

# Transfer of Land to States Urged in Inquiry Report

## National Ranges Urged Where Transfer Not Made—Garfield Head of Committee

Washington, D. C., March 8.—The Garfield committee on the conservation and administration of public domain today transmitted a report to President Hoover, in which it recommended that steps be taken at once to make certain that all portions of the remaining unreserved and unappropriated public lands should be placed under responsible administration or regulation. Such a step was necessary, it was said to insure the conservation and beneficial use of the 179 million acres of remaining public domain.

To carry out its suggestion, the committee recommended that congress pass an act granting to the respective public land states under certain conditions all the unreserved, unappropriated public domain within their respective boundaries.

It urged, however, that additional areas of this land, important for national defense, reclamation purposes, reservoir sites, national forests, national parks, national monuments and migratory bird refuges, should be reserved by the federal government for these purposes.

### Seek to Avoid Waste.

The Garfield committee, headed by James R. Garfield, had as ex officio members Secretary of the Interior Wilbur and Secretary of Agriculture Hyde. It urged that such land as the government did not want for federal uses should be turned over to the states if they would enact legislation accepting it.

Lands which the states would not accept, and which is suitable for grazing should be converted into national ranges by executive order, the committee said. The committee's principal aim was to insure that all the unappropriated domain should be administered by somebody to avoid waste.

### Reclamation Policy Indorsed.

The Garfield committee endorsed the administration's reclamation policy, which includes the building of Boulder dam and the expenditure of millions in harnessing the waters of the Colorado. It urged federal participation in flood control work and the adoption of a definite policy in handling hydro-electric power development, connected with reclamation projects.

Some changes in the present homesteading policy also were suggested, the committee stating that but little land remained that was suitable for that purpose.

The committee suggested that mineral rights be transferred to states which approve uniform federal laws on mineral conservation, with retention by the federal government otherwise.—World-Herald.