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Letter from C[ornelius] N[ewton] Bliss to Gifford Pinchot, 1897 Jun 19.

Cornelius Newton Bliss

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Washington.

June 19, 1897.

Mr. Gifford Pinchot,
2 Grammercy Park, New York City.

Sir:

I have this day appointed you as a special forest agent under the provisions of the Sundry Civil Act approved June 4, 1897, with compensation of ten dollars per day when actually and necessarily employed, and actual traveling expenses and a per diem of three dollars in lieu of subsistence. The commission in question is herewith transmitted together with an oath of office. The latter you will please execute and forward to the Department.

As regards your duties, it may be stated that you will be required to examine and report upon the forest reserves suspended by the provisions contained in the Sundry Civil Act approved June 4, 1897, with regard to

1. The present condition and needs of the reserves and adjacent forested lands.
2. The character of their forests, and the value of the same for lumbering and other uses and their relations to agriculture, mining, grazing, commerce, and settlement.

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3. Their resources other than forests, such as mines and grass and agricultural lands.
4. The principles which should govern future modifications of the boundaries of the forest reserves as to extension and contraction, and the application of the same to individual reserves after the surveys have been completed, in accordance with the provisions contained in the Sundry Civil Act approved June 4, 1897.

You will also submit for my consideration a practicable plan for the establishment of a forest service with specific recommendations in regard thereto. You will enter upon the discharge of your duties on the first of July, 1897, and thereafter submit for my consideration a monthly statement setting forth such steps as you have taken to carry out my instructions in the premises, briefly indicating the results of your work during such periods.

If, at any time, you require further instructions or any question arises which, in your judgment, requires the action of the Department, you will at once submit the matter to me.

Very respectfully,

C. N. Bliss,

Secretary.