

North Shore News-Letter

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H. P. DAVIDSON, Prop | F. C. DELANG Associate Editor, Glencoe

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EDITORIALS

WHY NATIONAL FORESTS ARE IN THE APALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

In the April number of American Forestry, Filibert Roth, professor of forestry in the University of Michigan and forest warden of his state, gives these reasons for acquisition of national forests in the Southern Appalachian and White mountains:

1. All the lands of these mountains are in private hands and the forests are cut by man and devastated by fires as fast as the owners find it practicable and profitable to do so.

2. This devastation of our forests in the eastern United States has converted millions of acres of forest into unsightly and unused waste lands; it has ruined whole countries in the level districts of the Lake region; it has ruined entire mountain ridges in Pennsylvania; it has ruined thousands of acres of the very mountains under consideration and is to-day extending clear up to timber line in that most famous of all our mountain tracts, the Presidential Range, stretching its hideous hand of pillage and destruction up the slopes of Mts. Madison, Jefferson and Washington, the grand old domes, dear to millions of our people.

3. Unless the government interferes, this devastation will continue with increasing rapidity and it will be but few years when practically all of these mountain lands will be denuded of their protective forest cover.

4. This denudation of the mountains in many places has resulted in a complete removal of all soil, laying bare the solid rock and thus preventing all future forest growth. In other places thousands of acres have been washed into unsightly and useless gully lands, and throughout the mountains and over thousands of acres, all intermediate stages of erosion, deterioration and destruction can be seen.

5. This erosion and gullying has produced natural paths for the water and during every rain or thaw the waters rush down through these channels and thus leave the ground and the mountains far more rapidly than they would if these innumerable gullies, runs, or natural ditches did not exist. Man, in other words, is causing the natural digging of drains on land where no sane man would wish to have a drain, but where common sense would indicate the necessity of creating every possible obstacle and every means which would keep the waters from gathering into runs and from rushing into the streams and out of the mountains.

6. The faster the waters collect and rush down the slopes, the

more they erode the land and the more powerful they are to carry away the soil, so that this evil is one which not only continues but is getting worse the longer it lasts.

7. The earth which is thus washed out in the creation of these gullies and in the removal of soils from the slopes is rushed into the streams and sooner or later finds its way into the navigable parts of the river below, where every inch of depth of water is precious.

8. With the forests and other obstacles removed and with innumerable ruts, gullies and runs facilitating its speedy run-off, the waters rush from the mountains much faster and therefore have less time to soak into the earth. But in times of little or no rain, the streams depend for their supply largely, often entirely, on water which has been stored in the soil and which slowly, but steadily, seeps out to feed the streams. The rushing off of the waters on the surface and in the drains and runs reduces the storage of water and this means less water during low water times: it means less water in the rivers, at the very time when most needed.

9. The forests of these mountains have been and should be a great and permanent condition covering eighty-five to ninety per cent of all the mountain area. This is the natural condition; its establishment and maintenance therefore are not matters of costly construction and doubtful utility like artificial reservoirs. It grows of its own accord, and all it asks is that man shall not wilfully destroy it.

10. The establishment and maintenance of a forest cover on these mountains will not be a great expense to the people. The forests on these mountains, in due time, will be self supporting and will amply pay back such capital as is put into the purchase of the lands.

11. This forest cover is the only regulator which can maintain in these mountains, which is assuredly feasible, practicable, and permanent. Some artificial reservoirs, no doubt, will be built in time. An extensive set of such reservoirs would mean displacement of railroads, highways, farm homes, etc., it would mean the making of lake out of the very bottom lands on which farming is successful and permanent. Such reservoirs would mean the building of many dams and bring with them the dangers of flood catastrophes. And in the end all reservoirs would certainly fill up with mud unless the entire system is safeguarded by a forest cover on the mountains.

12. The forest cover is not taking lands which should be used for other purposes, and does not prevent such use at any future time. Though among the oldest settled regions of the country, not five per cent of the real mountain

lands are used agriculturally. Wherever farming is successful, it is in the valleys on good bottom and bench lands which would never be disturbed by the enterprise requested.

These mountain forests are valuable in many other ways—they produce timber, they serve as place of recreation to thousands of people, and they are worth millions for their beauty alone, but since Congress believes itself bound by the Constitution to consider the matter from the standpoint of stream regulation the above reasons are the ones emphasized in support of the "Weeks Bill."

INDIGNATION MEETING.

We shall never forget a public meeting held in old Music Hall, Corner of State and Randolph, Chicago, just after the blowing up of the Maine. It was a kind of indignation meeting. The wrath of the American people had been roused to the highest pitch by what was believed to be as dastardly and cruel an act as was ever committed.

