

in rare and valuable flora and fauna specimens has been prevalent in scientific circles. The reservation of this region was formally advocated in a report of Stephen T. Mather, director of the National Park Service at Washington in 1917. The National Dunes Park Association, of which Mr. William P. Gleason, of Gary, Indiana, is now president, has also taken up the matter and has secured a large membership of adherents who enthusiastically advocate the preservation of this wonderland region.

All of these movements have been largely combated by the residents of Porter county, in which the choicest of the dunes are located because of an undercurrent of various misunderstandings. It has been thought by the Porter county residents, and notably the commercial interests of Valparaiso, the county seat, that through a setting aside of the dunes, bordering its fifteen miles of lake front, for a park, would deprive the county of its industrial development which many have held to be paramount to the preservation of those "useless sand hills." The Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce standing primarily for the industrial and commercial development of its valuable water front, strongly opposed any movement looking to the securing of the former objective and the loss of the latter.

Recently there has come into being a new spirit of cooperation. Ex-State Senator Bowser, of Chesterton, Porter county, a director of the National Dunes Park Association has laid a proposal before the Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, that both bodies cooperate in the attainment of the objectives which have hitherto been considered antagonistic. The bond of cooperation has been formed through the appointment of a general committee, a legal committee and a boundary committee by President John Sievers, of the Chamber of Commerce. Of these the boundary committee consisting of W. E. Harris, Herman Pollentske, Edward Morgan, J. G. Johnson, Guy Stinchfield, George Pearce, Frank R. Theroux have reported in favor of a three-mile lake front park dedicated to Porter county, but this

committee wisely qualified their report by stating that the final settlement of boundaries could not yet be determined and many related interests and questions would need to be considered before the limits could be fixed.

It is significant that at a later meeting the Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce passed the following resolution which shows that the business men of Porter county appreciate the importance of the dune conservation undertaking.

The Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce recommend to the National Dunes Park Association that a board of three consulting engineers be appointed before any final steps on ultimate boundary lines are taken. An industrial engineer to be selected by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers; an engineer on town planning by the Society of American Architects; and a scientist by the Agricultural Department and the Smithsonian Institution to plan coordinately for the proper relation of the industrial, esthetic and scientific Dune-Land heritage nature has placed in the lap of Porter County.

#### THE IOWA POLICY CONCERNING STATE PARKS

THE thirty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Iowa authorized the creation of state parks out of funds from the fees obtained from hunters license fees. It provided that \$50,000 be taken out of this fund and on the recommendation of the fish and game warden and the Iowa State Board of Conservation to the executive council state parks could be created and lakes improved. The governor and executive council later (in 1917) appointed L. H. Pammel, of Ames, Joseph Kelso, of Bellevue, and John F. Ford, of Fort Dodge, members of this board, the curator of the historical department being an ex-officio member. The board met and elected Mr. E. R. Harlan secretary and L. H. Pammel chairman.

This board and the fish and game warden recommended the purchase of what is known as the Devil's Backbone Park in northwestern Delaware county. The executive council directed the purchase of some 1,200 acres

along the Msquoketa River, embracing one of the few trout streams left in Iowa, containing also some magnificent old white pine. This park was to have been dedicated on October 1, but owing to unprecedented rains the matter of dedication was postponed. The park was to have been presented by L. H. Pammel on part of the State Board of Conservation and accepted by Governor W. L. Harding. Five-minute talks were also to be given by other members of the board.

A second state park has recently been established in what is known as the horseshoe bend of the Des Moines River near Keosauqua. The board and executive council also authorized the purchase of the largest boulder of the Iowan drift in the Mississippi valley, and three acres of land surrounding the boulder.

The Keosauqua area of 1,123 acres contains a large number of interesting native trees especially oaks and shrubs. Among the birds, some of the rarer species in Iowa are found here, like the drumming pheasant. Bob white is abundant. The board went so far as to get the signatures of all farmers within a mile from the park to preserve this area outside of the park as a wild-life reserve.

The policy of the board will be to keep the lakes and purchase land on the shores for state parks, to establish one or more highways or county parks in many of the counties in the state. The larger parks are to be for the "preservation of places of historic, natural or recreational interest authorizing donations in aid of such purposes and to make an appropriation therefore, provided for aid by municipal corporations and authorizing boards of supervisors to extend county road systems." Many generous gifts have been made. The Brandt sisters of Davenport donated 57 acres in what is known as "Wild Cat Den," containing some rare ferns and interesting from an ecological standpoint. The citizens of Farmington and Van Buren county purchased outright 100 acres containing a lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) pond of 40 acres.

There have been more than 100 petitions for state parks. Where it is not possible to buy at this time leases are made so that the wild life may be preserved along the

Yellow River in Allamakee county and the Ice Cave near Decorah. The thirty-eighth General Assembly appropriated \$100,000 annually for the creation of these parks, eliminating the fish and game warden so that the recommendations now are direct to the executive council from the State Board of Conservation.

#### MATTERS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Fess has reintroduced his bill for a national university, which failed of final action in the Sixty-fifth Congress. The present bill is H. R. 9353: "To create a national university at the seat of the Federal Government." The institution, to be known as the "National University of the United States," is to be governed by a board of trustees, consisting of the U. S. Commissioner of Education and twelve appointed members; the acts of the board are subject to approval by an advisory council, consisting of one representative (usually the president of the State University) from each state. No student is to be admitted unless he shall have obtained the degree of master of science or master of arts from an institution of recognized standing. No academic degrees are to be conferred. An initial appropriation of \$500,000 is provided. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education.

A fact of interest to the scientific public is that the "Army reorganization bill" (S. 2715, Mr. Wadsworth; and H. R. 8287, Mr. Kahn) makes no mention of the Chemical Warfare Service. In his letter accompanying the bill, Secretary of War Baker suggests that the Chemical Warfare Service be made a part of the Engineer Corps. The proposal to abolish the Service as a distinct unit, comparable with the Tank Corps, is being vigorously opposed by the Council of the American Chemical Society.

Warnings issued by the Public Health Service in September that a recurrence of the 1918 pandemic of influenza was probable in

<sup>1</sup> From the *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences.