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**Letter from Arnold Hague to R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson , 1900
Jan 31 .**

Arnold Hague

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

A.M.O.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 31, 1900.

Mr. R. U. Johnson,
Editorial Department, Century Magazine,
Union Square, New York City.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Your note, with enclosure of a note in regard to the Big Trees at Calaveras, reached me yesterday. I immediately communicated with Mr. Pinchot of the Forestry Bureau of the Agricultural Department, and talked the matter over with him. It seems that his attention had been called to the matter by some Californians, and had come to the attention of Members of Congress from that State. Possibly we may be able to do something here to start the matter up, but it is very questionable whether Congress will appropriate any sum of money for the purchase of forests from private owners. The extract which you sent me spoke of a letter written to President Jordan of Leland Stanford University, but nothing was said as to the contents of this letter. It seems to me that the easiest way to have the forest saved from cutting would be for the State of California to take some action in the matter either by purchase or by some legislative action prohibiting the cutting of timber. If there is not sufficient interest in the State of California to protect this glorious grove, it would be pretty difficult to create enthusiasm on the part of the National Government. However, an effort will be made to save the forest if possible. Where a private owner of

(R.U.J.---2)

land desires to sell his property to the Government, there is always a suggestion that there is a scheme or a job connected with it, and this always chills enthusiasm.

Very truly yours,

Arnold Hague

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