

PLAN TO PROTECT CITY'S WATERSHEDS

Chief Pinchot of Forestry Department Says Government Will Lend Needed Assistance

WILL PLANT TREES IN CANYONS

Opinion is That City Should Contest Rights of Land Grabbers Along The Streams

At a meeting of the special water committee of the city council, held in the mayor's office Saturday afternoon, Gifford Pinchot, chief of the forestry division of the department of agriculture, informed the members of the committee that the government is ready to co-operate with the city in protecting its water-sheds and that it is the intention of his department to at once commence planting red pine trees on the north slope of Big Cottonwood canyon, so that the barren spots in the canyon may be restored to the condition of a natural forest as near as possible. All of the city's watersheds from the north side of City creek to Big and Little Cottonwood have been withdrawn from entry and created as a forest reserve. As soon as the experiment in regard to planting trees in Big Cottonwood proves successful, planting of forests will be commenced in the other canyons within the city's water-sheds.

Those who attended the meeting in addition to Mr. Pinchot were Senator Smoot, Mayor Morris, Attorney F. S. Richards, Consulting Engineer Doremus, City Engineer Riter, President Hewlett and Councilmen Wells, Fernstrom and Dean of the special water committee.

WILL PROTECT STREAMS.

Mr. Pinchot said that in addition to restoring the forests, the department will assist the city in protecting the streams from pollution and as soon as the city gains control of the waters of Big Cottonwood he would at once shut out the grazing of all stock there. He stated that in his trip up Big Cottonwood he noticed that the sanitary conditions along the banks of the stream were very bad, as much filth and refuse has been allowed to accumulate and will be a menace to the health of the citizens unless the conditions are remedied before the city begins using the Big Cottonwood water. He thought that the city should at once take steps to prevent the pollution of the stream and if it could not control the matter any other way, the claims of those residing on the stream should be purchased.

OTHER EXPRESSIONS.

Mr. Richards stated that the law gave the city control over its water supply for a distance of 10 miles from where it is taken into the conduit. Senator Smoot said that the law should allow the city to control not only Big-Cottonwood and the other principal source of its water supply but also their tributaries. He believed that the next Legislature would extend the jurisdiction of the city much farther over its water sources.

The matter of locating reservoir sites and mining claims in the canyon was discussed and both Mr. Pinchot and Senator Smoot stated that these locations were made merely for the purpose of selling to the city and holding the city up. They suggested that the city contest the reservoir locations and thus defeat them. They were also of the opinion that a number of the mining locations were made simply to secure summer residences and resorts and that the city could also defeat them by entering a protest.

RESOLUTION TONIGHT.

At the conclusion of the discussion it was decided that Councilman Wells should present a resolution at the council meeting tonight pledging the co-operation and support of the city in the work of protecting the water sheds and thanking Mr. Pinchot and Senator Smoot for their interest in the matter.