Several speakers had indulged in forceful rhetoric, when one of Chicago's eloquent preachers was called to the platform. Straightening himself to his fullest height he thundered these words:—"I am a Spaniard." The speaker was none other than Dr. Gun-saulus.

We are all quite prone to be proud of our origin. The writer is quite conscious of thinking, if not saying at times, "I am a New Englander." Yes, we plead guilty to a little pride of origin, and early training. But be patient with us; we New Englanders are getting over our sectional pride little by little. Time was when we thought the New England conceptions of, and methods in politics were a little superior to the conceptions and methods in politics in any other part of the country, or of the world for that matter.

To-day the eastern states are far in the rear. With the exception of Switzerland, Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand, our western states are leading the world as regards purity, efficiency and practicality in political methods, and no state is more advanced than far off Oregon. With the exception of San Francisco and to some extent Los Angeles and a few other minor instances the eastern cities have furnished the most notorious cases of graft and general political iniquity. But what can be said to a considerable extent of the whole world can be said especially of this country. In spite of all our startling and shocking illustrations of political rottenness, we are fast surging ahead and rising upward into better methods and purer conditions. The trouble with us has been that we were all too intent in getting rich, to fully appreciate our responsibilities as citizens. We have yet much to learn, but we are learning it. It is characteristic of the American people that when once a conclusion is reached, they promptly put it into practice.

NEW WORK FOR THE CHURCH.

From an editorial in the North American with the above title we clip the following. "Of the 26,000 deaths that occur annually in N. Y. city about 6000, nearly 24 per cent., are of babies. Of these fully half are due directly to preventable causes, too bad food, insanitary surroundings, or exposure to infection which is the result of econo-

mic ills. Of the year's babies who survive, thousands become tainted with the seeds of disease that manifests itself in after life, to dwarf the physical and mental development of the individual, and to checkmate the efforts of the church for the moral regeneration of the community.

And so in taking its stand with the forces that are battling against social and economic ills, the church is not assuming a new work. It is only moving forward with the development of human knowledge and applying to its own peculiar labors the instruments that are put into its hands by the new sciences.

Nevertheless, we feel that every man and woman who has the advancement of the human race at heart must feel a peculiar relation at this recognition of the new social movement. Every church must take cognizance of it, and the denominations that put themselves most heartily in touch with it will be the ones to enlist the sympathies of the people and to find the task of spiritual uplift most abundantly fruitful."

IS WAR EVER JUSTIFI-ABLE?

It is sometimes difficult for some people to understand how a nation can consistently oppose war and yet continually prepare for it. Some one once made the remark that "we believe in peace, and we intend to have it if we have to fight for it." It was our own beloved Washington who said "to prepare for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

There are many prominent men in our country to-day, and in every civilized country who insist that as war is cruel, it is wrong and ought to be abolished, no matter at what sacrifice. We may say that our civil war of a half century ago was cruel and fratricidal war and should not have been. But with conditions as they were it was inevitable. Sin should not have entered the world because Eve should not have eaten the forbidden fruit; but she did. The rest followed. Our forefathers should not have brought Africans to this country and enslaved them. But they did. We may regret that the war was necessary, but it was just the same.

It is the duty of every man and woman in the world to so live that the causes for war shall cease. To this end the American Association for International Conciliation, and The American Peace and Arbitration League are earnestly working. May Heaven bless their efforts. But in the mean time Washington's words quoted above still hold true.

We are reminded at this point of a speech made last winter by Count J. H. Von Bernstorff, Ambassador from Germany, at a reception and banquet given in New York in honor of President Taft. From it we quote the following remarks. "In the days when the German nation had to submit to the First Napoleon's yoke, the German nation learned the lesson that it is the right and duty of every man to protect his home and his country to the last drop of blood that remains in his body, and that he must be ready to give his life for something greater than himself, something beyond his selfish interests. Every one of you would do the same to-day, you would all draw the sword for the liberty and freedom of your country."

Only twice during the last forty years did our soldiers have to fight. On one occasion they fought shoulder to shoulder with the troops of the United States for the cause of civilization in China.

I often hear our Emperor spoken of in this country as a "war lord." You must however, not forget that although he has reigned for twenty-one years, at the head of the strongest army of the world, he never made a war. Our armaments are intended to preserve peace for our own people, and, so far as possible, to prevent war from breaking out in other parts of the world where we have interests to protect.

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON'S PREDICTIONS

President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton recently declared that this is the age of great reforms, readjustment of corporate and private morals and the fixing of

moral responsibility. "We are in the midst of a great re-consideration," said President Wilson, "not of principles, for the foundations of justice and equity remain the same, but of the application of principles. More than that, we are on the eve of such a re-organization or society as will effect a much better and more just adjustment of public and private interests. It will be a great day of moralization when we come to fully realize that no enterprise conducted on a great scale can be a wholly private enterprise; when we come to realize that every duty is, in a sense, a public duty; that the final standard of conduct is the benefit of the country and the good of mankind."

GOV. HUGHES ON UP-LIFT WORK.

"I have been more encouraged in noting the number of citizens of the State who, in voluntary organizations, are trying to do good, than by any other one thing. I refer to these associations that are springing up everywhere through the State, and I believe all through the country, demanding good government, improvement of local conditions, better supervision of charitable organizations, better work in every line of philanthropic effort, applying training and skill, knowledge and force to the betterment of conditions that are right about us.

"And that force is growing to such a degree and these associations are multiplying to such a degree that you may be sure that, although here and there there may be a little falling back, a little less progress at one time than at another, administration of government, conduct of affairs and social conditions in this country will show marked improvement in the near future.

"The intelligence, the best intelligence of the people is directed to those ends and it makes a great mistake who look upon American life and sees nothing but the chase of the almighty dollar, knows nothing but the exhibition of love of display and selfish gratification, sees nothing but selfishness and cynicism. That is no American life. American life is represented in an honest, sincere effort to make the best of one's self and to help one's neighbor, and there never was a time when the true spirit of our democracy was so evident as it is at this hour."—Gov. Charles E. Hughes, of New York, for years a member of the National Municipal League.

LESSONS IN CONSTRUCTIVE SCIENCE

The right attitude is one of quiet confidence in your own ability. And the right way to speak of yourself is to speak with the quiet confidence of assured power. You do not boast of your ability to pick up a pin from the floor; that is so common and easy an act that you take it as a matter of fact that you can do it. Learn to speak in just that way of every act of life. Whatever you have to do, take your ability to do it as a matter of fact; it is nothing to brag about. The attitude of quietly assured confidence in your own ability is what you must cultivate; but what is the use of bragging about it? Everybody else can do things also.

What is your attitude in regard to your own ability? Do you habitually think of yourself, and speak of yourself as being a person of power? If not, how can you expect to be a person of power?

Avoid the deadly sin of conventional modesty; it is fatal to the highest attainment. And avoid the sin of conceit. Claim for yourself all that there is in the way of power and capability, and be sure to concede to every other person the possession of all that you claim for yourself.—Wallace D. Wattles in April Natilus.

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MAYOR GAYNOR ON NON-PARTISANSHIP.

"If the members of chambers of commerce, boards of trade and organizations of business men of different kinds in New York city could get national and state political partnership out of their heads in city elections, they would hold the balance of power at the polls. But it is hard to get into the heads of even intelligent men that the only sane way in city elections is to vote according to local men and local issues and to freely cross party lines on that basis without being deterred by national or state politics. That would compel the political parties to favor good issues and to nominate good and competent men in local elections. Sticking to party lines on national or state issues in such elections produces the opposite result and makes dominant mere political machines—which live upon official patronage and loot instead of political ideas and progress."—Mayor William J. Gaynor, of New York, before the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce.

ILLINOIS INVENTORS

The following patents were issued this week to Illinois inventors, reported by D. Swift & Co., Patent Lawyers, Washington, D. C. who will furnish copies of any patent for ten cents apiece to our readers. Everett P. Allen, Chicago, Valve; George E. Anderson, Decatur, Adjustable support for furniture (sold); Dillwyn M. Bell, Oak Park, Speedometer (sold); Anthony J. Burns, Hegewich, Motor-starter (sold); Carl Christiansen, Bradley, Seal for agricultural implements (sold); James Combest, Peoria, Sewing-machine; George C. Davis and W.A. Daley, Chicago, Stop and check valve; George H. Dyck, Chicago, Curing hair (sold); Jeremiah C. Fitzgerald, DeKalb, Elevated track (sold); Adolphe Jun, Chicago, Frame for tents; Albert G. Kalb, Chicago, Condensing fluid substance; Thomas I. Kyle, Chicago, Machine for washing and draining soiled bottles (sold); Mabel Millard, Oak Park, Undergarment for women; Julius J. Nauman, Chicago, Accordion (sold); Claude K. Resh, Freeport, Label cabinet and moistener.

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If kisses were poisonous the undertakers would have to work overtime.
Never confide to a woman who has her real age. The woman who that would tell anything.