



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1898-03-17

**Letter from R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson to John Muir, 1898 Mar 17.**

Robert Underwood Johnson

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT  
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE  
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK

March 17th, 1898.

R. W. GILDER, EDITOR.  
R. U. JOHNSON,  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.  
C. C. BUEL,  
ASSISTANT EDITOR.

Mr. John Muir,  
Martinez, Cal.

My dear Muir,

Since writing you yesterday I learn from Pinchot that the time has elapsed for which the forest reservations were suspended, and that therefore they are now in full force— of course subject to the extension of the mineral laws to all the reservations, which was effected by the deficiency bill last summer. I suppose this and the opening of the reservations to sheep grazing, and the opportunities of taking up title during the terms of suspension, have satisfied the opponents. At all events, there seems to be no necessity of our writing anything more on that; but when you come to the administration of the reserves there may be a chance to do some good. The choice is going to be between a spoils system advocated by Commissioner Hermann, and the proper system of expert administration. Pinchot has presented the issue squarely to Bliss, and you need not believe that Pinchot has been captured by the politicians. He is not that kind of man, and his differences with Sargent on matters of policy must not be ac-

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J. M. 2.

counted for on that basis. "Your jumping up with unworthy motives in this matter is the first immorality I have ever seen in you." No, seriously, he is as sound on this question as Sargent, or you, or I, and is doing his share of work in favor of a right kind of policy.

If you understood a little more about the book and magazine business than, in your innocence and generosity, you do, you would understand our position a little better in regard to the competition to which we are subjected.

With kind regards to Mrs. Muir,

Ever faithfully yours,

R. U. Johnson

my dear Johnson, You are incomplete <sup>things</sup> ~~things~~  
 You should go to blacker <sup>nothing less than</sup> ~~nothing less than~~ hyperborean <sup>regions will tempt you</sup> ~~regions will tempt you~~  
 I have still look for good work from Pinchot, his differences with Sargent  
 as to forest administration I don't mind but his growing rage to the sheep  
 owners & the political agents of forest robbery is mighty discouraging  
 He himself told me in Seattle last summer that sheep in moderate  
 numbers did no harm to Wash & Oregon forests - but if any are allowed  
 all will rush in. Nowhere are the destruction effects of sheep & shepherds  
 more deplorable <sup>than your editorial battles with</sup> ~~than your editorial battles with~~ the <sup>forests of the</sup> ~~forests of the~~ Cascades.  
<sup>coming on</sup> ~~coming on~~ editorial <sup>retreats onto the</sup> ~~retreats onto the~~ <sup>shelves of Polos have</sup> ~~shelves of Polos have~~ <sup>any</sup> ~~any~~ storms of the  
<sup>to editorial squabbles let them rest & go</sup> ~~to editorial squabbles let them rest & go~~ <sup>to the</sup> ~~to the~~ <sup>transmuting</sup> ~~transmuting~~ <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~  
 Arctic Highlands & compete <sup>with</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>poison</sup> ~~poison~~ <sup>beavers</sup> ~~beavers~~ <sup>then bring your</sup> ~~then bring your  
 wounded heart etc.  
 As to forest administration all opinion shows that any <sup>excluding</sup> ~~excluding~~ <sup>reforms</sup> ~~reforms~~ <sup>in the</sup> ~~in the~~ <sup>regulation</sup> ~~regulation  
<sup>by a smaller journal</sup> ~~by a smaller journal~~ <sup>will further</sup> ~~will further <sup>improve</sup> ~~improve~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the <sup>work</sup> ~~work <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~ <sup>forests</sup> ~~forests <sup>and</sup> ~~and <sup>the</sup> ~~the <sup>country</sup> ~~country~~  
 experts may be~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

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