

A MENACE TO THE NATIONAL PARKS

THROUGH its representation on a committee entitling itself the "National Parks Committee," the American Association for the Advancement of Science and all of its members have been placed in the position of endorsing and promoting the Barbour Roosevelt-Sequoia Park Bill (H.R. 7452) now before the House of Representatives. This bill has good prospects of being passed by the present Congress.

Much inquiry and correspondence have shown that the greater part of the support of this measure has been obtained without those giving it understanding what the bill will do, as they hold the erroneous idea that the bill is practically the same as the excellent Roosevelt Park measure which failed to pass the last Congress. It therefore seems important to call attention to the destructive character of the Barbour Bill.

The following resolution regarding it, passed on September 9 last by the San Diego Natural History Society, located in the same region as the Sequoia Park, and one of the most prominent scientific associations of the west, deserves the serious consideration of all scientific men and conservationists.

Whereas, The Barbour Roosevelt-Sequoia Park

Bill (H.R. 7452), now before Congress, contains, as one of its provisions, the relinquishment by the National Park Service of about half of the present Sequoia Park, in exchange for extensive, mainly untimbered, tracts in the higher mountain region.

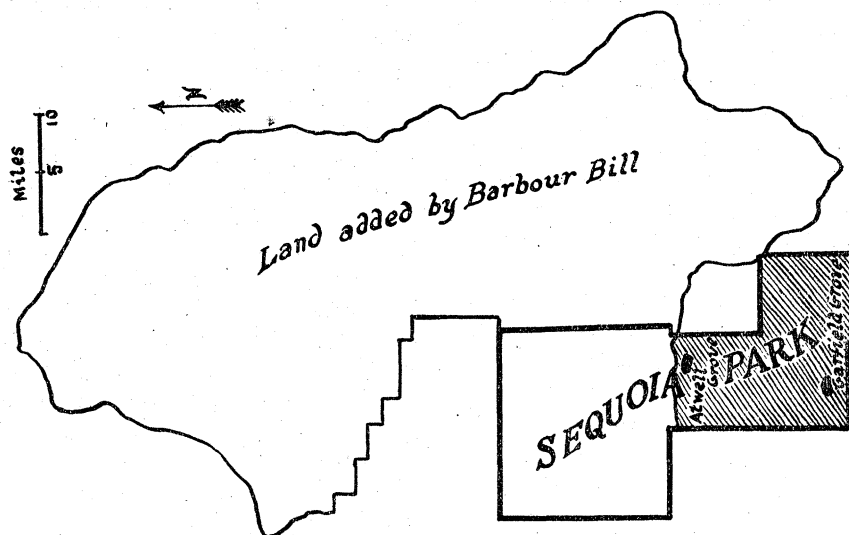
And whereas, The tract relinquished will, under the provisions of this bill, pass under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, with the avowed object of permitting the cutting of much of the standing timber,

And whereas, This tract contains about one third of the total number of giant sequoias contained in the entire park, together with forests of other majestic trees which are now rapidly disappearing,

And whereas, None of those who are now publicly supporting the Barbour Bill defend this division of the present Sequoia Park, and the sacrifice of a large part of its area, except as a compromise by which other valuable scenic territory is to be acquired,

And whereas, This compromise is known to be the outcome of a factional dispute and a competition for jurisdiction between the National Park Service and the Forest Service,

And whereas, As a result of such internecine strife on the part of those who should be defending the interests of the public, the country will lose for all time large areas of primeval forest which should be preserved for recreation, for esthetic enjoyment, and for scientific study,



Map showing effect of the Barbour Bill in cutting off the southern half of the present park, also the deep bay in the proposed western boundary which will permit commercial exploitation of timber lands almost in the center of the area added.

And whereas, Such a violation of the integrity of our national park system sets an extremely dangerous precedent, and gives heart to those interests which are continually striving to invade the public domain and to destroy our natural scenery for the gratification of purely selfish ends, therefore,

Be it resolved, That the San Diego Natural History Society strongly opposes the Barbour Bill, in its present form, as being a serious blow to our national park system and to the principle of conservation in general, and that it advises the amendment of this bill so as to exclude its provision for the relinquishment of any portion of the present Sequoia Park, while retaining its constructive features, according to which large tracts of high scenic value would be added to the present park.

Be it further resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the two senators from California, and to the congressman representing this district; as well as to such organizations as may seem appropriate to the society's conservation committee.

Designs on the fine forests of the national parks are not confined to those of the Sequoia Park. A shifting back of the western boundary of the Yosemite Park is recommended by the director of national parks in his report for 1921 (page 72), and if carried out as there recommended, would eliminate from that park all its three sequoia groves and most of its magnificent sugar pine and yellow pine forests, while a similar treatment of Crater Lake Park has also been under discussion. These three parks contain most of the forest with really large trees that the entire national park system possesses.

