplings may sustain injury in the felling of such trees, yet there is left an abundance of hardy, second growth that will reseed the area. Lately, there has sprung up an enormous trade in poles that are used by the phone and electric light companies. When the demand was made great enough these pole companies bought the acreage of poles from the timber Barons of the Northwest and secured permission to cut all poles ranging from 25 to 60 feet in length in advance of the company, so that the poles would not be injured by the fall of trees.

Though an attempt at Congressional restrain would fall thru owing to the influence of the lumbermen's lobbyists, nevertheless state action in such respects would put an end to such butchery of the infant forests and leave at least a nucleus to attempt reforestation, also the companies could be compelled to discontinue the use of wooden poles, trees, box-car material, etc., that ruthlessly destroy the wealth of the nation that has been secured only through long years of accumulation.

Counting the timber and by-products of the forest as nothing, the effect that the standing forest has upon humanity in general, is more than enough to off-set the paltry amount realized from its destruction. These are the recurring facts of every-day life and are always recognized with a hind sight and with a call for a cure with no thought of prevention.

The climate of the timbered mountain region changes, the rich hill slopes are washed away, the springs and streams go dry, the power mills leave because their source of power is threatened, the velocity of the wind increases, likewise the temperature, floods are experienced, the general health of the country threatened, and why? Is it because we have no rights or is it because we have no one to represent our rights? Surely it is possible for people such as the Americans to profit by the experience of Europe and yet do we? Our Forester has just issued a pamphlet founded upon authentic statistical reports in which he tells us that at the present rate of comsumption, the forest will not supply our needs more than thirty years; and yet how many are there who consider the subject carefully? More threatening is the fact that when our timber is gone we cannot import other lumber as some may suppose. Canada cannot furnish us with the necessary material and would'nt if she could. South America cannot supply us because the timber of her continent is of a different character and is ill-adapted to our needs. The question that is at once raised; "where is the supply to come from?".

When we have a people that, as a whole, are far-seeing and magnanimous enough to have proper legislation, protections and propagations of and for the forests of America, it is to that extent and only so, that our wants in this, a universal staple, shall be duly protected, and in consequence bountifully supplied.

It behooves, therefore, every right-minded citizen of this great country to make an honest effort to, directly or indirectly, preserve and perpetuate the forest of our land and by so doing, not only secure to himself the satisfaction that such an inherent duty faithfully discharged, commands, but have also the assurance that the legal birth-right of posterity shall not be infringed upon.

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