

### FLAG MARKS FIELD OF SARATOGA BATTLE IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

#### Memorial to Historical Conflict Which Marked Turn of Great War for Freedom; History of Project

On the hills of Bemis Heights, in the State of New York, an American flag has recently been raised to fly over the field where the Battle of Saratoga took place nearly 150 years ago; for the ground on which was fought the conflict which is considered not only the turning point of the American Revolution but one of the 15 decisive battles of the world is to be set aside as a State park, and has already been purchased in part and the work of restoration begun.

It is beautiful country and bound to attract the tourist devoted to the history of those colonies who so courageously sent an army of woodsmen, farmers and yeomen up to the north to meet the great Burgoyne and his well-trained British forces. Rolling hills and green plains are its charm, deep grass on sunny slopes, growths of pines shading cool ravines, the waters of the Hudson near by, and far away the foothills of the Green mountains.

#### Covers Eight Acres

The original battle field covers, some eight square miles, 655 acres of which have so far been purchased by the State of New York. Workmen have begun to restore the Neilson Farm, called Fort Neilson, and once the headquarters of Generals Poor and Morgan. As far as possible everything on the farm will be rebuilt, removed or restored, to conform historically with the fort as it was in 1777. A reproduction of the block house will be made. The continental embankments will be thrown up along the entire length. The site of the old powder magazine of Fort Neilson has been discovered and the original stones are being put in place. One of the buildings of the Neilson farm—the one in which Poor and Morgan lived—is about as it was a century and a half ago, the original handhewn oak beams and much of the original plaster intact. It is planned to preserve this building by enclosing it within a modern colonial style structure.

#### Famous Ravine

The famous ravine, which was the center of much of the most intense part of the fighting, is, in its widest place a natural amphitheater. This is to be cleared sufficiently to render it usable for patriotic gatherings, and the little stream that waters it will be broadened and possibly deepened to form a pool. The spot is unusually convenient for speeches, pageants, conferences, and—when one surveys the progress of the years—is a place signally appropriate for patriotic celebrations emphasizing peace and national understanding.

The site of the British encampment, the Freeman Farm, will, it is hoped, be restored also within the year. It is expected that Great Britain will be asked if it would like to take part in making historic spots at this end of the field.

Adequate parking space, automobile camps, picnic grounds are integral with the plans for making the battle field a locality where people can enjoy the open amid historic associations. Good roads from each direction are rendering it accessible.

#### Restoration Plans

The restoration is in the hands of the State of New York and various patriotic and social organizations. It is part of the scheme to set aside historic fields of the Burgoyne campaign—Oriskany and Bennington, with Saratoga. The formal opening of the park will be in 1927, the sesquicentennial year of the battle. So the flag has gone up over Saratoga, raised by little Ellen and Charles Neilson, great-great-grandchildren of the Neilson who with the American Army went out from the old farm, Fort Neilson, to meet Burgoyne's well-trained soldiers in a conflict that changed the world's history. But the flag that waves today is not, happily, for the purpose of rallying an army to battle. Its presence is a symbol that there has set aside as essentially the property of the people spot association with those precious early days of national progress toward a higher sense of individual and political freedom.

Congressman Upshaw says that by ignoring the Volstead act New York has seceded from the Union. Maybe that explains why a lot of New Yorkers thought they were voting for Al Smith for president last November.

A lot of our budding statesmen seem to think it is all right for red-tinted Mexico to intervene in Central America but a terrible shame for Uncle Sam to think of doing likewise. Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard says he would rather be a dodo that has at least been hatched than a tyro not yet out of the shell. We can think of a lot of things we would rather be than either.

Foreign money orders purchased in New York for Christmas broke all records. And still a lot of folks think Uncle Sam is Europe's Shylock, and not a Santa Claus.

### SHIP HERD OF ELK ACROSS COUNTRY Consignment of 388 Sent From Montana to Massachusetts by Freight

A remarkable feat in the transportation of wild animals was that accomplished in the shipment of 388 elk from the National Bison Range, Montana, to a large game preserve at Middleboro, Mass. The elk were purchased by the Elk Breeding and Grazing association, which paid all costs of coralling, dehorning, loading, and transporting.

The sale of these elk solves a perplexing problem which the biological survey of the United States department of agriculture has faced for some time in the disposition of surplus animals. The elk were crowding the buffalo on the Bison Range, for which this reservation is primarily maintained.

The work of capturing the elk proved to be arduous, even for the experienced cow punchers engaged for the purpose. The bulls were vicious and fleet, and it was necessary to drive them into small corrals, where they could be roped and tied to posts so that their antlers could be sawed off to prevent injuries in transit. They are also slow and stubborn when being loaded into cars.

The 3,000 mile shipment was in electrically lighted express cars, and the animals arrived without serious loss.

Game experts believe that the herd will thrive in New England climate and multiply in sufficient numbers to supply zoos and parks. Future surplus males can be used as venison for market. About 200 more elk are to be shipped later to the same place.

### BETTER READING IS NEEDED FOR BOYS

#### CRIME NEWS IS DECRIED

#### Business Men Score Playing Up of Such News; Explain Their Views at Boys Work Conference Recently

Judge Benjamin F. Jones of Newark, N. J., past president of Lions International, in addressing the third International Boys' Work Conference here, said that publication of descriptions of crime has a harmful effect upon the readers and expressed a wish that stories of achievement and construction helpful programs for betterment were more widely published, because of their stimulating influence, particularly upon boys.

Walter W. Head of Omaha, Neb., president of the Boy Scouts of America and formerly president of the American Bankers' association, said in an interview that he believes there are two very distinct reasons why a newspaper or a magazine publisher should not use crime and scandal stories. In the first place the publisher has an obligation to himself as a man and citizen not to circulate such stories, and in the second place he has an unavoidable responsibility to his readers for the material he presents, he said.