The wonderful primeval forests of the Pacific states are disappearing with astonishing rapidity, and it is of the highest importance from a scientific as well as from an esthetic and scenic standpoint that at least the few tracts of them that are in the national parks should be preserved. The immense trees of these forests (there are at least fifteen species that become under favorable circumstances 200 feet tall or over, and at least four that sometimes reach or exceed 300 feet) were never found except in tracts of limited extent where they had good soil and other conditions and had escaped serious fire damage for long periods. Those few that still survive are

mainly in the hands of the lumber interests and a few years will see the last of them.

We must not be deceived by the assertion that the forests now in the parks "will be just as safe in the hands of the Forest Service as in the Parks." The totally different purposes of the Park Service and Forest Service bureaus should not be lost sight of in judging of the results of such a transfer. The parks are required to be maintained in as nearly as possible their natural, wild state. The lands under Forest Service control are managed from a purely commercial standpoint to produce as much lumber as possible, the trees being sold and cut when mature and all esthetic, scientific or other considerations being subordinate to that of dollars and cents. This policy is the right and necessary one for the greater part of the national forests, but for areas that are parks, or will in the future be needed for parks, it is fatal. The folly and danger of subjecting things that should be preserved permanently in their natural state to a bureau conducted for purely practical and commercial purposes and officered by men who by training, association and interests see in the wonderful trees of the Pacific states only so many feet of lumber, or so many cross ties, and who moreover will be subjected to constant and powerful political pressure to allow their sale and destruction, need not be discussed.

No promise made by the present Forest Service administration to protect certain of the trees has any standing in law, nor can it in any way bind future administrations. No promise has been made to protect anything except the sequoias, which constitute less than five per cent. of the forest that the Barbour Bill will open up to the lumbermen. Forest Service and Park Service officials do not deny that the magnificent sugar pines and yellow pines (trees 200 feet tall and 200 to 500 years old) of the Sequoia Park are to be cut. In proof of this the following quotations may be given:

"In conceding the new territory to the National Park Service the Forest Service has contended that those sections which would be eliminated from the present Sequoia National Park are required for the commercial needs of that section

of California; that is, for grazing purposes and for timber other than the big sequoia trees, which will always be preserved." (From a letter by A. B. Cammerer, acting director National Park Service, to H. S. Watson, of date May 19, 1922).

"The transfer of the three townships now in the park is not particularly *with the avowed object* of permitting the cutting of much of the standing timber. As a matter of fact, the timber resources do not anywhere nearly compare in value with those upon other national forest lands readily available for purchase but for which no demand has yet arisen. Some small cuttings might be necessary to supply local needs, and *ultimately good silvicultural practice would require the harvesting of the mature timber*. There is no probability that the timber will be sold or even in demand for some time to come." (From letter from L. F. Kneipp, assistant forester U. S. Forest Service, to C. G. Abbott; date October 2, 1922).

That the park as provided for by the Barbour Bill will contain little in the way of forests, we have the assurance of the chief of the Forest Service who in addressing the Public Lands Committee of the House of Representatives at the hearing on the Barbour Bill, December 13, 1921, said, "Aside from the giant forests [the sequoia groves] the areas of commercial timber remaining within the area are of *negligible extent* and of negligible future importance to the forest industries of California." This includes both the land added and the part of the present park that the public is to be allowed to keep. The Barbour Bill, moreover, will make a park of extraordinary shape. An immense bay fifteen miles deep and many miles wide will extend into the very heart of the park, its object being to avoid adding to the park some magnificent forests containing immense pines and sequoias. The lumbermen can therefore operate almost in the center of the park, though legally outside it.

The Sequoia Park should not be cut in half. No reason for doing so has been given other than the desire of private interests to exploit the forests of the park and the desire of the Forest Service to control such exploitation. In view of these facts, can we regard the severe condemnation of the measure expressed in the San Diego Society's resolution as unwarranted? Should not its protest be backed up by every

scientific association and every organization interested in real conservation?

W. G. VAN NAME

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE THE MEDICAL SCIENCES

For a number of years Section N has held a symposium on subjects of outstanding interest to medical and allied workers. There were symposiums on "Growth and Development of the Child"; "Medical Lessons of the War"; "Ductless Glands"; "Growth Problems," etc. Each of these symposia was an invitation program.

These meetings were extraordinarily well attended, always taxing the capacity of the large halls provided for the meetings. They met a real and large demand on the part of the members of the section, the members of the association, and the non-members in the fields of public health, medicine, bacteriology, etc. The section committee, after mature deliberation, has decided that the section could be more useful by changing its policy. It has decided, beginning with the Boston meeting, to hold a symposium to which will be invited representatives from the fields of medicine, parasitology and medical entomology. It is planned that each representative will discuss his researches with the workers in the allied fields. It is expected that these meetings will afford the long-sought opportunity for the discussion of common problems.

The Entomological Society of America and the Parasitologists have planned to meet with the section at Boston.

The new plan has met with such a widespread and strong response that it is hoped more groups may join with the section in the future, to make the annual meeting as broad, as significant and as useful as possible.

The program for the Boston meeting is to be held in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology buildings at 1:30 on December 29. The program is as follows:

Professor A. B. Macallum, retiring vice-president of Section N, McGill University, Montreal: