

Move to Preserve International Wilderness Sanctuary

Nature Lovers Join to Fight Despoliation

A project that is attracting the attention and active assistance of many north shore nature lovers is the formation, through an international treaty, of a great international wilderness sanctuary, comprising the American Superior National Forest and the Canadian Quetico Provincial park, on the Minnesota-Canadian border. The object is to preserve to posterity this immense wilderness, over 12,500 miles in extent, in its natural unrivaled beauty, grandeur and scenic wonders.

Recruit on North Shore

To bring this desirable objective to fruition, there was formed in 1917 an organization known as the Quetico-Superior council, which adopted a program of action and protection which has since been consistently followed with gratifying results. To aid the council in its work of wilderness preservation another organization, known as Quetico-Superior Minute Men, was formed. It is this organization that is recruiting north shore villagers to the movement. Alder R. Tighe, 521 Fourth street, Wilmette, is chairman of the north shore division, and many prominent men and women are volunteering to help save the last and most magnificent section of America's natural forest still undespoiled by man.

A meeting of the Minute Men held at the Sherman hotel, Chicago, Wednesday evening of last week, was addressed by Ernest C. Oberholtzer, executive secretary of the Quetico-Superior committee, appointed by President Roosevelt by executive order dated June 30, 1934. It is the function of this committee to consult and advise with the various federal departments concerned and with the State of Minnesota, and to make such recommendations from time to time as it may deem proper.

Outlines Progress

Mr. Oberholtzer has been intimately connected with the Quetico-Superior movement from its inception, and is conversant with the difficulties encountered, progress made and possibilities for its ultimate complete success. While recuperating from ill health in Arizona during February of this year, he wrote to Irving W. Edgar, Chicago, president of the Minute Men organization, giving an outline of progress made up to this time. Excerpts from this letter follow:

"Few realize that for twelve years the Minnesota-Ontario border has been the continuous scene of one of the greatest conservation battles in the history of the country. On one side is ranged a nebulous public, vaguely hoping to preserve for posterity a rarely lovely section of original America. On the other are some of the most powerful, determined and resourceful private interests in the country. Only a limited few ever have vision and will enough to challenge immediate use of public resources in order to insure permanent enjoyment for all. Every influence of the modern machine age is working to break down just such primitive possessions as the friends of the border lakes are trying to protect.

"For two years after it became known in 1925 that one great captain of industry intended to dam all the border lakes for private gain the friends of the region, both in the United States and Canada, were disorganized and at a loss to know how to fight. Not until November, 1917, was this handicap remedied by formation of the Quetico-Superior council and adoption of a public program of protection to embrace the whole border lakeland, both in Minnesota and Canada. (Known as international waters.) It seeks above all to maintain the original primitive character of the lakes and streams and their surrounding forest, and to that end urges a treaty between the United States and Canada.

"Immediately after the council was

formed a bill was introduced in Congress, designating the lakeland area of Northeastern Minnesota from Rainy lake east to Lake Superior, and forbidding any further alteration of water levels except with the consent of Congress.

Win Victory in 1930

"A resolution was also introduced in the Minnesota legislature, memorializing Congress to pass this so-called Shipstead-Nolan bill. The two measures encountered as bitter and effective opposition as was ever known in either body. The Shipstead-Nolan act became law in July, 1930. It provided that, so far as the federal government through possession of surrounding federal lands was able, there should be no further alterations of natural water levels, and that all wooded shores, beaches, rapids and waterfalls should be kept inviolate for public enjoyment. This was the first great victory for the Quetico-Superior program. It put Congress definitely on record for preservation of the recreational values of the area.

"Meantime, however, there had been pending since 1925 before the International Joint commission, reference by the United States and Canada, asking the commission to study and make recommendations as to the advisability of the damming and raising of the border lakes. Since this reference had been made before passage of the Shipstead-Nolan act, it could not be stopped. An adverse report by the commission might lead to reconsideration of the act of Congress. It was therefore necessary for the Quetico-Superior council to prepare an elaborate case against exploitation of the lakes. This included exhaustive legal and engineering studies; all of which had to be donated. It involved numerous briefs and hearings, as well as the assembling of many witnesses and expert statements. Finally out of all this in 1934 came the decision of the International Joint commission, declaring that there was no immediate need, private or public, for further damming of the border lakes and, while non-

committal as to the future, expressing the hope that nothing would interfere with the program of the Quetico-Superior council. This was our second great victory. It left the way clear for the attainment of the council's constructive program."

Status in Minnesota

Mr. Oberholtzer then proceeds to recount the opposition in Minnesota to the enactment of the Shipstead-Nolan act as a state measure, which was accomplished in 1933, three years after the federal act and after two sessions of the state legislature. He traces the connection of several large corporations, pointing out the interests of each in despoiling the region for private profit, and continues:

"Failure to secure public ownership on the Minnesota side remains the greatest single obstacle to the fulfillment of the whole public program. It means that a million acres or more of lands in the Shipstead-Nolan act are not only without protection but are subject to all sorts of inimical developments, such as timber slashing, dams, roads, and human occupancy. Opponents are using this situation in Ontario against the signing of a treaty. That province is being asked to devote about 7½ million acres to the Quetico-Superior program, all of which is publicly owned and awaits only the stroke of a pen to be administered under its program. But, if the much smaller area on the Minnesota side is not to be given public ownership, what logic is there in asking any such dedication from Ontario?"

Plan Peace Memorial Park

It is to assist in effecting a treaty between the United States and Canada, creating a great international peace memorial park, dedicated to the soldiers of the two countries who served in the World war, that Mr. Tighe and others of the Quetico-

Superior Minute Men are devoting their efforts. It is said that the region's beauty is beyond description, and that it is a veritable paradise for those who love the wilds and find perfect recreation in fishing, canoeing and other pursuits to be found only in primitive spots, of which this is the last to be found in America.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

We miss you, Harry,
And Elizabeth, too,
Your cheery "heigh-ho,"
And "how do you do."

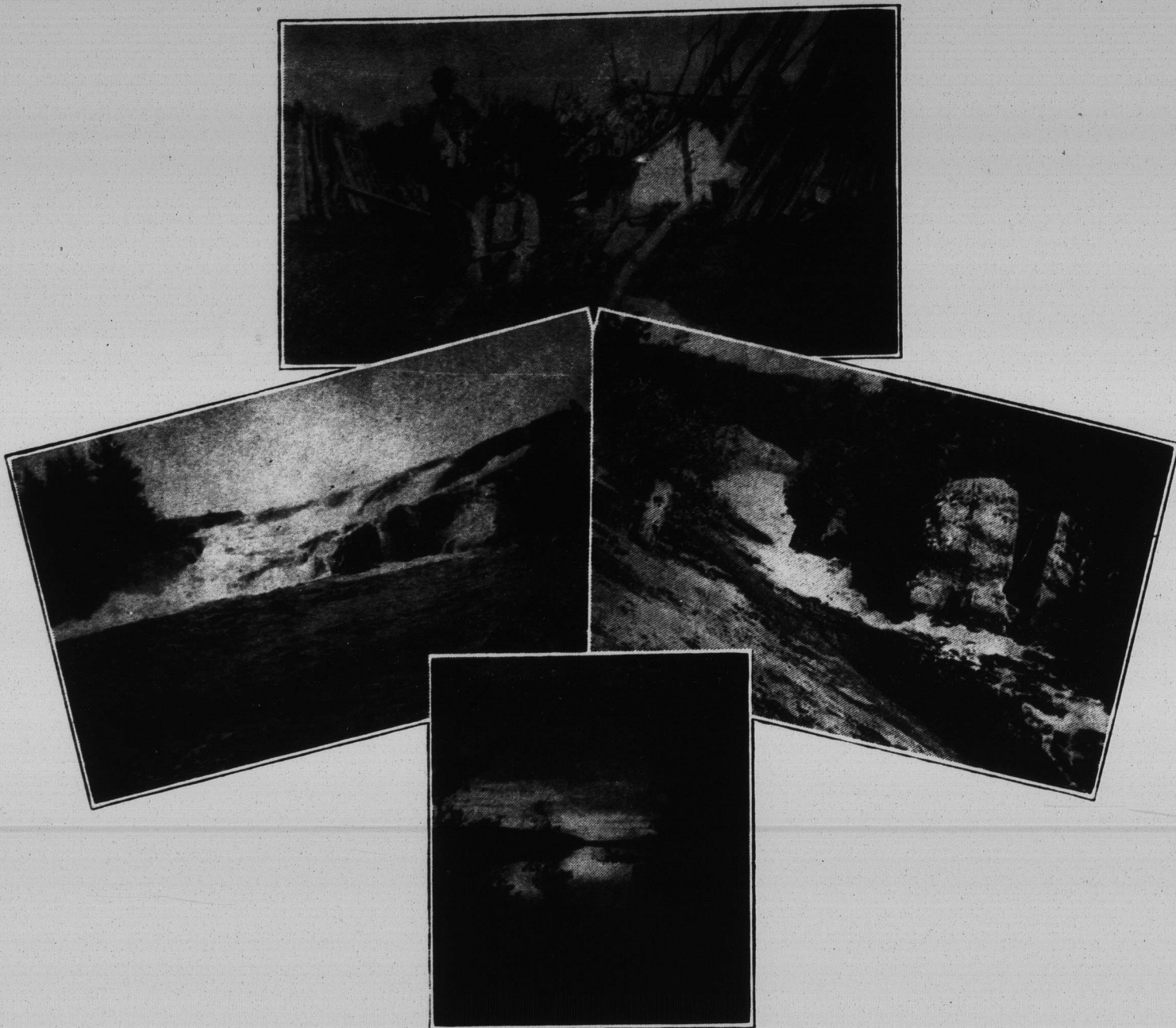
The tide is out, your
Home is so dark,
All seems so bleak
At the low water mark!

Your life was so vital,
Your plans ran so high,
There was always a smile,
And never a sigh.

Good neighbors are scarce
In the busy world's trend
God grant you the gold
At the rainbow's end!

(A tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Orwig, who recently lost their lives in an accident, offered by Mrs. Frank Schaedler of Wilmette.)

Mrs. Theo. J. Moreau of 1507 Walnut avenue spent last week-end at the University of Illinois as the guest of her son, Charles G. Moreau, at the Mother's Day festivities.



The above pictures were taken in the International Waters region sought by the Quetico-Superior Minute Men organization to be converted into an international Memorial park and wilderness sanctuary. At the top is pictured a Canadian Indian chief said to be 132 years old. At the left center is Curtain Falls, Superior National Forest northern Minnesota. At right center is Rebecca Falls, on the Canadian side and embraced in Quetico Provincial Park. At the bottom is Lac La Croix, on the American side and within Superior National Forest. The photographs were supplied by Alder R. Tighe, chairman of the north shore division of Quetico-Superior Minute Men, interested with many other north shore nature lovers in effecting an international treaty by which the entire region will be preserved in its natural state for the pleasure of future generations.