Rotary Founder Talks Paul Harris of Chicago, founder of Rotary International, said in an interview that boys read crime stories in newspapers and that he is certain that newspapers have a "tremendous responsibility" in educating their readers and ought properly to fulfill it. He said that boys should be convinced that there is a sure retribution for all wrong doing, whether the punishment comes slowly or swiftly.

Bert Hall of Milwaukee, Wis., chairman of the boys' work committee of Optimists International, advocated a policy of emphasizing stories of achievement and good things and of telling the constructive story of mankind's progress, and said that this would have a beneficial influence in character building for boys and all others too.

Example vs. Precept "It is not surprising that youth refuses to follow the instructions of those who spend their time telling others how they should act, while they themselves do the very things and commit the very offenses they are denouncing by word of mouth," Judge Jones declared. "How can we hope to have children respect laws and live clean lives when their parents violate the law and moral code whenever it suits their convenience?"

"There is only one way in which juvenile crime can be checked and the youth of this country developed into finer, cleaner, better citizens, and that is by the grown-ups of our country living in such a way as to inspire the respect and confidence of the on-coming generation. Youth must be taught not by precept, but by example."

Benefits of Boys' Clubs A. L. Webster, member of the national council of the Y. M. C. A., said a movement is being considered by that organization to bring its benefits to the country boy who at present does not receive them. He reported that in Illinois a statewide survey is being made for facts upon which to plan such a project. He spoke of benefits to future citizens from the organization of 4000 boys between 14 and 18 years of age in the so-called H-Y clubs.

### NATIONAL BANKS ASK MORE POWER

#### SEEK CHARTER CHANGES

#### Movement to Extend Limits So As to Enable Them to Better Meet State Competition; Report

Enactment of legislation for improving the charter powers of national banks to enable them to resist inroads being made on their business by the growing number and prestige of state banks, is again urged on Congress by J. W. McIntosh, comptroller of the currency.

"The steady decline in the relative strength of the national banking system is," he says, "accounted for by the more rapid growth of commercial banking under state charter, the total resources of the state commercial banks being at the present time about \$29,000,000,000. This rapid increase of state banking resources is due primarily to the operation of state laws more favorable to modern banking than is the national bank act. It arises in part from accretions from the national system but more largely from the normal banking operations."

Embodied in Bill His recommendations are embodied in a bill which has passed both houses of Congress and is now in conference, says the Christian Science Monitor. The only difference of opinion is in regard to the so-called Hull amendments. The view of the comptroller in regard to these amendments is that they are not of sufficient importance to risk the defeat of the bill.

"Since the last adjournment of Congress," continued Mr. McIntosh, "numerous groups of bankers and commercial organizations including the American Bankers' association, have withdrawn their support of the Hull amendment and have recommended the enactment of the bill with the amendment eliminated," said Mr. McIntosh. "The Hull bill largely through the support and advocacy of the American Bankers' association. Now that the association has rejected the amendment, it is earnestly hoped there will be no further cause for delay."

"Last year I directed your attention to the fact that for the period from Oct. 21, 1923, to Oct. 17, 1925, 166 national banks left the national system to engage in the banking business under state charter carrying with them aggregate resources of \$566,600,000.

Change Systems "It is with regret that I must now report that from Oct. 17, 1925, to Oct. 1, 1926, 87 national banks went into state systems with aggregate resources of about \$560,000,000. During the same period 29 state banks nationalized with aggregate resources of \$235,000,000.

"A comparison of the defections from the national system with the additions to it from the state system does not, however, present an adequate view of the situation. Each time a national bank abandons its charter the Federal Government loses an instrumentality through which it maintains a direct control over banking policy and banking operations.

"Each withdrawal constitutes the loss of a unit in the basic membership of the Federal Reserve System. These widespread desertions from the national system are clearly indicative of the difficulty which national banks find in operating under their present charter powers.

"The national banking system should be adequate to meet all of the requirements for modern banking, and no national bank ought to be put in the position of being forced to yield its charter in order to carry on legitimate and necessary banking operations."

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### MISSOURI VALLEY WATERWAY PROJECT

#### APPROVED BY THE SENATE

#### Senator Curtis' Long Campaign For Improvement of Missouri River Results In Success

The people of the Missouri Valley—the Kansas City, No., Omaha, Nebraska and Sioux City, Iowa, region are hailing with enthusiasm the accomplishment of Senator Curtis in attaining an objection for which he has worked so hard—the acceptance by the Senate of an item in the Rivers and Harbors Bill appropriating \$12,000,000 for the improvement of the Upper Missouri River from Sioux City, Iowa, to Kansas City, Missouri.

Widely Supported This favorable action by the Senate on a measure which long has had the active aid of the commercial organization of the Missouri Valley, has created considerable enthusiasm throughout the country—especially in sections of the Middle West where river navigation is an article of economic faith. The people of the Middle West prairies believe in their waterways and that a quickening of industrial and agricultural life and effort, and an easing of their transportation problems will come as a response to river development.

Every farmer in the Missouri Valley is interested to know that he may yet see the old Missouri alive with activity and a carrier of his freight, for he knows that day will herald minimum freight rates.

Great Victory While it is not expected that this work will be finished and make the Upper Missouri navigable until after the work on the Lower Missouri is completed—i.e. the improvements in the river's channel, from Kansas City to St. Louis, the action is hailed as a great victory for Missouri Valley development and a recognition of the needs of the Middle West; for it gets started that which is real economic advantage to that section of the country. The action becomes to them a certain precursor of improvements that will make the irrigation of this great national highway an economic factor of national importance in the prosperity of the entire Mississippi watershed. Much of the success of the measure is due to the untiring efforts of Senator Curtis.

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