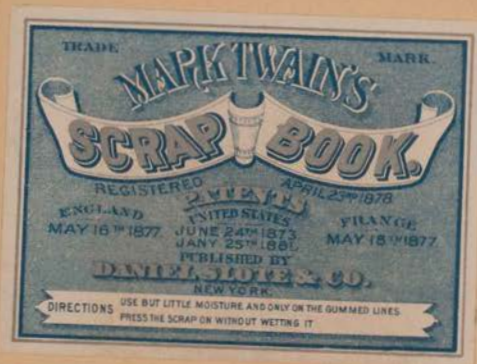


Newspaper scraps concerning
Trustees of Public Reservations and
Metropolitan Parks Commission.



Scrapbook, inside front cover

THE WAVERLEY OAKS.

A PLAN FOR THEIR PRESERVATION FOR THE PEOPLE.

[Letter to the Editor of Garden and Forest.]

Your recent editorial on the Waverley Oaks, with its plea for the preservation of the charming scene in which they stand, prompts me to lay before you an imperfect outline of a scheme by which, not the scene at Waverley only, but others of the finest bits of natural scenery near Boston, might perhaps be saved to delight many future generations.

But first a few words on another pressing problem. It is everywhere agreed that a great and growing population, such as now inhabits Boston and her wide-spreading suburbs should, for its own best health, provide itself with all possible open spaces in the form of public squares and playgrounds. Boston (including now the various municipalities which surround her) is far behind-hand in this matter. Large areas outside of the old city are wholly unprovided with public open spaces, and while the various municipalities which compose this larger Boston continue to be fearful of spending money for the enjoyment of their neighbors, there can be little hope for much improvement. The difficulty arising from the conflicting interests and desires of these many towns and cities delayed the construction of a proper sewerage system for the suburbs, until the danger and the scandal which the lack of such a system caused fairly compelled the State to create a Metropolitan Drainage Commission, with power to plan and to build a complete main drainage and to assess the cost thereof upon the towns and cities benefited. It is now as if the acquisition of a suitable number of well distributed open spaces must wait for the appointment of a similar commission. Meanwhile the available open ground is being rapidly occupied, and Boston, like New York, may yet be compelled to tear down whole blocks of buildings to provide herself with the needed oases of light and air.

But a crowded population thirsts, occasionally at least, for the sight of something very different from the public garden, square, or ball field. The railroads and the new electric street railways which radiate from the Hub carry many thousands every pleasant Sunday through the suburbs to the real country, and hundreds out of these thousands make the journey for the sake of the refreshment which an occasional hour or two spent in the country brings to them. Within ten miles of the State House there still remain several bits of scenery which possess uncommon beauty and more than usual refreshing power. Moreover, each of these scenes is, in its way, characteristic of the primitive wilderness of New England, of which indeed, they are surviving fragments. At Waverley is a steep moraine set with a group of mighty oaks. At the Upper Falls of Charles River the stream flows darkly between rocky and broken banks, from which hang rafts upon ranks of graceful hemlocks. These two remarkable scenes have been described in Garden and Forest; and I shall name no others, though several are well known to all lovers of nature near Boston. One is the solemn interior of a wood of tall white pines—the tree the forefathers blazoned on their flag. Another is a pine grove on a group of knolls in the bend of a small river, where it first meets the tide and the salt marshes. Still another is a hill-side strewn with great boulders, and commanding, by a bowl-shaped hollow of the hills, a distant view of the ocean and its far horizon. At present all these beautiful scenes, excepting such as are included in the Franklin Park and the adjacent Arnold Arboretum, are in private hands; and many of them are in daily danger of utter destruction—some of the finest spots have been destroyed within the last ten years. Most of them lie outside the municipality of Boston proper. They are scattered in different townships or along the border lines, and only an authority which can disregard township limits can properly select and establish the needed reservations.

The end to be held in view in securing reservations of this class is wholly different from that which should guide the State Commission already suggested, and the writer believes this different end might better be attained by an incorporated association, composed of citizens of all the Boston towns, and empowered by the State to hold small and well distributed parcels of land free of taxes, just as the Public Library holds books and the Art Museum pictures—for the use and enjoyment of the public. If an association of this sort were once established, generous men and women would be ready to buy and give into its keeping some of these fine and strongly characterized works of Nature; just as others buy and give to a museum fine works of art. Indeed, the association might even become embarrassed, as so many museums are, by offerings which might not commend themselves to its directors.

Purely natural scenery supplies an education in the love of beauty, and a means of human enjoyment at least as valuable as that afforded by pictures and casts; and if, as we are taught, feeling for artistic beauty has its roots in feeling for natural beauty, opportunities of beholding natural beauty will certainly be needed and prized by the successive generations which are to throng the area within ten miles of the State House. As Boston's lovers of art united to found the Art Museum, so her lovers of Nature should now rally to preserve for themselves and all the people as many as possible of these scenes of natural beauty which, by great good fortune, still exist near their doors.

CHARLES ELIOT.

Boston.

Post-May 19

PUBLIC PLEASURE GROUNDS.

The recent meeting at the Institute of Technology to consider plans for securing additional "breathing places" and playgrounds in the poorer parts of Boston is, in its way, as interesting and as significant a meeting as has been held for a long time. It not only testified openly to the advance which is being made in social science and in the feeling of responsibility for our less fortunate brethren, but it tacitly bore witness to the fact that we, the traditional unresting, nervous, driving Americans, who know so well how to work, are also learning how to play. The value of leisure and of recreation, and of beauty in our surroundings, is being recognized. Not having any statistics upon these points at hand to fall back upon, we will not venture the statement that, in spite of the popular impression to the contrary, New England is rather more advanced in appreciation of these good things and activity in securing them than are other parts of the country. If we were to say that—"much virtue in it"—we should expect immediate and vigorous denials from the West, and from the South an incredulous smile at the idea that anyone can surpass them in the art of taking things leisurely, or in devotion to pleasure for pleasure's sake. But the South is but just entering on the fierce money-making phase of its existence, and it remains to be seen how the old-time Southern traits will maintain themselves under its pressure; and in spite of its generosity and its progressiveness, we might expect that the West—through mere lack of time to perfect itself—has not made the advance in the art of living which older communities have. But be that as it may, it is certain that there is among us here an increasing love for healthy recreation and desire for a relief from the oppressive conditions of city life, and it is certain, too, that the means taken to gratify those ends will serve many more good purposes than those for which they are primarily intended. The breathing places are not only invaluable from a sanitary point of view, but whatever increases the beauty of the city and adds to its

POST-MAY 1

language benefits which it secures to its citizens tends to promote that admirable but somewhat obsolete virtue, civic pride. The chance to play means another chance for that physical well-being among the people in the crowded quarters of our city which must come before we can count them among the helpful elements in the community.

With the growth of this movement it may even come to pass that the tenement houses of the future, following the suggestion of the model ones recently put up in Brooklyn, which unless three sides of an open park and playground, will be things of beauty. But it is not the tenement house population alone whose needs in this direction must be met. The steady encroachment of the city upon the suburban towns and the turning of all possible country nooks to account for the summer's needs are warnings that, if suitable and adequate pleasure grounds for the people are to be saved from the clutch of the money-making spirit, now is the time to do it. Happily, the need of provision to the beautiful Maine coast is now being insisted upon, with a fair chance that the warring claims of the scenery and the summer boarder will be amicably adjusted; and, to come nearer home, it is urged that the tract of land on which the Waverley Oaks stand should be held as a public park. Both of these efforts should succeed, and they should be paralleled in every considerable community in our neighborhood. In almost every one of our suburban towns, for instance, there is some tract of land—often an old estate with precious historical associations—which, if secured as a park or pleasure ground, would be of inestimable value to the town and a lasting memorial of the public spirit and generosity which secured it for that purpose.

The practical difficulty in the way of carrying out such schemes is, of course, the financial one, but it affords another opportunity for that immense use of wealth which Mr. CURTIS has recently told us is an American characteristic. Our money kings, besides being financially equal to the situation, have a royal prerogative which is invaluable in such cases—the ability to act promptly and at the bidding of the public will alone. Public bequests have been made for libraries and to education, in the form of the gifts of libraries, music and art; but the outdoor enjoyment which is so much needed is left to the whims of private benefactors which



Please fill out this card.



You are requested to write upon this card your name and post-office address with the name of any association which you represent or of which you may be a member, and to hand the card to one of the ushers at the meeting.

If you desire to contribute to the working fund of the Committee to be appointed, please write the amount of your contribution below, and hand it in with this card. Contributions may also be sent to GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH, ESQ., 89 State St., Boston.

Name,

P. O. Address,

Member of

Contribution

Boston, May 24, 1890.

This card was distributed at the meeting of May 24, 1890.

Scrapbook page 2

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB,

9 PARK STREET, BOSTON, 10th May, 1890.

DEAR SIR, — At a meeting of the Council of the APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB held on Wednesday, April 2, 1890, it was unanimously —

Voted, That Messrs. ELIOT, MANN, and LAWRENCE, be a committee to call a meeting of persons interested in the preservation of scenery and historical sites in Massachusetts.

In accordance with this vote, you are hereby invited, with friends who may be interested in the subject, to take part in a conference to be held in Boston, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boylston Street, at 12 o'clock, on Saturday, May 24, 1890. Hon. Henry H. Sprague will preside, and among those who will either attend the meeting, or send letters, are Governor Brackett, Gen. Francis A. Walker, Dr. O. W. Holmes, Col. T. W. Higginson, Mr. Francis Parkman, and Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted.

Please use the enclosed postal-card to inform the committee whether or not they may expect you.

You are also requested to examine and consider the statements and proposals of the circular which accompanies this letter, and if you cannot attend the conference, you are respectfully urged to communicate your opinions and suggestions in writing to CHARLES ELIOT, 50 State Street, Boston, before the day of the meeting.

Yours truly,

CHARLES ELIOT,
GEORGE C. MANN,
ROSEWELL B. LAWRENCE,

Committee of Council of A. M. C.

AN OUTLINE OF A SCHEME

For Facilitating the Preservation and Dedication to Public Enjoyment of such Scenes and Sites in Massachusetts as possess either Uncommon Beauty or Historical Interest.

THERE is no need of argument to prove that opportunities for beholding the beauty of Nature are of great importance to the health and happiness of crowded populations. As respects large masses of the population of Massachusetts, these opportunities are rapidly vanishing. Many remarkable natural scenes near Boston have been despoiled of their beauty during the last few years. Similar spots near other cities of the Commonwealth have likewise suffered. Throughout the State, scenes which future generations of towns-people would certainly prize for their refreshing power are to-day in danger of destruction. Unless some steps towards their effectual protection can be taken quickly, the beauty of these spots will have disappeared, the opportunity for generous action will have passed.

Scattered throughout the State are other places made interesting and valuable by historical or literary associations; and many of these also are in danger.

What public or private, general or local, action in aid of the preservation of fine natural scenes and historical sites will it be best to attempt under existing circumstances in Massachusetts? This is the problem which will be the subject of debate at the conference called by the Council of the Appalachian Mountain Club; and it is only for the purpose of provoking discussion that the Committee which has been authorized to call the meeting makes the following proposals:—

1. The establishment of a Board of Trustees to be appointed as follows: Some to be named in the act of incorporation: their successors to be elected by the full Board as vacancies occur. Some to be named by the governing bodies of several designated incorporated societies, such as the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Essex Institute, the Appalachian Mountain Club, etc. Some to be appointed by the Governor and Council.

2. The Trustees to be empowered to acquire by gift from individuals, or bodies of subscribers, parcels of real estate possessing natural beauty or historical interest, and to hold the same, together with funds for the maintenance thereof, free of all taxes.

3. The Trustees to be required to open to the public, under suitable regulations, all such parcels of their real estate as lie within the limits of those towns and cities which may provide police protection for the same.

4. The Trustees to be prohibited from conveying real estate once accepted by them, except to towns and cities for public uses.

In order to effect the creation of this proposed Board of Trustees, the Committee suggests:—

5. The appointment by the meeting of May 24 of a Standing Committee of twenty-five, to be provided by the meeting with a working fund, and empowered—

- a. To draft and present to the General Court at its next session an act of incorporation.

- b. To correspond with societies and individuals for the purpose of deciding upon two or three parcels of suitable real estate which, with endowments for maintenance, may be offered to the Trustees immediately upon their incorporation.

- c. To secure subscriptions to an endowment fund with the income of which the Trustees may meet their general expenses.

HERE IN BOSTON.

The meeting to be held at the Institute of Technology at noon today in favor of the preservation of notable scenes and historic sites in this State deserves the attention of all persons interested in the welfare of the public. The council of the Appalachian Mountain Club that has called it is entitled to credit for formulating a project which is calculated to exert an elevating and refining influence upon the community. The proposals made with the purpose of exciting discussion at the meeting are in the line of development of the suggested improvement. They favor the establishment of a Board of Trustees through an act of incorporation, who shall be named by various bodies interested in the measure, and these trustees are to be empowered to acquire by gift objects coming within the scope of the project, and to hold them and the funds required for their maintenance, free of taxes. The real estate thus acquired is to be kept open to the public within the limits of towns and cities in which it is located and which provide police protection for it. Real estate once accepted by the trustees cannot be alienated except to towns and cities for public uses. It is proposed to appoint at today's meeting a standing committee of twenty-five, with a working fund, in order to secure after the incorporation of the trustees several parcels of suitable real estate as gifts, with endowments for maintenance, and to raise subscriptions to a fund from the income of which the trustees may meet their expenses.

There is a practical character to these measures that argues well for the success of the project which they are destined to promote. We have had much talk about the desirability of preserving scenes of natural beauty and historic interest, but hitherto it has had no available outcome. In consequence, valuable and interesting objects of this nature have been injured or destroyed, and, as the committee of the Appalachian Club say, many remarkable natural scenes near Boston have been despoiled of their beauty during the last few years. Throughout the State similar abuses have been committed, through a neglect of that forecast which is one of the conditions of progress. It must be remembered that delay in matters of this kind is inimical not merely to the preservation of such scenes and sites of natural beauty or historic interest, but to the development of that popular appreciation of them which is needed for the elevation and refinement of public taste. No community that does not look beyond its present needs to the requirements of the future, that does not have in view the benefits to be conferred by its action upon its successors, can lay claim to the honors of disinterestedness and public spirit.

It is the penalty of neglect of the duties which a community owes to the future that it realizes when too late the injury which it does to its immediate interests. These objects of natural beauty and historic importance are so much capital for towns and cities that possess them; they attract visitors from a distance, and give character to their own communities. It is as an offset to the tendencies of our material civilization that the proposed project seems to me of especial value, and its influence in lifting the mind above the prosaic in life into regions of ideal beauty and historic elevation is of marked significance.

There is one suggestion which seems to me pertinent as tending to increase the usefulness of the proposed measure, and that is a provision by which the trustees, who in the outline given in the circular of the council of the Appalachian Club are limited to acquiring real estate by gift from individuals or bodies of subscribers, may also acquire funds for the purchase of real estate suitable for their purposes. I trust the meeting today, which is to be presided over by the Hon. Henry H. Morgan, and which will be addressed in speeches or letters by Governor Brackett, General Francis A. Walker, Dr. O. W. Holmes, Colonel T. W. Higginson, Mr. Francis Parkman and Mr. Frederick Law Olmstead, will be largely attended and do much to advance the success of the undertaking.

A Noble Enterprise.

The "Appalachian Mountain Club" of Boston, composed of gentlemen of education and culture, have issued a circular, stating their object as follows: "For facilitating the preservation and dedication to public enjoyment of such scenes and sites in Massachusetts as possess either uncommon beauty or historical interest." Doubtless they will receive a large response from different sections of our beloved Commonwealth, for the time has fully come, and many good opportunities already lost, for preserving from destruction the beautiful rural scenes in the near vicinity of our cities, towns and villages. Having witnessed the growth of this (New Bedford) my native place, from a thriving village or small town of less than three thousand inhabitants to its present population, as has been estimated at nearly forty-five thousand, I have often had to mourn over the loss of one after another of the pleasant retreats afforded by the near groves and woods, with their sparkling brooks and picturesque rocks, haunts of our song and game birds, as well as the early and late wild flowers. I have often also thought how pleasant must have been the old-fashioned home of our fathers an hundred years ago—a busy little village then even was the "Bedford" of that time. The Main street of my boyhood, and the Union street of to-day, originally the cart-way of Joseph Russell from the county road, where his homestead stood, to the shore, had been opened and several houses built and a stone wall hid along the sides, when it was called King street, till the time of the Revolution. At this period the woods, much of them the ancient forest, were within a short walk of the old county road, now County street, and attached to the great old farms of the Russells, Kempton and Willises, with groves, meadows, and well-filled brooks running and forming ponds for the grist and other mills, so important in those early days. In my own boyhood of sixty odd years ago, these brooks from Clark's Cove to Acushnet village were valuable watering places, not one of which is now open to the public. Within about fifty years there was a pretty little grove, near which ran the brook that crossed the road through a rude stone bridge at the corner of County and Smith streets; all north of this was fields and farm-houses. The Parker mansion was built in 1834. Through a lane, now Parker street, a short distance west was an entrance by bars to a fine woodland extending to the "Hathaway country," and south of this, and west, here and there, were patches of younger wood of birch, maple, oak, shrubbery and grape-vine—all now gone. Where Oak Grove Cemetery now is, was a beautiful grove, which gave it its name. This with the new portion of the cemetery, was one of the most retired places in our vicinity—the favorite haunt of the crow and blue jay in Winter and of our song birds in Summer. The spot is still more sacred now from the dear ones who are laid there in their last rest, but the old trees that formed the sylvan retreat have nearly all fallen beneath the axe, and the spot, though still retired and pleasant, has but little except the name of its original character.

In our city, however, great improvement has been made; the old Lombardy poplars and weeping willows, once deemed so ornamental, have long since disappeared, and the noble elm, maple, ash, linden and other ornamental trees have taken their place, so that our city, when seen at a distance, particularly when approached from the outer harbor, appears as in a forest; the church spires and

the larger mansions only occasionally seen in the upper portion. These afford not only a grateful shade in Summer, but doubtless contribute to the health of our city, and by no means to be forgotten, homes for some of our sweetest song birds, like the robin, warbling vireo, oriole, lamer, and in the more retired parts of the thrushes, yellow birds, humming birds, etc. The islands in our harbor, once so picturesque with their native, broad spreading cedars, are fast losing their beauty. Palmer's Island may still be preserved, and as a Summer resort near at hand will well repay its proprietors for preserving as much as possible its original picturesque beauty. Pope's Island should be the property of the city and would afford a most beautiful resort for our inhabitants. There are still a few retired places with wood within a few miles of our city and within our limits, which should be secured ere it be too late, even if they require planting trees, shrubbery and other ornamental attractions. The progress of civilization and refinement, as well as moral culture, require an attraction to these matters on the part of the teachers of the rising generation, whether from the school-room, the pulpit, or the officials of our city government. An active Mayor interested herein would soon awaken an interest, and some of the public treasure now thought to be injudiciously expended could be thus well and profitably invested. In conclusion I hope I shall not defeat my object by making a few remarks showing wherein we have sacrificed so much of our former opportunities for rural improvement. While I am warmly interested in the welfare of our city as a business emporium I have often had to regret the destruction of some of our most beautiful localities to make way for the introduction of manufactories, and the tenement houses attached to them. My own view in the matter will doubtless appear to the mere "business man" as wanting in judgment and knowledge, but when in our large cities it is estimated, that only about one in a hundred of this class succeed, the political economist and moral reformer may well put in their claim for a fair portion of that common sense which some deny to all except to those who can profitably turn to account their speculations. The Anglo-Saxon believes in success, and does not always inquire through what channel it comes. Now as a friend of the laboring classes, and particularly the "operatives" in the mills, I regret that a broader commercial policy, even to "Free Trade," had not left the natural enterprise of our people so to develop itself as to have found an employment for our merchant marine, in some fair degree at least, after the failure of the whale fishery. A portion of our capital could have been invested in this way, while the great resources of the West would have given an unlimited opportunity for all the surplus. It is true that our population would have been far less, perhaps one half, but we can all see how much higher would have been our moral standard. But how about the poor from the old countries who seek employment in the mills? My answer to this is, they would have been obliged to seek homes in the far West, and commence as the early settlers of our country did, by making homes for themselves, which the easy means of obtaining government lands would have rendered comparatively easy—thus on their part restoring that physical strength and independence which several generations in the servitude of the mills had deprived them of. The friend of humanity, as well as a lover of the beautiful and true

Very towns have a greater number of places of historical interest within their borders than Middleboro, but many of them will soon be unknown unless public attention is called toward them. The Appalachian Mountain Club is an organization of Boston gentlemen interested in the preservation of scenery and historical sites in Massachusetts. They have issued a call to friends in the State interested in the movement to meet at the Institute of Technology, Boston, the 21th, current, to consider what action, public or private, general or local, in aid of such preservation it will be expedient to attempt under existing circumstances. They propose to establish a board of trustees who shall be empowered to accept pieces of real estate of uncommon beauty, or of historical interest, from individuals or bodies of subscribers, and hold the same, with funds for their maintenance, free of taxes. These may be opened to the public under suitable regulations. The trustees shall also be prohibited from conveying real estate except in towns and cities for public use. A committee is to be appointed at this meeting to draft and present to the Legislature at its next session an act of incorporation, also to correspond with societies and individuals for deciding upon one or more parcels of suitable real estate to be offered to the trustees upon their incorporation, and to secure subscriptions for an endowment fund for general expenses. The subject of the circular deserves attention from all the public-spirited persons in our midst, and it is to be hoped that this town will be represented at the meeting. Through the efforts of the A. M. Club, Middlesex Fells have been preserved, and if they should become interested in some of our historical sites, we might be the gainers in their action.

The members of the Appalachian Mountain Club are interesting themselves in the preservation and dedication to public enjoyment of such scenes and sites in Massachusetts as possess either uncommon beauty or historical interest, and as we have such places lying within the range of our own town it would be well to give them a suggestion to that effect. Take for instance the land well known as Judge Oliver's walks, one of the most charming landscapes, as well as a location of great historical interest, that can be found, and where a public park could be laid out to great advantage; those gently sloping hills, at the foot of which winds the peaceful Nemasket river, have felt the footfall of England's haughty noblemen and high-born dames, in those days when that autoerast and tory, Judge Oliver entertained. On the other side of the river, further west in the Earle Sproat house, has been entertained that printer, patriot, statesman, philosopher, Benjamin Franklin. No one lives now to give us the details as to how and why he tarried there, nevertheless his visit has made the place historical, and Indian Rock has its early history, its local tale that older men have loved to tell, and the old Tavern house on the Barrows farm, which stands as firmly to-day, apparently, as it did when it was the great resort of travellers over the post-roads, or as it did when used as a fort to fight the Indians who assembled on the hills across the river. These, and other historical sites are well worthy of preservation, but above and beyond all Oliver's Walks should be remembered, and, if possible, preserved, for they wind around a lovely spot where young men and maidens love to tread.

SPRINGFIELD
MAY 23.

Many persons in Western Massachusetts have been invited to attend the meeting at the Institute of Technology in Boston, tomorrow noon, of those interested in the preservation of scenery and historical sites in the state. It is desirable that all who can should accept their invitations, and that this most excellent undertaking should have a hearty support from this part of the state. Judge W. S. Shurtleff, one of the active spirits in the Connecticut Valley historical society, hopes to be present, and there should be representatives of other societies and towns. It is important for the proper education of our youth, let alone other considerations, that the proposed work should be begun and carried forward systematically.

will, we trust, see that these views are by no means utopian, but thoroughly practical. Hoping, however, under the existing state of things, that we may do something to rescue for our growing city the few remaining sites and scenes in our vicinity for rural occupation, I submit in the hope, among a portion of our younger and more cultivated portion of our people of both sexes, that the noble enterprise of the "Appalachian Club" will find able coadjutors, and New Bedford in a few years find her environs in a few years as attractive as other towns and cities of our beloved Commonwealth.

May 18, 1890.

D. R.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1890.

THE preservation of especially attractive natural scenery and places of historic interest in rural and suburban Massachusetts would be of material advantage and a source of health and happiness both in the present and the future; and, in view of our rapid increase in population, this is every day becoming more difficult and more imperative. We therefore hail with pleasure the movement making in this direction by the Appalachian Mountain Club, a society with headquarters in Boston, which is interested in natural history, geography, art, exploration and improvements. The council of the Club has sent out, to parties likely to be in sympathy with it, an invitation to a conference appointed at the Institute of Technology, May 24, to see what public or private, general or local action is necessary. In the accompanying circular a scheme is outlined for the meeting to consider. It is proposed to establish a board of trustees to be appointed in part by the Governor and part by various literary and scientific associations, this board to be incorporated and empowered to acquire real estate possessing natural beauty or historical interest, and to hold the same, with funds for its maintenance, free of taxes, such places to be open to the public under suitable regulations and not to be sold except to cities or towns for public uses. The plan is decidedly in the interest of the people and appeals to those who possess the means and the desire to make public benefactions. We cordially hope substantial results will follow the coming conference.

M.

THE PRESERVATION OF SCENERY.

A Meeting to Protect Historic and Beautiful Spots.

A number of persons assembled at noon today, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in answer to a call from the council of the Appalachian Mountain Club, with a view to preserving such scenes and sites in Massachusetts as possess either uncommon beauty or historical interest.

Hon. H. H. Sprague called the meeting to order. Mr. William C. Burrage of the Boston society was made secretary of the meeting. George C. Mann, president of the Appalachian Club, explained how the circulars were sent out, members of historical, village improvement and agricultural societies being singled out to receive them. Charles Eliot was next called to read the report which induced this meeting.

J. P. Harrison, a member of the New Hampshire Forestry Commission; Charles Eliot Norton, and Judge Shurtleff of the Connecticut Valley Historical Society spoke. The latter closed the remarks with a motion, which was, as amended, passed to this effect:

That the chair appoint a committee of eleven, with power to increase their number, to promote the establishment of a board of trustees, who may acquire and hold for the benefit of the public beautiful and historic spots in Massachusetts and with such other powers as the Legislature may confer on them. A few of those present were Melien Chamberlain, James F. Hennessey, Francis A. Walker, Robert Treat Paine, U. H. Crocker, N. S. Shaler, William Lloyd Garrison and Ross Tupper.

Among about four hundred letters received were some from Governor Brackett, T. G. Whittier, T. W. Higginson, Francis Parkman, O. W. Holmes, John Boyle O'Reilly, F. L. Olmstead, Martin Brimmer, Edward A. Hines, and William Phillips Brooks, Edward E. Hale and Brooke Herford.

SPRINGFIELD.

ged, its membership has increased, until it has now 600 members of all classes, including women, without whose aid no good purpose in the line of esthetics or moralities can be accomplished." The support and co-operation of these societies Judge Shurtleff promised the conference. Touching not the unique scenes of historic associations that exist among the Berkshire hills, the speaker undertook the defense of the natural beauty of America against the implied aspersion of Prof Norton. "There is only one New England," he said, "and her beautiful rivers, fair fields and companionable hills are unsurpassed in all the world." Returning to the methods by which this beauty is to be preserved, Judge Shurtleff moved that a committee of 11 with power to add to their number be appointed by the chair and requested to promote in all such ways as may seem best to them the establishment of a board of trustees to be capable of acquiring and holding for the benefit of the public beautiful or historic spots in Massachusetts, with such other powers as may be conferred by the Legislature upon them.

This motion was carried, after some slight discussion, and the following committee was appointed: Francis A. Walker, Charles S. Sargeant of Brookline, Dr Henry P. Watson of Cambridge, Henry M. Lovings of Haverhill, Henry L. Parks of Worcester, William S. Shurtleff of Springfield, Dr. J. G. Adams of Pittsfield, George W. Wigglesworth of Boston, Charles Eliot of Cambridge, Sarah B. Crocker of Boston and Talbot of Boston. The meeting adjourned. Postal-cards were sent by the council for the subscription to an annual volume of the income of which is to be their general expense.

TO CONSERVE OUR SCENERY AND SAVE LOCAL LAND-MARKS.

The Meeting in Boston Yesterday—Very Interesting—Presents First Steps Toward an Organization.

From Our Special Correspondent.

Boston, Saturday Evening, May 24.

The meeting of persons interested in the preservation of scenery and historical sites in Massachusetts held under the auspices of the Appalachian mountain club at the institute of technology to-day was well attended and enthusiastic. In view of the fact that many remarkable natural features near Boston have been despoiled of their beauty during the last few years, and that throughout the state many spots which would certainly be prized by future generations of towns-people are in danger of destruction, this movement has been organized to determine what steps may best be taken toward the efficient preservation of such property. For the purpose of provoking discussion on the subject the following proposals, made by the committee authorized to call the meeting, appeared on the circulars which accompanied the invitation to attend the conference:—

1. The establishment of a board of trustees to be appointed as follows: Some to be named in the act of incorporation; their successors to be elected by the full board as vacancies occur. Some to be named by the governing bodies of several deauthorized incorporated societies, such as the Massachusetts historical society, the Essex institute, the Appalachian mountain club, etc. Some to be appointed by the governor and council.

2. The trustees to be empowered to acquire by gift from individuals or societies, or purchase, parcels of real estate possessing natural beauty of historical interest, and to hold the same, together with funds for the maintenance thereof, free of all taxes.

3. The trustees to be required to open to the public, under suitable regulations, all such parcels of their real estate as lie within the limits of these towns and cities, which may provide police protection for the same.

4. The trustees to be prohibited from conveying real estate (once accepted by them, except to towns and cities for public uses.

Among those present were noticed: Edward G. Cabot, Leverett Saltonstall, Melien Chamberlain, Henry S. Winsor, Edward W. Hooper, James F. Hennessey, Francis A. Walker, Robert Treat Paine, Judge William S. Shurtleff, George Sheldon, Charles S. Rackemann, Dr M. P. Bolles, Prof Edward S. Morse, Sylvester Baxter, William B. Laid, Charles Chauncy Hall school, Ural H. Crocker, James Means, Philip A. Chaso, of Lynn, Lloyd Garrison, Z. A. Mudge of Lynn and Prof Morse of Salem.

Henry H. Sprague presided over the meeting and William C. Burrage, secretary of the Bostonian society, acted as secretary.

George O. Mann, president of the Appalachian club, was the first speaker. Mr Mann presented the object of the meeting, outlined the work that the Appalachian club has accomplished in this direction, and read several of the letters that had been received from those who were unable to be present, among whom were Gov Brackett, J. G. Whittier, T. W. Higginson, Francis Parkman, O. W. Holmes, John Boyle O'Reilly, F. L. Olmstead, C. E. P. Bancroft of Andover, Prof A. L. Perry of Williamstown, E. M. Barton of Worcester, George S. Hale, Alexander Young, William K. G. Wells, Martin Brimmer, Louis Prang, Rev Brooks Herford, Rev Dr E. E. Hale, Edward Atkinson, Roger Wolcott and Phillips Brooks. Mr Mann said that over 400 letters expressing sympathy with the work have been received in answer to the call issued by the club, while all the leading newspapers in the state have called attention to the matter. Charles Eliot, chairman of the committee of arrangements, spoke of the condition of things with regard to public domain in countries of the old world, as compared with that which prevails in America. He said that England, France and Germany were all better cared for as far as public interests in this direction are concerned than the United States, and urged the importance from an esthetic, moral and physical point

of view, of more breathing spaces for the people, and the preservation for them of spots of natural beauty or historic interest. J. G. Harrison of the New Hampshire forestry commission, who has been instrumental in opening State lands to the public, was next introduced. He spoke especially of the importance of preserving portions of the coast as public property. It will not be long, he urged, before we have a continuous tow all along the Atlantic seaboard. All the pleasant places from which one can look at the ocean will be taken in, and only swamps and marshy lands along the shore left for the public. The time to take measures to obviate such a melancholy result is now.

Leverett Saltonstall assured the conference of his very cordial and enthusiastic support in the work. He spoke of the picturesque country roads that are constantly being straightened, widened, covered with gravel and turned into Sahara deserts. In his memory every beautiful spot along the north shore beginning with Chelsea beach, and extending far beyond Marblehead, has been occupied and turned to wildernesses of summer cottages, uninteresting and ugly. So with pieces of historic interest. Of all the old houses in Danvers referred to in the History of Witchcraft, but one or two remain standing. The formation of a board of trustees to have special charge of these matters, he regarded as most desirable. Had such a body existed before, the noble elm at Medford would probably not have been destroyed. Prof Charles Eliot Norton said: The work begun to-day is a work that will prosper, because popular feeling will support and encourage those who are engaged actively in it. There is no greater need in our lives than the culture of the imagination. We have been treated hardly by history and Nature, cut off from the inspiring influences of the old world, regarded by Nature as if we were her step-children rather than her children, forced to work hard for the material basis of life, and nothing is more important than that we employ on a large scale all the rational means that we have of cultivating the taste for the beautiful and the opportunities of gratifying it. The opportunities for vacation in the true and noble sense, are becoming less and less in America. It is difficult to obtain that change of moral surroundings necessary to secure the rest which in the growing complexities of life we feel more and more the need of. If this association can secure for us regions of considerable extent within reach of the city, a vast service will be rendered to our constantly busy and increasingly crowded population—a service moral as well as physical in its relations.

Judge William S. Shurtleff of Springfield was the last speaker. "Confidently rely upon the Connecticut valley," said the judge, "for active, enthusiastic and intelligent interest in the cause which we are discussing to-day. There are in the Connecticut valley two historical societies. One at Deerfield is of long standing, and has a large membership, not only of men who make history a 'fad,' but of sturdy farmers and artisans as well. I regard it as a ground for confidence that it is not only people of culture and esthetic tastes who love these things at heart, but the so-called common people as well. If this movement, so well begun, is carried out, the smoldering enthusiasm of the people will burst forth, and the Legislature will not be obliged to send to the people to find out what they desire, but their wishes in these matters will be laid before it unthought. The other society to which I had reference is the Connecticut Valley historical association which I am here to represent.

It has been in existence for 15 years, beginning with a coterie of men of similar tastes who came together to enjoy each other's society. As the aims of the association have broad-

HISTORY AND BEAUTY.

Conference in the Interest of Preserving Sites in Massachusetts.

The deep and widespread interest which is felt by people of intelligence and cultivation was well shown by the representative men and women who assembled yesterday at the conference held at the Institute of Technology, under the auspices of the Appalachian Mountain Club, for the purpose of outlining a scheme for facilitating the preservation and dedication to public enjoyment of such scenes and sites in Massachusetts as possess either uncommon beauty or historical interest. As respects large masses of the population of Massachusetts, these opportunities are rapidly vanishing, and many remarkable scenes of natural beauty near Boston have been despoiled of their charm during the last few years. Similar spots in other portions of the commonwealth have suffered, and throughout the state scenes which future generations of townspeople would prize for their refreshment power, are today in danger of destruction.

The call for the conference which was sent out by the Appalachian Mountain Club was heartily responded to, and expressions of sympathy with the objects of the conference and promising hearty co-operation were received, and in the distinguished audience which assembled were Messrs. Charles Eliot, George C. Mann and Rosewell B. Lawrence of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Messrs. Edward C. Cabot, Henry S. Grew, Hon. Leverett Salt-needle, Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, Messrs. Edward W. Hooper, James F. Hunnewell, Francis A. Walker, Hon. Robert Treat Paine, Prof. Edward S. Morse, Mr. Sylvester Baxter, Hon. Francis A. Walker, Judge William S. Shurtleff of Springfield, Mr. Charles S. Rackemann, Dr. William F. Bolles, Mr. W. B. Ladd and many others.

Addresses were made by Hon. George C. Mann and by Mr. Charles Eliot, who spoke of the condition of things with regard to the public domain in the countries of the old world and contrasted it with the state of things here. Hon. Leverett Salt-needle followed with a stirring address upon the ruthless destruction of the old trees and the historical landmarks of our towns and of the shutting off the beaches and shores from the public enjoyment. Prof. Charles Eliot Norton spoke of the popular feeling, which is large and growing, concerning the need of the work proposed, and spoke of the pleasure afforded by the imagination, as the eye dwells upon the beautiful scenery, and spoke of the need of rest in the growing complexity of life. Judge William S. Shurtleff of Springfield paid a glowing tribute to the natural beauty of New England, as compared with England, Scotland and the countries of continental Europe.

Some of the many letters received in answer to the call were from Gov. Brackett, Mr. John G. Whittier, Col. T. W. Higginson, Hon. Francis Parkman, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, John Boyle O'Reilly, Frederick Law Olmsted, E. F. Bancroft of Andover, A. L. Perry of Williamstown, E. M. Harcourt of Worcester, Hon. George S. Hale, Mr. Alexander Young and Mrs. Kate Gannett Wells.

Gov. Brackett said in his letter: With the purposes of this meeting I have the most cordial sympathy. Attractive natural effects and buildings and other objects which are venerable either through age or through occurrences with which they have been connected, are important factors in our every day life. We witness much unthinking destruction, much thoughtless spoliation of natural beauties, and it is well to organize to prevent, so far as possible, further loss, and to add to the attractions of our homes and their surroundings.

Mr. Whittier wrote as follows: I cordially approve of the action of the Appalachian Club in calling a meeting of persons interested in the preservation of scenes and historical sites. The movement is made none too soon. Heretofore, selfishness, greed, and gain and selfish appropriation have had their own way too long, and have done and are still doing, irreparable mischief.

Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson wrote: The plan proposed of an organization for the protection of scenery and historical sites seems to me very feasible. I have known of repeated instances where a few thousand dollars or even a few hundred dollars have permanently preserved localities of great natural beauty, the haunts of rare birds or flowers. In some cases this money has been used and employed to the advantage of the whole community.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote: I desire to express my hearty sympathy with the object of the movement to promote which the meeting is called.

On motion of Judge Shurtleff, a committee of 11 was appointed by the chair, Hon. Henry H. Sprague, to promote, in all such ways as might seem best to it, the establishment of a board of trustees, to be empowered to acquire by gift from individuals or bodies by subscription parcels of real estate possessing natural

beauty or historical interest, and such other powers as the Legislature may confer upon it. This committee consists of Messrs. Francis H. Walker of Boston, Charles S. Sargent of Brookline, Mr. Henry H. Walcott of Cambridge, Messrs. Henry M. Lovering of Taunton, Henry L. Parks of Worcester, Judge William S. Shurtleff of Springfield, Dr. J. F. B. Adams of Pittsfield, Messrs. George W. Wigglesworth of Boston, Charles Eliot of Cambridge, Miss Sarah H. Crocker and Miss Marian Talbot of Boston.

NATURAL SCENERY.

Conference Looking Toward Measures for Its Preservation—Historical Sites Also Included.

A conference of those interested in the preservation of scenery and historical sites in Massachusetts was held at the Institute of Technology on Saturday and about 100 ladies and gentlemen attended. The conference was the result of a call from Messrs. Charles Eliot, George C. Mann and Rosewell B. Lawrence, a Committee of the Council of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and was presided over by Hon. Henry H. Sprague. Among those present were Gen. Francis A. Walker, Hon. Leverett Salt-needle, Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, Mr. Robert Treat Paine, Dr. Wm. F. Bolles, Hon. Wm. S. Shurtleff, Mr. Henry S. Grew, Mr. U. H. Crocker, Mr. Edward W. Hooper, Mr. James F. Hunnewell, Prof. Edward S. Morse, Mr. Edward C. Cabot, Mr. Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Hon. Z. A. Mudge, Mr. William H. Ladd, Prof. H. S. Shaler, Prof. Charles Eliot Norton and Mr. James Means.

In opening the conference Mr. Sprague said he thought the presence of so many ladies and gentlemen was proof of the deep interest taken in the subject for which the conference had been called. He spoke of the importance of maintaining intact the historic sites by which the progress of the Commonwealth could be traced. The wealth of the past in this line should be preserved for the future. In the work of doing this the Appalachian Club was to be credited with making a commendable start, and it was at their invitation that the conference was called.

Mr. Sprague then asked Mr. William C. Burage, Secretary of the Bostonian Society, to act as Secretary of the conference, and then introduced Mr. George C. Mann, President of the Appalachian Mountain Club, to further explain the objects of the conference. Mr. Mann said that in response to the circular sent out, in which the plans of the club were outlined, over 400 replies had been received, of which nearly 50 were extended letters, expressing sympathy with the movement and promising co-operation. Among the gentlemen replying by letter were Gov. Brackett, Rev. Crooke Herford, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, John G. Whittier, Oliver Wendell Holmes, John Boyle O'Reilly, Hon. George S. Hale and Col. T. W. Higginson. Others expressing interest in the matter and promising co-operation were Rev. Phillips Brooks, Rev. J. W. Porter of Lexington, Martin Brimmer, Edward Atkinson, Justin Winsor, Roger Walcott and Rev. Alexander McKenzie.

Mr. Charles Eliot, introduced as the gentleman to whom the inception of the movement might justly be ascribed, made an extended argument for education in the love of nature and the consequent preservation of natural scenery and historical sites. In closing he outlined the following plan for accomplishing the purpose desired, the plan being that recommended by the committee which called the meeting:

1. The establishment of a Board of Trustees, to be appointed as follows: Some to be named in the act of incorporation, their successors to be elected by the full board as vacancies occur; some to be named by the governing bodies of several designated incorporated societies, such as the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Essex Institute, the Appalachian Mountain Club, etc.; some to be appointed by the Governor and Council.
2. The Trustees to be empowered to acquire by gift from individuals, or bodies of subscribers, parcels of real estate possessing natural beauty or historical interest, and to hold the same, together with funds for the maintenance thereof, free of all taxes.
3. The Trustees to be required to open to the public, under suitable regulations, all such parcels of real estate as lie within the limits of those towns and cities which may provide police protection for the same.

4. The Trustees to be prohibited from conveying real estate once accepted by them, except to towns and cities for public use.

Remarks expressing strong sympathy with the movement were made by Mr. J. B. Harrison of New Hampshire, Hon. Leverett Salt-needle, Prof. Charles Eliot Norton and Hon. Wm. S. Shurtleff of Springfield. The last speaker made a motion for the appointment of a committee of eleven, with power to add to their number, to carry out the plan for the appointment of Trustees as presented by the committee, by the following methods: To draft and present to the General Court, at its next session, an act of incorporation, to correspond with societies and individuals for the purpose of defining upon two or three parcels of suitable real estate, which, with endowments for maintenance, may be offered to the Trustees immediately upon their incorporation, and to secure subscriptions to an endowment fund, with the income of which the Trustees may meet their general expenses.

The following committee was appointed: Gen. Francis A. Walker of Boston, Mr. Charles S. Sargent of Brookline, Dr. Henry F. Walcott of Cambridge, Mr. Henry M. Lovering of Taunton, Mr. Henry L. Parks of Worcester, Hon. William S. Shurtleff of Springfield, Dr. J. F. B. Adams of Pittsfield, Mr. George W. Wigglesworth of Boston, Mr. Charles Eliot of Cambridge, Miss Sarah H. Crocker of Boston and Miss Marian Talbot of Boston. Adjournment was then made.

TO GUARD NATURAL BEAUTY.

The Good Work Planned by Lovers of Nature and History.

The historic scenery and spots of great natural beauty throughout Massachusetts are to be guarded and preserved, if possible. The meeting under the auspices of the Appalachian Club at the Technology Institute Saturday had memories of the loss of both kinds of these attractions of Massachusetts from want of action as an incentive, and they set going a movement that ought to be of memorable value to the club. The actual results of the meeting expressed in the vote of the meeting was the appointment of this committee: F. A. Walker, G. S. Sargent, Brookline, Dr. H. P. Walcott, Cambridge, H. M. Lovering, Taunton, H. L. Parks, Worcester, W. S. Shurtleff, Springfield, Dr. J. F. Q. Adams, Pittsfield, G. W. Wigglesworth, Boston, Miss Sarah H. Crocker of Boston, and Miss Marlon Talbot of Boston.

The work assigned to this committee is to establish a board of trustees to be capable of acquiring and holding in trust for the public beautiful or historic spots in Massachusetts, with such powers as may be conferred by the legislature upon them. Judge Shurtleff made the proposition. Others who were prominent at the meeting were Colonel Saltonstall, Librarian Mellich Chamberlain, H. S. Winn, J. P. Hunnewell, Hon. R. T. Paue, W. H. Ladd, W. H. Crocker, Professor Morse of Salem and James Means.

Senator Sprague was in the chair, and President Mann of the Appalachian Club, in opening the speaking, read several of the letters that had been received from those who were unable to be present, among whom were Gov. Brackett, Mr. Whittier, T. W. Higginson, Francis Parkman, O. W. Holmes, John Boyle O'Reilly, F. L. Oimstead, C. P. F. Bancroft and Andrews, Prof. A. J. L. Barry of Williams, G. S. Hale, Martin Brimmer, Louis Prang, Rev. Brooke Herford, Rev. Dr. E. E. Hale, Edward Atkinson, Roger Wolcott and Phillips Brooks. Mr. Mann said that over 400 letters expressing sympathy with the work have been received in answer to the call issued by the club, while all the leading newspapers in the State have called attention to the matter.

J. G. Harrison of the New Hampshire forestry commission, who has been instrumental in opening Niagara to the public, spoke especially of the importance of preserving portions of the coast as public property. It will not be long, he urged, before we have a continuous town all along the Atlantic seaboard. All the pleasant places from which one can look at the ocean will be fenced in, and only swamps and marshy lands along the shore left for the public. The time to take measures to obviate such a melancholy result is now.

Ex-Collector Saltonstall assured the conference of his very cordial and enthusiastic support in the work. He spoke of the picturesque country roads that are constantly being straightened, widened covered with gravel and turned into Sahara deserts. So with places of historic interest. Of all the old roads that are referred to in the history of witchcraft, but one or two remain standing. The formation of a board of trustees to have special charge of these matters he regarded as most desirable. Had such a body existed before the destruction of Medford would probably not have been destroyed.

Professor Charles Eliot Norton said: The opportunities for vacation, in the true and restful sense, are becoming less and less in America. It is difficult to obtain that change of moral surroundings necessary to secure the rest which in the growing complexities of life we feel more and more the need of. If this association can secure for us regions of considerable extent within reach of the city, a vast service will be rendered to our constantly busy and increasingly crowded population—a service moral as well as physical in its relations.

Said Judge Shurtleff of Springfield: "Confidently rely upon the Connecticut Valley for active, enthusiastic and intelligent interest in the cause which we are discussing today. There are in the Connecticut Valley two historical societies. One at Deerfield is of long standing and has a large membership, not only of men who make history a 'fad,' but of sturdy farmers and artisans as well. I regard it as a ground for confidence that it is not only people of culture and aesthetic tastes who have these things at heart, but the so-called common people as well."

...Professor Charles Eliot Norton will said at the meeting for the preservation of scenery Saturday. "The opportunities for vacation, in the true and restful sense, are becoming less and less in America. It is difficult to obtain that change of moral surroundings necessary to secure the rest which in the growing complexities of life we feel more and more the need of. If this association can secure for us regions of considerable extent within reach of the city, a vast service will be rendered to our constantly busy and increasingly crowded population—a service moral as well as physical in its relations."

The Appalachian Club's Conference.

The Appalachian mountain club's conference in Boston Saturday "of persons interested in the preservation of scenery and historical sites in Massachusetts," was of so considerable a character, and manifested so much real interest in these objects, as to afford encouragement to those who have long lamented the wanton destruction of trees and needless demolition of interesting buildings. The gathering was large, and though principally made up of men and women of the eastern part of the state, yet the Connecticut valley and the Berkshire hills were represented, and it was Judge William S. Shurtleff of this city who moved the appointment of a committee to promote the constitution and incorporation of a board of trustees to acquire and hold property for public use. Judge Shurtleff spoke for the two historical associations of this valley, the one in this city, which bears the valley's name, and the Pocumtuck, whose memorial hall in Deerfield is so interesting a museum of relics of the past. George Sheldon, to whose enthusiasm and unceasing labor the Pocumtuck association largely owes its prosperity, was present at the conference, but did not speak. The others who spoke were Prof Charles Eliot Norton, Leverett Saltonstall, George O. Mann (president of the Appalachian club), Charles Eliot (son of President Eliot of Harvard and chairman of the committee of arrangements), and J. G. Harrison of the New Hampshire forestry commission. The committee appointed consists of Gen Francis A. Walker, president of the institute of technology, Charles S. Sargent of Brookline, Charles Eliot and Dr Henry P. Walcott of Cambridge, Henry M. Lovering of Taunton, Misses Sarah H. Crocker and Marlon Talbot of Boston, George W. Wigglesworth of Boston, Henry L. Parks of Worcester, William S. Shurtleff of Springfield and Dr J. F. Q. Adams of Pittsfield.

Among the desirable objects mentioned was the acquirement as public property of parts of our picturesque coast. Mr Harrison said that we should very soon have a continuous town all along the Massachusetts seaboard, as things are now going. Every one who has tried to see the ocean along the north shore within the last ten years knows how true this is, and how vexatious to find snug little villas crowding down to the water so that no one can get to the rocks or the beach without trespassing on private grounds, —and moreover, if one braves the wrath of the householders, and will assert his right to the coast, it is made dimly uninteresting to him by those same cottages and their shaven lawns. The Bass rocks near Gloucester are spoiled by such an exasperating background, and perhaps Rale's chasm and the reef of Norman's Woe may have been vulgarized in the same fashion. Let us hope that if this plan of the Appalachians works, the trustees will be men of taste enough not to lay out landscape gardens on any picturesque spot they may save, but will let Nature have some chance. The landscape gardener has his place, but it is not in the preservation of scenery.

Another interesting matter was touched upon by Mr Saltonstall when he said that, had such a board of trustees been found earlier, the great elm of Medford might have been saved. This elm was destroyed a few weeks ago by order of the selectmen, it appears, for no reason whatever

except that they were that sort of barbarians. The people of this region round about were mourning over it, the wretched officials were execrated as they deserved, and if they could have been all hanged by the wayside few of the aggrieved and outraged citizens would have felt that the punishment was any too severe for the crime. But such wanton ruin of great trees and obliteration of natural beauties is going on constantly, and protests are futile. Here is surely one line of usefulness for the new corporation.

The work it is intended to accomplish will require money. At present the council of the Appalachian mountain club are asking by postal card subscriptions to an endowment fund to meet the general expenses of the trustees. What they may need in this way will no doubt readily be obtained. When it comes to buying real estate or historic sites or houses, the dependence will necessarily be upon local interest, as it would be now, if the city improvement association or the Connecticut Valley historical society should undertake such work. The new corporation will form an instrument through which all enterprises of public interest in these directions may be carried out.

In regard to the project for preserving attractive scenery in Massachusetts, which was advocated at the meeting on Saturday, as reported in yesterday's Post, I am told that diagrams in the possession of the Appalachian Club show the relative quantity of open spaces in the neighborhood of Paris, London and Boston, which make the deficiencies of this city in this respect strikingly apparent. We have become so accustomed to consider Boston exceptionally favored in regard to its park system that it will surprise many people to learn how far we are behind the great cities of the Old World in provision for the requirements of the future in this respect. With the number of towns and cities growing up about us which will ultimately become incorporated with Boston, it is important that they should set apart land for park purposes in order to secure breathing spaces for the great public that is to occupy what is destined to be a very populous region. Such a picturesque territory as Mendocess Falls, for example, it is desirable for this city to preserve, because it comes within the radius of the suburban region which is easily accessible to our people. 5/27/06 TAVERNER.

An Important Committee Appointed.

The committee appointed Saturday for carrying out the wishes of the mass meeting called it the Institute of Technology by the Appalachian Club — namely, the preservation of beautiful and historic spots in Massachusetts — consists of General Francis A. Walker, Boston; Charles S. Sargent, Brookline; Dr. Henry P. Walcott, Cambridge; Henry M. Lovering, Taunton; Henry L. Parks, Worcester; Hon. William S. Shurtleff, Springfield; Dr. J. F. Q. Adams, Pittsfield; George W. Wigglesworth, Boston; Charles Eliot, Cambridge; Miss Sarah H. Crocker and Miss Marlon Talbot, Boston. Their immediate work is to secure a charter for the society from the Legislature.

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THE LISTENER.

Every new generation is able to note how the generation that went before it for the most part ignored the things that were really most important to it and to mankind and devoted itself to the things of the least consequence. It takes the lapse of a good deal of time to bring out things in their proper perspective; the vision of the people is always distorted as to the things which lie around them. This is because people have so little imagination—so little ability to make a picture in their brains of the whole of things; they can only conceive the world in small parts, and the mole-hill that is close by is bigger in their eyes than the mountain that is a few miles away. The mountain is of little consequence, though it may nourish fire in its bosom to destroy them.

This reflection is called into the Listener's mind by the observation of two events and of the way they were treated in Boston last week. A politician holding a public place in Washington came to Boston and made a speech. The speech contained nothing new—at least nothing in it that was new was good, and nothing in it that was good was new. It was made up of platitudes, mostly reactionary. The official in question has some authority in a branch of the public service which there is excellent reason to believe would be much better and even more cheaply done by private enterprise than it is by the Government, by far the more important part of it being in the hands of private enterprise already. There was nothing in this man's speech really to entitle it to attention beyond the limited circle of politicians to whom it was directly addressed. And yet the newspapers printed it verbatim, column after column, and have had column after column of comment upon it.

So much for Mr. Clarkson. Well, Saturday noon there was delivered at the Institute of Technology an address which the Listener has no hesitation in pronouncing not only the most important, but also the most forcible and most wisely and wittily spoken address, without any sort of shadow of exception, which has been delivered in Boston in several years. It touched upon the most vital concerns of the people and of coming generations. And yet the Listener has seen no report of it in the papers, and does not expect to see any. It is not the papers' fault that they devote themselves to things of no consequence and overlook those of great and far-reaching concern. It is simply the fault of the people, who fail to see things in their proper relations, and whose distorted vision must be served by the editors. The fault is inherent and characteristic of nearly all peoples in the world. So there is no use in complaining or scolding about it.

But the Listener wishes that all the people in Boston could have heard this address, at the Institute of Technology. It was delivered by Mr. J. B. Harrison, author of the justly repudiated articles published in the Atlantic Monthly some years ago entitled "Certain Dangerous Tendencies in American Life," and of several other important works; and the occasion was a meeting called to forward a scheme having for its purpose to protect and secure to the people spots of historic interest, of natural beauty and of sanitary and recuperative value in this Commonwealth. The address was preceded by the most interesting report by Mr. Charles Eliot, in which it was shown, by the aid of charts which revealed the thing to the eye at a glance, how much more poorly off we are here in Boston in the respect of public breathing and outing places than are the people of the Old World. Paris has one single public park or wood—one out of several—which in itself is very much larger than all the public parks, woods, commons and other free spaces within ten miles of Boston put together, including the great Lynn woods, Franklin Park, the Arboretum, the Common and all the municipal parks about us of every description. To be sure, we have private woods which have long been practically open to the public; but these are now being shut up, and the public forbidden access to them. While the population is increasing at a tremendous rate, the space which is open to it grows less and less.

Mr. Harrison's address, which was delivered entirely extemporaneously, and came from the heart, showed the exercise in a high degree of the picturing power of the imagination which the speaker himself wished that the people might possess. He told how impossible it is that health of body or mind should be got anywhere else than in open air. He passed in swift but vivid review the people's wasting of their resources not only of health but of subsistence, and called up the picture of the partial depopulation which must follow, in certain of the northwestern prairie regions, from the total destruction in the adjoining districts of the cheap timber upon which many thousands have depended. But this was in illustration merely. He dwelt more particularly upon the future of our own seaboard here, and the general physical and moral suffocation which must attend the exclusion of the coming multitude from the free light and air without which no people can exist. We look up our census figures, and we guess how many millions of people will live along these shores fifty years hence; but we seldom stop to think what is to be done with them all. Open space will be required for multitudes upon multitudes of human beings. They will, for instance, demand and have a right to get to the seashore. How are they to do it, without trespassing, if every rod of shore between Newport and Eastport is to be occupied and fenced in by private owners? Behind us, toward the west, are other multiplying millions who are drawn with an irresistible longing to the sea. How are they to get to it, except in spots so unfavorable for looking at it that no private person has wanted them, or else by trespassing? Mr. Harrison earnestly hoped that the proposed trustees would not forget the seashore in their work of securing to the people sites of natural beauty.

Mr. Leverett Saltonstall's address, following Mr. Harrison's, must have been a great discouragement to those who take any sort of pleasure in seeing the people shut out from free access to natural beauties, or such beauties entirely obliterated by the march of false "improvement." He told of the act of a man who had cut down a great tree by the roadside—a tree which had been the delight of generations—simply because it shaded his garden. "And then," Mr. Saltonstall said, "the people had in return for their tree his nasty, dirty, painted house, standing out in the glare of the light." The speaker had once been a resident in the town in which this outrage was perpetrated; if he had still been, he intimated, he would have organized a party of armed men to come and stop the act. A goodly portion of the audience applauded this riotous but righteous sentiment, and a few, perhaps, looked grave. Mr. Saltonstall said that if there had been such a board of trustees as this movement contemplated, no such snap judgment as that which the Medford Road Commissioners passed upon the now famous big elm could have been executed, because the representatives of the trustees would have been on the watch, and somehow prevented it. This, by the way, was not the only allusion made at the meeting to the Medford tree affair, which has now, moreover, been ventilated by the press throughout the country. The chairman of the Appalachian Club, in reading the letters received, said he had a note, signed with the initials of a well-known resident of West Medford, which expressed the hope that the new society would begin by hanging the Medford Road Commissioners. The hit was appreciated.

It is impossible to tell the whole story of this remarkable meeting. It only remains to say that the object for which it was called was successfully carried out, and that we are likely to have, if the next Legislature can be made to see the very evident advantage of it, a board of trustees empowered to acquire and hold parcels of real estate, covering historic or naturally beautiful or interesting sites—the strategic points in our history and scenery—for the perpetual benefit of all the people. Nothing more satisfactory in the way of society forming has been accomplished in many a day; and the Listener takes the more pleasure in it from the fact that he urged the formation of just such a body in this column as long ago as last autumn.

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PUBLIC PROPERTY.

The movement just inaugurated to preserve the beautiful and historic sites of Massachusetts starts with every promise of success. It has even its martyr—a most potent aid to any cause—in the great elm at Medford so recently sacrificed. The loss of this tree emphasizes the need of some such protective association as the one promised us, and of calling the public attention to the many natural beauties in this region which might and should be preserved to the public. It is in this direction that the socialistic spirit has made one of the most definite practical advances. We do not yet, as a rule, covet our neighbor's goods to the extent of thinking that he ought to divide with us, whether or no, and Nationalism, which is just now the conspicuous form of proposed social regeneration, is pursuing its way in an amiable atmosphere of tea and croquet work which does not promise immediate results. But that the natural beauties of the land we live in, and the sites which the struggles and valor of the past have made historic, belong to the whole people, is already an article of the popular faith. Massachusetts has done much in both these directions, but as much remains to be done, and the new association will be able to do much, not only in the way of actual preservation of noted localities, but, through the influence of its work, of suggestion and inspiration to dormant or lagging public spirit.

There is hardly a town or city in New England which does not furnish examples of wasted opportunities of beauty and charm and healthful public life, and there is none where a large measure of all these good things cannot be secured if the proper means are brought to bear. A chance for the exercise of the good offices of the association stands ready in the shape of the Waverley Oaks. These trees, which it has taken centuries to make, belong to us all—it only remains for us to secure our property. Situated as they are, in a charming bit of land which is in itself a miniature park, they are one of the most striking groups of trees in New England, and their destruction or mutilation would be nothing less than a public calamity. What might be done—or perhaps it would be more correct to say, what might have been done—in another way, Rhode Island shows us. To the chance visitor at Newport, who is there less as a participant than an observer, there is nothing more interesting in that interesting town than the Cliff walk. Here, through the very stronghold of the Four Hundred, their superb "cottages" and lawns of the velvetiness which only Newport can show, on one side, and an unsurpassed ocean view on the other, winds this public walk, open to whatever person, of whatever degree, who chooses to avail himself of it. The beauty of the sea and sky is his, and the perfect lawns and pleasure grounds feed his eye no less than their millionaire owners. The value of such a public way as the Cliff walk at Newport is not fully appreciated until we imagine it sequestered to private use, and the sea front monopolized by a score of property holders.

But for such a work as this new association is undertaking money is needed, and as we have already pointed out, apropos of the proposed playgrounds for Boston, it affords another opportunity for "the humane use of wealth." The money will no doubt be forthcoming; Massachusetts does not lack either generosity or public spirit, and to those who cannot contribute dollars it is open to make the no less valuable contribution of interest and cordial cooperation.

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GARDEN AND FOREST.

The recent movement in Massachusetts for facilitating the preservation of beautiful scenery and spots of historic interest, is the subject of the leading editorial in Garden and Forest for this week. Mr. Olmstead furnishes outline plans of four small places, showing the adjustment of roads, buildings, etc. to special local circumstances. Prof. Bailey writes of "Horticultural Education." Dr. Maxwell T. Masters discusses the "Rest of Plants," and J. W. Pike furnishes an interesting article on "Forestry in Ohio." The usual amount of practical cultural matter is given, and the principal illustration is of the Major Oak, in Sherwood Forest.

PUBLIC PLEASURE GROUNDS.

The recent meeting at the Institute of Technology to consider plans for securing additional "breathing places" and playgrounds in the poorer parts of Boston is, in its way, as interesting and as significant a meeting as has been held for a long time. It not only testified openly to the advance which is being made in social science and in the feeling of responsibility for our less fortunate brethren, but it tacitly bore witness to the fact that we, the traditional unresting, nervous, driving Americans, who know so well how to work, are also learning how to play. The value of leisure and of recreation, and of beauty in our surroundings, is being recognized. Not having any statistics upon these points at hand to fall back upon, we will not venture the statement that, in spite of the popular impression to the contrary, New England is rather more advanced in appreciation of these good things and activity in securing them than are other parts of the country. If we were to say that—"much virtue in it"—we should expect immediate and vigorous denials from the West, and from the South an indulgent smile at the idea that anyone can surpass them in the art of taking things leisurely, or in devotion to pleasure for pleasure's sake. But the South is but just entering on the fierce money-making phase of its existence, and it remains to be seen how the old-time Southern traits will maintain themselves under its pressure; and in spite of its generosity and its progressiveness, we might expect that the West—through mere lack of time to perfect itself—has not made the advance in the art of living which older communities have. But be that as it may, it is certain that there is among us here an increasing love for healthy recreation and desire for a relief from the oppressive conditions of city life, and it is certain, too, that the means taken to gratify those ends will serve many more good purposes than those for which they are primarily intended. The breathing places are not only invaluable from a sanitary point of view, but whatever in-

creases the beauty of the city and adds to the tangible benefits which it secures to its citizens tends to promote that admirable but somewhat obsolete virtue, civic pride. The chance to play means another chance for that physical well-being among the people in the crowded quarters of our city which must come before we can count them among the helpful elements in the community.

With the growth of this movement it may even come to pass that the tenement houses of the future, following the suggestion of the model ones recently put up in Brooklyn, which inclose three sides of an open park and playground, will be things of beauty. But it is not the tenement house population alone whose needs in this direction must be met. The steady encroachment of the city upon the suburban towns and the turning of all possible country nooks to account for the summer's weeds are warning that, if suitable and adequate pleasure grounds or the people are to be saved from the clutch of the money-making spirit, now is the time to do it. Happily, the need of protection to the beautiful Maine coast is now being insisted upon, with a fair chance that the warring claims of the scenery and the summer boarder will be amicably adjusted; and, to come nearer home, it is urged that the tract of land on which the Waverley Oaks stand should be held as a public park. Both of these efforts should succeed, and they should be paralleled in every considerable community in our neighborhood. In almost every one of our suburban towns, for instance, there is some tract of land—often an old estate with precious historical associations—which, if secured as a park or pleasure ground, would be of inestimable value to the town and a lasting memorial of the public spirit and generosity which secured it for that purpose.

The practical difficulty in the way of carrying out such schemes is, of course, the financial one, but it affords another opportunity for that humane use of wealth which Mr. Curtis has recently told us is an American characteristic. Our money kings, besides being financially equal to the situation, have a royal prerogative which is invaluable in such cases—the ability to act promptly and at the bidding of their own will alone. Public bequests have been chiefly to charities and to education, including under the last term the gifts of libraries and the support given music and art; but provision for recreation and outdoor enjoyment should rank high among the gifts which the intending philanthropist may present to his fellow-citizens, to his own renown and their lasting benefit. In its humanizing and health-giving properties, such a gift is no less a means of education than the library or the school itself.

Boston, May 27th, 1890.

Mr. Charles Eliot,

My Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with a vote of a Conference held in Boston on May 24th, you are appointed one of the Committee to promote the purposes described in the following resolution:

"RESOLVED:- That a Committee of eleven with power to add to their number be appointed by the chair and requested to promote in such ways as may seem best to them the establishment of a Board of Trustees capable of acquiring and holding for the public, beautiful and historic places in Massachusetts, and endowed with such other powers as may be conferred upon them by the Legislature."

Honorable Henry H. Sprague the Chairman appointed the following persons upon the Committee;

Gen. Francis A. Walker,	
Mr. Geo. Wigglesworth,	Dr. Henry P. Walcott,
Mr. Chas. Eliot,	Prof. C. S. Sargent,
Hon. Henry M. Lovering,	Hon. Henry L. Parks,
Judge Wm. S. Shurtleff,	Dr. J. Q. Adams,
Miss Marion Talbot,	Miss Sarah H. Crocker.

The Committee will meet in the hall of the Appalachian Mountain Club, No. 9 Park Street on Saturday, May 31st, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of organization, of adding to its numbers, and of transacting such other business as may come before them. You are earnestly requested to be present.

Mr. George Wigglesworth, #89 State Street, has consented to receive subscriptions until the Committee is organized.

Yours very truly,

William Clarence Burrage, Sec'y.

[For the Mount Desert Herald.]

THE CHARMS OF NATURE.

IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESERVATION OF
NATURAL SCENERY.

AFTER centuries of ruthless, thoughtless, and conscienceless destruction of spots of natural beauty throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts there met a week ago in Boston a number of public-spirited men and women to take counsel together, and to inaugurate a movement for the preservation of scenery and historical sites. Preliminary steps were then taken in this cause which so many have at heart; and it is hoped that the committee then appointed will soon act, and report a working scheme to accomplish this important purpose. This fact may in itself appear of little interest to the inhabitants of Mount Desert and the surrounding towns, but in reality the principle prompting this meeting is one that every year makes of more importance to them. It is this very question of preservation of natural scenery that means in no small measure prosperity or poverty to Mount Desert Island. Looking at the natural resources of Mount Desert we find that farming is of little importance, owing to the poorness and thinness of the soil; quarrying is an important industry, but one in which there is, or will be, much competition along the entire coast of Maine; the ice-cutting business can hardly be relied on as an unfailing means of support; fishing is not of much importance; ship-building is dead; the lumber business is almost dead as well, and is productive of more harm than good; but, last of all, the business of caring for and entertaining summer visitors is good, is increasing in importance, and can, if reasonable precautions are taken, be depended on to secure the welfare of the inhabitants of the Island. Look at Bar Harbor twenty-five years ago, a poor fishing village, and then at the Bar Harbor of to-day, and there is no need for me to say more of what the summer visitor has done for Mount Desert. It is to this source of income, therefore, directly or indirectly, that we must mainly look for future prosperity.

Everyone knows that the first visitors came to Mount Desert for the sake of beautiful scenery in its untamed natural wildness, and for the free, healthful outdoor life that was then possible, and is possible now as well, if certain artificial restrictions are disregarded. The first comers were free to go where they pleased, and how they pleased. For the most part they fully respected all rights of property, and were in turn hospitably welcomed to the beautiful spots of the island by the native owners. To-day, on the contrary, nearly all the beautiful spots are owned by summer visitors, who, it is said, are not always ready to welcome hotel guests to share the delight of their attractions. If, therefore, the different land-owners should by a concerted arrangement close their different properties to the public, how many of the famous spots would a visitor be able to see?

My first point, then, is that it is most necessary for the welfare of the Island that some attractive and picturesque spots, at least, should be owned and preserved for public use under reasonable restrictions, either by the different towns, under public control, or by some corporated body created for that purpose. A private owner may extend every facility and courtesy to the public for the enjoyment of the beauty that he himself holds in his possession, but it does not follow that this happy and fortunate state of events will last forever. As years go on it is more than probable that the number of summer visitors will increase, and that more and more people will come who have little or no decency in their regard for the rights of others. As trespassing and intrusions on private property become more and more frequent, the owners are not likely to assume the expense of employing officers and servants to protect their estates, but will take the easier and more effective method of closing their gates against the public. It is hardly necessary to state how detrimental such a course would be to the interests of the island. Furthermore, even if the summer visitors behaved themselves with all propriety, love of privacy, change in ownership, and a number of other causes may at any time have the same effect in excluding the public, as doubtless everyone has already learned by experience.

I confess I cannot but look with grave apprehension at the large sales of land made to various corporations for the purpose of speculation pure and simple. Large tracts of land in many parts of the Island have been sold to land companies and others to enable them to advertise the wildest and most impracticable schemes imaginable. Who, for instance, is likely within a reasonable period of time, to buy land by the foot at rugged High Head, or invest his money in a city lot on the side of Pemetic mountain? Yet such plans are gravely set forth in attractive language. One of these companies has the frankness to set down so many feet of lumber, so many cords of wood as assets, thus in plain language signifying that if people will not buy its land, it will strip it of wood as far as possible, and make the property a wilderness. I understand that already the

Green Mountain Railroad has come into conflict with certain parties who had the audacity to interfere with its business by re-constructing the carriage road, which was by far the most appropriate and most beautiful way of ascending the mountain, and should be always kept open for the use of the many who would rather not make the trip at all than make it by the railroad. The fact that sooner or later the inhabitants of Mount Desert will have to learn is this,—that these enterprises and operations of foreign speculators are carried on, not for the good of the Island, but for their own pockets; and that it is only when it "pays" them to do good to the Island that the Island will derive benefit from their presence.

It further seems to me highly necessary that certain portions of the Island should be preserved in their wild condition, allowing, however, any reasonable extension of roads and paths. To secure this, much of the central portion should be protected, for the use and enjoyment of the public, against devastation by the axe or by fire. The mountain summits must be freely accessible to all; the growth of woods must be encouraged for the sake of natural beauty, for the rest and change that they present to the summer visitor, and for the protection that they afford. I do not think the inhabitants of the Island begin to comprehend the importance of preserving the woodlands, and perhaps this is not surprising when we realize that so few people do comprehend it until it is too late. The hotel owners at the White Mountains, however, have become so alarmed at the constant destruction of the woods about them that they are buying woodland to protect the scenery and encourage summer visitors to come to them. This is not remarkable, for the summer resort is dependent in no small degree on its natural scenery, and this once mutilated and mangled, visitors are more than likely to desert the once popular resort in dissatisfaction and disgust. Therefore, in this case, it is worth money to the White Mountain region to preserve the woods that add so much charm to the scenery and are a most essential part of it.

To apply this to Mount Desert. One of the greatest attractions of the Island is the wonderful combination of sea and mountain; of a bold coast line with a picturesque mountainous district of rugged peaks, with ravines, deep woods, and clear ponds and lakes. Separate these attractions, and half the charm is gone. As far as the coast line is concerned, the whole Maine coast,—not to mention Campobello and Grand Manan,—is more than a rival; as far as the mountains are concerned all northern New England is the superior. To be sure it may be said that this separation can never take place in fact,—true, but much can be done to effect it to every intent and purpose. Take away the woods, leave the mountains mere masses of granite, ruin the picturesqueness of the roads and roadsides, eliminate all the wildness and beauty of the mountain scenery, and what is there left? A region of bare rocks, forbidding, unattractive, uninviting to the summer visitor, more likely to be shunned than sought. This is the work that is now going on slowly but surely, which will continue I fear until there is some strong concerted movement to check it. Every careless wood-chopper is doing his part, every careless user of fire is helping on the destruction. I will not here mention specific cases, for doubtless everybody must know them. It is sufficient to note that in the opinion of any careful student of the subject I am sure the folly of this destructive course cannot be too strongly condemned. If it is said that I exaggerate the evil, I can only say that the tendency to

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produce it exists and is in operation on the Island, and that it is high time that some effort was made to realize what the consequences are likely to be. I wish everyone could realize, too, how important it is that the roadsides should be kept beautiful, that the native plants, the flowers and shrubs should be allowed to grow freely, that no trees should be cut except those necessary to secure safety and comfort. Through disregard of this principle many an otherwise attractive road has been spoiled, and continues to be spoiled all over the Island. The problem of roadside adornment is much discussed, but at Mount Desert the solution of it to all intents and purposes is a simple one,—leave it all to nature and interfere as little as possible!

I hope sincerely that these few words may lend someone, at least, to give a few thoughts to this important subject, and apply the principle of preservation to his own property, even if he can do nothing more. That some portions of Mount Desert must sooner or later be preserved and dedicated to public enjoyment will become more and more evident as the years go by; and that further than this every private land-owner must give care and thought to use his property for the good of all and not entirely at his own pleasure, is a feeling that I trust will constantly increase and be productive of much prosperity to the Island. The blessing of such wonderful scenery is not bestowed on every spot, and should be treated as a blessing and an advantage both from a business and a sentimental point of view, and not abused and destroyed as of no worth, no value, and no importance.

Here perhaps some one will query whether the value of accessible natural beauty and the value of historical memorials is sufficiently understood in this State to cause gifts to be made to the proposed trustees? The value of hospitals is understood, the value of an education in the humanities is understood, the value of an education in science and in the arts is understood, or is rapidly coming to be, and what we say that the value of education in the love of nature and of history is not?

Let the lovers of Massachusetts scenery and Massachusetts history put this question to the test by setting up in imitation of Boston's lovers of the fine arts, an efficient board of trustees. The question can be answered in no way but by experiment, but we of this committee have no doubt of the result.

Lastly, let me point out that the scheme which is outlined in the circular-letter of invitation is not drawn from the imagination, but from actual fact. That which we desire to see done in all parts of the State by one central board of trustees, has already been done in a suburb of Boston by the corporation or board of trustees of Harvard University. This board once acquired, by gift from Benjamin Enssey, a large tract of farm and woodland in West Roxbury. By virtue of their charter, the Harvard trustees hold the land free of taxes; and when, in pursuance of the will of James Arnold, they established on a part of it a collection of all the trees and shrubs which will live in this climate, they made with the city of Boston the same bargain which we propose, to enable our suggested board of trustees to make with any town or city in the State. Harvard University opens the Arnold Arboretum to the public in full for police protection and the making of roads and paths.

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

The Preservation of Beautiful and Historical Places.

At the conference on the above subject held at the Institute of Technology on May 24, Mr. Charles Elliot read a report in explanation and support of the proposals which had been printed in the letter of invitation to the conference. These proposals and Mr. Elliot's report will be found below; and we need only add that Mr. George Wigglesworth, 89 State street, Boston, will receive contributions to a working fund for the use of the committee which the conference appointed to promote the establishment of a board of trustees:

1. The establishment of a board of trustees, to be appointed as follows: Some to be named in the act of incorporation, their successors to be elected by the full board as vacancies occur. Some to be named by the governing bodies of several designated incorporated societies, such as the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Essex Institute, the Appalachian Mountain Club, etc. Some to be appointed by the governor and council.
2. The trustees to be empowered to acquire by gift from individuals, or bodies of subscribers, parcels of real estate possessing natural beauty or historical interest, and to hold the same, together with funds for the maintenance thereof, free of all taxes.
3. The trustees to be required to open to the public, under suitable regulations, all such parcels of their real estate as lie within the limits of those towns and cities which may provide police protection for the same.
4. The trustees to be prohibited from conveying real estate once accepted by them, except to towns and cities for public use.

The report, by Mr. Charles Elliot, was as follows:

I assume that we are all agreed upon the priceless value to a crowded community of easily accessible scenes of natural beauty and historic or romantic interest. I assume that we have all got over that selfish feeling which sometimes makes us think we would rather allow our favorite groves and brook-sides to remain in danger of total destruction than lift a finger to open them to the enjoyment of the "vulgar throng." I assume that we all want to see as many refreshing or interesting spots as possible removed from the dangers of private ownership and dedicated to the enjoyment of our own and all future generations. In other words, I assume that we who have come to this conference know what we want and why we want it. We are met to determine, as far as possible, the best way to obtain what we want.

In the hope that we may get some light upon our problem, let us look for a moment at the same countries and the same kind of world, England is strewn with public commons and public forests, the latter being the remnants of ancient royal hunting parks. Moreover, there are public foot-paths leading across private lands in every direction, while many of the grandly wooded estates of the country are open to all who care to enter. Every town, large or small, has some beautiful public places, some open places, such as the river banks at Lincoln or at Durham, the old castle grounds at Ludlow, or the city walls of Chester. In short, there is in England no such problem as that which confronts us in Massachusetts. Our motherland has inherited from her long past the hunting parks of her kings and the commons of her people; and much the same state of things exists through all the countries of Europe. The French republic maintains the public forests, and even the once imperial gardens and palaces, with a zealous care which is hardly exceeded in imperium.

Here in New England we once had some considerable commons—our forefathers brought the notion with them when they came over—but most of them were since appropriated by enterprising citizens, and to restore them now would require a mightier power than that which could be exercised by any American imitation of the English Commons Preservation Society. In short, our Massachusetts problem is not so much how to guard what we have got, as it is how to get something to guard.

Let us begin by considering the means by which we have come into possession of the few public properties in open lands and buildings which we do already own.

First, We have inherited some commons; a very few of which are still large.

Second, We have some city parks, many of them the gifts of individuals; some of them purchased made by cities under the provisions of the public parks act.

Third, We have a few old and interesting buildings owned and opened to the public by the trustees of societies formed and incorporated for the purpose.

Fourth, We have one or two large tracts of land purchased lately for the purpose of serving the public in various ways, under the provisions of the recent Public Forest Act.

This admirable act in the opinion of the committee, is destined to become the chief means of obtaining, and saving for the enjoyment of the people, Acting under it the city of Lynn has obtained control of an interesting wilderness comprising some 1500 acres; it is hoped that the towns which surround the Middlesex Fells may at once secure at least as many acres in that quarter.

As respects smaller bits of fine natural scenery and single buildings or sites of uncommon interest, there exists at present no sufficiently easy way of effecting their permanent dedication to public use. Such of these places as might fairly be called parks may indeed be taken by towns or cities under the provisions of the public park act, but for one reason or another few towns are inclined to exercise this right.

Towns may also, under this act, be accepted by towns as gifts from individuals or bodies of subscribers; but so many towns have refused offers of this sort, and so many others have grossly abused gifts which they have accepted, that giving has been sadly discouraged. The government of a Yankee town is generally efficient, but its organization is not adapted to the maintaining of trusts of this character, trusts which require good taste and a permanent policy.

There remains only the tedious and troublesome method of applying to the Legislature for whatever trustship may be necessary in each case. This was the method which was resorted to to save the Old South Church in Boston, and the same method has been followed at Luzerne, N. Y., where the gorge of the Millerton falls is held by a board of trustees created by a special act of the Legislature.

Now this necessity for special acts, combined with the trouble involved in organizing special societies and in making them naturally discourages and hinders those who might otherwise do much for the cause we have at heart. I say those who might do much, because I believe that this is the only way in which the other noble causes, must, under our democratic government, be fostered in its beginnings at least, by the individuals who may be interested in it. Some day, perhaps, the state may create a commission and assume the charge of a large number of scattered spots to be held for the enjoyment of the people. But this day is not yet. Those of the people who feel and know the great value of such reservations must first prove their value by actual experiment; in other words, by opening many such places and managing them for the public good.

The way out of our dilemma we propose to do this must now be clear to you all. Scattered throughout the state are many thriving historical and antiquarian societies, and many other associations and clubs, whose members are being interested in the world out of doors. Some of these societies have already accomplished the saving of invaluable or striking spots, and the great boulder in Danvers called Ship Rock, the Old Colony Historical Society owns Dighton Rock, and the Worcester Natural History Society owns a part of the shore of Lake Quinsigamond. Many others would like to do something of this kind, and more would like it if the way were easier. Let these societies, with all individuals who may be interested, unite in asking the Legislature to establish one strong board of trustees to be empowered to hold for the benefit of the public the desired sort of property in any part of the state. There seems to me no other way in which such associations; that is needed in concerted and cooperative action on the part of the many interested existing societies. Such action can probably effect the creation of the desired board of trustees, and the establishment of the trustees will in turn facilitate and stimulate the acquiring and giving of the desired scenes and sites. The necessity for zealous local action will not be done away with, but will be provided with a definite end for which to work.

By this simple method, which consists in setting up an honorable and strong board of trustees, and then appealing to the public for their beneficence to do the rest, most of the noblest institutions of Massachusetts have been created and maintained. Among others the Massachusetts General Association, the State House, and the State Library, all of which include, as does the body which we propose, several members appointed by the governor and council. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts is another most successful creation of this sort. No society could be so successful in building and its great collections are the result of the establishment of a much respected board of trustees into whose keeping many persons have been glad to place valuable and beautiful objects and much money. I need not name our Massachusetts colleges; they are conspicuous results of the same method.

See the Public Act

IT IS GRATIFYING to find that the sentiment in favor of active effort to preserve for public enjoyment the natural scenery and places of historical interest in this State is taking practical form. The committee appointed at the informal conference at the Institute of Technology in May last has issued a circular announcing the organization of this movement, and setting forth the methods by which it is to be advanced. The first step proposed is to ask of the Legislature the creation of a Board of Trustees with the power of holding lands for the use and enjoyment of the public. This matter is in the hands of a sub-committee on legislation composed of Judge William S. Shurtleff of Springfield, Hon. Henry L. Parker of Worcester and Mr. Moses Williams of Brookline. In addition, it is proposed that an advisory board be established, whose members shall be designated by existing incorporated societies from their own membership. With such an organization, there is no doubt that the expectations of those engaged in this movement will be realized in the gift of lands by private owners and liberal subscriptions to the fund for the purchase and maintenance of places of natural beauty and historic interest. At present, it may be stated that the secretary of the committee, Mr. Charles Eliot, 50 State street, can be addressed on the subject for further information, and the treasurer, Mr. George Wigglesworth, 89 State street, will receive and acknowledge any contributions to the working fund.

OCEAN PARKS.

To the Editor of the Transcript: I read an article in the Century Magazine for Nov. 1890, entitled, "Forestry in America," in which it states:

There is a recent movement in Massachusetts to secure the incorporation of a board of trustees empowered to hold any parcel of ground which may be conveyed to them on account of historic interest or beauty of scenery, and to open them as parks or commons for public use, under suitable conditions, and on conditions of police regulations. This beginning is of great importance. All the pleasant and convenient portions of the coast of New England will soon be crowded with buildings. There will be an almost continuous town, with few places left where men can walk and meditate by the sea without being intruders upon private grounds. Land should be secured while it is obtainable for seashore parks, commons and open spaces, with wise foresight of the condition which will soon result from the increasing density of our population. Unless there is prompt action in this direction our children will probably live to see the shorelands everywhere enclosed and in many places, a fee demanded for a good view of the ocean.

Now it seems to me that there are but few places left on the shores of Massachusetts available for ocean parks. I would suggest that a move be made to secure a portion of the shore of the historic town of Plymouth. There is a situation in the south part of the town, called Manomet, which is the most delightful piece of seashore on the coast, and I presume it could be purchased at a very reasonable price at present. I understand that there is already a scheme to skirt this shore with a railroad; if so, it will soon be held at such a price as to make it impracticable to purchase for a park. It seems to me that a portion of this lovely combination of ocean, lakes, woods and hills should be secured as soon as possible.

PARKS.

Written for the MIRROR.

The Preservation of Scenery.

There was a meeting of unusual interest in Boston on Saturday, the 23rd day of May. It was a conference called by the council of the Appalachian Mountain Club for the discussion of the question, "What public or private, general or local action, in aid of the preservation of fine natural scenes, and of historical sites, will it be best to attempt under existing circumstances in Massachusetts?" Hon. Henry H. Sprague presided, and the subject for consideration was presented in a report by Mr. Charles Eliot, the chairman of the special committee of the council, which showed that, for large masses of the population of Massachusetts, opportunities for the enjoyment of the pure open air, of beautiful scenery and sylvan peace, are fast departing. It has happened that many tracts of remarkable natural interest near Boston have been despoiled of their beauty within the last few years, and places near other cities and towns of the commonwealth have suffered in a similar way. Throughout the State scenes which future generations of towns-people would prize for their refreshing power are to-day in danger of destruction. Unless some steps towards their effectual protection can be taken quickly, the beauty of these spots will have disappeared, and the opportunity for generous action will have passed. In all parts of the State there are other places made interesting and valuable by historical or literary associations, and many of these are also in danger. The report proposed the establishment of a board of trustees to be empowered to acquire by gift from individuals or bodies of subscribers, parcels of real estate possessing natural beauty or historical interest, and to hold the same, together with funds for the maintenance thereof, free of all taxes; the trustees to be required to open to the public, under suitable regulations, all such parcels of their real estate as lie within the limits of those towns and cities which will provide police protection for the same.

Several speeches or short addresses were made. Professor C. E. Norton's remarks were noticeable for moderation of tone and statement, and evinced a clear perception of the essential relations between the freshness and beauty of the unspoiled natural world and the higher life of man. He showed that opportunities for change of scene, for rest and refreshment of mind and spirit, are more and more necessary under the conditions of our complex modern life, while at the same time it constantly becomes more difficult to command them. A committee was appointed to carry forward the movement, and an act for the incorporation of a board of trustees will be prepared and presented to the general court at its next session.

Beginnings become interesting in history, even if they are not so at the time of them, and they would be then if men could see what they involve. I think this beginning has a chance of growing to something of great importance, provided some one is ready to undertake the measureless work which will be required. Popular interest in such objects is really very slight, whatever may be said in the enthusiasm of public address, and the popular idea of the interests and relations involved is superficial and inadequate. A most difficult work of popular education is necessary, nothing less, indeed, than an advance in civilization, in order to accomplish the objects of this beginning. Under the conditions of life in a democracy like ours, no public institution can be permanent unless it is the vital product and expression of the character of the people. The general mind has to be brought to understanding, as it does not now, the necessity of speedy provision for the wants of the dense population of the future in the direction of open spaces, areas of wild, unspoiled, natural beauty, and outside breathing places for the dwellers in great towns. If a few men are sufficiently interested in these objects to provide means for keeping a secretary or agent employed in stimulating and directing popular attention, the movement thus begun may have excellent results. It will not be readily or adequately successful unless it first made broad enough in its scope to include all the important out-of-door interests and needs, such as sea-shore and mountain,

promontories, outlying parks and open spaces for towns, the care of beautiful scenery, and of forests and wooded lands about the sources of streams, the treatment of watersheds which supply cities and villages, the care of road-sides and trees, and of historic places, and all similar objects. It should never be necessary hereafter to start a separate movement outside of the plan of this beginning, to provide for any such objects. There is opportunity for the care and preservation of fishing and hunting grounds in Massachusetts; this object should be recognized in the plan or basis of incorporation of the proposed board of trustees. The friends of these separate out-of-door interests need each other's help. General co-operation is indispensable to success in any direction. At present many excellent persons would be satisfied with the purchase and decoration of a few sites of historic interest near some of the principal towns of the commonwealth, but this would be a most hasty and impotent conclusion. The beginning now made should result in various teaching and enduring benefits.

It is very interesting to observe and compare the different methods of treatment proposed for the great public out-of-door interests of the people of the three States, Massachusetts, New York and New Hampshire, Massachusetts has no state lands, and therefore proposes to care for and protect the important interests of her people in these directions by means of a voluntary, unofficial association of citizens, incorporated under the laws of the commonwealth for the purpose of acquiring and holding in trust for public uses such areas or parcels of ground as may be conveniently obtained for such purposes. The State of New York already has title, more or less clear, to nearly a million acres of mountain forest land. It is in scattered bodies of different size, separated by private holdings, and therefore cannot be adequately protected by police and property administered as a source of revenue. It is therefore proposed that the State shall acquire title to much more land, to a large part of the Adirondack mountain forest region indeed, that outlying parcels shall be disposed of, by sale or exchange, and all the State's holding brought into one compact body, thus forming a great state park or forest reservation about the sources of the Hudson river and the other great waterways of the State. This plan was suggested in a message from Governor Hill to the Senate last January and a concurrent resolution of both branches of the Legislature referred the whole subject of the forestry interests of the State to the present forest commission for thorough investigation and report to the Legislature at its next session.

This practically commits the matter to the people of the State for decision, and there is much discussion regarding it in the press of the State this summer. The most important interest involved is the relation of the Adirondack forests to the flow of the Hudson river and the commercial prosperity of the city of New York. The forest region is also of great value as a summer home, as an area of woodland solitudes for summer rest and recreation for the people of the cities, and as a great preserve for fish and game. The millions of people in and near New York City will soon need the whole of the Adirondack region, with its woods and lakes and streams for a summer play-ground. The State should acquire it and hold it forever for the use and benefit of all her people. If the State does not do this it would be a good investment for the city of New York. The forests would yield an ever-increasing crop of timber, if properly cared for, and there would be an opportunity for practical forestry, something which we have not had in this country.

What shall I say of New Hampshire and her out-of-door interests? We have no state lands, as New York has, and as yet we have no movement to save our mountain scenery by associations of citizens. Is anything of this latter kind possible in our State? If not, would it not be wise to make a beginning in the acquisition of land by the State with the object of preserving our mountain scenery from destruction? There ought to be as much discussion as possible of this question, and a report of the forest commission to the Legislature next winter. Our natural scenery has a pecuniary value to the people of the State which is not appreciated in all its aspects and relations. If the destruction of our mountain forests goes on much of our most attractive scenery will be permanently shorn of its beauty. This would result in great damage to valuable property, and would cut off a most important source of revenue for our State. Would it not be better for the State to acquire title to the land, and thus preserve our most valuable scenery?

J. B. HARRISON,

Franklin Falls, N. H.

TRACTS OF DENUDED LAND.

Unightly Spots in the Granite State Mountains.

Scorched and Desolate from the Inroads of Forest Fires and the Lumberman's Axe—Commission Recommends Judicious Purchase by the State of Mountain Region Sections.

[SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE BOSTON HERALD.]

MANCHESTER, N. H., Jan. 22, 1891. The report of the forestry commission, appointed by the Governor and council in accordance with the provision of a joint resolution passed by the last Legislature for the appointment of a commission to ascertain the feasibility of purchasing and preserving the forests of New Hampshire, has just been completed. It is very voluminous, and will shortly be submitted to the Legislature.

Detailing their personal investigation of the White mountain region, the commissioners say:

"From Fabyan's and about Wing road, and in many places throughout the White mountain region, we saw on the mountain sides extensive tracts which have been burned over, where the dead, unsightly tree trunks destroy all the value of the scenery. Besides, there are areas of considerable extent in different parts of the mountain region where the deep, rich soil has burned slowly, like a mass of peat, remaining on fire for weeks, and burning quite down to the underlying rocks, the heat being so great that the heavy green forest was entirely consumed.

"One may not pick up a club big enough to throw at a dog on a hundred acres. These acres of scorched and desolate stens will never be covered with forests again.

"The vigor with which timber cutting also is pushed forward in the vicinity of some of the great mountain houses has already caused alarm among hotel proprietors and their guests.

"The report then goes into a lengthy discussion on the functions of mountain forests, the first and most important being the preservation of the mountains themselves by clothing them with soil, and says:

"If forest conditions should be permanently destroyed in any portion of our mountain regions, the soil would not long remain in place on the steep slopes. It would break and slip down from the hills, at the season of heaviest rainfall. This is seen in the Adirondack region in northern New York, where many thousands of acres of land, which would have produced good timber forever, are now absolutely worthless, the soil having been washed entirely away, exposing the underlying rocks or the inert gravel and sand which will not sustain vegetable life.

"This destructive process of the removal of the soil, which results from the destruction of forest conditions on mountain slopes, is already going on in the mountain region of New Hampshire, and on some limited areas the

Ruin Has Been Completely accomplished, showing the fate that awaits our mountain country if the present methods are allowed to continue in operation.

"The second function of mountain forests is the production of a perpetual supply of timber. A mountain forest is commonly composed of trees in various stages of growth. As they come to maturity they should be cut and utilized, but the method of cutting should be such as will cause least injury to the immature trees which are left standing for additional growth.

"The third important function of mountain forests is the formation of natural storage reservoirs for the retention and distribution of water. Mountain forests retain the water which falls upon them in rain or snow, and distribute it slowly, the soil being held in place by the eruvard mat or network of living roots. If the mountain sides were bare of forests, the waters of a heavy rain or melting snow in spring would descend the slopes so quickly, and so much of it would reach the channels of the streams at the same time that disastrous freshets would result, after which the streams would soon be nearly dry. The direct relation between the forests of a mountain country and the permanent flow of the streams which carry their soil on to them is one of the most important facts in its bearing upon human welfare. When forest conditions are permanently destroyed, by fire or cultivation, the cooling of soil begins to break, and is washed down from the rocks. Great rivers, which have hitherto borne a mighty commerce to the sea, are choked with sand and gravel, the debris by night down from the dissolving hills. The Hudson river, for instance, has already been seriously injured by the destruction of forest condition over extensive areas in its sources.

"Another important function of mountain forests is the production and maintenance of such conditions of the soil, water,

Atmosphere and Scenery

of the region as are highly favorable to human life, health and enjoyment.

"Several million dollars are brought to the hands of our people every year by summer tourists and boarders, and yet the attractions of our mountain region are by no means fully developed. But these valuable revenues will be diverted to other parts of our country, or to Europe, unless our mountain forests and streams are protected and preserved."

"We do not think the destruction of our mountain forests has yet proceeded far enough to produce a very serious effect on the volume of water in the Merrimac river, but in time it will be manifest, and when the injury to the river is clearly apparent it will be too late for any successful action."

The commissioners instance the aggregate yearly income from the six leading natural resources of the state, and show that the receipts of summer resorts and bathing houses amounted to \$5,000,000, exceeding the total value of the cereal, pulse and potato crops of the state by nearly \$1,000,000. The receipts from the summer resorting business in 1889 equaled more than one-third the value of all the primary farm products of the state, although agriculture is, all things considered, the leading industry.

"What can be done," the commissioners ask, "to avert the threatened calamities to which we have referred?"

"Some say the answer is to condemn and appropriate to public uses the entire Presidential range and other extensive tracts in the White mountain region. But nothing of the kind—at such extent—has ever been done in this country by the exercise of the right of eminent domain, and we have not had in this state even the beginning of the educational work which would be required to prepare the public mind for a resort to such a measure. New Hampshire's lands at a great disadvantage when she seeks to influence in any way the management of her forests, for she is not the owner of a single acre.

"While we do not recommend the condemnation, for park or other purposes, of any extensive areas of forest land, we are of the opinion that the state's general interests might be promoted if it should acquire

By Judicious Purchases.

carefully selected sections of the mountain region, of small extent, to be held perpetually, and so cared for and protected that their natural wild attractiveness shall be permanently maintained.

"Tracts of denuded land of slight present value are often for sale, and can be purchased at reasonable prices. A generation hence, if they are properly cared for, many of these would be covered with good and timber, and could be used as public forest parks or reservations. The new growth of timber could be retained entire until thinning should become necessary, when the mature trees could be sold under proper regulations. Advantageous purchases by the state to might often be made of land about to be cut over, whereby it should acquire the same. Still other tracts of little present value, sold for taxes, might be purchased from time to time at prices not exceeding a fair valuation. In view of the foregoing facts and considerations, the council's members recommend:

"First—That the large expense involved in the condemnation by the state for public purposes, by the exercise of the right of eminent domain, of very extensive areas of its mountain forests, and the undoubted limit of the legislative power to authorize the same, render it unwise for the state to proceed in that direction, and that it confine its action to tracts of small extent and to those whose condemnation is undoubtedly justified by the public welfare.

"Second, that the present statute penalties for the careless or willful felling of woods or forests be increased, and that the selection of towns in the mountain regions of the state be constituted fire wardens, whose duty it shall be to watch the woods, and whenever a fire is observed there, to immediately summon such assistance as may be necessary, go at once to the scene of the fire, and if it is not extinguished, if before it has made such progress as to be resistless. That in regions where no town organizations exist, the county commission meeters appoint such wardens. That said wardens be paid for their services, \$2 per day, and those who assist them in the work of extinguishing forest fires the sum of \$1.25 per day, for the time actually employed in such labor, such provision to be made by the town in which such forest fires occur, or, in the absence of town organizations, by the counties.

"Third, the establishment of a commission for a term, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice of the council, to consist of three men selected for their special fitness for the duties of their office, without regard to political opinions, who shall severally hold office for three years, so arranged that one shall become vacant each year; and the

Duties of Said Commissioners

shall be as follows: To thoroughly acquaint themselves with the mountain regions of the state; the quantity of standing timber they contain; the rate at which this has been, and is likely to be, removed; the condition and management of the forests, and their needs as to roads and paths for the interest and convenience of all who frequently visit our mountain forest region; to superintend the construction and repair of all roads, bridge paths and footpaths, for which appropriations may from time to time be made by the Legislature; to appoint overseers of the same, and to fix the compensation of all men and teams the commission may employ; to make an annual report in writing to the Governor and council of the wants of the mountain regions of the state as to old and new roads, bridge paths and footpaths; the effect of the removal of the forests in past years upon the volume of the streams, and the fertility of their flow; with information in regard to forest fires, their number, the extent of their ravages, with the losses resulting therefrom; opportunities for the acquisition of forest lands by the state, or its feasibility, with such other facts and suggestions as they may deem it of public importance, the same to be accompanied by such recommendations as may aid the Legislature in its consideration of the various interests connected with the mountain forests of the state; that said commissioners take measures, through their annual reports, by public addresses and by communications to the public press, to awaken and increase popular interest in the mountain forest regions of the state; that said commissioners receive for actual service rendered such a per diem compensation as to the Governor and council shall appear reasonable, in addition to actual expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

"When it is remembered that one-half the whole area of New Hampshire is covered with forests, and that in the future this proportion is quite as likely to be increased as diminished, it becomes apparent that their management is a matter of great importance, and that such methods should be adopted as shall make them productive of regular maximum returns, and in promote, as much as possible, the welfare of all the great interests which are connected with them.

Beauties of the Maine Coast.

One of a class of articles which are calling the attention of wealthy and cultured persons throughout the country to the beauties of Maine as a place of summer residence and sojourn, appears in the issue of Garden and Forest (New York) for last week. This journal is the highest type of a publication devoted to subjects pertaining to gardening, landscape adornment and rural beauty, and has the most wealthy and educated classes of our country as its constituency. The article in question is from the pen of Mr. Charles Eliot, a distinguished landscape gardener of Boston, and is entitled "The Coast of Maine." Beginning at Piscataqua river on the west, Mr. Eliot describes the coast of Maine to Grand Manan, Campobello and Quoddy on the extreme east, which he calls "exceedingly interesting and refreshing," the mere map of the coast being "most attractive." With a rare wealth of picturesque description Mr. Eliot tells of the inlets, headlands, islands, cliffs, mountains, coves, ledges and fiord-like rivers of this two hundred miles of coast, describing its characteristic flora, the wonderful charm of its varied scenery, and its no less picturesque history, with musical names for localities that record so much of the red-men's history in Muscongus, Pemaquid, Megunticook, Eggemoggin, Moosabec, Sagadahoc; and of a later historic period embodied in Grand and Petit Manan, Bois Bubert, Monts Deserts, Isle au Haut, and Burnt Coat, a mistranslation, evidently of the French Cote Brule.

Some notes on the history of the Maine coast, which begin with the voyages of the early French sailing vessels, followed by that first scientific exploration of Champlain, also including the French and English occupation of Acadia and ending with the account of Baron Saint Castin, are next given, and Mr. Eliot says that he finds the human history of the Maine coast "almost as picturesque and varied as its scenery." But a "second discovery" of the Maine coast, Mr. Eliot says took place about 1860 when the picturesqueness and summer-time healthfulness of the Maine coast began to be appreciated by a few educated summer visitors from Boston. "Only the beaches of the western quarter of the shore were at first occupied by hotels," says Mr. Eliot, "but when the poor hamlet of Bar Harbor leaped into fame through the resort to it of a few well known landscape painters, it became evident that the whole coast was destined to be a much frequented summer resort. At present, York, Kennebunkport, Biddeford Pool and Old Orchard Beach, together with the Casco Islands, Booth Bay, Camden, Mt. Desert and Campobello, are a few of the more populous neighborhoods; but summer hotels are now scattered all along the shore, and colonies of summer villas of all grades of costliness occupy many of the more accessible capes and islands. Thus there are many cottages at York and the islands near Portland are

fairly covered with cheap structures. Squirrel Island in Booth Bay is another nest of small houses, and Bar Harbor is a summer city surrounded by a multitude of very costly and elaborate wooden palaces. The finest parts of the coast are already controlled by land companies and speculators, while the minds of the constant residents are inflamed by the high prices which the once worthless shore lands are now supposed to command."

The spectacle, remarks Mr. Eliot of thousands upon thousands of people able to spend annually several weeks or months of summer in healthful life by the seashore is very American and very pleasant, and the impartial observer can find but two points about it which are in any considerable degree discouraging or dangerous. One of these is the small amount of thought and attention given to considerations of appropriateness and beauty by the builders and inhabitants of summer colonies at the sea coast; the other is—and the writer regards it a real danger—that this annual flood of humanity, which seeks the sea coast every summer, with its permanent structures for shelter, may so completely overflow and occupy the limited stretch of coast which it invades, as to rob it of that flavor of wildness and remoteness which hitherto has hung about it and which in great measure constitutes its refreshing charm. Mr. Eliot's bill of particulars relating to these threatened dangers of the beauty of the Maine coast as places of summer residences, and his plea for a stay of these dangers is so well worthy of attention by our citizens, improvement companies and municipal authorities, that we reproduce, entire, the concluding portion of his interesting article:

"A surf-beaten headland may be crowned by a lighthouse tower without losing its dignity and impressiveness, but it cannot be dotted with frail cottages without suffering a woeful fall. A lonely fiord shut in by dark woods, where the fog lingers in wreaths, as it comes and goes, loses its charm whenever even one bank is stripped naked, and streets of buildings are substituted for the spruces and pines.

A few rich men, realizing this danger, have surrounded themselves with considerable tracts of land solely with the intention of preserving the natural aspect; and at least one hotel company, by buying almost the whole of the wild island of Campobello, has saved for the patrons of its houses a large region of unspoiled scenery. Our readers stand in need of no argument to prove the importance to human happiness of that refreshing antidote to city life which fine natural scenery supplies, nor is it necessary to remind them that love of beauty and of art must surely die if it be cut at its roots by destroying or vulgarizing the beauty of nature.

The United States have but this one short stretch of Atlantic sea-coast—a pleasant summer climate and real picturesqueness of scenery are to be found together. Can nothing be done to preserve for the use and enjoyment of the great unorganized body of the common people some fine parts, at least, of this sea-side wilderness of Maine? It would seem as if the mere self-interest of hotel proprietors and land-owners would have accomplished much more in this direction than it yet has.

If, for instance, East Point near York, or Dice's Head at Castine, or Great Head near Bar Harbor, should be fenced off as private

property, all the other property-owners of the neighborhood would have to subtract something from the value of their estates. And, conversely, if these or other like points of vantage, or any of the ancient border forts, were preserved to public use by local associations or by the commonwealth, every estate and every form of property in the neighborhood would gain in value. Public spirited men would doubtless give to such associations rights of way, and even lands occasionally, and the raising of money for the purchase of favorite points might not prove to be so difficult as at first it seems. The present year should see, all up and down the shore, the beginning of a movement in the direction here indicated. In many parts of the coast it is full time decisive action was taken, and if the State of Maine should by suitable legislation encourage the formation of associations for the purpose of preserving chosen parts of her coast scenery, she would not only do herself honor, but would secure for the future an important element in her material prosperity."

THE PRESERVATION OF SCENERY.

It may be remembered that a conference of persons interested in the preservation of scenery and historical sites was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in May last. The MESSENGER called attention to the meeting at the time. A committee, among the members of which are Francis A. Walker, Marion Talbot, L. Saltonstall, F. L. Olmsted, C. S. Sargent and Henry M. Dexter, was chosen by the conference to the matter in charge. This committee has issued its first circular, which makes a statement of what is intended and invites assistance. The establishment by the legislature of a board of trustees will be sought, and probably of an advisory board, consisting of delegates from incorporated societies, the trustees to hold lands for the use of the public, and funds for their maintenance. The co-operation of societies is asked, and information in regard to any movement looking to the opening to the public of beautiful or historical places, and funds are solicited. Charles Eliot, 50 State street, Boston, is secretary.

Letter from Hon. Seth Low, President of Columbia
College, New York.

New York, Dec. 23, 1889.

J. B. HARRISON, Esq.

*Secretary of the New Hampshire Forestry Commission,
Franklin Falls, New Hampshire.*

Dear Sir:

I am glad of the opportunity given me by your letter of the 9th inst. to express my interest in "forestry matters as they are related to our national civilization and welfare." To the technical side of this question, and to those details of proper forest administration, by which wooded tracts of land are made to yield the necessary supplies of wood without endangering the permanence and fruitfulness of the forests, I have given no special attention, and I cannot therefore wisely refer to them.

It is clear to me however, as it must be to any disinterested citizen who has but a general knowledge of this subject, that the protection of American forests is one of the vital questions with which the American public must deal, if we and our posterity are to avoid great calamities. It has seemed to me that the devastation wrought in many directions, and most conspicuously in the mountain regions of our older States, has commenced to yield to the growth, in the more thickly settled parts of our older territories, of a stronger although often unformulated forest sentiment. The farmers of New England and New York, for instance, certainly the farmers in the districts where farming is remunerative, no longer fail in appreciation of the value of forest growth on their own farms. I believe that in many districts the forest growth is greater at present than it was ten, and much greater than it was twenty years ago.

But all the palliation of former calamities and blunders, and all the development of the gracious sense of natural beauty which the public owes so largely to those engaged in labors like yours, will not avert a shocking catastrophe if districts like the Adirondack district of my own state, or like the White Mountain district of your State, or like the region of North-east Texas and South-west Arkansas, and other Western and Southern regions more withdrawn from our watchfulness, are denuded of their principal trees and surrendered to the blasting recurrence of fires, and the almost hopeless sterility which succeeds such fires. If there shall not arise a prompt determination on the part of the American public to protect their forests, especially at the water "divides," the districts vitally related to the welfare of the country as sources of springs and rivers, as storehouses of water during hot and dry seasons, and as plantations which, providently administered, can furnish necessary and moderate supplies of wood for all time, will become arid wastes. The reparation of their destruction other generations, better enlightened, will perhaps be unable to accomplish within as many centuries as the years in which we shall have permitted the ruin.

I commend therefore, most heartily, the work of yourself and your associates, and at every convenient time I shall be glad to urge upon those with whom I may be supposed to have any influence, the promotion of a true forestry sentiment in the United States as a work inferior to but few others in patriotic importance.

Respectfully,

SETH LOW.

The Work for the State Forest Park.

It will be a decided advantage at the outset if the plan for the establishment of a State forest park is made as simple and easily understood as the nature of the enterprise will allow. The intelligent people of the State have little leisure. Their time is occupied with their own business and with such public interests and affairs as appear to them to have the strongest claims upon them. If the scheme for the park consists of a few broad and easily intelligible features, it is much more likely to receive popular approval than if it has greater complexity. The State Forest Commission is acting wisely in letting it be known that it is ready to confer with all who wish to promote the forestry interests of the State, and we advise all of our readers who can do so to attend the meetings of the Commission, for the purpose of the interchange and comparison of ideas regarding the subject of a State park and the plan for its establishment. It is only by such preliminary conference and full expression of different views by intelligent men that satisfactory results can be arrived at.

It is not to be expected, of course, that even after the fullest discussion everybody will be agreed in support of all the features of any plan. That would not be possible in the nature of things. A wide diversity of opinion is natural, and is not necessarily a matter of regret. But full discussion should lead to a state of mind and feeling which will be favorable to agreement and co-operation in support of whatever plan finally appears most feasible. It is the people who feel that they have not been heard or consulted who are most apt to be antagonistic. Only one plan of action in the matter can be finally adopted, though the scheme which is at last decided upon may include and combine features and suggestions from many sources.

A readiness to accept whatever is the best that can be done or attained in regard to all minor details, while the essential object is not sacrificed, is, of course, necessary. It is a great opportunity for the people of New York, one of the greatest in the experience of the State thus far, an opportunity for a great beginning which shall be increasingly fruitful of beneficent results through all coming time. All the people of the State have a real and practical interest in the undertaking. The commercial prosperity of the city of New York depends largely on the preservation of the Adirondack forests, and the business men of the metropolis should be foremost in support of the enterprise for the establishment of a State forest park. It will also be the people of this city who will receive the greatest proportion of benefit from the park as a sanitarium. When managed properly the region will produce more timber than it does now, and this will be to the advantage of lumbermen and of all who deal in forest products or make use of them. The forest is the indispensable shelter for fish and game, and all civilized anglers, huntsmen and lovers of the wilds should unite in support of a well considered measure for the establishment of the proposed park.

All the newspapers of the State are likely to be open for the discussion of the subject. Among the special topics which require attention is the question of leasing sites for residences in the park. If this feature is included in the plan the result will soon be a residence park, a city in the woods, which will in time occupy most of the region, instead of a forest park. Game will disappear, and the charm of the wilds, of the forest solitudes, will be gone. There is a chance for some conflict of interests here. The solution of the problem will require looking ahead and the recognition of cumulative results. Another matter to be considered is the relation of the enterprise to the large tracts of forest owned by various clubs and associations, some of which have bought land with the express object of preserving the forests and the streams which have their sources in them. We should think some arrangement might be made to avoid dispossessing such owners, and that whatever State supervision or control is necessary might be exercised without interfering with the use and enjoyment of such property by its owners.

The difficulties of the undertaking are such as arise from its extent and importance. They can be overcome by the intelligence, foresight and business ability which are usually employed in affairs of such magnitude, and by due exercise of public spirit, as distinguished from the private and personal spirit. A conciliatory and co-operative disposition is requisite to secure the necessary support for any public measure. A different temper would separate the community into many small parties or groups unable to combine for any object, and each too weak to accomplish anything alone. It would be an error to depend entirely on the endeavor to persuade and influence the legislature. The measure, to be successful, must have a good degree of popular support.

J. B. HARRISON.

THE FOREST MOVEMENT.

The following is the Indenture of Trust given for general information.

THIS INDENTURE, made this sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, by and between George E. Emery, Edward Johnson Jr., Benjamin Proctor, Cyrus M. Tracy, Samuel A. Guilford and William P. Sargent, all of the City of Lynn in the County of Essex, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with Wilbur F. Newhall, of Saugus, in said County, as party of the first part:—

And the Inhabitants of said City of Lynn, as represented by Henry B. Lovering, Mayor of said City, as party of the second part;—

WITNESSETH; That the said party of the first part, in consideration of the premises, and of One Dollar to them paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby jointly and severally covenant and agree to and with said party of the second part, as follows, viz:—

First. That they, the said party of the first part, will, from and after the date hereof, accept and undertake the duty of Trustees of and for said party of the second part, for the purpose of preserving, improving and adorning the tract or territory known as the

FOREST OF LYNN

to wit:—all that territory, and no more (or any practicable portion included within the same) lying partly in said Lynn, and partly in the township of Saugus and Lynnfield, respectively, and bounded northerly by the Newburyport Turnpike, easterly by the Lynnfield Road, southerly by the southern wall of the Dungeon Pasture, and westerly by the Downing Road, as said roads and places are now known and called.

Second. That they will, as Trustees as aforesaid, receive, take, manage and apply, for the purposes above indicated, any and all donations, devises, bequests, and contributions, made to them for such purposes, whether of land, money, or other valuable consideration; and that they will faithfully use the same, within a due and sound discretion, according to the true intent and meaning of the giver or givers thereof, not applying the same, or the product thereof, to any unwholesome purposes of private gain or emolument, but always to the end that said tract, so far as entrusted to them, shall remain and be made a

FREE PUBLIC FOREST,

for the benefit, enjoyment and advantage of said party of the second part, as well as of each and every donor and benefactor thereunto, free and clear of all fees, tolls, duties, or imposts of any kind, for the lawful use of said premises, forever.

Third. That they will faithfully and discreetly fill all vacancies occurring in their number, by death, resignation or removal, so that said number shall always include seven persons, power so to do being hereby expressly granted, reserved and assured to them. And that they will, as often as once in every year, prepare and publicly render, in print or otherwise, a full report of their doings for the period expired.

And said party of the second part, by the Mayor as aforesaid, hereby agree and covenant to and with the party of the first part, to receive, accept, and duly observe the foregoing covenants and agreements, recognizing and acknowledging the same as lawful, expedient and satisfactory; and that all fit, reasonable and proper aid and assistance to said party of the first part in the prosecution of said duty, shall be by said party of the second part always rendered and afforded.

And it is further mutually agreed by and between the parties hereto, that upon the commission, by said party of the first part, or any member thereof, or any act in violation of this agreement, by omission or excess of duty, or any malfeasance in office whatever, whereby any individual in his rightful interests, or the said party of the second part, at large considered, shall suffer wrong or injury susceptible of complaint and evidence—then it shall be lawful, and the right is hereby expressly confirmed, for any person so aggrieved, or for any actual donor under this agreement, or for the Mayor of the City of Lynn, then being in office, to make due complaint of such offense to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, or to any other Court of competent jurisdiction; and thereupon the party so offending shall be held in all points answerable, and subject to lawful decision in the case, anything in this agreement to the contrary notwithstanding.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said George E. Emery, Edward Johnson Jr., Benjamin Proctor, Cyrus M. Tracy, Samuel A. Guilford, William P. Sargent, and Wilbur F. Newhall, have hereto set their hands and seals, as also to another instrument of like tenor and date herewith; and the said Henry B. Lovering, Mayor as aforesaid, being thereunto duly authorized by order of the City Council, has also subscribed both said instruments, and thereunto caused the Seal of the City of Lynn to be affixed, the day and year first above written.

GEORGE E. EMERY, [seal.]
 EDWARD JOHNSON, JR., [seal.]
 BENJAMIN PROCTOR, [seal.]
 CYRUS M. TRACY, [seal.]
 SAMUEL A. GUILFOLD, [seal.]
 WILLIAM P. SARGENT, [seal.]
 WILBUR F. NEWHALL. [seal.]



HENRY B. LOVERING, Mayor.

Executed and delivered in presence of
 CHAS. E. PARSONS.

For any further information, the President, C. M. Tracy, and Secretary, Wm. P. Sargent, can be found every afternoon at Johnson's Book Store, 6 Market street. The Treasurer, Wilbur F. Newhall, will be at his office, Savings Bank Building, Market street, every day. Every facility for information will be gladly afforded.

THE FREE PUBLIC FOREST.

The Trustees of the Free Public Forest of Lynn, being now fully organized and prepared for duty, desire to ask the attention of the people of Lynn to the following considerations.

The execution of the Indenture of Trust, on the 6th of December, 1881, was, no doubt, the first work ever really accomplished for providing the people of Lynn with an available place of rural comfort and recreation. By that instrument, seven well-known citizens voluntarily assumed the care and management of all such parts of Lynn as should be conveyed to them for that purpose, which lands should thus become forever dedicated to the free use of the inhabitants, as a public domain, never again to pass into private hands, or be diverted from its proper usefulness, as a wholesome retreat from the increasing crowd and turmoil of the enlarging city. To assure the public that the purpose of these Trustees was not private in any sense, nor tainted at all with the spirit of speculation, the Indentures were made with the Mayor of the City, as the only person who could suitably represent all the inhabitants, and whose official act in regard to them, in such a matter as this, would hardly admit of a possible question. Yet, to make this perfectly sure, and that no charge of covert action should be possible, the Trustees first obtained open hearing before the Boards of the City Council, when every point and feature of the enterprise was offered to the investigation of all. Without such preliminary action, the Mayor would, of course, have hesitated to enter into the agreement; with it, he found himself advised to it by the unanimous action of the whole government.

Nor was there any reason against such action. The City Government was not asked for funds, nor to pass laws or take outward measures of any kind for the support of the project. The Mayor was asked to join in the contract, on behalf, not of the government, but the people; the Council was only requested to give him the necessary authority to do so. By his compliance, the measure was invested with the character of a great public benevolence, and thus admissible, under the statutes, to become a perpetuity. And thus was secured the most important point of all; for if any plan for the preservation of a forest cannot be in its nature perpetual, it is at once liable to every kind of change and derangement, and simply remains a failure.

Again, if the Board of Trustees, originally full, had been left to become depleted by

vacancies, a speedy end would have been imminent. To provide no way of perpetuating the membership, would have sometimes left it in one or two men's power; while to invoke the election of successors by any exterior authority would have removed the object directly from the confidence of the people. The succession was therefore repositied in the Trustees themselves, they filling their own vacancies, keeping their number complete, and that with persons of known sympathy with the object, thus making possible a steady unbroken policy of good toward the forest and its welfare, for unreckoned years to come.

With this arrangement, the first one ever devised, so far as is known, for the reinvesting of the people of Lynn with their ancient, legitimate inheritance, the Trustees now present themselves to their fellow citizens, and ask not only to be accredited as friends of the public, but to be materially assisted for the furtherance of their work. They have not only land to buy, and a great deal of it, but they have also roads to make, paths to lay out, bridges to construct, and shelters to build. Every dry season, for years, the fire has devastated the forest, killing every green thing before it. They must keep men in those times, hereafter, to hunt down and quench these fires in their small beginnings. The parts of which they really acquire the possession must be tended, replanted and improved. Liberal contributions will be wanted for all these things. The Trustees will come to you and urge you to act as benefactors to that which is, after all, only your own interest. For the Forest of Lynn will afford every citizen a class of opportunities such as he cannot otherwise have within a distance of many miles. If he wishes to drive out in the warm afternoons, its shady roadways will be open to him. If he prefers to camp out with his family for a time, away from the heat, its cool hillsides are full of the most attractive situations. If he would walk with his children, entertain his friends, commune with nature, study her pure science, or merely rest from the glare and hurry and dust of toil and labor, the forest offers its streams and its mountains, its lakes and its precipices, to attract, to interest him and recreate his wearied energies; and all within the sound of his own church bell, or an hour's walk of the public conveyance.

This is, in brief, the petition of the Forest, to you, an Inhabitant of Lynn, and an heir to its advantages, begging you not to fail in the work of helping it and yourself at the same time.

TRUSTEES:

SAMUEL B. DURVEA, 46 Remsen Street, E. O. BALL, 43 Lee Avenue, OLIVER J. WELLS, 87 Joralemon Street,
 TUNIS G. BERGEN, 127 Pierrepont Street, TRUMAN J. BACKUS, 58 Livingston St. CHAS. N. CHADWICK, 692 Willoughby Av.
 FRANKLIN W. HOOVER, 71 St. James Place.
 JNO. Y. CULVER, C. E.,
 Consulting Engineer and Landscape Architect, Potter Building, N. Y.

Brooklyn Society for Parks and Play-Grounds for Children.

Brooklyn, N. Y., 189

TO THE EDITOR:

We beg leave to call your attention to the within circular, "To the Public", of the Brooklyn Society for Parks and Play-grounds for Children, and also a copy of the Act of the Legislature in relation to the subject matter of the circular.

The law was passed at the instance of the members of the Brooklyn Society which subsequently organized under the provisions of the Act, since which, a similar organization has been formed in New York City with possibilities of great effectiveness, in carrying forward the project of extending the means for recreation for the young.

The intent is to extend such organizations generally throughout the State with a view to give impulse to and encourage every movement among the people in behalf of ample and properly equipped play-grounds and parks for simple recreation and rest. For the dissimulation of information and for effective encouragement of these general purposes, the approval and co-operation of the Press of the State is largely relied upon, and we therefore venture to ask for such aid as upon due consideration, you shall find the objects and purposes of this movement, entitled to.

Respectfully yours,

E. O. Ball
 Sec.

TRUSTEES:

SAMUEL B. DURVEA, 46 Reimsen Street, E. O. BALL, 43 Lee Avenue, OLIVER J. WELLS, 87 Jorammon Street,
 TUNIS G. BERGEN, 127 Pierrepoint Street, TRUMAN J. BACKUS, 58 Livingston St. CHAS. N. CHADWICK, 692 Willoughby Av.
 FRANKLIN W. HOOVER, 71 St. James Place.
 JNO. Y. CULYER, C. E.,
 Consulting Engineer and Landscape Architect,
 Potter Building, N. Y.

Brooklyn Society for Parks and Play-Grounds for Children.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR PARKS AND PLAY-GROUNDS FOR CHILDREN is organized under the provisions of an Act passed by the Legislature of the State of New York May 15, 1888, for the incorporation of Societies for providing Parks and Play Grounds for children in the Cities, Towns and Villages of the State.

This Legislation was secured at the instance of those now constituting the officers and members of the Brooklyn Society. The Society seeks primarily by means of this Circular to interest the people of the State, and particularly those of our Cities, Towns and Villages, in securing suitable grounds to be set apart by purchase or gift as parks and recreation grounds for children, wherever opportunity offers to do so.

Public and private co-operation in other forms are practicable under this law whereby the objects sought for may be obtained in every community, large or small, and to that end the attention, interest, and aid of the Press and all public spirited citizens are invited to the consideration of this law and its possibilities for good not alone in our own State but others as well.

A moment's reflection will recall to mind how few and meagre are the practicable means of recreation for the children of the poor in our populous cities and towns. Existing facilities apparently bountiful in their provisions and generally accessible at small cost are nevertheless but rarely availed of for the want of these means, small as they are, or the opportunity of time to avail of the pleasure and recreation which they were intended to afford. This is particularly true of large cities where in consequence it is exceptionally desirable that small neighborhood areas simply designed should be provided for. All are familiar with the narrow and imperfectly cleaned streets of considerable portions of most of our cities; of dilapidated dwellings unfit for occupancy; of more ambitious structures for tenements over-crowded, illy-ventillated and badly sewerred, wherein it is the fate of the young in large numbers to live during the most critical period of life when pure air, exercise and wholesome food are essential to the development into healthy men and women of the future.

In the smaller cities, towns and villages of the State where no parks or recreation grounds exist the opportunity for such is not difficult to provide, and to this philanthropic purpose this Society desires to call the attention of enterprising citizens everywhere. As a business undertaking the argument in favor of such public ventures is most favorable. It has been demonstrated beyond peradventure in the large cities of the country in which public parks now exist that their establishment, including both the original purchase and cost of construction, has resulted in securing the valuable and attractive feature to the City's resources, enlarged its means of attracting people to it as permanent dwellers but as well by increasing the value of widely extended areas of property contiguous to such parks has added a valuable resource in the way of income due to such beneficent influence. It is therefore undeniable that all efforts would be justified that tend to secure grounds to be devoted to such purpose, whether in city, town or village, and whether for immediate improvement or to await the time when such development might be more practicable. In perfect keeping with this line of suggested operation this Society urges the vital importance of anticipating the growth of our schools, and of providing larger grounds for these important structures by which air space and the means of proper light shall be amply provided for, liberal space for separate play-grounds and the opportunity for adornment with trees, flowers, &c. by which the health of the young shall be conserved and their taste for beautiful surroundings and the proper adornment of public places shall be awakened and encouraged.

The efforts of all persons, women as well as men, interested in the objects thus set forth can be utilized and made more effective by means of organizations such as the law referred to contemplates. This, as well as similarly organized Societies is authorized by the law under which it is incorporated to take and hold real and personal property by gift, purchase, bequest or devise for the purposes of its incorporation.

Among the many objects to be aided by money or land by the friends of humanity, none can be deemed more worthy than that of this Society whose aim is to promote the physical health and happiness of children, in crowded cities particularly, and thus to secure in part at least the welfare of generations to come after us.

LAWS OF NEW YORK, By Authority.

AN ACT for the incorporation of societies for providing parks and play-grounds for children in the cities, towns and villages of this State.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 15th, 1888. Chap. 293.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Any fifteen or more persons of full age, citizens of the United States, a majority of whom shall be citizens of, and residents within this State, who shall desire to associate themselves together for the purpose of providing parks and play-grounds for children in any of the cities, towns or villages of this State, may make, sign and acknowledge, before any person authorized to take the acknowledgement of deeds in this State, and file in the office of the Secretary of State, and also in the office of the Clerk of the County in which such parks or play-grounds are to be situated, certificates in writing in which shall be stated the name or title by which the Society shall be known in law, the city, town or village, in which it is proposed to establish such parks or play-grounds, the number of trustees, directors or managers to manage the same; the names of the trustees, directors or managers of such society for the first year of its existence; but such certificate shall not be filed unless by the written consent and approbation of one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the department in which such parks or play-grounds are to be situated, to be endorsed on such certificate.

SECTION 2. Upon filing a certificate as aforesaid, the persons who shall have signed and acknowledged such certificates, and their associates and successors, shall thereupon, by virtue of this Act be a body politic and corporate, by the name stated in such certificate, and by that name, they and their successors shall and may have succession, and shall be a person in law capable of suing and being sued, and they and their successors may have and use a common seal and the same may be altered and changed at pleasure; and they and their successors, by their corporate name, shall, in law, be capable of taking, receiving, purchasing and holding by gift, purchase, bequest or devise, real and personal estate for the purposes of their incorporation, and for no other purpose, to an amount not exceeding the sum of half a million dollars, and such additional amount as may be authorized by the Mayor and Common Council of any city or Supervisor of any town, or Trustees of any village as the case may be in which it is proposed to establish and maintain such parks; and shall have power to make by-laws and rules for the management of its affairs, and for the protection of its property and maintenance of order; to elect and appoint officers and agents of such society; and generally to manage and conduct its affairs consistently with the constitution and laws of this State and of the United States and so as to promote the objects and purposes of its incorporation. (Such corporations may also at their own expense appoint and employ police officers) who shall, for the purpose of enforcing order and compliance with their rules, have all the powers and authority of the public police officers or patrolmen of the city, town or village wherein such parks or play-grounds may be situated within the limits of their parks or play-grounds and within one thousand feet of the limits thereof, subject however to all laws, ordinances or police regulations of the cities, towns or villages in which such parks and play-grounds may be situated and subject to the authority of the Commissioners, Superintendents, Captains, Sergeants or other superior police officers or authority of the particular district or locality in which the same may be.

SECTION 3. The society so incorporated, may annually elect from its members, its trustees, directors or managers, in classes or otherwise, and at such time and place, and in such manner and numbers as may be specified in its by-laws, who shall have the control and management of the affairs, property and funds of such society, a majority of whom shall be a quorum for the transaction of business, if not otherwise provided in the by-laws, except that no purchase, lease or sale of real estate shall be made unless two-thirds of the whole number are present at the meeting at which it is ordered; and whenever any vacancy shall happen among such trustees, directors or managers, by death, resignation or neglect to serve, such vacancy shall be filled in such manner as shall be provided by the by-laws of such society.

SECTION 4. In case it shall at any time happen that an election of trustees, directors or managers shall not be made on the day designated by the by-laws, said society for that cause, shall not be dissolved but it shall and may be lawful on any other day to hold an election for trustees, directors or managers, in such manner as may be directed by the by-laws of such society.

SECTION 5. The provisions of this act shall not extend or apply to any association or individuals, who shall, in the certificate filed with the Secretary of State, or with the County Clerk, use or specify a name or style the same as that of any other previously existing incorporated society in this state.

SECTION 6. All institutions formed under this act, together with their books and vouchers, shall be subject to the visitation and inspection of the justices of the Supreme Court, or by any person or persons who shall be appointed by the Supreme Court for that purpose, and it shall be the duty of the trustees or a majority of them, in the month of December in each year to make and file in the County Clerk's Office where the original certificate is filed, a certificate under their hands stating the names of the trustees and officers of such association or corporation, with an inventory of the property, effects and liabilities thereof, with an affidavit of the truth of such certificate and inventory, and also an affidavit that such association or corporation has not been engaged directly or indirectly in any other business than such as is set forth in the original certificate on file.

SECTION 7. Every corporation formed under this act shall possess the powers and be subject to the provisions and restrictions contained in the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first Part of the Revised Statutes.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

MEMORIAL
OF THE AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

At the eighth annual meeting of this Association, held in Philadelphia, October 15th to 18th, 1889, the following resolutions were adopted :

"RESOLVED, That we respectfully petition the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States to pass an act withdrawing temporarily from sale all distinctively forest lands belonging to the Government of the United States, as recommended by the Secretaries of the Interior during the past three administrations, and providing for their protection, and authorizing the employment of the army, if necessary, for this purpose, until a Commission, to be appointed by the President, shall have made such examination of the forests on the public domain as shall be necessary for determining what regions should be kept permanently in forest, and shall have presented a plan for a national forest administration.

"RESOLVED, That we also petition the Senate and House of Representatives to authorize the President of the United States to appoint a Commission for the purpose of examining the forests on the public domain and reporting to Congress a plan for their permanent management, and that Congress make the necessary appropriations for such Commission."

The reasons for our urgent petition for the passage of these measures is briefly this, that, in the opinion of all those who have investigated and considered the matter, these measures, or others equally radical, can alone secure the magnificent forests upon these lands from destruction by axe and flame within a comparatively short period.

What the result of such destruction would be, may in some measure be realized by considering these forests from three points of view :

First. They are valuable parts of the property of the nation. Though far less extensive than formerly, they still cover from 50,000,000 to 70,000,000 acres. They are too valuable, merely as present property, to be neglected, left to the timber thief to carry off or the chance fire to burn down.

Second. They will be needed as an important source of timber supply for the Western States for all time to come. If the population of this country is to continue what it is now, to say nothing of its probable great increase, these forests must always be looked to to supply the people of a vast region with timber for buildings, railroads, mining and many manufacturing industries. Any serious diminution of this supply, owing to deforestation on a large scale, would prove a serious check to the prosperity of the Western States.

Third. The greatest value of these forests to the present and future inhabitants of the Western States is in the assistance they render to agriculture through their influences on the water supply and the climate. The mere loss of national property, though measured by millions, can be endured. The absence of a timber supply at home can in a measure be made up for by purchases from more prudent foreigners, and by the substitution of other materials in the place of wood products. But there is absolutely nothing, natural or artificial, that will take the place of the mountain forest as a regulator of rain-fall and water supply. Every inland region without forests is a region of long droughts, varied by destructive storms. Every mountain region without forests is a region whose streams, instead of watering the valleys below with a constant and adequate flow, alternately dwindle into insignificance and swell into raging torrents, not only flooding the country, but covering it with rocks and sand from the mountain sides. Great as is the damage caused by the loss of mountain forests to a region naturally well watered, it would render agriculture impossible in that extensive district which has so recently begun to be rendered fertile by the use of irrigation. No system of reservoirs, even the most costly and ingenious, can take the place of the forests on any large scale. The most that it can do is to co-operate with them.

It is respectfully suggested that the true value and use of these mountain forests has never been properly considered by this Government. It has apparently never realized that mountain forest land differs from all other land in this important respect, that its condition cannot substantially be changed without disastrous results; that it must, for the sake of the properly agricultural land, always remain in forest. On the contrary, it has been sold and given away like other land without any restrictions whatever upon its use in private hands, although the experience of every nation shows that the national government alone has the power and the means for the best forest management, and that its power must be exerted even over private forest property in order to prevent disaster to the community from the action of individuals.

Timber cutting has been permitted on the lands yet unsold, but under impractical restrictions as to use, without any regard to proper methods, and with no compensation to the Government. The necessity of timber as an article of merchandise, and the impossibility of obtaining it legally from the public lands for that purpose, have inevitably led to enormous thefts of timber and fraudulent acquisition by a few individuals and corporations of large tracts of land to which actual settlers only were legally entitled. While millions upon millions of dollars' worth of timber have been stolen, both for home and export trade, the pitiful sum recovered barely covers the cost of prosecution. Lastly, the utter absence of protection from fire has led to the destruction of enormous tracts which will very slowly, if ever, be covered again by a forest growth of any value.

The time has come when a change in these methods is absolutely necessary, and it is urgently called for by thousands of people whose future depends on a regular water supply.

While the immediate withdrawal of the public forest lands from sale and entry is absolutely essential as a first step to their preservation as forests, it will not of itself secure this end. The destructive fires and extensive thefts will go on as before. Still less will the mere reservation of the land enable the timber to be properly utilized. These lands must be *administered*—protected from fire, and the timber cut only when ripe and with a view to a constant new growth. Temporarily some portion of the army can be employed to guard these lands, until a practical system of administration, a common-sense application of scientific knowledge and the experience of other progressive nations to the needs of the place and the time, can be successfully inaugurated. The organization of such an administration can best and soonest be effected by a commission of competent men appointed for the purpose.

That the evils above referred to are not imaginary but, real, present, and constantly increasing, the memorials from the Pacific slope and the investigation of the Senate Committee on Irrigation abundantly prove. It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of right action, and prompt action, in this matter, and that the Congress of the United States will permanently close its ears to the ever louder and louder cry of the people for forest preservation this Association refuses to believe. With all hope, as well as earnestness, it prays your honorable body to enact such laws as the practical needs of the hour and a wise foresight of the future may dictate.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES A. BEAVER, President of the Association.

WILLIAM ALVORD, of California,	J. STERLING MORTON, of Nebraska,
ABBOT KINNEY, of California,	WARREN HIGLEY, of New York,
EDGAR T. ENSIGN, of Colorado,	CHARLES C. BINNEY, of Pennsylvania,
JAMES E. HOBBS, of Maine,	HERBERT WELSH, of Pennsylvania,

Committee.

PHILADELPHIA, January, 1890.

New Hampshire Forestry Commission.

Concord, N. H., October 5, 1889.

Being desirous to obtain the fullest possible information of the views and opinions of the people of the State regarding the matters contemplated in the Joint Resolution approved August 16, 1889, which provides for the appointment of a commission to "examine and ascertain the feasibility of the purchase by the State of the whole or any portion of the timber lands upon the hills and mountains in the State, near summer resorts, or bordering upon the principal sources of the water supplies needed for manufacturing purposes, with the view of preserving the same as public lands and parks, and report their finding to the next session of the Legislature," The Commission has thought it advisable to appoint two hearings, at which they will be pleased to meet any and all persons who have any knowledge or opinions on these subjects which they are willing to express for the information of the Commission.

You are earnestly invited to be present at either of these hearings: at Thayer's Hotel, Littleton, on Wednesday, the 6th day of November, at 7 o'clock p. m., or Thursday, at 10 o'clock a. m.; or at Manchester, on the 20th day of November, at 11 o'clock a. m., at the City Hall; or being unable to attend either meeting, will you give the Committee, by letter, your views, at as early a date as convenient to yourself?

JOSEPH B. WALKER,
G. BYRON CHANDLER,
J. B. HARRISON,

N. H. Forestry Commission.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary,
J. B. Harrison, Franklin Falls, N. H.

P. S. Will you see that a delegation from your town attends one of these meetings?

THE AUTHORITIES OF LINDEN, ELIZABETH, CLIFTON AND GUTTENBURG have been in convention and amicably arranged dates. After the New York Jockey Club's fall meeting Linden and Elizabeth will each race fifteen days, and then Clifton will open on November 19, and Guttenburg November 20, after that date racing alternate days.

JIMMY McLAUGHLIN'S REAPPEARANCE in the saddle showed that he has lost neither his old-time cunning nor his popularity with race-goers. He will give up training at the end of the year and ride next season in the colors of Mr. Frank Ehret's Hellgate Stable. He weighs only about 124 pounds now and his contract calls for him to ride at 120.

THE HON. AUGUST BELMONT HAS DETERMINED TO RETIRE Prince Royal from active service on the turf. The son of Kingfisher and Princess has been a great racehorse in his day, and a great deal more than useful this season, but his legs make training him a very precarious business. There is a vacancy for him at the Nursery Stud in the death of his sire.

NO HORSE HAS ATTRACTED MORE ATTENTION this fall than Al Farrow. He is a huge bay, somewhat on the lines of the Australian thoroughbreds, and though rather coarse is well shaped. Below the hocks he is, perhaps, a trifle light. In fact, though he has repeatedly proved himself a racehorse, and will again, he shows some signs of his short pedigree.

TRISTAN, WHEN HE BEAT RACELAND, lowered the record for a mile and three sixteenths by a minute fraction, Joe Cotton having made it in 2 1-4 and Tristan doing it in 2 1-5. The distance is a very peculiar one, but though it is not much used at other tracks, it seems popular with the Sheephead people, since three races out of seven on Thursday last were over this distance of ground.

THE PRESERVATION OF OUR FORESTS.

IMMEDIATE ACTION DEMANDED.

I RECEIVE MANY LETTERS ASKING ME WHAT IT IS, exactly, that the forestry people in this country wish to accomplish, what they think should be done or attempted in forestry matters. I think of nothing else so effective as to send my answer to this question to the readers of THE WEEK'S SPORT. Of course the men who are interested in forestry do not all hold the same opinions on everything connected with the subject, but I believe that all who have given much attention to it are in substantial agreement regarding all that is essential, or highly important. Everybody is free, however, to dissent from my answer to the question, and to write a better one.

1. The very first thing in national action regarding our forestry interests, should be the withdrawal from sale of all forest lands belonging to the nation. To preserve and maintain forest conditions on all these lands permanently will not be necessary, but nobody is competent to decide at once how much territory will be required by a judicious and practical plan of forest preservation and management for our western mountain regions. It will be necessary to make a thorough examination of those regions, and of the agricultural country which depends on them for its water supply, in order to be able to decide what forests should be retained, and what tracts of timber land can be put upon the market without injury to the important interests involved. None of the forest lands now belonging to the United States should be sold until this thorough examination has been made.

2. The second movement should be to commit the care and guardianship of these forests belonging to the nation to the United States Army. It is plain to all who have observed the general course of things and the resulting fate of the timber on the public lands under existing conditions, that the forests on the national domain will not be and, indeed cannot be, adequately guarded and protected by any other means. The plans which have been tried, including those now in operation, or which are supposed to be in operation, have all proved almost wholly ineffective. The forests belonging to the nation are pillaged by settlers, and by the railroad and mining people, without scruple or limit. Some different arrangement will have to be made if these forests are to be preserved. Their complete and final extinction, with the destruction of the soil which sustains them, is only a question of time, and of a very short time, if the existing methods of control remain unchanged. The army is not likely to be needed to any great extent hereafter, or for very long, for the care of the Indians, and in time of peace there is no other work of national defense or protection which it can perform that would be so important or valuable to the country as the efficient protection of the forests on the public lands.

The officers of the United States Army are educated by the nation for its service, and no other body of men is so well equipped for the work of guarding and protecting the great forest regions which are the property of the nation. They have every kind of fitness for it, in greater degree than anybody else, and if they were authorized by law to undertake this service, they would have all the power and the means necessary for its thorough performance, while everybody else is now inevitably powerless and incapable. They could do the work well, and it would cost little or nothing, while any other plan would necessarily be both ineffective and costly. The care of the nation's forests by the army of the nation should be continued and maintained until a sufficient number of adequately trained and equipped foresters have been provided by the national government for the administration of a complete and permanent system and policy for the management of the forests on the public domain.

3. The third step should be the appointment, by the President, of a Commission to make a thorough examination of the condition of the forests belonging to the nation, and of their relation to the agricultural interest of the regions through which the streams flow which have their sources in these forests. The Commission should report, with the facts observed, a comprehensive plan for the preservation and management of the public forests, including a system for the training, by the government, of a sufficient number of foresters for the national forest service.

FROM THE NEW YORK LUMBER TRADE JOURNAL.

Office, No. 72 Wall Street, New York.

JULY 15, 1890.

PRESERVE THE ADIRONDACKS

MR. J. B. HARRISON, the Corresponding Secretary of the New York State Forestry Association, sends us from the office at 52 William street, in this city, the following interesting letter from a prominent citizen of New York, now in London:

18 GROSVENOR GARDENS, S. W.

DEAR MR. HARRISON:

I thank you very much for your note, and inclose you a contribution toward the good work you have taken in hand, and wish you and it a hearty "God speed." Some years ago I passed through miles of country in the Adirondacks, which, on a "stumpage" of 50 cents an acre to the State of New York, had been stripped; first, of the primeval forest for conversion into charcoal, and then by the rains, of nearly every particle of soil, leaving miles of bare rocks and glare, where once all had been greenery and shade. It seemed an evidence of stupidity and recklessness and improvidence too monstrous to believe, except on the evidence of one's own senses, as possible to any man having any heart or conscience, or any sense of official responsibility. Ever since then I have wished that you might be led to take this question in hand, and I hope you may live to see a solution of it such as every good citizen must desire on every ground.

There will be "millions in it" for the State of New York if that great Adirondack sanitarium can be preserved, and access given to it by such roads as the Norwegians have provided to invite travel in their barren country, travel which is now a perennial source of wealth to Norway and of pleasure and health to the people who go there on that invitation, and who could not go without it. I am, with all good wishes and kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

HOWARD POTTER.

The Commission should determine what portions of the existing forests on the public domain should be permanently preserved, and in what way the remainder should be disposed of. The national forests could be so managed as to be perpetually reproduced, and to yield forever an abundant supply of timber for the people of the adjacent country, and a revenue that would more than sustain the cost of the forest service. A National School of Forestry should be established at a suitable place in one of the great mountain forests on the public lands, and its equipment should be as thorough and adequate for its purpose as is that of the National Military Academy at West Point. The land of a vast region along the courses of the rivers which have their sources in these mountain forests has all the elements of fertility except water. The water required for irrigation and agriculture which would sustain a population of many millions, and add measureless wealth to our country, can be supplied from these rivers if forest conditions are permanently maintained on the mountains. But if the forests are destroyed, if they are removed in such a way as not to be reproduced, the water will not long be available or controllable for purposes of irrigation. The soil will be washed away from the rocks on the steep slopes; the streams will be ruinous torrents in the spring season; storage reservoirs will be filled up with sand and gravel, and fertile lands buried under the *debris* brought down from the dissolving hills. Dams will be broken and swept away, and when water is most needed it will not be obtainable. The mountain forests are the natural storage reservoirs for the water which will be needed for the irrigation and sustenance of a country large enough for a great empire, and these natural reservoirs are indispensable. The forestry people want them preserved, and as they belong to the nation as much to the people of New York as to those of California, it might be done.

I wrote recently to the Secretary of the Interior, asking him to consider the reasons for permanently reserving from sale certain tracts of the public domain on account of the peculiar character and interest of the trees growing upon them, and I have this cordial reply:

DEAR SIR: I have yours of the 4th inst. in relation to the *Sequoia Gigantea*, and have to inform you that I am making every effort in my power to preserve these wonders of nature, and have made several decisions reserving the land on which these trees grow. There is also an act pending in Congress for a reservation of the trees in the Yosemite Valley, to which I am giving my support.

Yours truly,
JOHN W. NOBLE, *Secretary.*

Would it not be a good thing if we could have a National Association for the Preservation of Scenery? We are not apt to get anything very important done in this country unless it is somebody's business to look after the matter. The proverb, "What is everybody's business is nobody's business," finds constant illustration in the experience of all who are trying to promote movements for the advancement of civilization in special matters outside of business and politics. The work of an organization composed of men possessing just ideas of the value of scenery might be made much more effective than the scattering individual and inorganic efforts which we are now constantly obliged to employ.

A Draft of
A BILL

For the reservation and protection of forest lands on the public domain, and to establish a commission to examine into the condition of the said lands and to report a plan for their permanent management. (H. R. 7026.)

WHEREAS, the permanent preservation and proper administration of a sufficient forest area, especially upon mountain slopes and about the head-waters of streams, are absolutely necessary to preserve and regulate the water supply, and to protect the agricultural interests of a large and rapidly increasing part of the population, as well as to provide an adequate timber supply for the same for all future time, and to prevent destructive recurrences of drought and flood,

AND WHEREAS, the forests upon the public lands of the United States are being rapidly destroyed by the ravages of fire, and by reckless cutting of timber both with and without authority,

THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the unsurveyed public lands of the United States embracing natural forests, or which are less valuable for agriculture than for forest purposes, and all public lands returned by the public surveyors as timber lands, shall be and the same hereby are withdrawn from survey, sale, entry, or disposal under existing laws, except as hereinafter provided, nor shall any timber be cut or removed from the said lands except for the actual needs of persons upon the said lands, engaged in carrying out the purposes of this act, and as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2.—That during such period as this act shall remain in force, the President of the United States shall, on request of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commission to be appointed under this act, designate a portion or portions of the military forces of the United States to guard all or any part of the lands reserved as aforesaid, and the timber growing thereon, from fire, theft, and use by unauthorized persons.

SEC. 3.—That the President shall within a reasonable time after the passage of this act, appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, three persons possessed of a knowledge of the needs and uses of forests, who shall constitute the United States Forest Commission, and shall hold office until this act is superseded by an act providing for the permanent administration of the forests upon the public lands or is repealed. The President may remove any commissioner, and any vacancy in the commission shall be filled by him as is provided in the case of the original appointments.

SEC. 4.—That the duties of the said commissioners shall be to personally examine the lands reserved as aforesaid, so as to determine what part or parts of the said lands ought to be permanently kept in forest, and to keep themselves constantly informed as to the condition of the same, and on or before the opening of the second session of this Congress, to present their report to the President for transmission to Congress, stating in full a plan for the proper management of the forests upon the said lands, and the said commissioners shall make such further reports from time to time as they may deem necessary until this act shall be repealed or superseded as aforesaid.

SEC. 5.—That the said commissioners shall be authorized to contract, on behalf of the United States, for the sale to responsible parties, at a reasonable price, of such wood and timber as may be needed for immediate use in the localities adjoining the said lands, subject in every case to proper regulations, to be made by the said commissioners, with regard to the size and character of trees to be cut, the places where they are to be cut, and the means employed in cutting them.

SEC. 6.—That the said commissioners shall each receive a salary of three thousand dollars per annum, and shall be paid their necessary travelling expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties as commissioners. The commission shall be provided with an office in the Department of the Interior, and shall be authorized to employ a suitable clerical force.

SEC. 7.—That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith be and the same hereby are repealed; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that nothing in this act shall in any way interfere with any reservation of the public lands heretofore made, or which shall hereafter be made, by the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of irrigation, or with any use made of the same for that purpose.

An act to establish a national military park at the battle-field of Chickamauga.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of preserving and suitably marking for historical and professional military study the fields of some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting in the war of the rebellion, and upon the ceding of jurisdiction to the United States by the States of Tennessee and Georgia, respectively, and the report of the Attorney General of the United States that the title to the lands thus ceded is perfect, the following described highways in those States are hereby declared to be approaches to and parts of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park as established by the second section of this act, to wit: First—The Missionary Ridge Crest road from Sherman Heights at the north end of Missionary Ridge, in Tennessee, where the said road enters upon the ground occupied by the Army of the Tennessee under Major-General William T. Sherman, in the military operations of November twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-three; thence along said road through the positions occupied by the army of General Braxton Bragg on November twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and which were assaulted by the Army of the Cumberland under Major-General George H. Thomas on that date, to where the said road crosses the southern boundary of the State of Tennessee, near Rossville Gap, Georgia, upon the ground occupied by the troops of Major-General Joseph Hooker, from the Army of the Potomac, and thence in the State of Georgia to the junction of said road with the Chattanooga and Lafayette or State road at Rossville Gap; second, the Lafayette or State road from Rossville, Georgia, to Lee and Gordon's Mills, Georgia; third, the road from Lee and Gordon's Mills, Georgia, to Crawfish Springs, Georgia; fourth, the road from Crawfish Springs, Georgia, to the crossing of the Chickamauga at Glass' Mills, Georgia; fifth, the Dry Valley road from Rossville, Georgia, to the southern limits of McFarland's Gap in Missionary Ridge; sixth, the Dry Valley and Crawfish Springs road from McFarland's Gap to the intersection of the road from Crawfish Springs to Lee and Gordon's Mills; seventh, the road from Ringold, Georgia, to Reed's Bridge on the Chickamauga River; eighth, the roads from the crossing of Lookout Creek across the northern slope of Lookout Mountain and thence to the old Summer-town Road and to the valley on the east slope of the said mountain, and thence by the route of General Joseph Hooker's troops to Rossville, Georgia, and each and all of these herein described roads shall, after the passage of this act, remain open as free public highways, and all rights of way now existing through the grounds of the said park and its approaches shall be continued.

SEC. 2. That upon the ceding of jurisdiction by the legislature of the State of Georgia, and the report of the Attorney-General of the United States that a perfect title has been secured under the provisions of the act approved August first, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, entitled

"An act to authorize condemnation of land for sites of public buildings, and for other purposes," the lands and roads embraced in the area bounded as herein described, together with the roads described in section one of this act, are hereby declared to be a national park, to be known as the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park; that is to say, the area inclosed by a line beginning on the Lafayette or State road, in Georgia, at a point where the bottom of the ravine next north of the house known on the field of Chickamauga as the Cloud House, and being about six hundred yards north of said house, due east to the Chickamauga River and due west to the intersection of the Dry Valley road at McFarland's Gap; thence along the west side of the Dry Valley and Crawfish Springs roads to the south side of the road from Crawfish Springs to Lee and Gordon's Mills; thence along the south side of the last named road to Lee and Gordon's Mills; thence along the channel of the Chickamauga River to the line forming the northern boundary of the park, as hereinbefore described, containing seven thousand six hundred acres, more or less.

SEC. 3. That the said Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park, and the approaches thereto, shall be under the control of the Secretary of War, and it shall be his duty, immediately after the passage of this act to notify the Attorney General of the purpose of the United States to acquire title to the roads and lands described in the previous sections of this act under the provisions of the act of August first, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight; and the said Secretary, upon receiving notice from the Attorney-General of the United States that perfect titles have been secured to the said lands and roads, shall at once proceed to establish and substantially mark the boundaries of the said park.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to enter into agreements, upon such nominal terms as he may prescribe, with such present owners of the land as may desire to remain upon it, to occupy and cultivate their present holdings, upon condition that they will preserve the present buildings and roads, and the present outlines of field and forest, and that they will only cut trees or underbrush under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, and that they will assist in caring for and protecting all tablets, monuments, or such other artificial works as may from time to time be erected by proper authority.

SEC. 5. That the affairs of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary of War, be in charge of three commissioners, each of whom shall have actively participated in the battle of Chickamauga or one of the battles about Chattanooga, two to be appointed from civil life by the Secretary of War, and a third, who shall be detailed by the Secretary of War from among those officers of the Army best acquainted with the details of the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, who shall act as Secretary of the Commission. The said commissioners and Secretary shall have an office in the War Department building, and while on actual duty shall be paid such compensation, out of the appropriation provided in this act, as the Secretary of War shall deem reasonable and just.

SEC. 6. That it shall be the duty of the commissioners named in the preceding section, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to superintend the opening of such roads as may be necessary to the purposes of the park, and the repair of the roads of the same, and to ascertain and definitely mark the lines of battle of all troops engaged

in the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, so far as the same shall fall within the lines of the park as defined in the previous sections of this act, and, for the purpose of assisting them in their duties and in ascertaining these lines, the Secretary of War shall have authority to employ, at such compensation as he may deem reasonable and just, to be paid out of the appropriation made by this act, some person recognized as well informed in regard to the details of the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, and who shall have actively participated in one of those battles, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War from and after the passage of this act, through the commissioners, and their assistant in historical work, and under the act approved August first, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, regulating the condemnation of land for public uses, to proceed with the preliminary work of establishing the park and its approaches as the same are defined in this act, and the expenses thus incurred shall be paid out of the appropriation provided by this act.

SEC. 7. That it shall be the duty of the commissioners, acting under the direction of the Secretary of War, to ascertain and substantially mark the locations of the regular troops, both infantry and artillery, within the boundaries of the park, and to erect monuments upon those positions as Congress may provide the necessary appropriations; and the Secretary of War in the same way may ascertain and mark all lines of battle within the boundaries of the park and erect plain and substantial historical tablets at such points in the vicinity of the Park and its approaches as he may deem fitting and necessary to clearly designate positions and movements, which, although without the limits of the Park, were directly connected with the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

SEC. 8. That it shall be lawful for the authorities of any State having troops engaged either at Chattanooga or Chickamauga, and for the officers and directors of the Chickamauga Memorial Association, a corporation chartered under the laws of Georgia, to enter upon the lands and approaches of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park for the purpose of ascertaining and marking the lines of battle of troops engaged therein: *Provided*, That before any such lines are permanently designated the position of the lines and the proposed methods of marking them by monuments, tablets, or otherwise shall be submitted to the Secretary of War, and shall first receive the written approval of the Secretary, which approval shall be based upon formal written reports, which must be made to him in each case by the commissioners of the park.

SEC. 9. That the Secretary of War, subject to the approval of the President of the United States, shall have the power to make, and shall make, all needed regulations for the care of the park and for the establishment and marking of the lines of battle and other historical features of the park.

SEC. 10. That if any person shall willfully destroy, mutilate, deface, injure, or remove any monument, column, statues, memorial structure, or work of art that shall be erected or placed upon the grounds of the park by lawful authority, or shall willfully destroy or remove any fence, railing, inclosure, or other work for the protection or ornament of said park, or any portion thereof, or shall willfully destroy, cut, hack, bark, break down, or otherwise injure any tree, bush, or shrubbery that may be growing upon said park, or shall cut down or fell or remove any timber, battle relic, tree or trees growing or being upon such park, except by permission of the Sec-

retary of War, or shall willfully remove or destroy any breast-works, earth-works, walls, or other defenses or shelter, on any part thereof, constructed by the armies formerly engaged in the battles on the lands or approaches to the park, any person so offending and found guilty thereof, before any justice of the peace of the county in which the offense may be committed, shall for each and every such offense forfeit and pay a fine, in the discretion of the justice, according to the aggravation of the offense, of not less than five nor more than fifty dollars, one-half to the use of the park and the other half to the informer, to be enforced and recovered, before such justice, in like manner as debts of like nature are now by law recoverable in the several counties where the offense may be committed.

SEC. 11. That to enable the Secretary of War to begin to carry out the purposes of this act, including the condemnation and purchase of the necessary land, marking the boundaries of the park, opening or repairing necessary roads, maps and surveys, and the pay and expenses of the commissioners and their assistant, the sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, or such portion thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and disbursements under this act shall require the approval of the Secretary of War, and he shall make annual report of the same to Congress.

Approved, August 19, 1890.

Governmental Preservation of Natural Scenery.

In a communication that has been given to the public from the Governor of California to the Senators and Representatives in Congress of that State, I am surprised to find my name introduced in a manner that compels me to make the following statement.

In the year 1864, being then a citizen of California, I had the honor to be made chairman of the first Yosemite Commission, and in that capacity to take possession of the Valley for the State, to organize and direct the survey of it and to be the executive of various measures taken to guard the elements of its scenery from fires, trespassers and abuse. In the performance of these duties, I visited the Valley frequently, established a permanent camp in it and virtually acted as its superintendent. It was then to be reached from the nearest village only by a sixty mile journey in the saddle, and there were many more Indians in it than white men. The office had come to me unexpectedly and in a manner that earned my devotion. So far from a salary coming with it, it was an affair of considerable cost to me, which I have not asked to be reimbursed. Moving out of the State in the autumn of 1867, I presented my resignation of the office, which was accepted by the Governor with expressions of regret and gratitude.

I have not been in the Valley since; but because of some knowledge of this pioneer duty of mine, travelers returning from it have often told me of what they thought missteps in its administration. I have never expressed an opinion on the subject. These travelers have also now and then urged that some proceeding should be taken to exosulate with the State against the manner in which it was believed by them to be abusing its trust. I have always declined to move, or take part in any movement, for the purpose.

Several years ago, one of the editorial staff of the Century Magazine, Mr. R. U. Johnson, called on me with a letter of introduction. In the conversation that ensued, the subject came up of the danger to treasures of natural scenery that is more and more growing out of modern developments of commerce and modern habits of travel. The thought came to the surface that with reference to this danger, a sentiment needs to be cultivated such as would appear in any crisis threatening a national treasure of art. I do not remember that the Yosemite was referred to, but it followed from the conversation that I wrote a short paper, afterwards published in the Century, upon the duty of towns to guard for their future people eminently valuable passages of scenery near them, and in this paper the Yosemite was mentioned; but not reproachfully to the Commissioners.

Last summer I received a second call from Mr. Johnson. He had just returned from the Yosemite, and his object was to invite me to prepare an article upon it. I declined, giving as one reason for doing so that I could not properly write on the subject without making a prolonged personal examination of the present condition of the Valley and investigating the grounds of the complaints made by travelers as to the management of it. I was then asked if I would undertake to make such an examination and investigation at a suitable professional compensation from the Magazine, taking with me an accomplished artist to prepare illustrations for the desired article. I was loth to decline so liberal a proposition, but concluded that I must in justice to my existing professional engagements.

Mr. Johnson then said that he would be obliged to write upon it himself, and thereupon mentioned several points upon which he desired my opinion. One was in regard to a proposi-

tion which I understood to involve the systematic cutting out of all young trees in the Valley. He asked what I thought of it. A proper system of management for woods valued because of their effect in scenery, must be directed as much to the renewal and perpetuation of the constituent trees as to anything else; a common rule being that for every hundred or thousand trees going off, there shall be a hundred or a thousand more, advancing, to take their place. To provide against accidents, and in order that the replacing trees shall be of choice quality, a much larger number of young trees are kept growing, those not selected to remain because of their choiceness being gradually thinned out. A systematic removal of all the young trees of the Valley would be equivalent to the destruction, in course of time, of just what the State of California stands voluntarily pledged to "*hold, inalienably, for all time.*" That is to say, the distinctive charm of the scenery of the Yosemite does not depend, as it is a vulgar blunder to suppose, on the greatness of its walls and the length of its little early summer cascades; the height of certain of its trees, the reflections in its pools, and such other matters as can be entered in statistical tables, pointed out by guides and represented within picture frames. So far, perhaps, as can be told in a few words, it lies in the rare association with the grandeur of its rocky elements, of brooks flowing quietly through the ferny and bosky glades of very beautifully disposed great bodies, groups and clusters of trees. In this respect, its charm is greater than that of any other scenery that, with much searching, I have found. There is nothing in the least like it in the canyon of the Colorado, sometimes foolishly compared with the Yosemite. I felt the charm of the Yosemite much more at the end of a week than at the end of a day, much more after six weeks when the cascades were nearly dry, than after one week, and when, after having been in it, off and on, several months, I was going out, I said, "I have not yet half taken it in." To the perpetuation of this charm nothing is more essential than the constant renewal of its wood. There will always be danger that fire will too much interfere with what it is necessary to provide in this respect.

These views having been for years fixed in my mind, to Mr. Johnson's inquiry I replied, that to carry out such a rule as he said had been advocated, would be "a calamity to the civilized world." I remember that I said this because he introduced the phrase in what he afterwards wrote, and this has been my sole contribution, hitherto, to the agitation of the subject. It did not occur to me at the time, nor do I think now, that Mr. Johnson was trying to "make a case" against the State. His questions were such as would be asked by any intelligent man of one known to have given many years of serious and business-like study to a subject about which the inquirer was preparing to address the public. To me he only seemed patient and pains-taking, just and loyal in the performance of a not at all pleasing duty. He was apparently seeking to avoid injustice to the Commissioners whom I judged that he regarded as honest and well-meaning men. He distinctly agreed with me in discrediting much that had been charged against them. He spoke disrespectfully of no one of them, but showed, I think, that he had an impression that, as a body, they had taken a narrow, short-sighted and market-place view of the duty of the State in the premises.

I have thus shown all that I have had to do with the matter, and all that I know concerning Mr. Johnson's motives and methods. I believe that the latter were simple, honorable, public-spirited and perfectly in character with the distinguished high tone of the Magazine he represents. The Governor has been led to state in an official paper, given to the world, that Mr. Johnson is my nephew, and that all he wanted in this business was to bulldoze the Commissioners into giving me employment, as to the latter of which delusions I may say that I have never been so unfortunate as to need to solicit public employment, or to have any one solicit it for me.

After the above narration, may I not suggest that if the attitude of the State of California toward the trust it accepted in 1864, from the Nation, were what it ought to be, its Governor

would hardly have missed the point of the remonstrance of the Century, so completely as his letter indicates that he has.

That remonstrance points to nothing in the methods of the Commissioners that would be objectionable if the concern of the Nation in the matter were of the same kind that it is with the State's dealings with mineral deposits, irrigation, militia, schools, railroads, or even forests. If the Governor and the Commissioners are in error, their error probably lies not in any intentional disregard of the State's obligation, but in overlooking the fact that in natural scenery that which is of essential value lies in conditions of a character not to be exactly described and made the subject of specific injunctions in an Act of Congress, and not to be perfectly discriminated without other wisdom than that which is gained in schools and colleges, counting-rooms and banks. Such qualities as are attributed by the Governor to his Commissioners — integrity, general education, business experience and what is comprehensively called good taste — do not, in themselves, qualify men to guard against the waste of such essential value, much less do they fit them to devise with artistic refinement means for reconciling with its preservation, its development and its exhibition, such requirements of convenience for multitudes of travelers as must be provided in the Yosemite. Whether it is the case with these Commissioners or not, there are thousands of such estimable men who have no more sense in this respect than children, and it must be said that those most wanting in it are those least conscious of the want. Men of the qualifications attributed to the Commissioners are the best sort of men for the proper duties of an auditing and controlling board. There could be no better men for the usual business of a board of hospital trustees, for example. But the best board of hospital trustees would commit what the law regards as a crime, if they assumed the duties of physicians and nurses. Ability in a landscape *designer* is, in some small degree, a native endowment, but much more it is a matter of penetrative study, discipline, training, and the development through practice of a special knack. Even men of unusually happy endowment and education, who have not, also, the results of considerable working experience, can rarely have much forecasting realization of the manner in which charm of scenery is to be affected by such operations as commonly pass under the name of "improvements."

I should say no more had I not observed in a California publication on the subject an assumption that a professional field-student of that which constitutes the charm of natural scenery would be more inclined than other men to crowd the Yosemite with "artificialities." Its error may be shown by quoting the advice, given several years ago, by the Landscape Architects employed by the State of New York to outline a plan for the restoration, preservation, development and exhibition, of the scenery of Niagara Falls. The paragraph which follows was the only italicised passage in their report, this distinction meaning that they regarded the principle stated as the corner stone of their work.

"Having regard to the enjoyment of natural scenery, and considering that the means of making this enjoyment available to large numbers will unavoidably lessen the extent and value of the primary elements of natural scenery, nothing of an artificial character should be allowed a place on the property, no matter how valuable it might be under other circumstances, and no matter at how little cost it may be had, the presence of which can be avoided consistently with the provision of necessary conditions for making the enjoyment of the natural scenery available."

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED.

BROOKLINE, MASS.,

8th March, 1890.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT.

Many New England towns reap a rich harvest from the exodus of Summer visitors from the city to the country, now so marked a feature of the times. These sojourners hail with delight the formation of Village Improvement Societies, which have transformed so many towns, especially by leading the citizens to beautify each his own home and grounds. Every town needs some *organized* efforts to develop its natural advantages, increase its attractions and improve its homes and home life. For the home should always be the objective point.

It is largely through the coöperation of clergymen, that this Village Improvement movement has spread across the continent, for its social, educational and moral influences are more important even than the financial gain.

These organizations foster a town pride which facilitates liberal plans and gifts, suggesting to every citizen the question, "What do I owe to my town, or rather, what is it my privilege to do for it?" The sentiment that cherishes one's town is noble and ennobling and has characterized the best men the world has ever seen. Under such appeals, large gifts are often made for public improvements not only by citizens but by natives, now non-residents. Men of wealth would oftener respond to these calls, were the need duly presented. Thousands of dollars come in these filial gifts and *often from unexpected sources*, so that the membership fee is only one of the smaller rills that enrich the treasury.

INSCRIBED ON THE CLOUDS.

A BOSTON STORY OF NOVEMBER, 1892.

BY SYLVESTER BAXTER.

I HAD been on a pleasure-trip to Jamaica, and was returning on a freight steamer laden with bananas. It was late in the evening when we entered the harbor. I stood on the deck watching the dim mass of the distant city, sprinkled with lights and gradually enlarging at our vessel's approach. The sky was overcast, and in the still air the city was canopied with a thick smoke-pall, which reflected in a kind of ghastly luminosity the light from the many lamps below. I recalled the appearance of this same pall a few years before. It had a friendly sort of ruddiness then, but now the strong white rays of the electric lights had quite overpowered the more cheery glow of the gas lamps; and the reflected light, though far more intense, seemed not so picturesque or agreeable in its effect as in the former days.

I felt annoyed when our steamer came to anchor out in the stream, for I had been expecting to reach home that evening. It was too late for the custom-house officers to make their examinations, and so we had to wait on board until morning. But there was no use complaining, and so, before retiring for my last night in my narrow ship quarters, I remained for some time gazing at the harbor life of after dark, always fascinating in the semi-mystery of dim hulks and phantom-like sails of silently moving craft; of the wanderings of red and green and yellow lamps; of ferry-boats passing to and fro like shuttles, and beating the water with paddles that sent out hoarse vibrations into the night air. These things are fascinating at all times, but doubly so after the monotony of several days at sea.

Suddenly I heard a cry of terror from one of the colored servants from the cabin who was standing near by. The man dropped on his knees, with the cry:

"O Lordy Massy! At las' de day ob judgment am come for suah, an' no mistake!"

At the same time the cause for his astonishing conduct was manifest; for there, on the dark canopy overhanging the city, appeared inscribed in enormous letters of sulphurous blue light the words:

"BEWARE OF THE WRATH TO COME!"

It was no wonder the poor fellow was frightened. The words seemed to crawl about over the sky. They advanced toward us, and then receded; appeared now in this quarter of the sky, and now in that. All at once the color and the words changed, and there came in crimson light, with ragged, flame-like letters, the awful words:

"THERE IS A HELL!"

The poor colored fellow beside me, in spite of his agony of fright, had not been able to keep his eyes from the spectacle, but at this transformation he regained his feet with a desperate effort and, with a horrified yell, rushed inside. The crew in general were terror-stricken; even some of the passengers and officers were evidently not unimpressed, judging by their blanched faces.

After my first astonishment at the phenomenon, I had quickly detected its origin, for, toward the letters as they gleamed upon the clouds, there appeared in the atmosphere the telltale marks of lines of light diverging from their source in some powerful reflecting apparatus. I had seen the search-lights of a man-of-war at work. These rays moved about in the atmosphere, with the motion of the letters. It was simply the application of the stereopticon idea to the search-light, using the clouds for a screen.

The captain, who had also perceived instantly how

the thing was done, was very indignant, and declared that he would like to have the pleasure of stringing up to the yard-arm the fellow who presumed to desecrate the clouds of heaven for such purposes. He quickly spread the information, and soon succeeded in assuaging all fears that had been aroused.

It seemed that we had witnessed the first performance of the spectacle, and when I went on shore the next morning I found the newspapers full of it. The idea had occurred to some man who had taken out a patent upon it, and the patent had been bought by a manufacturer of wheel-grease, a person who had done more than any other alive to disfigure the natural scenery of the country with his atrociously painted advertisements. He was exceedingly pious, after the pattern that satisfies itself with dogma instead of principle; and he was an active politician, with an ambition for Congressional honors, which he sought to achieve by the weight of his millions, aided by the cheap smartness that had enabled him to lay the foundation for his fortune.

But it turned out that there was no person more indignant at the spectacle than the manufacturer of the Blazing Star Wheel-Grease himself. In the evening newspapers there appeared a wrathful card over his signature, denouncing the performance as a scurvy trick played by some one of the opposing political party, in order to forestall the display that he had projected to come off within a few evenings. He did not, however, deny that the sentiments of the mottoes were his, for he had often given expression to the same in his Sunday-school addresses. What he objected to was having a march stolen on him, for there was nothing in which he felt more pride than his advertising prowess. The public had a good laugh at his expense, and nearly everybody rejoiced at his discomfiture, for the prospect of having the sky itself used as an advertising medium was by no means an agreeable one. "Blazing Star Borse," as he was commonly called, had announced that on election night, which was near at hand, he would have the first regular public exhibition of his "Grand Firmament Inscriptive Decorator," when, "together with other interesting and instructive material," he would have the honor of displaying the election returns that would "announce the triumph of the party upon which the very existence of the country depended!"

The facts concerning that premature display were as follows: Some young university students who had a healthy contempt for Borse and his methods had somehow obtained access to the shop where the Blazing Star apparatus was kept, and had experimented with some lantern-slides of their own, with the result we have seen. Now that Borse had announced his own show for election night, the students conceived a little plan which promised to make the public more fun than that of the first occasion.

Meanwhile the subject was taken up by the Society for the Protection of Natural Scenery, and an indignation meeting was called to protest against such a desecration of the firmament. Blazing Star Borse was a heavy contributor to the campaign fund of his party, and his pious professions did not make him at all scrupulous as to the manner in which it should be used. As the Society for the Protection of Natural Scenery included in its membership influential men of both parties, a strong political pressure was brought to bear to cause it to abandon its proposed action. It was charged that it was a scheme to prostitute a great and beneficent organization to partisan ends, and, moreover, it was claimed that the Society was transcending its legitimate functions; the sky was not "scenery" in the same sense as rocks, trees, stone-walls and barns, which were the usual vehicles for such advertising; no permanent injury could be done

the sky; the advertising would not remain, but would disappear as soon as the light ceased!

Public indignation, however, had been too deeply stirred to be susceptible to such argument. Even people who were not subject to ordinary æsthetic motives had been aroused by this. Every young lover, or potential lover, for instance, felt an alarm at the idea of such a distracting influence as would inevitably be exerted by the appearance of a glaring advertisement upon the sky while out with his sweetheart for a stroll under the stars. "Fancy such a sequel to a glorious sunset, before whose beauty all the world might stand spellbound—the display upon the twilight clouds of an advertisement of some quack nostrum or other undesirable commodity!" said one of the newspapers. And attention was called to the passage in the circular that had been issued by Borse offering territorial rights for sale, in which it was pointed out, with a proud disregard of grammatical relations, that there was "no advertising medium like the sky; nobody could shut their eyes to it; everybody would have to give it their attention."

The indignation meeting was a great success, and an enormous sum was subscribed to prevent, if possible, the use of such an atrocious form of advertising.

Election night came, and all the city was agog to see the promised spectacle. The newspaper bulletins, with their stereopticon adjuncts, were this time comparatively neglected. The public squares and the vacant lots commanding an unobstructed view of the quarter of the sky in which it had been announced that the display would take place, were crowded.

At last the show began. Characteristically, the first thing displayed was a great portrait of Borse himself, enclosed in a gorgeous star of prismatic colors, and surrounded by the inscription:

"BUY BLAZING STAR WHEEL-GREASE! THE BEST IN THE WORLD!"

Then, to the astonishment of everybody, there appeared beneath the picture, in glittering letters, the words:

"IT'S A FRAUD, AND SO IS ITS OWNER!"

The jeers and laughter that went up from the multitude were tremendous, and seemed to shake the clouds themselves. But they were nothing to the volume of derisive sound that followed a prolonged "O-o-o-o-o-o-h" coming in unison from thousands of throats when a lurid-hued effigy of His Satanic Majesty appeared sweeping across the heavens. It seemed to pounce savagely upon Borse's portrait, obliterating it completely, and there was announced at the same time the following news:

"FROM THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
BLAZING STAR FRIED IN HIS OWN GREASE!
HADDAMS BEATS HIM BY THREE THOUSAND MAJORITY."

Of course, it was the work of the students. They had gone to the central committee of the other party and suggested a plan for the discomfiture of Borse. The plan was enthusiastically approved and promptly and quietly carried out. A search-light of treble the candle-power of Blazing Star's was provided, and the appropriate lantern slides were made. So, by focusing upon the same spot, it was easy to obliterate the weaker illumination from the apparatus of the wheel-grease manufacturer. Therefore there was plenty of fun for the spectators that night. The students played with the show of the enemy much as a cat plays with a mouse. The Blazing Star announcements were followed by sarcastic commentaries, or were blotted out and replaced by news favorable to the other side.

Although "Blazing Star Wheel-Grease" himself had been badly beaten, yet it appeared that his party was triumphant in the election at large. Returns from the

pivotal States showed that the still more extensive application of the methods so successful in the previous campaign had borne its expected fruit in this; money had been heaped into the scales so lavishly as to outweigh the legitimate exercise of the elective franchise. So, in spite of the fun going on before me, my heart grew heavy as I thought how thoroughly the plutocracy had entrenched itself in power and reduced the republic to a mere formal mockery!

But just then, after an announcement from the Blazing Star side which evidently settled the matter, there followed from the students' lantern the statement of the result in our own State, which was not a "pivotal" one, and had been conceded to that side with which it had usually voted from force of habit formed when the party of corruption and privileged interests had stood for high moral ideas. Now, however, it had been brought over to the right side by more than a thousand majority, and its Electoral vote had turned the balance the other way, carrying with it the National election!

"SLIPPED UP ON TOO MUCH WHEEL-GREASE!"

was the final announcement of the evening, telling of the certain defeat of the plutocratic party.

It was true. Disgust for the methods of the cheap charlatan in whose behalf the party managers, blinded by the glitter of his gold, had endeavored to discredit the motives of the Society for the Protection of Natural Scenery, had produced a revulsion of popular feeling which had revolutionized the politics of the State and brought the conduct of the Nation once more into safe hands.

Shortly afterwards I read in the newspapers with keen satisfaction that the Supreme Court had granted a perpetual injunction against the Blazing Star firmament inscriber, deciding that a use of the clouds for advertising purposes was a public nuisance.

TO ROMAINE.

"NO verse I've sent you"—is this your plaint?—
"Since those dear, early days," I breathe them yet!
Do you recall those rhymes, how sorrow's taint
Touched every line? Or do you, Love, forget?
While life is sweet, and hope flies on before,
Here, read your poems in my eager eyes.
Is love to fail, and hope be mine no more?
A wounded soul may rend the world with cries.
Thus, if no melting verses you receive,
Count it not loss, but rather happy gain:
It is enough to *live* when we *believe*.
The deathless poem is the voice of pain.

CORA STUART WHEELER.

THE GOVERNMENT of the ballot-box stuffer and repeater is no government at all. Such crimes are the most dangerous that can occur. Honest ambition and honest aspiration are crushed. Intelligence is scorned. The patriotism with which you would imbue your children becomes to them a useless acquisition. To instil in their minds a love of country so governed would be only to invite them to a sickening fraud feast. The history which would be placed in their hands would only be the cruel story of bribery and corruption of the ballot-box. Under such rule property becomes the prey of confiscation. Under the name of taxation, communistic parasites and sinecurists would eat up the heart of mankind.—
Judge Lippincott.

WASHINGTON TRAIN SERVICE.—The city of Washington enjoys the advantages of the fastest train service in America, if not in the world. The time via the B. & O. R. R. is 6 hours to Liberty street, New York, 2 hours and 50 minutes to Philadelphia and 45 minutes to Baltimore. This is quicker time than is made via any other line, and the finest parlor-cars ever built by the famous Pullman Company are in service on these superb trains.—*Adv.*

18TH JULY, 1890.

At a meeting of the Committee organized to promote the "Preservation of Beautiful and Historical Places in Massachusetts," held at 9 Park Street, Boston, July 17th, 1890, Chairman Walcott presiding, and twelve members being present, the following votes were passed:

Voted: That the report of the Sub-Committee, appointed at the last meeting, be taken from the table and referred to the Sub-Committee on Legislation. [Messrs. Shurtleff of Springfield, Parker of Worcester, and Moses Williams of Brookline.]

Voted: That the report of the Sub-Committee be printed and distributed by the Secretary to the members of the Committee.

Voted: That the Chairman appoint a Sub-Committee of three to draw up a circular for early publication, and to issue the same as from the Committee. [Messrs. Parker of Worcester, Baxter of Malden, and Eliot of Cambridge, appointed.]

Voted: That the Treasurer be authorized to pay from moneys in the Treasury such bills as may be audited by the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee.

Voted: That the President, Treasurer and Secretary be an Executive Committee, with power to add not more than twelve new members to the Committee.

In accordance with the second of the above votes the report there referred to is printed below.

CHARLES ELIOT, *Secretary*,
50 State Street, Room 50, Boston.

To the Chairman of the General Committee:

The undersigned Sub-Committee beg leave to report as follows:

The General Committee was appointed by the Conference of May 24th "to promote the establishment of a Board of Trustees," whose powers and duties were only loosely sketched in the resolution adopted by the Conference. The duty of this Sub-Committee, as we have understood it, has been to define these powers in greater detail, and to devise the organization of the Board itself.

Upon consideration, we have concluded to recommend the establishment, beside the incorporated Board of Trustees, of a second body with the powers of a Board of Visitors. One Board, a small and almost close corporation of the class which has been proved best able to manage invested funds well. A second Board, representative of those associations of citizens which are vitally interested in the preservation of the memorable and beautiful places of the State. Without the one Board there would be no sufficient confidence in the safety of the prop-

erty; without the other there would be no sufficiently vital connection with the interested citizenship of the Commonwealth. Our undertaking will not be likely to succeed if the historical and out-of-door societies of the State are not ready to co-operate in establishing and assisting a Board of Trustees capable of acting in behalf of all.

We recommend, then, that the Committee proceed to promote the incorporation of the "Trustees of Massachusetts Reservations," and the establishment of the "Delegates of the Affiliated Societies of Massachusetts," and we further suggest that these two Boards be organized and empowered as follows:

A. The "Trustees."

Two persons to be appointed by the Governor and Council: their successors to be appointed in the same manner, as vacancies occur.

Five persons to be named in the act of incorporation: their successors to be elected by the full Board, as vacancies occur.

The Trustees to be empowered:

1. To elect annually by ballot a President and Treasurer from their number, and a Secretary, who may or may not be a member of the Board; and to provide for the appointment of all servants of the corporation.

2. To acquire, with the approval of the Delegates, by gift, devise or purchase, parcels of real estate possessing natural beauty or historical interest; and to hold the same exempt from taxation and assessment.

3. To assume, with the approval of the Delegates, the care of permanent funds, the income of which shall be devoted to the general or special purposes of their incorporation as the donors may prescribe; and to hold the same exempt from taxation.

4. To assume direction of the expenditure of such moneys as may be offered them for immediate use in promoting the general or special objects of their incorporation.

5. To accept gifts of useful, artistic or historically interesting objects.

6. To arrange with towns and cities for the admission of the public to the reservations in return for police protection.

B. The "Delegates."

The President and Treasurer of the Trustees *ex-officiis*. Not less than seven nor more than twenty-three other persons to be appointed by the governing bodies of as many incorporated societies; vacancies to be filled as they occur by said governing bodies. Seven societies to be named in the act incorporating the Trustees, and the body of Delegates to admit, if they see fit, other societies to the privilege of appointing Delegates, provided that the total number of societies shall not exceed twenty-three.

The Delegates to be empowered:

1. To elect annually by ballot a President and Secretary.

2. To confirm such acts of the Trustees as involve the assumption of permanent trusts.

(See A., 2 and 3.)

3. To discuss ways and means, to devise methods, to propose new undertakings, and, in general, to promote the enlightened self-interest of the Commonwealth in respect to landscape beauty and historical memorials.

If the Committee shall in a general way approve the foregoing recommendations as to the organization and powers of the proposed Boards, the next step will be the reference of this report to a Sub-Committee to draft an act for presentation to the Legislature. Many of the above proposals should be embodied in By-Laws, rather than in an act of the Legislature.

Lastly we may be permitted to illustrate our scheme by a few imaginary cases:

A., during his lifetime, offers the Trustees five acres of land, situated so and so, with a fund of five thousand dollars for maintenance purposes. The Trustees vote to accept the gift, and their vote is transmitted to the Delegates. The latter body appoints a Committee to inspect the property, and, upon a favorable report, votes to confirm the acceptance of the Trust by the Trustees. (See A., 2 and 3.)

B., offers the Trustees a similar property, the site of an Indian stronghold, but no fund for maintenance. The Trustees decline the gift with thanks; but the Delegate from the local historical society succeeds in raising by subscription a suitable fund, and Trustees and Delegates then unite in accepting the separate gifts. (See A., 2 and 3.)

C., offers the Trustees a thousand dollars to be spent in certain ways upon a designated reservation, and the Trustees may or may not accept the gift without reference to the Delegates. (See A., 4.)

D., offers seats, or a fountain, or a hundred young trees for a particular reservation, and the Trustees may or may not accept the gift without reference to the Delegates. (See A., 5.)

E., offers the sum of ten thousand dollars, the whole to be spent for a designated object which the Trustees have never before undertaken to promote. The Trustees may accept or reject the gift without reference to the Delegates, but the novelty of the proposed object makes them hesitate, and they ask advice of the Delegates, and act accordingly.

F., being a Delegate, reports to the Board that his society is contemplating raising a subscription for the purchase of a particular locality; and asks for a vote of encouragement and approval, which is granted.

It will be perceived that the possible variety of gifts is very great, and that it has been the endeavor of the Sub-Committee to draw up a general scheme which shall be broad enough to cover all probable cases and all varieties of conditions. We believe in giving the Trustees great liberty of action, and leaving them to decide, as each gift is presented to them, whether or not they shall accept it.

Sub-Committee, { J. EVARTS GREENE. Sec.
CHARLES ELIOT.
MOSES WILLIAMS.
FREDK. LAW OLMSTED.
GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH.

THE PRESERVATION
OF
BEAUTIFUL and HISTORICAL PLACES.

CIRCULAR No. 2.

The following pages contain in briefest form (1) the reasons for making numerous public reservations, (2) the methods by which such reservations have been made, (3) the special reasons for the establishment of the proposed "Trustees of Public Reservations."

— I. —

Places of historical interest or remarkable beauty should be withdrawn from private ownership, preserved from harm, and opened to the public for the following reasons :

Because it is eminently true that

" where great deeds were done,

A power abides transfused from sire to son."

Because the contemplation of natural beauty is found to refresh the tired spirits of townspeople as nothing else can.

Because the visitation of such places educates the people in the love of nature, of beauty, and of native land.

Because the private ownership of such places deprives the people of a source of education and refreshment which they need to enjoy.

Because the private ownership of such places usually results in the destruction of that special beauty or interest in which their value to the Commonwealth consists.

Because the public ownership of such places means not only enjoyment and enlightenment for the people, but also, by reason of their attractiveness, an increased resort of visitors, and a corresponding increase of wealth in the neighborhood of the reservations, and throughout the State.

— II. —

Public reservations in the United States have been established (1) by National action, (2) by State action, (3) by Municipal action, and (4) by private action.

(1) The following are examples of National reservations :

The *Yellowstone National Park* : 3000 square miles of the public domain reserved from sale and settlement.

The *Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park* : 7600 acres of private land condemned and purchased.

The *approaches to the Chickamauga Park* : 26 miles of highway accepted by the Nation as a gift from the States of Virginia and Tennessee.

(2) The following are examples of State reservations :

The *New York State Forest Reserve* in the Adirondack Mountains : many thousands of acres of the State domain reserved from sale and settlement.

The *New York State Reservation at Niagara* : about 100 acres of private land condemned and purchased.

The *Connecticut State Reservation* in the townships of Bethel and Redding (The Putnam Memorial Camp) : 38 acres, accepted by the State as a gift from two citizens.

(3) The following are examples of Municipal reservations :

Boston Common : reserved from sale and settlement by the first Colonists.

Franklin Park, Boston : condemned and purchased by the City.

Institute Park, Worcester : accepted by the City as a gift from a citizen.

(4) The following are examples of reservations secured by private persons, with the approval of various Legislatures :

The *Mt. Vernon Estate*, in Virginia : the property of a Corporation, which is exempted from taxation.

The *Serpent Mound Park*, in Ohio : the gift of a few persons to the Corporation of Harvard University. The Park is open to the public and it is not taxed.

The *Chittenango Falls Park* in the townships of Cazenovia and Fenner, New York : the gift of several citizens to an incorporated Board of Trustees, who are required to keep the Park open to the public forever.

The *Old South Church*, in Boston : presented by a large body of subscribers to an incorporated Board of Trustees, who hold it as a Memorial, exempt from taxation.

The *Longfellow Memorial Garden*, in Cambridge, Massachusetts : presented by the Longfellow family to an incorporated Board of Trustees, whose property is exempted from taxation.

— III. —

It is proposed to establish in Massachusetts a corporation to be called the "Trustees of Public Reservations." It is proposed to give these Trustees the power to acquire, by gift or purchase, beautiful or historical places in any part of the State, to arrange with cities and towns for the necessary policing of the reservations so acquired, and to open the reservations to the public when such arrangements have been made. This Board of Trustees should be established without further delay, and for the following reasons:

(1) Because the existing means of securing and preserving public reservations are not sufficiently effective. Every year sees the exclusion of the public from more and more scenes of interest and beauty, and every year sees the irreparable destruction of others.

(2) Because, if it is desirable to supplement the existing means of securing and preserving the scenes in question, no method can be found which will more surely serve the desired end than that by means of which Massachusetts has established her successful hospitals, colleges, and art museums: namely the method which consists in setting up a respected Board of Trustees, and leaving all the rest to the munificence of public spirited men and women. When the necessary organization is provided, the lovers of Nature and History will rally to endow the Trustees with the care of their favorite scenes, precisely as the lovers of Art have so liberally endowed the Art Museums.

(3) Because a general Board of Trustees established with power to accept or reject whatever property may be offered it in any part of the State, will be able to act for the benefit of the whole people, and without regard to the principal cause of the ineffectiveness of present methods, namely, the local jealousies felt by townships and parts of townships towards each other.

(4) Because the beautiful and historical Commonwealth of Massachusetts can no longer afford to refrain from applying to the preservation of her remarkable places every method which experience in other fields has approved. The State is rapidly losing her great opportunity to insure for the future an important source of material as well as moral prosperity.

NOTE. — A Committee representing all parts of Massachusetts has been organized to promote the establishment of the proposed Trustees. The Treasurer of the Committee, George Wigglesworth, 89 State Street, Boston, will acknowledge the receipt of subscriptions to the Committee's working fund; and the Secretary, Charles Eliot, 50 State Street, Boston, will send copies of Circulars Nos. 1 and 2 to any address.

[PLEASE POST CONSPICUOUSLY.]

THE PRESERVATION OF
BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORICAL PLACES
IN MASSACHUSETTS.

On May 24th, 1890, a conference of persons interested in the preservation of scenery and historical sites was held in Boston at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. President Henry H. Sprague, of the State Senate, presided. Suggestive speeches were made by the Hon. Leverett Saltonstall, Judge William S. Shurtleff, Professor C. E. Norton, Mr. J. B. Harrison, and others; and letters from Governor Brackett, Dr. Holmes, Mr. Whittier, and many others, were read. The Conference created a Committee to promote the preservation of beautiful and historical sites in Massachusetts, and this Committee now issues the following

CIRCULAR No. I.

The fundamental facts of the subject with which the Committee has to deal are two, namely:

1st. It is the self-interest of the Commonwealth to preserve, for the enjoyment of her people and their guests, all her finest scenes of natural beauty and all her places of historical interest.

2d. Private ownership of such scenes and places now prevails, so that not only is the public completely barred out from many especially refreshing and interesting spots, but these valuable places are often robbed of their beauty or interest for some small private gain.

The problem calls for intelligent action on the part of the Legislature, and generous action on the part of private citizens. The Committee will ask the Legislature to act for the best interests of the Commonwealth by establishing a Board of Trustees, capable of holding lands for the use and enjoyment of the public; and the Committee will ask the owners of lands, and the possessors of money which can buy or maintain lands, to endow the Trustees with suitable lands and considerable funds immediately upon their incorporation. With the fostering approval of the Legislature, the large and small gifts of enlightened citizens have provided Massachusetts with colleges, libraries, art museums, and hospitals. When the State shall have established the necessary organization, gifts of beautiful and interesting places and sites may be confidently expected, for no nobler use of wealth can be imagined.

Judge William S. Shurtleff of Springfield, Hon. Henry L. Parker of Worcester, and Moses Williams, Esq., of Brookline, have been appointed a Sub-Committee on Legislation. The establishment of an advisory Board, in addition to the Board of Trustees, will probably be recommended to the Legislature, its members to be elected as Delegates from existing incorporated associations. The State possesses many thriving historical and out-of-doors societies, and they will be called upon to unite in establishing and assisting a Board of Trustees which shall be capable of holding property valuable to one and all. Such acts of the Trustees as involve the assumption of permanent trusts will come before this Board of Delegates for confirmation.

The Committee desires to hear from the officers of all societies which may wish to send Delegates to the proposed Board, and also from the officers or members of any societies which may see fit to assist the Committee by adopting resolutions favoring the establishment of the proposed Board of Trustees for public places.

The Committee hopes to be informed of all movements now on foot looking to the opening to the public of any beautiful or historical places, as also of all lands which it may be desirable and possible to obtain for the proposed Trustees. Letters may be addressed to the nearest member of the Committee, or to the Secretary, Charles Eliot, 50 State Street, Boston.

Lastly, the Committee requests all persons who may feel interested in this attempt to facilitate the preservation of natural scenery and of historical memorials to send contributions for this purpose to the Treasurer of the Committee, George Wigglesworth, Esq., 89 State Street, Boston. If the working fund can be made large enough, the work of the Committee can go on prosperously; otherwise it must languish.

COMMITTEE.

FRANCIS A. WALKER, Boston.

SARAH H. CROCKER, Boston.

JOSEPH TUCKER, Pittsfield.

CHRISTOPHER...

COMMITTEE.

FRANCIS A. WALKER, Boston.

SARAH H. CROCKER, Boston.

MARION TALBOT, Boston.

WM. C. BURRAGE, Boston.

C. S. RACKEMANN, Milton.

GEORGE C. MANN, Jamaica Plain.

L. SALTONSTALL, Chestnut Hill.

F. L. OLMSTED, Brookline.

C. S. SARGENT, Brookline.

MOSES WILLIAMS, Brookline.

SYLVESTER BAXTER, Malden.

ELIZABETH HOWE, Cambridge.

WM. S. SHURTLEFF, Springfield.

JOSEPH TUCKER, Pittsfield.

CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, N'hampton.

RICHARD GOODMAN, Lenox.

FRANKLIN CARTER, Williamstown.

GEORGE SHELDON, Deerfield.

HENRY M. DEXTER, New Bedford.

HENRY M. LOVERING, Taunton.

GEORGE R. BRIGGS, Plymouth.

J. EVARTS GREENE, Worcester.

HENRY L. PARKER, Worcester.

PHILIP A. CHASE, Lynn.

W. C. ENDICOTT, Jr., Salem.

HENRY P. WALCOTT, Cambridge, *Chairman.*

GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH, Boston,

Treasurer.

CHARLES ELIOT, Boston,

Secretary.

50 STATE STREET,
BOSTON.

The Committee organized to promote the preservation of beautiful and historical places in Massachusetts, requests your presence at the Hearing on their petition for the accompanying "Act of Incorporation," to be held on Tuesday, March 10th 1891, at 11 o'clock A. M., in Room 2, State House.

For the Committee,

CHARLES ELIOT,

Secretary.

MARCH 6th 1891.

50 State St.
Boston.
Dear Sir:
In behalf of the Committee organized to promote the preservation of beautiful and historical places in Massachusetts, I respectfully request permission to insert your name in the first section of the accompanying proposed Act.
Yours very truly,
Charles Eliot
Secretary
th. February 9th.

[PRIVATE PROOF.]

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE TRUSTEES OF
PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

Be it enacted, etc.

SECTION 1.— Frederick L. Ames, Philip A. Chase, Christopher Clarke, Charles R. Codman, Elisha S. Converse, George F. Hoar, John J. Russell, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles S. Sargent, Nathaniel S. Shaler, George Sheldon, William S. Shurtleff, George H. Tucker, Francis A. Walker, George Wigglesworth, their associates and successors, are hereby made a body corporate by the name of THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS, for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining, and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth, with the powers and privileges and subject to the duties set forth in the general laws which now are or hereafter may be in force relating to such corporations.

SECTION 2 — Said corporation may acquire and hold by grant, gift, devise, purchase, or otherwise, real estate such as it may deem worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of the public, and such other property, both real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient to support or promote the objects of the corporation.

SECTION 3.— All personal property held by said corporation, and all lands which it may cause to be opened to the public, and all lands which it may acquire and hold with this object in view, shall be exempt from taxation in the same manner and to the same extent as the property of literary, benevolent, charitable and scientific institutions incorporated within this Commonwealth is now exempt by law; but no lands so acquired and held and not opened to the public shall be so exempt from taxation for a longer period than two years.

SECTION 4.— This act shall take effect upon its passage.

SOMETHING LONG NEEDED.

Proposed Incorporation of Trustees of Public Reservations.

On Tuesday, at 11 A. M., the Senate-Judiciary Committee will give a hearing at the State House, on the petition of H. P. Wolcott and others, for incorporation as the trustees of public reservations. The following bill will be submitted:

Section 1. Frederick L. Ames, Philip A. Chase, Christopher Clarke, Charles R. Codman, Eliza S. Converse, George F. Hoar, John J. Russell, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles S. Sargent, Nathaniel S. Shaler, George Sheldon, William S. Shurtleff, George H. Tucker, Francis A. Walker, George Wigglesworth, their associates and successors, are hereby made a body corporate by the name of the Trustees of Public Reservations, for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth, with the powers and privileges, and subject to the duties set forth in the general laws which now are or hereafter may be in force relating to such corporations.

Section 2. Said corporation may acquire and hold, by grant, gift, devise, purchase or otherwise, real estate such as it may deem worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of the public, and such other property, both real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient to support or promote the objects of the corporation.

Section 3. All personal property held by said corporation, and all lands which it may cause to be opened to the public, and all lands which it may acquire and hold with this object in view, shall be exempt from taxation in the same manner and to the same extent as the property of literary, benevolent, charitable and scientific institutions incorporated within this Commonwealth is now exempt by law; but no lands so acquired and held and not opened to the public shall be so exempt from taxation for a longer period than two years.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The committee organized to promote the passage of the bill has Henry P. Wolcott for chairman, Charles Elliot for secretary, George Wigglesworth for treasurer, and General Francis A. Walker, Hon. Leverett Saltonstall, F. L. Olmstead, Moses Williams, Sylvester Baxter, Henry M. Lovering, Hon. Henry L. Parker, W. C. Endicott, Jr., and John S. Brayton among its members. They invite the attendance at the hearing of all persons interested.

Post March 11

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

The proposition to create a State Board of Trustees of Public Reservations, with power to acquire and hold for public uses beautiful and historic places, to which we have repeatedly referred, was presented before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary yesterday. It is a plain and simple plan, entirely free from all considerations except those of public interest and advantage, and involves no expense to the State. The movement, indeed, has the exceptional character of entire disinterestedness, as it offers no emoluments and confers no personal privileges.

There seems to be a general acquiescence in the desirability of establishing a board of this sort, which shall have the authority needed to give effect to the projects of public-spirited citizens which now languish for lack of means of ready realization, and the absence of all opposition at the hearing only indicates the unanimity of the popular wish. Mr. Elliot's statement, that he has reasons to believe sufficient gifts of land and funds to make the work of such a board effective would be forthcoming, is encouraging of immediate good results.

"THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS"

—such is the title by which the committee of citizens not long since organized for the preservation of beautiful and historical places in Massachusetts now ask to be incorporated. They have petitioned the Legislature, and a hearing will be held at the state-house to-morrow forenoon at 11 o'clock. This step will put things in shape for the accomplishment of the desired object, for which we have already expressed the warmest commendation and interest. And it is high time there should be action of this sort. As the committee say in their excellent circular, every year the places of great natural beauty or of noteworthy historical associations are being despoiled of their attractions by private owners, and there is no way to prevent it. The best means of checking this process of destruction is that through which Massachusetts has established her hospitals, colleges, libraries and art museums,—the "setting up a respected board of trustees and leaving the rest to the munificence of public-spirited men and women." "The lovers of Nature," say the petitioners, will "endow the trustees with the care of their favorite scenes, precisely as the lovers of art have so liberally endowed the art museums." (We would only remark that the lovers of Nature are not so apt to have money as the lovers of art.) It is also observed that a general board of trustees "will be able to act for the benefit of the whole people and without regard to the principal cause of the ineffectiveness of present methods,—the local jealousies felt by townships and parts of townships toward each other." The act of incorporation asked for is as follows:—

Section 1. Frederick L. Ames, Philip A. Chase, Christopher Clarke, Charles R. Codman, Eliza S. Converse, George F. Hoar, John J. Russell, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles S. Sargent, Nathaniel S. Shaler, George Sheldon, William S. Shurtleff, George H. Tucker, Francis A. Walker, George Wigglesworth, their associates and successors, are hereby made a body corporate by the name of "The trustees of public reservations," for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining and opening to the public under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth, with the powers and privileges and subject to the duties set forth in the general laws which now are or hereafter may be in force relating to such corporations.

Section 2. Said corporation may acquire and hold by grant, gift, devise, purchase, or otherwise, real estate such as it may deem worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of the public, and such other property, both real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient to support or promote the objects of the corporation.

Section 3. All personal property held by said corporation, and all lands which it may cause to be opened to the public, and all lands which it may acquire and hold with this object in view, shall be exempt from taxation in the same manner and to the same extent as the property of literary, benevolent, charitable and scientific institutions incorporated within this Commonwealth is now exempt by law; but no lands so acquired and held and not opened to the public shall be so exempt from taxation for a longer period than two years.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

THE PUBLIC INTERESTED.

The Movement for the Preservation of Historical Places.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary gave a hearing yesterday on the petition of H. P. Wolcott and others for incorporation as the Trustees of Public Reservations, with power to acquire title to beautiful and historical places within the State, for the purpose of preserving such places and opening them to the public under suitable regulations. Mr. Moses Williams approval of the association seeking incorporation, and presented the bill which has already been published, saying that the incorporators named are worthy of any trust which may be reposed in them. The requests are few and simple; there is no question of eminent domain; the trust is only to be created to receive, preserve, administer and open to public enjoyment other lands. One other question is that of exemption from taxes, which is asked for only two years.

Mr. Charles Elliot, secretary of the association, said that the value of these public reservations is well recognized and needs no argument. The National Government has reserved from sale and settlement certain beautiful tracts in the States, as such of many of them, have shown interest in the matter, notably New York and Connecticut. The public park act in this State is admirable, but local jealousies often prevent prompt action by the various towns. These jealousies would not affect the trustees under the proposed bill. Other States have encouraged private action, incorporating private persons for specific purposes of this kind. In Massachusetts instances of this kind are the Pilgrims Society, the Standish Monument, the Longfellow Memorial Association, the English Park Association, etc. It is hoped that there may be a union of forces, so that action to the end in view may be more speedy and more certain. The proposition has met with a very cordial reception in all parts of the State, and has been heartily approved by distinguished persons outside the State. Mr. Elliot's correspondence led him to believe that sufficient gifts of land and property, with funds for their maintenance, would be speedily offered to make the work of the trustees effective.

A letter was read from John G. Whittier, the Quaker poet, in which he says: "The movement is made none too soon. Barbarism, vandalism, greed of gain, and selfish appropriation have had their own day and are too long; they have done and are still doing proportionable mischief. Access to our seashore beaches are desecrated; some of our best killing trees and shade trees in our villages, it is time to call a halt."

These sentiments from Mr. Whittier's letter were echoed strenuously by the men and women who spoke before the committee. The interest was lively; the endorsement from the Horticultural Society, the Appalachian Club, and other organizations, was full of vigor and sentiment.

Admission
Mar 7

March 10

March 10

AN ADIRONDACK PARK.

WARNER MILLER'S VIEWS AS GIVEN BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE.

He Explains How the State Could Acquire the Forest Tract and Obtain Handsome Returns for the Outlay—The Purchase Money Could Be Found in New York's Share of the Direct Tax Repayments.

ALBANY, March 6 (Special).—At a joint meeting of the senate committee on finance and the assembly committee on forestry, held in the senate chamber last evening, Senator Sloan stated the situation in regard to the Adirondack forest. Dr. Alfred Loomis, president of the Adirondack Park Association, introduced ex-Senator Warner Miller.

Mr. Miller said that he did not appear in order to oppose the forestry commission, but rather to praise the bill of the association. From extensive travel and a thorough study of forest lands he knew that there was no forest land in the United States, Canada or Europe that compared with the Adirondacks as a forest preserve. The Black forest of Germany and the forest of Norway and Sweden were inferior to the region under discussion. There should be a system by which the state should, by degrees and at small expense, possess itself of the necessary land, and this could be done in such a way that, in the end, the state would derive a handsome income from the property.

He referred to a large map of the Adirondack region. The blue line showed an area of 2,700,000 acres, of which 1,400,000 acres were in virgin forest. The state now owns 525,000 acres and private clubs and summer dwellers own about 100,000 more. Of this latter amount nearly all would eventually come into the state park if one is created. The state, therefore, must give 2,000,000 acres. As to the cost, it should be taken at its present price, the average would be \$3 an acre. Unfortunately the state had delayed the purchase too long, for, had the lands been bought eight or ten years ago the cost would have been only \$1.50 an acre. In the meantime many pulp mills had been built and spruce trees as small as four inches in diameter had been cut down. The land denuded of evergreens is rapidly being grown to replace what has been taken away. It requires only fifteen years to replace a spruce forest that has been felled. Some of the land, however, could be bought for \$1.50 an acre, thus making the total cost about \$7,500,000. It would be worth the land virgin forest and permit to cutting by the present owners of trees less than twelve inches in diameter. By granting this concession even the forest part of the tract could be bought at \$1.50 an acre. The cost might thus be reduced to less than \$3,000,000.

The same plan of issuing bonds might be followed as in the case of the Niagara reservation. But a better way would be to take the \$2,300,000 just gained by the state of New York by the direct tax act and apply it to the purchase of the Adirondack tract. That tract should follow as the great timber region of the state. If the present state of things goes on the whole forest will disappear. But by an intelligent and systematic state control of the region the timber supply will be uniform, and it will yield a large revenue to the state. In Germany the government selects, marks and sells the trees that are mature and they are cut. For this the government gets from \$1,000 an acre, and from the Adirondacks the income would come in as much as \$3,000,000 a year as soon as the scheme proposed is well started. In buying this land the state should assert the right to buy the right of eminent domain. No plan that proposes this park is worth anything unless it embraces the right to take possession. The cost should be met by bonds, but not by a direct tax.

Dr. Loomis then advocated the plan of a park for sanitary reasons. For twenty-four years he had resided in the Adirondack in summer and winter and he knew its health-giving properties. His own case showed that a consumptive could be cured by the Adirondack air, and he gave many other instances of the superiority of that region over the south for consumptives.

PRESERVING BEAUTIFUL PLACES.

"The movement is made none too soon," said the poet Whittier, in a letter read at the State House today at the hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Preservation of Beautiful and Historical Places. "Barbarism, vandalism, greed of gain and selfish appropriation have had their own bad way too long; they have done and are still doing irreparable mischief. Access to our seaboard is becoming difficult; some of our best beaches are deserted; poisonous water-gas is killing fine old shade trees in our villages. It is time to call a halt." These sentiments from Mr. Whittier's letter were echoed strenuously by the men and women who spoke before the committee at the hearing this noon. The interest was lively; the endorsement from the Horticultural Society, the Appalachian Club and other organizations was full of sense and sentiment. But back of all the formalities and technicalities, there was an immense amount of unselfish responsibility to beauty in evidence at this hearing. A Worcester man, Mr. Pinkerton, is quite suitably chairman of this committee. The Worcester people have proven in action the power of the faith that is in them concerning the beautifying of this State. Their words speak for them in their parks. Certainly beautiful places in our Commonwealth should be preserved. Certainly historical places should not be in private ownership. Their influence should be open to all, since it is always true that

"Where great deeds are done, Power abides, transferred from sire to son."

HISTORIC SITES.

A Plan for Their Preservation Outlined.

Today's Hearing at the State House on the Subject.

STATE HOUSE, Tuesday, March 10.
The Senate Judiciary Committee this morning gave a hearing, which was largely attended, on the petition of H. P. Wolcott and others for incorporation as the Trustees of Public Reservations, with power to acquire title to beautiful and historical places within the State, for the purpose of preserving such places and opening them to the public under suitable regulations. Mr. Moses Williams appeared for the association seeking incorporation, and presented the bill which has already been published, saying that the incorporators named are worthy of any trust which may be reposed in them. The requests are simple and clear; there is no question of eminent domain; the trust is only to be created to receive, preserve, administer and open to public enjoyment other lands. The other question is that of exemption from taxes—time, which is asked for only two years. Mr. Charles Eliot, secretary of the association, said that the value of these public reservations is well recognized and needs no argument. The National Government has reserved from sale and settlement certain beautiful tracts; the States, as such, or many of them, have shown interest in the matter, notably New York and Connecticut. The public park set in this State is admirable, but local jealousies often prevent prompt action by the various towns. These jealousies would not affect the trustees under the proposed bill. Other States have encouraged private action, incorporating private persons for specific purposes. This is done in Massachusetts instances of this kind are the Pilgrims' Society, the Standish Monument Association, the Longfellow Memorial Association, the English Park Association, etc. It is now asked that there may be a union of forces, so that action to the end in view may be more speedy and more certain. The proposition has met with a very cordial reception in all parts of the State and has been heartily approved by distinguished persons outside the State. Mr. Eliot's correspondence led him to believe that sufficient gifts and landed property, with funds for their maintenance would be speedily offered to make the work of the trustees effective.

Other speakers, all in favor of the project, were Prof. W. H. Miles, C. S. Rakeham, O. B. Hudson, William H. Spooner, Rev. W. C. Winslow, Dr. Porter and E. G. Northrup, and a letter was read from the poet Whittier. There were no remonstrances. Mr. Williams promised to submit an amended bill, in accordance with suggestions of the committee and with provisions for perpetuity, and to guard against any property acquired by the association from being divided amongst the members or devoted to the uses for which it was intended. The hearing was closed.

Public Reservations Considered.

The Senate Judiciary committee this morning gave a hearing, which was largely attended, on the petition of H. P. Wolcott and others for incorporation as the Trustees of Public Reservations, with power to acquire title to beautiful and historical places within the state, for the purpose of preserving such places, and opening them to the public under suitable regulations. Mr. Moses Williams appeared for the association seeking incorporation, and presented the bill, which has already been published, saying that the incorporators named are worthy of any trust which may be reposed in them. The requests are few and simple; there is no question of eminent domain; the trust is only to be created to receive, preserve, administer and open to public enjoyment certain lands. The other question is that of exemption from taxation, which is asked for only 10 years.

Mr. Charles Eliot, secretary of the association, said that the value of these public reservations is well recognized, and needs no argument. The National Government has reserved from sale and settlement certain beautiful tracts; the States, as such, or many of them, have shown interest in the matter, notably New York and Connecticut. The public park set in this State is admirable, but local jealousies often prevent prompt action by the various towns. These jealousies would not affect the trustees under the proposed bill. Other States have encouraged private action, incorporating private persons for specific purposes. This is done in Massachusetts instances of this kind are the Pilgrims' Society, the Standish Monument Association, the Longfellow Memorial Association, the English Park Association, etc. It is now asked that there may be a union of forces, so that action to the end in view may be more speedy and more certain. The proposition has met with a very cordial reception in all parts of the State, and has been heartily approved by distinguished persons outside the State. Mr. Eliot's correspondence led him to believe that sufficient gifts and landed property, with funds for their maintenance would be speedily offered to make the work of the trustees effective.

Other speakers, all in favor of the project, were Prof. W. H. Miles, C. S. Rakeham, O. B. Hudson, William H. Spooner, Rev. W. C. Winslow, Dr. Porter and E. G. Northrup, and a letter was read from the poet Whittier. There were no remonstrances. Mr. Williams promised to submit an amended bill, in accordance with suggestions of the committee and with provisions for perpetuity, and to guard against any property acquired by the association from being divided amongst the members or devoted to the uses for which it was intended. The hearing was closed.

The Preservation of Natural Scenery.

The Senate Judiciary committee gave a hearing, which was largely attended, on the petition of H. P. Wolcott and others for incorporation as the trustees of public reservations, with power to acquire title to beautiful and historical places within the state, for the purpose of preserving such places, and opening them to the public under suitable regulations. Moses Williams appeared for the association seeking incorporation, and presented the bill, which has already been published. Charles Eliot, secretary of the association, said that the value of these public reservations is well recognized, and needs no argument. The proposition has met with a very cordial reception in all parts of the state, and has been heartily approved by distinguished persons outside the state. Mr. Eliot's correspondence led him to believe that sufficient gifts and landed property, with funds for their maintenance would be speedily offered to make the work of the trustees effective. Other speakers, all in favor of the project, were Prof. W. H. Miles, C. S. Rakeham, O. B. Hudson, William H. Spooner, Rev. W. C. Winslow, Dr. Porter and E. G. Northrup, and a letter was read from the poet Whittier. There were no remonstrances. Mr. Williams promised to submit an amended bill, in accordance with suggestions of the committee and with provisions for perpetuity, and to guard against any property acquired by the association from being divided among the members or devoted to the uses for which it was intended.

Spring, MAY 27.
REPUBLICAN.

THE LISTENER.

Mr. Whittier's letter, read before the Senate Judiciary Committee at the State House yesterday, is an indication of the extent to which the movement for the preservation of beautiful and historic sites has taken hold of our people who have public spirit and interest in the beautiful and significant side of things. For the most part, as Mr. Ganong's lecture before the Horticultural Society showed the other day, man's influence upon Nature has been unfavorable. He has touched little that he has not disfigured, even when he has tried with the best of intentions to adorn. It is only fair, looking at the matter from the aesthetic point of view, and saying nothing at all about the historical side, that, in an advanced and rich community like ours, man should at least preserve what his less advanced and poorer forefathers have left unspoiled. The character of this movement, it would seem, must enlist the sympathies of everybody who thinks about the matter at all. Let us hope that the eminent respectability of the advocates of the measure will not prejudice their cause.

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But if the rulers of the State should not smile upon the proposition, there seems to the Listener to be no good reason why it might not be carried out, at least in large measure, without any help from the Legislature. A society might be formed which could buy, out and out, sites which it desired to preserve. It could not buy them all, but that would be no reason why it should not buy some. There is more money hereabout than its possessors know well what to do with. Most of our colleges are pretty well off now. Why, if a Society for the Preservation of Beautiful and Historic Sites were formed, should not wealthy men and women leave it an occasional hundred thousand? The society could employ a vigilant agent, and when he saw one of these great points of interest, like the Waverley Oaks or the Old South Church, likely to be put into the market, he could manage to get the refusal of it, if he were at all shrewd, and then, if the society had not sufficient means to purchase it, a little passing around of the hat could be done, which would undoubtedly prove effective. This sort of thing has been successfully done heretofore by special organizations. It could be done still more effectively by a permanent association, having no other purpose than to stay the hand of the vandal.

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It is certainly a strange thing that in the New World, which was able to begin things about right, if it had chosen to do so, the public has only about one-fifth as much free playground as the people of the cities of the cruel, tyrannical Old World. All our parks and free grounds about Boston taken together, including cemeteries, and the largest park that we have, the Lynn woods, would go into a single one of several of the Paris parks. To be sure, when the us of old thought they were grabbing land themselves, they were really securing playgrounds for the common people of the future; they were grabbing better than they saw. Here in New England, where any kind of pleasure, even domestic, was considered sinful, a playground was the very last thing sought of. Probably we should not have even a Common if some kindly old Puritan had had a smart scheme to pasture his cow at a public expense. Sometimes the Listener has amused himself with speculating what Boston and New England would have been like today if Morton and Merry Mountism had prevailed in our early history instead of Minister Cotton and

The bill to incorporate trustees of public reservations, for the purpose of holding, preserving and opening to the people places of historical interest or picturesque attractions, is now before the Legislature. Every one who is interested in the advance of our civilization is interested in this bill, and it must be hoped that it will pass. Had such a body as this whose incorporation is desired existed a quarter of a century ago, how many monuments of the past of Massachusetts might have been saved from destruction,—such as the Hancock house in Boston, for instance. The field for the operation of such a body in the preservation of forest scenery in various parts of the state, where the cutting off of wood destroys the great charm of the place, and where the character of the rock formation and of the soil forbids all chance of settlement or cultivation,—this field is very great. In Western Massachusetts there could be named in a minute very many objects of the highest interest for preservation as public parks, sometimes of a very few acres of rocks only, which such a corporation could acquire at small price and which would be of the greatest value to the people. There is absolutely no reason why this should not be done; there is no ring of lumberers and railroad sharks such as makes it practically impossible in New York to save the Adirondacks; and the first step of incorporating the society can hardly meet with any opposition.

HERALD.

Trustees of Public Reservations.

The Senate Judiciary committee reported a bill to incorporate the trustees of public reservations, consisting of Frederick L. Ames, Philip A. Chase, Christopher Clarke, Charles R. Codman, Ellana S. Converse, George F. Hoar, John J. Russell, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles S. Sarcent, Nathaniel S. Shuter, George Sheldon, William S. Shurtleff, George H. Tucker, Francis A. Walker, George Wilesworth and other associates, for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land in the state.

The corporation is to be without capital stock, but may acquire, by grant, purchase or otherwise, real estate to the amount of \$1,000,000; also personal property to the same amount. All personal and real property open to the public shall be exempt from taxation; but no lands not opened to the public shall be exempt for more than two years.

THE NEW PASSION

For Preserving Places of Rare Natural Beauty,

And Marking Spots of Great Historical Interest.

Movements to Commemorate Decisive Battles of the Civil War,

And the More Remote but Equally Glorious Victories of the Revolution.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—[Special.]—The recent action of President Harrison which practically doubles the area of the Yellowstone National Park serves to call attention to many most interesting and important projects for the preservation of the national and historical spots of unusual interest. Movements of this kind have received a great impetus within a few years, and they are much more numerous and general than the public has had reason to suppose.

The Yellowstone Park, with the addition of the forest and mountain region which President Harrison's proclamation reserves and adds to it, now comprises an area as large as both Rhode Island and Connecticut. The territory thus added, besides its wonderful riches in sublime natural scenery, preserves the ranges for native American animals of the larger game for which they have latterly become their last refuge.

The law under which the President has saved this wonderful region to the public will also enable him to set apart forest areas wherever they exist in the public domain. So that the Nation will doubtless soon be in possession of other extensive parks in interesting regions. The last Congress, besides providing for the preservation of the big trees by creating an extended Government park about them, added a reservation of about a thousand square miles, being a tract nearly thirty by forty miles to the Yosemite tract. This embraces extended mountain tracts which, with the cañons and waterfalls are almost as remarkable as the Yosemite itself. For all these grand natural parks the Government will provide military protection until the purpose of Congress to preserve them becomes known and respected.

The action of the Government in the instances is being followed in the East by the State of New York, which is now engaged in the project of attempting to secure a tract in the Adirondack region to be added to the reserve which the State already contains there.

New York, as is well known, has also established the Niagara Falls Park of a hundred acres, and the Canadian authorities are moving to do the same thing on their side of the river.

Among the New England States, Massachusetts is most active in the direction of erecting historical monuments and tablets and in securing interesting locations for the public.

Historical societies in that State, as well as private individuals, have been very active in this work. The scenes of most interesting Revolutionary operations in the Eastern portion of the State have been erected and permanently marked with great tablets with suitable inscriptions. Every year which passes through the early scenes of the Revolution is thus invested with intense interest for all posterity.

A State society has recently been formed, the object of which is to identify and mark all historical places. One feature of this work is to secure by gift or purchase the right of way for the public to points of notable natural beauty or interest, and to make such purchases as will preserve such natural wonders for the public. The society is large and influential, and it is extending its work to all parts of the State.

This is an example worthy of imitation in every section, and particularly in the West, where ancient landmarks are disappearing with sad rapidity. There are numerous points throughout the West and Northwest of great historical interest. Local societies could, at very slight expense, set up along the highways and in the public squares tablets, with brief inscriptions, which would permanently preserve important locations for the future. The mere marking of positions which can now be ascertained would accomplish this, since as a community advances in age it is certain to turn its attention in these directions, and then its work of history study and preservation becomes easy, when it has the early landmarks already established.

Congress during the closing hours of the last session made an appropriation of \$30,000 to be added to a like sum raised by the Trenton Battle Monument Association, and used to erect a monument to commemorate the battle of Trenton—this turning point of the revolution. The monument is to be erected on the identical spot where Washington planted the banner which saved the two living streets (then known as King and Green, now Warren and Green), into which had poured the surprised troops of Colonel Rahl, and turned a surprise into a panic. The monument association has purchased the site and is prepared to proceed at once with the monument.

One of the most interesting movements to preserve revolutionary fields anywhere in the country is that which has secured and is now restoring and marking the battlefield of Guilford Court-house, now an hour from Greensboro, North Carolina. The site of this important battle was bought by a corporation of citizens and the work of restoration and historical marking is progressing rapidly. The monument seems to have originated in the very able and successful historical studies of the campaigns in the Carolinas, prosecuted primarily for relieving the North Carolina troops from what was believed to be an unjust charge of failure in soldierly duty at the battle of Guilford. This work was undertaken by M. D. Schenck, a leading citizen of Greensboro, and it was crowned with complete success. He has recently published the triumphant results of his study. No one can read it without feeling that it is a demonstration. His work expanded into a volume of 500 pages. It is entitled "North Carolina in 1780-1791." It is a complete history of the invasion of the Carolinas by Lord Cornwallis, and well accomplishes its avowed purpose "of showing the part borne by North Carolina in that struggle for liberty and independence, and to correct some errors of history in regard to that State and its people."

The general interest, excited by this demonstration led to the formation of a company to secure and preserve the Guilford field. It is the purpose to erect a fitting monument upon it to General Greene, and to collect and bury there the remains of such North Carolina patriots as can now be found.

Mr. Schenck is the President of this battle-ground company. In a report made a few weeks since, a short extract will show the character of the work which these patriotic citizens are prosecuting and what they are accomplishing in the direction of collecting the remains of Revolutionary soldiers.

"The Legislature of North Carolina has voted an appropriation for the removal of the remains of General Jethro Sumner from their present place of interment, near Old Bate Court-house, in Warren County, to the Guilford battle-ground, and its removal will be done and this sacred duty will be in our keeping. No nobler soldier ever fought for liberty than this grand old North Carolinian and we should guard his grave with jealous care, and keep forever green his memory in the hearts of our people and hand his name, as one of honor, down to our children's children. With his remains will come gifts of battle-flags, a granite monument, erected over him about 1870, his daughter, Mrs. Burns. I have found the graves of

Captain James Tate, of the Virginia Infantry, who was mortally wounded near New Garden meeting-house in the opening skirmish of the battle, and design removing his remains also to the battle-field and put over it some permanent monument, however humble our means may compel it to be, to honor the memory of the gallant Virginian. He led the charge at Cowpens, side by side with Joe Eager Howard, of Maryland, and with the bayonet drove the Scotch Highlanders from the field. It is fit that their soldier should sleep his last sleep on the field he helped to win, and be in charge of those who hope to preserve it in the future, forever.

"After years of fruitless search for the home and family of Colonel 'Hal' Dixon, who immortalized his name by standing before the concentrated fire of the British on both his flanks at Camden until every cartridge in his boxes was exhausted, and then forcing a way of escape at the point of the bayonet, I have at last accidentally, through our Secretary, Colonel Thomas B. Keogh, found his descendants and family in Kentucky, and located his home in Caswell County, North Carolina, and his descendants, among whom was the Hon. Archibald Dixon, U. S. Senator from Kentucky, are now furnishing the means to find the grave of this gallant officer with the view of removing his body also to the Guilford battle-ground. Thus, one by one, these defenders of liberty, and founders of the greatest Republic on earth, are being gathered into one common resting place where North Carolinians may come with reverence to do homage at their graves.

"If we could gather McDowell and Cleveland, Lenoir and Chronicle from Kings Mountain, and Ashie and Blunt and Armstrong from Utaut Springs, and Nash from Germantown, and Forbes of Guilford, and Davie from a score of bloody encounters, and Armstrong and Winston from here, and many other of these faithful comrades to one common State revolutionary cemetery, where they would not lie apart among the briars and brambles of neglect or their graves obliterated by the unconscious plowman who tills the soil, what a glorious achievement it would be, and how it would concentrate the affections of our people on a spot thus honored and revered, and how our sons for generations to come could draw holy and patriotic inspirations for communion with these noble dead, whose deeds they might seek to emulate. It is the reverence who are worthy of it, that facilitates the living to deeds of honor and glory, that they too might not be forgotten by those who shall come after them."

The work that the Government is prosecuting about Chattanooga to preserve the exact history of three of the most notable fields of the late war is generally understood.

The work at Gettysburg is, as yet, in the hands of a private association, though a bill making the Government a party to prosecuting the historical work on that field passed the Senate unanimously at the last session, and was unanimously reported for favorable action in the House. The Government has also made provision for beginning the marking of the lines of both armies at Antietam.

Recently a very important historical project was inaugurated here by private parties, many of them veterans of the contending Eastern armies, to preserve the fields about Chancellorsville. These gentlemen have been incorporated under the title of the Chancellorsville Battlefield Association. They have purchased the Chancellorsville estate of 845 acres, and propose to do such work in the direction of preserving and historically marking the famous fields near at hand as will make it a point of intense interest to all who care to examine some of the most noted battlefields of the Eastern armies.

The Wilderness Church is two miles distant from the Chancellorsville house; the old iron furnace, where shot and shell were made during the Mexican war, and for the Confederate army; also where General Lee engaged the Union forces, while Jackson was making his famous flank movement that proved so disastrous to the Union army, May 3, 1863, a mile and a half; McCool's farm, or "Bloody Angle," nine miles; the Sedgwick monument, erected May 12, 1867, nine miles; the Wilderness battle-field, six miles; Spotsylvania County house, ten miles; the tree under which Lee and Jackson held their famous consultation, in Chancellorsville, and in front of the house. Located in—and immediately around Fredricks-

burg (which is ten miles from Chancellorsville), are the National and Confederate cemeteries, Mary Washington's tomb, her residence, the Lacy house, and Salem church.

The beautiful estate of Chancellorsville, and the Chancellors House (to be known as Memorial Hall), have passed into the possession of the Chancellorsville Battlefield Association, and will forever remain under its control. Its invested capital represents \$50,000, which is to be used in improvements, beautifying and making this property of great value to its owners, and the whole country. Recreational lines will be ascertained and marked, and the old earth-works will be preserved to their originality. The shares have been placed at the low price of \$5, in order that the thousands who participated in these battles should have the opportunity of possessing a portion of this famous ground. Each share has a coupon attached, which entitles the holder to one memorial lot, 25 by 100 feet, for which a deed will be given as soon as the surveys are completed—when holders will be advised, and lots can be selected from the plats or by a personal visit. Each State which was represented in these battles will have its lots platted independently of other States. In making application for lots, subscribers must state company, regiment, State and branch of the service they represented, in order that they may secure their proper position. The deeds, however, will be made out in any name the subscriber desires, which does not affect the value of the certificates, thus making a double souvenir. The lots not platted will be used for such purposes as future developments may suggest. The Chancellors house and five acres surrounding it will be preserved as a memorial hall, not fitted with a fine hall, reading- and reception-rooms, and a war museum of relics from this and adjacent battlefields. One acre will be dedicated each for a National and Confederate monument, one acre for a memorial chapel, and ten acres for a soldiers' home.

Within a circle of ten miles from the Chancellors house over 84,000 soldiers fell killed or wounded.

The preservation of such fields has a value both for the immediate present and the remote future which can not be overestimated.

This movement for the preservation of history, and for putting the public in possession of grounds celebrated for their natural wonders or consecrated by notable events, is one in which nearly every community, large or small, in the land can take part to a greater or less extent.

Every village, town and city should have its historical society. Aside from the improvements which such studies bring, they have a public value which no intelligent person can fail to recognize. H. V. B.

cript. July 3 91.

SMALL OPEN SPACES IN CITIES.

About fifty-three years ago, the first tenement house in New York city is said to have been erected. "There were on January 1, 1885, 26,859 such houses, containing much over half the entire population of the city. During 1884, above 1013 such houses (costing under \$15,000 each) were built." The structures referred to do not include French flats but tenements pure and simple. What the proportion is today is not at hand but can easily be obtained from Riis's book or some other good authority. What a significant tale of overcrowding the bare figures show. That the same state of things exists abroad is well known. Both in England and on the continent the provinces are emptying themselves into the great cities. Perhaps the most remarkable case is that of Leipzig. Mr. Smith, United States commercial agent at Mayence, reported that on December 1, 1885 "in all Leipzig, at the time under consideration, there were only eighty-five houses occupied in their entirety by but one family." The provision of single houses within a reasonable distance of work for the mass of humanity which is crowded within the limits of New York city, and in nearly the same proportion in parts of Boston, is wholly out of the question. The condition of the Tenth Ward in New York has perhaps no parallel on the face of the globe. Let us then look the situation squarely in the face and see if we cannot meet the evils of the tenement house on its own ground before it is too late.

So far as legislation is concerned, New York is ahead of Boston; but, alas! for the former the people are choked almost to suffocation under a state of things which existed before the laws were changed or enacted. How it must have come home to more than one of Mr. Riis's audience at the Vendome last spring when he said that one poor fellow who sought consolation in prayer could only find a chance to be alone by sticking his head out of the window. What a wail is it to him that the legislature of his State has passed that excellent law which in substantially the same form was proposed to and rejected by the Legislature of Massachusetts, providing that no tenement shall cover more than sixty-five per cent of the lot, the remainder to be kept open for light and air. Thirty-five per cent of space for light and air! Is it too much to require in the poorer quarters of our great cities with their narrow streets and high buildings?

The question is asked, "Is not the state of things much worse in New York than it is in Boston?" Undoubtedly it is; but it will not long remain so, if we do not at least take proper measures to check the evils. Those readers of the Transcript who read the very interesting report of a sanitary inspection made by Professor Dwight Porter of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in certain of the poorer localities in 1888, were made aware that our position was at that time by no means satisfactory. He made some suggestions as the result of his investigations which a committee who carefully considered them proposed to the Legislature; but two of the most important were rejected. One was the restriction already mentioned as to the amount of light and air upon which a tenement house could encroach; the other—and even a more reasonable provision—simply provided that every sleeping-room should have direct access to the outer air. These provisions, which were copied from the New York laws, were squelched by some one for reasons which may or may not have been concerned with the pocket.

While Boston has not done in recent years all that ought to be done in the way of legislation, with all due allowance for the efforts of the Board of Health, the report of Professor Porter showed that it was hardly able to cope with the sanitary conditions which then existed. The people themselves must be made to see the necessity of keeping clean. With certain parts of the population, it is perhaps a hopeless task to undertake to educate them in this respect. But, as experience shows, much can be done by patient work and example. If landlords could be made to realize that it paid to insist upon keeping premises clean, and so far as possible to make it a condition of tenancy, the community would be the gainer.

Another and great saving in the health and moral welfare of the tenement is provided for by the planting of small open spaces—play grounds—for children and old people who are worn out with the struggle of life. Sometimes it is difficult to supply these breathing places without sacrificing the ground which is needed for dwellings. But in this respect Boston need not yet fear. If there is lack of room in the North End, South Boston is not too far for many who would be obliged to move. Here is the condition of things in London; shall Boston wait until it is in the same predicament?—"Within four miles of Charing Cross there are nearly three millions of human beings, and within the whole metropolis about four millions (in 1887). Among them, as Miss Hill eloquently said, are thousands of men and women whose homes and surroundings are such that they are never alone for five minutes throughout their whole lives, never escape from the noise of children and the ceaseless din of the streets. For such the garden, park, or common affords the only approximation to solitude and quiet. Yet there are large tracts of London absolutely destitute of any corner of garden where the poor man may sit down for a few moments in peace."

It is not necessary that these small spaces should be made sources of great expense. They should be chiefly confined to young children and old people, and hoodlums strictly excluded. With a few trees, seats for the old people, and swings and sand heaps for the little folks, the expense of taking care of them ought not to be large. It would cost something to acquire them, but, as the petition now before the Council and Park Commissioners asking for their acquisition says, it would be a benefit not only to the health of the inhabitants, but a protection against fire, and hence worthy of the serious consideration of taxpayers.

N.Y. Post, July 18.

Only five miles from the bustling town of Marlborough, with its shoe factories and electric cars of the present, the visitor under the old gambrel roof in quiet isolation easily finds himself back in the seventeenth century. What though the "Red Horse" no longer "prances on the sign," there on the barn are the holes in which he once swung; though the great tree is gone which held the sign for the painter's artistic eye, some of its shell remains to embrace a rustic garden; though no woodbine adorns the eaves and scant furniture the interior, though no old-time hospitality welcomes the traveller, and the inn is reduced to a monumental curiosity; yet there it is, the same old retreat, rich in romance and tradition, quaint in its structure and equally interesting in its history, stout and firm in its physical body, and good for an indefinite old age, unless fire or unpetio man forbid. The trustees of public reservations, just organized in Massachusetts, are authorized by law to acquire, arrange, and open to the public beautiful and historical places and tracts of land. May they look with favor on the Wayside Inn as a proper and desirable place for their fostering care.

S. T.

Basement July 29

PRESERVING HISTORICAL PLACES.

The Trustees of Public Reservation Ready for the Good Work.

The officers of the new corporation, the Trustees of Public Reservations, were announced last week. The membership embraces nineteen well-known citizens, representing all parts of Massachusetts from the hills of Berkshire to the two capes. As a corporation these gentlemen are empowered to acquire by gift, devise or purchase beautiful and historical places in Massachusetts, and to hold the same exempt from taxation, provided the reservations are opened to the public. The corporation is also empowered to hold invested funds for the proper maintenance of its property.

By the terms of the by-laws, whoever subscribes \$10 or any multiple thereof, becomes entitled to receive the annual report and to be invited to an annual conference with the trustees during as many years as he has subscribed \$10. Clubs and societies may become entitled to send a delegate to the annual conference on the same terms, and it is hoped that the numerous historical societies, natural history societies and village improvement societies of the State will thus assist a cause in which they are naturally interested. By the terms of the by-laws, an associate is declared to be any person who shall give land or money to the value of \$1,000 or more. The intelligent and patriotic action of the Legislature has created a body of eminently worthy trustees. It remains for those who desire future generations to enjoy the beautiful and memorable places of Massachusetts to come forward with liberal offerings of lands and moneys. The treasurer of the trustees is George Wiglesworth, 89 State street, and the secretary is Charles Eliot, 50 State street, Boston.

REPROD. Aug. 12.

THE NEWLY INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS have engaged J. B. Harrison to awaken the people of the state to further their object of preserving places of natural beauty or historic interest. Mr. Harrison has a record, if we mistake not, as a student of social conditions, and another as an enthusiast for precisely the purposes of this board of trustees. To him is largely due the movement for the Niagara Falls reservation, which has succeeded, and that for the Adirondack state forest, whose success is yet doubtful. Such a man is a great force, and it only needs missionary work to win all necessary support for such schemes as the creation of the Massachusetts forest on the Blue Hills of Milton, the saving of a picturesque natural forest region like that of Mount Tom from perpetual despoilment, and the purchase and reservation of many places of genuine historic interest. These things can be done only by private means, but the generosity of public benefactors and the contributions of the people often, indeed, usually, wait for some special appeal, such as Mr. Harrison knows well how to make.

Transcript, 2 Dec 71

The Trustees of Public Reservations.

This new body incorporated by chapter 352 of the acts of the last Legislature, "for the purpose of acquiring * * * and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth," met in the office of Mr. F. L. Ames in Boston on Friday, and organized by adopting a code of by-laws and electing the following-named officers: President, Hon. George F. Hoar of Worcester; vice president, Hon. William S. Shurtleff of Springfield; treasurer, George Wiglesworth; secretary, Charles Eliot. The two last-named, with Mr. Philip A. Chase of Lynn, Mr. Charles S. Sargent of Brookline and Dr. Henry P. Walcott of Cambridge, were constituted a standing committee. In accordance with a special vote of the corporation the public is invited to make suggestions by letter to the secretary, whose address is 50 State street, Boston.

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By the terms of the by-laws, whoever subscribes ten dollars, or any multiple thereof, becomes entitled to receive the annual report and to be invited to an annual conference with the trustees during as many years as he has subscribed ten dollars. Clubs and societies may become entitled to send a delegate to the annual conference on the same terms, and it is hoped that the numerous historical societies, natural history societies and village improvement societies of the State will thus assist a cause in which they are naturally interested. By the terms of the by-laws an associate is declared to be any person who shall give land or money to the value of \$1,000 or more.

The intelligent and patriotic action of the Legislature has created a body of eminently worthy trustees. It remains for those who desire future generations to enjoy the beautiful and memorable places of Massachusetts to come forward with liberal offerings of lands and moneys. We would invite you to the address of the treasurer and secretary of the trustees. The former is George Wiglesworth, 89 State street, and the latter is Charles Eliot, 50 State street, Boston.

Transcript, Aug. 20

THAT there is need of organized action, if many of our historical and literary memorials are to be saved from being swept out of public memory by the rush of modern improvement, has been made evident within a few years past by the narrow escape of many historical landmarks from obliteration. The vandalism that cuts and hacks its way through natural scenery to save a detour of a few feet is painfully well known. The trustees of public reservations, recognizing the importance of the general co-operation with them of lovers of the beautiful and antiquarians invite them to correspond with their secretary or agent. Mr. J. B. Harrison, the salaried agent of the trustees, will travel throughout the State in the discharge of his duties, and for him they bespeak the assistance of all interested in the good work. The appointment of such an agent should serve to put the trustees in ready communication with that class which exists in every town that treasures its local history and is anxious to preserve the landmarks of the past and the natural beauty of the present. The secretary of the trustees is Mr. Charles Eliot, 50 State street, Boston.

THE MASSACHUSETTS FOREST.

Forest 3 Aug

MR. SYLVESTER BAXTER's article in the current issue of Garden and Forest, proposing that the Blue Hills of Milton should be made a public park, is one that deserves a wide reading. What Mr. BAXTER says of the beauty of the landscape of which they are the most prominent feature, is not in the least exaggerated. The country all about is charming and for once the hand of man has not despoiled it; and the views from the summit of the Hills are wonderfully picturesque. And yet, near as the spot is to a great city it is comparatively little known, since practically nothing has been done to make it easily accessible. Mr. BAXTER asks why it should be so neglected, and brings forward a plan to secure to the public all the benefits which it is capable of conferring.

There is a sentimental reason, too, for thus preserving the Blue Hills. It is from them that the State takes its name—Massachusetts, meaning, in the Algonquin tongue, the Great Hills Place. "The Massachusetts Forest," as Mr. BAXTER suggests, would therefore be a particularly appropriate name for this great park. It will take action by the Legislature to carry out the scheme; but this ought not to be difficult to secure. "The establishment of such a public forest," says Mr. BAXTER, "would greatly advance the happiness and health of this population, and would thereby, in increasing the attractiveness of the region, correspondingly enhance its prosperity." He advocates the placing of the domain in charge of the newly-created Trustees for the Preservation of Beautiful and Historic Places, than which "no more willing and capable hands could be found." And he shows how the cost of the scheme would not be great, since the land is rough and uncultivated and much of it would probably be given by the owners for the purpose. What would have to be done he points out as follows:

The improvement of a tract of such a nature would be comparatively inexpensive also. The most that would be needed would be to protect it from fires and other devastations, and to secure a forest-growth where desirable. Then a system of wood roads, winding along the slopes, with vistas opening out through the trees here and there, and with branches to the summit, should be created. This system, connecting with the nearest railway points, would render the range easily accessible to the great population of the city and of the entire surrounding region. It would form one of the most beautiful drives, and a service of popular conveyances could be arranged for at cheap rates that would take passengers from one end of the range to the other, going by one railway route and returning by another.

It is an attractive proposition which is here outlined, and its adoption means an added opportunity for out-door recreation for the people. Intelligent attention and discussion will doubtless do much to bring it into tangible shape.

BY-LAWS
OF THE
Trustees of Public Reservations.

ARTICLE I.
OF MEMBERS.

The members of the Corporation shall be residents of Massachusetts and their number shall not exceed twenty-five.

The Standing Committee may, if it sees fit, nominate persons to membership by printing the names of candidates upon the notice or warning of the annual meeting. The election shall take place at the annual meeting, and shall be by written ballot upon the names proposed by the Standing Committee, and any person who receives the votes of two thirds of the members present and voting shall on his acceptance in writing of his election be declared and enrolled a member of the corporation, but at the meeting held for the organization of the corporation and immediately after the adoption of By-Laws, such persons may be elected to membership as a majority of the members present and voting shall by their votes approve.

ARTICLE II.
OF ASSOCIATES.

The Associates of the corporation shall be all persons from whom the corporation shall receive real estate or personal property to the value of one thousand dollars or more.

The Associates shall be entitled to receive printed copies of the annual reports of the Secretary and Treasurer of the corporation.

The Associates shall also be invited by the Standing Committee to an annual Conference with the members of the corporation to be held at such time and place as said committee may determine.

ARTICLE III.
OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

The Annual Subscribers shall be such persons and such societies or corporations, as may pay annually into the treasury of the corporation the sum of ten dollars or more.

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The Annual Subscribers shall also be invited to the annual Conference with the Associates. Each subscribing society or corporation shall be invited to send to the Conference one representative for every ten dollars subscribed.

ARTICLE IV.

OF MEETINGS.

1. The annual meeting of the corporation shall be held on the last Wednesday in January in Boston or at such other city or town in the Commonwealth and at such time and place as the Standing Committee may determine. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of not less than seven members, but a majority of the members present and voting may adjourn any meeting from time to time until the business shall have been finished.

In the event of the annual meeting, by mistake or otherwise, not being called and held as hereinafter prescribed, the Standing Committee shall order a special meeting to be called and held in lieu of and for the purposes of the annual meeting.

Special meetings of the corporation may be called by the Standing Committee to meet at any time and place. A quorum at a special meeting shall consist of not less than seven members.

2. At all meetings the President shall take the chair as soon as a quorum is present, and the record of the preceding meeting shall then be read, unless such reading is dispensed with by the unanimous consent of those present. After which at all special meetings the business for which the meeting was called shall be transacted, and at the annual meeting the order of business shall be as follows:—

1st. The unfinished business and the assignments of the last meeting shall be announced by the Secretary to the President and taken up in order.

2nd. The Secretary shall be called on to submit a written report of the doings of the Standing Committee for the year ending with the previous 31st December.

3rd. The Treasurer shall be called upon to submit a written report of his doings for the year ending with the previous 31st December, and the financial condition of the corporation at that date.

4th. The Committee to audit the treasurer's accounts shall be called on for a report.

5th. Any special committee which may have been appointed during the year shall be called on to report.

6th. If the Standing Committee shall have made any nominations to membership in the corporation an election shall be held, as provided in Article I.

7th. An election of officers for the ensuing year shall be held, as provided in Article V, Section 1.

8th. On the announcement of the vote the newly elected President shall take the chair and shall give the members present an opportunity to present new business.

9th. The newly elected President shall appoint a committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts.

ARTICLE V.

OF OFFICERS.

1. The officers of the corporation shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Standing Committee which shall consist of five persons in all. The officers and the Standing Committee shall be chosen by written ballot at the annual meeting of the corporation, an adjournment thereof, or at a meeting in lieu of such annual meeting, as above provided, and they shall hold their offices for one year or until others are duly chosen and qualified in their stead. Any vacancy occurring in any of the above

offices from death, resignation or inability shall be filled by the Standing Committee at their next regular meeting or at a special meeting to be called for the purpose before such regular meeting.

2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the corporation and at the annual Conference with the Associates and Subscribers. If he is absent, the Vice-President shall preside, and if the Vice-President is also absent a President *pro tempore* shall be chosen by hand vote of the members of the corporation present.

Immediately after the adoption of By-Laws at the meeting held for the organization of this corporation, officers as above shall be chosen and shall hold their offices until the last Wednesday of January, 1892, and until their successors are qualified to serve.

3. The Secretary shall warn the members of all meetings of the corporation, according as he may be directed by votes of the Standing Committee. He shall call the meetings of the Standing Committee as he may be directed by the chairman of the committee or on the request in writing of any two members thereof. He shall issue the invitations to the annual Conference of the Associates and Subscribers, addressing the same to all persons whose names may appear in a list prepared by the Treasurer and approved by the Standing Committee. Such list may include persons who have not made any payments to the funds of the Trustees. He shall carry on all the correspondence of the corporation not otherwise provided for, and shall, when the correspondence is of importance, preserve copies of the letters sent and the original letters received, for transmission with his records to his successor in office. He shall keep an exact record of all meetings of the corporation and of the Standing Committee, with the names of the members present, entering in full all reports of committees which may be accepted by either body unless otherwise directed.

At the January meeting of the Standing Committee he shall make a written report of the doings of that body for the year ending on the previous 31st of December, and if the report is approved he shall present it at the annual meeting of the corporation.

4. The Treasurer shall, when directed, as provided in the next paragraph, make disbursements, and he shall also collect all moneys due to the corporation and shall keep regular and faithful accounts of all the moneys and funds of the corporation which shall come into his hands and of all receipts and expenditures connected with the same, which accounts shall always be open to the inspection of members of the corporation. He shall make no investments and pay no moneys without either the approval of a majority of the Standing Committee, or else of such officer or committee as said Standing Committee shall appoint to act for it in these matters.

At the January meeting of the Standing Committee he shall make a written report of his doings for the year ending on the previous 31st of December, and, if his report is approved, he shall present it at the annual meeting of the corporation.

ARTICLE VI.

OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee shall at its first meeting in each year elect a chairman whose duty it shall be to preside at all meetings of the committee. In his absence a chairman *pro tempore* may be chosen by hand vote.

The Standing Committee shall meet at least once in every month, and a quorum shall consist of not less than three members.

The Standing Committee may nominate or refuse to nominate new members of the corporation, may accept or decline gifts offered to the corporation, may approve or disapprove investments or expenditures proposed by the Treasurer, may approve or disapprove all bills against the corporation, may appoint sub-committees of their number, may appoint and remove wardens and other agents, may engage whatever assistance is needed to administer the affairs of the corporation, and in general may exercise all the executive powers of the corporation.

ARTICLE VII.

SEAL.

The corporate seal shall be a circular, flat-faced die of about an inch and a half in diameter with the name of the corporation, the year of its organization, the word, Massachusetts, and such other device and legend as the Standing Committee may adopt and report to the Secretary as the seal of the corporation so engraved on its face that it can be embossed on paper by pressure.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS.

At any annual meeting of the corporation, or at a special meeting called for the purpose, these By-Laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that notice of such proposed change shall have been given in the call of the meeting.

50 State St. Rm. 50.

Boston.

Dear Sir...

A few Boston people
have subscribed several
hundred dollars to enable
your Standing Committee
to start Mr. Garrison on a
circuitary tour in our State.
Mr. Garrison is already at
work in Essex County. He
will interest the local of-
ficials and the newspaper
men. He will lecture and
write up all existing and
proposed associations, and
he will speak before any
gathering of people which
local zeal may arrange.
The money on hand will
not suffice to carry him
far from the sea-shore.
He ought to go inland

in the Autumn.
you will receive some
description for this
purpose?

Yours Truly

Charles D

See.

THE TRUSTEES
OF
PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

President,

✓ HON. GEORGE F. HOAR, Worcester.

Vice-President,

✓ HON. WILLIAM S. SHURTLEFF, Springfield.

Standing Committee,

✓ PHILIP A. CHASE, Lynn, *Chairman,*

✓ CHARLES S. SARGENT, Brookline,

✓ HENRY P. WALCOTT, Cambridge,

• GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH, 89 State St., Boston, *Treasurer,*

✓ CHARLES ELIOT, 50 State St., Boston, *Secretary.*

✓ FREDERICK L. AMES, Easton,

✓ CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, Northampton,

CHARLES R. CODMAN, Cotuit,

ELISHA S. CONVERSE, Malden,

✓ DELORAINE P. COREY, Malden,

✓ JOHN J. RUSSELL, Plymouth,

✓ LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, Newton,

✓ NATHANIEL S. SHALER, Tisbury,

✓ GEORGE SHELDON, Deerfield,

✓ DANIEL D. SLADE, Newton,

✓ JOSEPH TUCKER, Pittsfield,

✓ GEORGE H. TUCKER, Pittsfield,

✓ FRANCIS A. WALKER, Boston.

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THE TRUSTEES
OF
PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

President,

✓ HON. GEORGE F. HOAR, Worcester.

Vice-President,

✓ HON. WILLIAM S. SHURTLEFF, Springfield.

Standing Committee,

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✓ CHARLES S. SARGENT, Brookline,

✓ HENRY P. WALCOTT, Cambridge,

✓ GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH, 89 State St., Boston, *Treasurer,*

✓ CHARLES ELIOT, 50 State St., Boston, *Secretary.*

✓ FREDERICK L. AMES, Easton,

✓ CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, Northampton,

CHARLES R. CODMAN, Cotuit,

ELISHA S. CONVERSE, Malden,

✓ DELORAINE P. COREY, Malden,

✓ JOHN J. RUSSELL, Plymouth,

✓ LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, Newton,

✓ NATHANIEL S. SHALER, Tisbury,

✓ GEORGE SHELDON, Deerfield,

✓ DANIEL D. SLADE, Newton,

✓ JOSEPH TUCKER, Pittsfield,

✓ GEORGE H. TUCKER, Pittsfield,

✓ FRANCIS A. WALKER, Boston.

CHAPTER 352. ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,
1891.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Frederick L. Ames, Philip A. Chase, Christopher Clarke, Charles R. Codman, Elisha S. Converse, George F. Hoar, John J. Russell, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles S. Sargent, Nathaniel S. Shaler, George Sheldon, William S. Shurtleff, George H. Tucker, Francis A. Walker, George Wigglesworth, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation by the name of The Trustees of Public Reservations, for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining, and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth; with the powers and privileges and subject to the duties set forth in Chapter one hundred and fifteen of the Public Statutes and in such other general laws as now are or hereafter may be in force relating to such corporations; but said corporation shall have no capital stock.

SECTION 2. Said corporation may acquire and hold by grant, gift, devise, purchase or otherwise, real estate such as it may deem worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of the public, but not exceeding one million dollars in value, and such other property, both real and personal, as may be necessary or proper to support or promote the objects of the corporation, but not exceeding in the aggregate the further sum of one million dollars.

SECTION 3. All personal property held by said corporation, and all lands which it may cause to be opened and kept open to the public, and all lands which it may acquire and hold with this object in view, shall be exempt from taxation, in the same manner and to the same extent as the property of literary, benevolent, charitable, and scientific institutions incorporated within this Commonwealth is now exempt by law; but no lands so acquired and held and not opened to the public shall be so exempt from taxation for a longer period than two years. Said corporation shall never make any division or dividend of or from its property or income among its members.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved May 21, 1891.*]

The Trustees invite the co-operation of the public spirited men and women of Massachusetts in promoting popular interest in the preservation of the beautiful and historical places of the State.

They desire to obtain information regarding existing public reservations of all kinds ; their number, character, and locality, and the titles and conditions under which they are held. They also invite suggestions relating to places which it may be thought desirable to preserve for public use, either on account of historic interest or the beauty of the local scenery. In order to acquire this information as soon as possible, they have appointed a salaried agent, Mr. J. B. Harrison, who will travel throughout the State, and for whom the trustees bespeak every assistance.

There is need of more complete recognition of the conditions which will soon result from the increasing density of the population of our country and its concentration in cities and towns. There is need, too, that the value of historical and literary memorials be recognized before they are injured or destroyed. Accordingly the trustees request all persons who are already interested in any part of the broad field of their endeavors,—all persons and societies interested in scenery, in natural history, in history, in public health, and in the common weal in general,—to unite in assisting the work of the Board by corresponding with the secretary or agent, and by becoming subscribers to the working fund.

Copies of the By-Laws will be sent by the secretary to any address. Section 3 reads as follows :

OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

The Annual Subscribers shall be such persons and such societies or corporations as may pay annually into the treasury of the corporation the sum of ten dollars or more.

The Annual Subscribers shall each be entitled to receive a copy of the annual reports of the secretary and treasurer of the corporation.

The Annual Subscribers shall also be invited to the annual conference with the Associates. Each subscribing society or corporation shall be invited to send to the conference one representative for every ten dollars subscribed.

CHAPTER 196. ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,
1890.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PRESERVING ORNAMENTAL AND SHADE TREES
ON THE HIGHWAYS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The mayor and aldermen of the cities and the selectmen of the towns within the Commonwealth are hereby authorized to designate and preserve, as hereinafter provided in this act, trees within the limits of the highways for the purposes of ornament and shade; and to so designate not less than one such tree in every thirty-three feet where such trees are growing and are of a diameter of one inch or more.

SECTION 2. Said mayor and aldermen and selectmen shall, between the first day of September and the thirty-first day of December in each year, designate such trees as are selected by them for the purposes set forth in this act by driving into the same, at a point not less than four nor more than six feet from the ground and on the side toward the center of the highway, a nail or spike with a head with the letter M plainly impressed upon it; said nails and spikes to be procured and furnished by the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture (Amendment, Chapter 49, 1891), to said mayor and aldermen and selectmen as required by them for the purposes of this act. Said mayor and aldermen and selectmen, between the first day of September and the thirty-first day of December of each succeeding year, shall renew such of said nails and spikes as shall have been destroyed or defaced; and shall also designate, in the same manner as hereinbefore stated, such other trees as in their judgment should be so designated to carry out the requirements of this act.

SECTION 3. Whoever wantonly injures, defaces or destroys any tree thus designated, or any of said nails or spikes affixed to such trees, shall forfeit not less than five nor more than one hundred dollars, to be recovered by complaint, one-half to the complainant and one-half to the use of the town wherein the offence was committed.

SECTION 4. This act shall not apply to ornamental or shade trees whose preservation is now provided for by chapter fifty-four of the Public Statutes and the acts amendatory thereof.

Approved April 21, 1890.

(From Garden and Forest. July 2, 1890.)

The movement for the establishment of a State Board of Trustees empowered to acquire and hold for public use and enjoyment historic sites, tracts of interesting scenery and open spaces of any desirable kind, which was recently started in Massachusetts by the Appalachian Mountain Club, ought to have far-reaching results. Any such exhibition of interest in the preservation of natural scenery is encouraging, as evincing capacity for pleasures which are in no degree sordid or material, and as indicating, perhaps, a slight gain in the higher elements of life and civilization. The wish to do what is thus proposed is, do doubt, a natural result of the out-of-door activities of the Club. It has been awakened in the minds of the members by personal contact with nature, and by their familiarity with interesting and beautiful scenery. It will probably be found easier to inspire interest in the acquisition of historic sites than in the other objects of the undertaking. This part of the enterprise will come nearest taking care of itself.

The popular interest in the preservation of scenery, and the popular appreciation of the value of opportunities for change of scene and for contact with unspoiled natural beauty and calm, are but slight, but they admit of cultivation and development. An increasing and enormous density of population is certain, within a few decades, to develop conditions of life in all our older states which only thoughtful men and women now foresee. Our country is rapidly becoming a land of cities and towns. As people are, more and more, obliged to live and work in thronged and crowded communities, the need of occasional escape from the pressure of toil, and of recreation, by experience of the silent unconcern of nature, becomes more imperative. The most important among the objects of this movement is the acquisition of open spaces, places where the people of the towns can breathe, and the establishment of conditions under which they will be permanently available for public use. Their management and embellishment can be considered afterward. They will reflect the taste and civilization of the people of the state. But it is always appropriate to say that in such places we do not want statues or fine buildings or decorative artificial gardening. All these are impertinences, but trees and grass, rocks and streams,

"The wide, aerial landscape spread,"

the open air, the sky and sea—these have the power to heal and soothe and charm.

The movement should be made broad enough from the beginning to include and enlist all who appreciate out-of-door interests and objects of any kind, the preservation of natural scenery, the care of trees, forests and wooded lands, and of fish and game preserves, the purity of the water-supply for cities and towns, the treatment of road-sides, and of mountain and sea-shore commons and public parks and open spaces. The development and direction of popular interest in the objects of the undertaking will require and reward persistent effort. The work has been very happily begun, and all public-spirited citizens of the commonwealth should help to make it successful.

PUBLIC RESERVATIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS. The board of Trustees of Public Reservations has been organized under an act of the legislature passed at the last session. It has two objects, the preservation of historic places in this State, and the securing of open spaces or reservations to which the public may resort for rest and recreation.

Historic places properly cared for, so as to preserve the features which marked them when the events occurred which have made them memorable, exert a powerful influence in the education of the young, and in the development of patriotic sentiment among the mass of the people of the commonwealth. There are many such places in our State, and they should all be suitably enclosed or protected, and so designated and described that visitors can readily obtain full knowledge of the history and associations connected with them. Indifference to the fate or condition of historic sites would indicate fatal defects in the character and civilization of our people, and yet effective action for their preservation is sometimes too long postponed. Such action is often rendered difficult or impossible by the private or individual ownership of the land on which memorable deeds were done. This obstacle is now overcome by giving the Trustees of Public Reservations legal authority to hold the title to such places.

The other object of the Board, the establishment of open spaces or reserves for public resort along the sea shore, or on the hills near our cities and towns, is one of the most serious and important needs of the time. Thoughtful men and women are awakening to the fact that we are rapidly approaching conditions under which few places near the sea will be open to the public as a matter of right. If something is not undertaken speedily to prevent it the time may come when along great reaches of the shore of New England visitors cannot approach the ocean without payment of a fee, as a few years ago the people of our country had to pay for the privilege of looking at the Falls of Niagara.

Mr. J. B. Harrison, the agent for the Trustees, is engaged in ascertaining what reservations already exist in our seashore towns, and in stimulating popular interest in the objects referred to above. His address is 50 State street, Boston. The members of the Board of Trustees are known to everybody in Massachusetts. They are Geo. F. Hoar (president), Wm. S. Shurtleff (vice president), Philip A. Chase, Chas. S. Sargent, Henry P. Walcott, Geo. Wigglesworth and Chas. Elliot (standing committee), Fred L. Ames, Christopher Clarke, Chas. R. Codman, E. S. Converse, D. P. Corey, John J. Russell, Leveitt Saltonstall, N. S. Shaler, Geo. Sheldon, Daniel D. Slade, Jos. Tucker, Geo. H. Tucker and Francis A. Walker.

Since the above was written, we notice in the Boston Herald the following appreciative allusion to this gentleman selected by the Trustees to make a missionary tour of Massachusetts for the purpose of awakening interest in this subject:

It would be difficult to secure any other person so peculiarly fitted for the task. Mr. Harrison has long been engaged in similar undertakings. It was he who awakened the sentiment that secured the setting aside of the land about Niagara Falls as a New York state reservation, thus preserving forever the surroundings of the cataract from disfigurement. His efforts also resulted in the establishment of the great state forest at the Adirondacks. His engagement, therefore, augurs well for the outcome of the movement here. Mr. Harrison will interest local officials and newspapers, will report upon all existing and proposed reservations, and will speak before any gatherings that may be arranged for. Mr. Harrison is now working among the summer resorts at the seashore. Much interest has already been aroused in the efforts of the new society, and it is understood that offers have been made of some beautiful tracts to be placed under its charge.

Cape Ann Breeze.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1891.

A CORRENDABLE PROJECT.

And one which should meet the hearty approval of the citizens in general of every city and town in the Commonwealth, is that which the Trustees of Public Reservations, represented in this city at the present time by Mr. J. B. Harrison, have in charge. The movement for the establishment of such a Board of Trustees started but a comparatively short time ago, members of the famed Appalachian club being the chief promoters, but it met with immediate favor from a large class of influential citizens throughout the state; so much so that plans were shaped to have an act of incorporation passed by the Legislature. Such men as the Hon. George F. Hoar of Worcester, now President of the Corporation, Hon. William S. Shurtleff of Springfield, Geo. Wigglesworth of Boston, Frederick L. Ames of Easton, Leveitt Saltonstall of Newton, Francis A. Walker of Boston, and others, became identified with the movement, and at the last meeting of the legislature an act was passed which constituted several of the gentlemen named, "their associates and successors: a corporation bearing the name of the Trustees of Public Reservations, whose purpose should be the "acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining and opening to the public, under suitable regulation, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth; with the powers and privileges and subject to the duties set forth in chapter one hundred and fifteen of the public statutes and in such other general laws as now are or hereafter may be in force relating to such corporations."

The corporation has no capital stock but "may acquire and hold by grant, gift, devise, purchase or otherwise, real estate such as it may deem worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of the public, but not exceeding one million dollars in value, and such other property, both real and personal, as may be necessary or proper to support or promote the objects of the corporation, but not exceeding in the aggregate the further sum of one million dollars."

All personal property held by the corporation, and all lands which it may cause to be opened and kept open to the public, and all lands which it may acquire and hold with this object in view, shall be exempt from taxation, in the same manner and to the same extent as the property of literary, benevolent, charitable, and scientific institutions incorporated within this Commonwealth is now exempt by law; but no lands so acquired and held and not opened to the public shall be so exempt from taxation for a longer period than two years. The corporation can never make any division or dividend of or from its property or income among its members. Thus it can be seen if the corporation exists at all it must be for the good of the general public.

It is of course impossible to speak of Gloucester's public parks—she has none. Under the will of the late Samuel R. Sawyer, she may in the future become possessed of one, but remembering the old adage about the "counting of chickens" it will not do to speculate on that chance. Territory is not wanting surely for a public park, second to none in the commonwealth, and just now, when the prospects for a permanent memorial in the shape of a business enterprise seems to languish, it may not be out of place to turn our eyes to the park project. Putting however, this special object aside, it is plain that the agent of the trustees of the Public Reservation will find much to interest him here in Gloucester. He will find the shore line from the Manchester junction held in greater part by private parties, to whom the public must make obsequies if they would but venture to sniff the breezes fresh from old ocean's bosom. At the "cut" a short section yet remains, and the improvement so happily begun a few years since, we hope to see continued in the near future. From the Cut to Good Harbor beach, is a long stretch of territory, yet where, excepting upon a few city landings which have about been squatted out of existence, can one set his foot and say, Here is public land? Good Harbor beach yet remains, but it has remained for public enterprise to maintain a way by which its beauties may be enjoyed. In the interior, the common lands, a territory brought within easy reach of the citizens, through the establishment of the electric road, are held by disputed titles, if any, yet as to the city's right in them, little is known. What the future has in store for Gloucester, no man knows, but this thing is evident, if she is to grow as she has in the past, even the common lands may not be so far away that they may not be needed as a breathing spot for the inhabitants of the Cape. It is meet, therefore, in view of this condition of affairs that a state society take hold of the work, to stimulate by precept and practice the need of a more careful looking after the public rights in public lands which may, because of historic value or natural beauties, be preserved for the public good.

The Trustees of the State Society request all persons and societies interested in scenery, in natural history, in history, in public health, and in the common weal in general,—to unite in assisting the work of the Board by corresponding with the secretary or agent, and by becoming subscribers to the working fund, and we bespeak for Mr. Harrison, the agent now looking up Gloucester's needs in this particular, a kindly welcome.

Breeze Aug 15

A Friend to the Public.

Mr. J. B. Harrison, representing the Trustees of Public Reservations as a generalization, which has for its object the establishment of public parks, and the preservation for the public use of all places which have an historic value, etc., is in the city today and made a friendly call at the Breeze office in quest of information. He will stay several days on the Cape, looking up the matter he has in charge.

Salem Gazette.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1891.

OUR TREES.—XIII.

THE WILLOWS AND POPLARS.

[Written for the Salem Gazette.]

The establishment of a board of trustees for the purpose of holding, by gift and purchase, spots of natural beauty and historic interest in Massachusetts, and for receiving funds for preserving them for the benefit of future generations, is one of the most important enactments of our legislature for the public good. Cities and towns and societies and public-spirited citizens have done much already in this direction; but, by the concerted action of influential persons throughout the State, attention will be more generally called to these matters, and we may hope to have more spots of scenic interest and more of the rare trees and fine sections of forest preserved for public uses than it was possible to do before any organized attempt was made for this purpose.

We have been accustomed for years to wander at will in the woods, and over fields and seashore, without for a moment considering that the ground under our feet was private property, and that in the eyes of the law we were trespassers. But as wealth has increased, the natural desire for country and seashore residences has come with it, and we are beginning to realize that the day is not far distant when every fine hill, shady nook and ocean headland will be in private hands, unless secured before it is too late for public use.

The Essex Institute has for many years owned the famous "Ship Rock" in Peabody, otherwise this most interesting bowlder, the largest in this region, would long ago have been blasted into foundation stones. This is one of the earlier efforts to preserve a natural object of interest. The fortunate possession of the larger portion of the "Neck" by the city of Salem has saved for public use one of the few fine rocky headlands, between New York City and Eastport, Maine, and near any considerable cities, which the citizens can claim for their own, and from which they cannot be shut off by the fences of private owners, or to which an admission fee cannot be demanded by some mossy making corporation.

The white willow of Europe (*Salix alba*), the tree which has given the name to our but recently appreciated marine park, is an illustration of the trees brought to this country at the time of the settlements, which have made themselves so thoroughly at home as to appear to be natives of the region. It is the ordinary willow which we see by roadsides and watery grounds everywhere in the county. We are probably indebted to Mr. Israel Williams, Selectman and Chairman of the Board of Health at the opening of the century, for the "Willows." Tradition says he originated the plan for planting them as a shade for the patients at the hospital on the point and a memorandum of the records, headed me by his grandson Mr. T. D. Williams, fixes the date of the planting of these trees with unusual exactness. The Board of Health was established through petition to the General Court in 1739. On April 11, 1801, it was voted by this body to set out forty trees. On May 11, of the same year, it was reported by the Board that the trees had been planted. There are today nineteen of these trees remaining, varying in circumference at five feet from the ground, from seven feet and nine inches to ten feet and ten inches, the average circumference of all of the trees being nine feet and six inches.

There are also many young white willows, perhaps twenty-five feet high, and in a fine healthy condition, in the private grounds of the Naumkeag street railway, planted at the time the road was extended to this point. They are behind the high fence beyond which few persons penetrate. Could that architectural monotony, the "Siege of Paris" building, be torn down, the long bowling alley removed to the rear of the lot, the high fences taken away, and the grounds laid out to correspond with those at the north of the main roadway, which was so judiciously done at the time of the removal of the row of restaurants by the city, the improvement would be immense. We all hope that this may be accomplished some day, either by the street railway or by the city or by both co-operating, when the additional willows brought to view would make the name of the park even more appropriate than before.

There are several varieties of the white willow, and the trees common hereabouts are no doubt to be placed among these rather than the type of the species itself. All of the willows have their male and female flowers on separate trees, and hence there is great opportunity for the intermingling of the pollen among the different species by the bees while seeking honey, and many hybrids and varieties are constantly met with everywhere. Naturally, therefore, willows are among the most difficult plants to separate into species. As they are generally propagated from time to time by cuttings from one tree, it often happens that entire rows of the European willows, as we see them by the roadside, or all of the willows in a district, it may be, are confined to one sex. I think that all of the old trees at the Willows are males. The tall willow at the paring of the Swampscott road on the turnpike is a golden twigged willow, a variety (*vitellina*) of the white willow. It is, I believe, a female tree. The sexes of the willows can be determined in the spring and at that time only. The male flowers show golden yellow pollen on the catkins, while the female flowers are simply light green or whitish. There is an immense white willow at the Israel Putnam birthplace in Danvers, the largest in circumference which I remember, and Mr. C. A. Putnam measured a tree on the road from Newburyport to Amesbury, by the ship yards, which was over six feet in diameter. The trunk of this tree continues about the same size for many feet, an unusual thing for these willows, as they are generally pollarded a few feet from the ground, producing in time the grotesque old trunks bearing fresh heads of foliage as we commonly see them.

The brittle or crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), so called on account of the ease with which the twigs may be broken from the tree, a characteristic of many of the willows, is not commonly met with in this region. The willows on Park avenue, at the rear of the Derby mansion, appear to belong to this species and they answer to the botanical descriptions of them in the English works. This is one of the European willows which have been long cultivated, especially in the neighborhood of Boston. The leaves are somewhat longer and broader than those of the white willow and, instead of having a slight hairiness on the under side, they are smooth and bluish white.

But the innumerable crosses between these willows and some of our native shrubby species, make it next to impossible to give satisfactory names to many of the willows met with in the older settled portions of the country, where these trees have been growing and reproducing for two centuries or more.

The weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*), although not a perfectly hardy tree in this climate, is often seen in a beautiful condition. There is one particularly fine but not very large tree in the Broad street cemetery; in fact one learns to expect this tree in burial grounds and church yards, so long has it been associated with such places. There was a large weeping willow in the southwestern angle of the tower of St. Peter's church, said originally to have been a cutting from the tree at the tomb of Napoleon at St. Helena.

The only native tree-like willow we have in the county, although some of our shrubby species become trees in other portions of the United States, is the black willow (*Salix nigra*), the sedge-leaved form of which is common along streams and around ponds. There is a tree on our water-works road in Beverly, in the low ground at the foot of the hill, a few rods south of the watering trough, and there are some fine specimens, perhaps twenty-five feet in height, close to the stone bridge over the Ipswich river at Topsfield.

The shrubby pussy willow (*Salix discolor*), the earliest of our willows to put forth its catkins in the spring, is common in low places by the roadsides. The shining willow (*Salix lucida*) grows by the first pond on the Chebacco avenue, and with the silky willow (*Salix sericea*) by the brook on the Burley farm, Danvers, on North street, Danvers and Topsfield, and in other places. The usually low growing willow, with very beautiful golden yellow male flowers, seems to have no common name. It is the *Salix rostrata* of the botanist. The basket osier (*Salix viminalis*) and the purple willow (*Salix purpurea*) are both occasionally grown for commercial purposes, originally from imported European plants. There are purple willows by the roadside on the turnpike near the glass factory and at Swampscott near the railroad bridges.

There are several more shrubby willows in the county but it seems hardly the place to describe them here. On many of the willows cones are often seen, especially noticeable after the leaves have fallen; these are the results of the stings of insects at the ends of young growing branches and are in reality the leaves, which, being arrested in their growth, have been crowded into a mass in the form of a pine or spruce cone. When opened early in the season the nub of the fly will be found inside.

Our smallest willow, which flowers when scarcely more than six inches high, is found in the cold bogs. It is the *Salix myrtilloides*. But the extreme is reached in minuteness in the little alpine willow, *Salix herbacea*, of the White Mountains, of which perfect flowering specimens may be found not larger than a single leaf of the great Putnam willow of Danvers.

A fine, tall growing shrubby willow (*Salix caprea*) from Europe, with large erect catkins developing very early in the spring, has appeared mysteriously in gardens and yards, often to the surprise of the owners themselves. It is the result of the rapid growth of vigorous shoots from the roots or stock upon which the absurd little umbrella-shaped "Kilmarnock" willows we so often see in yards about the city are grafted. It is a much finer plant in every way for ornamental and one much prized just now for its early "pusses" and the loss of the little umbrella is therefore quite a gain.

Continued—

The American aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) grows on the road at the north of Wenham pond and frequently in Danvers, Topsfield and elsewhere. This and the large toothed aspen (*Populus grandidentata*) and the European white poplar (*Populus alba*) have the stems of their leaves flattened in the opposite direction to that of the blade of the leaf. This accounts for the rapid motion of the leaves of these trees even with the slightest breath of wind. There is a large toothed aspen planted at the rear of Plummer Hall and a natural group of them on the western side of the road turning from the turnpike to Swampscott.

The white poplar, a common tree introduced from Europe, rapidly grows to large size. There is a tree about sixty years old at Mr. Robert Manning's on Darborn street, one on Pearl street, near Bridge, and another on Derby street near Curtis.

The Balm of Gilead (*Populus balsamifera canadensis*), only known in the female state is a variety of a native northern poplar. There are trees on Lafayette street, near Porter, at the foot of Conant street, on Derby street near Phillips' wharf, and in many other places. The largest Balm of Gilead in this neighborhood was in the yard of the old Sibley house on Daniels street. It was about fourteen feet in circumference, but the storms broke its limbs and most of the tree has been cut away.

The stiff Lombardy poplar (*Populus distata*) once grown everywhere, is now but rarely seen except in a state of decay. Our Common was originally planted with these trees in 1802 from nurseries on the northern side, in the vicinity of Winter street. But, fifteen years later, the trees were found to be of little value for ornament and they were replaced by elms. There are wrecks of Lombardy poplars on Loring avenue, beyond the Marblehead branch railroad crossing, near the Willows, and on the Newburyport turnpike in various places. There are two trees on Davis street, Beverly, and one near the railroad, back of Bridge street. The fancy for these trees has revived of late and many have been planted at Revere beach and in Beverly. Possibly they may do better in sandy soil but it is doubtful if the experiment is successful.

The finest of the genus, the necklake poplar (*Populus monilifera*), a native of the western part of this state and a common street tree in New Jersey and in Philadelphia, is rarely seen here. There are two magnificent specimens on Boston common in the low ground at the south of the soldiers' monument. It has been planted near some of the new summer residences at Marblehead, where the young trees already make a fine appearance. The persistent planting of the Balm of Gilead, the white and the Lombardy poplars, and the total neglect of the fine necklake poplar, is one of the curious anomalies in tree culture in this region.

The willows and poplars are well known to be among the trees most easily reproduced from cuttings, in striking contrast to such trees as the oaks, hickories and elms. So readily do willow branches take root, that we often hear of trees said to have grown from willow cases cut for us on some walk and left, thrust into the ground, when no farther needed. About ponds and along the rivers the willows are especially abundant, even the introduced species. This no doubt arises from the growth of branches broken off during the storms of winter, which are washed about and half covered with soil in the spring, when they at once become rooted and soon form trees.

Cape Ann News.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1891.

IT'S AN OPEN QUESTION

As to whether His Honor Mayor Andrews acted wisely on Friday night, in ordering the band which had been engaged to give a concert on Main street, to discontinue playing, unless it were a fact that no other means could be taken to keep the street open to travel. We have no sympathy to waste in behalf of those who employed the band men, or their ventures. We speak of the matter of justice. In several lines of trade, within a year, band concerts have been used as a means of advertising removals, openings, etc., when the streets have been as crowded as the case on Main street on Friday night. In each case it was a good natured crowd, made up of men, women and children who were willing to suffer if need be some inconvenience if perchance they might be allowed to listen to the music.

At the last concert, at the Town Hall square even, it was difficult to make a passage through the crowd, yet it was not deemed wise to abate the nuisance, if such it could be called. Wherefore then, should there be any discrimination? It is not denied but that the music on Friday night was fully up to the standard. The space to be occupied was a trifle more restricted—that is all!

Is it?
No, a saloon was thought to be behind the band,—so reports have it;—if true, a saloon legalized by the joint action of His Honor and the Board of Aldermen. And so, while it was deemed a good thing to take a man's money as license fees, and grant him the right to make his neighbor drunk, if that neighbor is agreed, the right to call attention to his place by a is refused him. Is this just?

Old, Yet never New.

Speaking upon the subject of public reservations, etc., in a line with the thoughts expressed Thursday in these columns, Garden and Forest some time since editorially said:

The movement for the establishment of a State Board of Trustees empowered to acquire and hold for public use and enjoyment historic sites, tracts of interesting scenery and open spaces of any desirable kind, which was recently started in Massachusetts by the Appalachian Mountain Club, ought to have far-reaching results. Any such exhibition of interest in the preservation of natural scenery is encouraging, as evincing capacity for pleasures which are in no degree sordid or material, and as indicating, perhaps, a slight gain in the higher elements of life and civilization. The wish to do what is thus proposed is, no doubt, a natural result of the out-of-door activities of the Club. It has been awakened in the minds of the members by personal contact with nature, and by their familiarity with interesting and beautiful scenery. It will probably be found easier to inspire interest in the acquisition of historic sites than in the other objects of the undertaking. This part of the enterprise will come nearest taking care of itself.

The popular interest in the preservation of scenery, and the popular appreciation of the value of opportunities for change of scene and for contact with unspoiled natural beauty and calm, are but slight, but they admit of cultivation and development. An increasing and enormous density of population is certain, within a few decades, to develop conditions of life in all our older states which only thoughtful men and women now foresee. Our country is rapidly becoming a land of cities and towns. As people are more and more obliged to live and work in thronged and crowded communities, the need of occasional escape from the pressure of toil, and of recreation by experience of the silent unconcern of nature, becomes more imperative. The most important among the objects of this movement is the acquisition of open spaces, places where the people of the towns can breathe, and the establishment of conditions under which they will be permanently available for public use. Their management and embellishment can be considered afterward. They will reflect the tastes and civilization of the people of the state. But it is always appropriate to say that in such places we do not want statues or fine buildings or decorative artificial gardening. All these are impertinences, but trees and grass, rocks and streams,

"The wide, aerial landscape spread"

the open air, the sky and sea—these have the power to heal and soothe the charm.

The movement should be made broad enough from the beginning to include and enlist all who appreciate out-of-door interests and objects of any kind, the preservation of natural scenery, the care of trees, forests and wooded lands, and of fish and game preserves, the purity of the water-supply for cities and town, the treatment of road-sides, and of mountain and sea-shore commons and public parks and open spaces. The development and direction of popular interest in the objects of the undertaking will require and reward persistent effort. The work has been very happily begun, and all public-spirited citizens of the commonwealth should help to make it successful.

Marblehead Messenger

We received a pleasant call on Thursday from Mr. J. B. Harrison, agent for the Trustees of Public Reservations. We have taken occasion before to speak of the aims of this most praiseworthy organization, which has for its object the preservation of the beautiful and historic places of the state, and shall try to refer to it again more in detail. Its work has been spoken of very fittingly as the further unfolding of our Massachusetts civilization, and as such it deserves the encouragement of public-spirited people everywhere.

PRESS AND PUBLIC.

Mr. J. B. Harrison, the agent of the Trustees of Public Reservations, who was in this city a few days since, has long been engaged in work for the public good, it being he who awakened the sentiment that secured the setting aside of the land about Niagara Falls as a New York state reservation, thus preserving forever the surroundings of the cataract from disfigurement. His efforts also resulted in the establishment of the great state forest at the Adirondacks. His engagement by the Massachusetts society interested in the establishment of public parks, and the preservation for the use of the people, places of natural beauty, which perhaps also may have an historic value, augurs well for the successful carrying out of any plans which may be inaugurated.

Mr. Harrison is especially working to interest local officials in the work and to this end made calls upon the Gloucester and Rockport authorities. He also is working with the press of the state, and from the reading of our exchanges we should judge that his reception has been a kindly one from this quarter. That this is so tells its own story of how the press is ever interested in the public weal.

Herald Sep 1.

A PARK COMMISSION.

Important Suggestion for Greater Boston by Mr. Charles Eliot.

Mr. Charles Eliot, the landscape architect of Boston, had the following letter on a subject of great interest to Boston and its suburbs at the present time in Garden and Forest for Aug. 26: Mr. Baxter's enthusiastic article about the Blue Hills of Massachusetts in your issue for Aug. 6 prompts me to urge again the creation of one general board of commissioners endowed with power to take lands for park purposes in any of the 20 municipalities which compose Greater Boston. These eight cities and twelve towns possess a million inhabitants and more than a thousand million dollars' worth of taxed property. The whole district needs to reserve at once numerous small plots of land for squares and breathing places, and for country parks not the Blue Hills only, but the Felix and some other wild lands as well. These needed reservations will never be secured unless the several municipalities will unite for the purpose. Let the next Legislature frame an act naming a metropolitan park commission, and giving it power to take lands regardless of town and city boundaries. Let the act provide money for the purchase of lands by means of a state loan, to be repaid in 50 years by the interested towns. Then let the act provide that it shall take effect only when a majority of the votes cast at special elections held in the 20 municipalities shall be yes votes.

A tax levied on a growing thousand millions at the rate of a 10th of a mill on the dollar would, in 50 years, yield more than enough to pay off a loan of five millions spent in the purchase of common land. Five millions would today buy sites for at least 50 squares averaging five acres, together with 10,000 acres of wild lands distributed between the Felix, the Blue Hills and other quarters. Another 10th of a mill on every dollar would provide a hundred thousand a year for road building and maintenance. Thus easily can greater Boston have, if she will, her reputation as the most beautiful and most enlightened city in America.

An interesting letter from J. B. Harrison on the Public Park Question.

Editors Times—I have been for several weeks engaged in a search for public holdings in some of the shore towns of Massachusetts, working in the interest of the Trustees of Public Reservations. This body has been incorporated under an Act of the Legislature approved May 21, 1891, for the purpose of holding and opening to the public beautiful and historical places in Massachusetts.

BEGINNING AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LINE,
I found that the town of Salisbury has no land belonging to the town, no place on the shore to which the public can resort as a matter of right. Salisbury Beach runs the whole length of the town. It formerly belonged to the people in common, and was then regarded as having very little value. But it now brings important annual revenues to its owners, a corporation called "The Commoners of Salisbury." The members of this body hold that they are more truly in the legal line of descent and inheritance from the early settlers of the town than the present town itself. The town has so far recognized their title as to tax them on this beach property for the last seventy-five years, but last spring the people voted in town meeting to inquire into the title, and appointed a committee for that purpose. The corporation does not sell land, but leases sites for summer cottages, and there is an almost continuous village of these habitations along the great part of the length of the beach, many of them fairly good houses. Visitors are welcome, for the owners of the land wish to lease cottage sites to more people, but it is all private property, and the public goes there as a matter of sufferance or privilege and not of right.

THE CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

has a fine system of public parks or open spaces. Some of them have been long in use, and are very restful and beautiful, while others are still in process of construction and development. There is an efficient City Improvement Association, with Mr. James Parton at the head of the Executive Committee.

Going on southward, Plum Island is part of the town of Newbury. It all belongs to private owners, and ground is leased to summer visitors as on Salisbury beach. There is no public holding on the shore, but inland there are two small reserves owned by the town, Upper Green and Lower Green, four or five acres each, unfenced, grazed by the neighborhood cows, a few trees, and a school-house on each, with some interesting history in each case, beginning with the first white settlement of the region.

The Lower Green was the public square, common or park of the Old Town, older than Newburyport. When the people abandoned the site for the more attractive shores of the Merrimack The Green remained a public possession. The Upper Green was part of a minister's farm, a point between roads which would require much fence for a small field. Not being a worldly or grasping man he left this lot out in the cold and in time the town assumed possession. A little care would make both these small parks attractive and valuable to the people of the town, who have no other places of public resort where they can go as a matter of right and without feeling that they are trespassing on private property.

(To be Continued.)

THE TOWN OF ESSEX

is fortunate in its public reservations. It has no real seashore, as Ipswich and Gloucester meet on the ocean beach, but Essex has all the lower reaches and broad expansion of Essex river, and all this river bank region is just about the same as seashore. For many years the town has devoted a part of the Town Farm to the uses of a public summer resort, leasing sites for cottages. There is an area for picnics, clam-bakes, fish dinners, &c. These grounds lie along the river, and everybody has a right to go there. The town owns the ground around several of the old landings, at one place two acres or more, now rented to ship-builders,

IPSWICH

has no public holding on the shore. Meeting House Green is the only place of public resort belonging to the people. I have followed this quest through Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester, Beverly, Salem, Marblehead and Lynn, but these notes are enough for this time. No other city or town that I have seen has such a possession as the Lynn Woods, sixteen hundred acres, so I was told by the Lynn people, of woods and waters lying at the very gates of the town, so to speak. It is not a park, and, rightly, it will never be treated as a park. It is a great tract of forest with excellent roads, noble hill-top views and shady depths and reaches of quiet, restful sylvan beauty.

GLOUCESTER

ought to have a public park, or breathing place, with an area suited to her character and population. It is a necessity. Where do her people go for land excursions, for picnemes and for summer evening rest recreation? If your citizens decide to establish a park as a memorial of next year's anniversary, as I trust they may, the trustees of Public Reservations will feel much interest in the undertaking, and will cooperate with you by every means in their power. I am Very truly yours,

J. B. HARRISON.

Quincy, Mass., Aug. 25.

Post. Sep 1.

PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

The following circular to the local press of the State has been issued:

The Trustees of Public Reservations wish to obtain complete information regarding the public holdings in all the towns of Massachusetts; that is, of all public holdings which are used, or may of right be used, in any degree as places of public resort. This does not include the grounds around schools, colleges, churches or public buildings, unless they are of such extent and character as to adapt them to use as common or public grounds, nor cemeteries, except old burying grounds now used chiefly as parks. We wish to know the number, area, condition and history of all parks, open spaces, beaches and common lands of any kind, the title of which is held by the town, and which are intended for common or public use.

It is obvious that such knowledge cannot be acquired without considerable effort. The cooperation of the newspapers throughout the State is most desirable, is indeed indispensable. In many instances no one else can so well obtain this information as the editors of the local journals, and editors of its publication in their columns will do more to promote the object for which the board has been incorporated than can be accomplished in any other way. If editors who print anything on such subjects will kindly send me copies of their papers they will really aid our work. Very respectfully, J. B. HARRISON, Agent for the Trustees of Public Reservations, 60 State Street, Boston, Mass.

Chatham Monitor

Mr. J. B. Harrison, agent for the Trustees of Public Reservation, was in town last week in the interests of the corporation. Its object is for acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining and opening to the public under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within the Commonwealth. This includes common lands, ancient cemeteries, beaches and points of historic interest, &c. Mr. Harrison visited the Town Clerk and obtained the facts he was able to give, especially that in relation to Champlain, who visited Chatham, (named by him Port Fortune), in 1696. Champlain erected a cross on the land near Capt. Sears Atwood's residence, and the propriety of erecting some mark or monument in recognition of this event was considered, and Mr. Harrison promised to lay this matter before the trustees. Champlain's works contain several views of Chatham, Indian scenes and other matters of historical interest.

3ep 15

A METROPOLITAN PARK SYSTEM.

Mr. Charles Elliot, the landscape architect of this city, makes an important suggestion for a metropolitan park system for Greater Boston in Garden and Forest last week. He urges the appointment of one general board of commissioners, with power to take land for park purposes in any one of the twenty municipalities. He points out that these eight cities and twelve towns have 1,000,000 inhabitants, and more than \$1,000,000,000 of taxed property. The whole district needs to reserve at once numerous small plats, and for country parks other wild lands beside the Blue Hills and the Middlesex Fells. Mr. Elliot would have the state advance a loan of, say, \$5,000,000, to be repaid by the interested municipalities in fifty years. A tax of one-tenth of a mill on the dollar would be more than enough to pay off the loan, and another tenth would give \$100,000 a year for road building and maintenance. Mr. Elliot's suggestions are worthy of serious consideration. In Australia it is the custom for the state to advance the money for municipalities for local improvements, and Massachusetts has already applied the idea in the metropolitan sewerage system.

Manuscript Sep 1

In Mr. Edmund Gosse's article on Lowell in the St. James's Gazette appears a valuable hint:

"His heart," says Mr. Gosse, "was not with our monarchical traditions; it was always sternly republican. Lowell in England was always looking longingly backward to the vast wooden mansion under the terrace of Mount Auburn where he was born and bred, and where the great writers of the world laid their hands upon his youth and dedicated it. It is much to be desired that the American Government, or the State of Massachusetts, may find some way of preserving Elmwood as it stands, or as it stood when I saw it six years ago, as national property. More, perhaps, than any other single building in America it is a relic of the literary life, a solid piece of the intellectual history of the country. Mr. Lowell, though ten years absent from Elmwood, was always thinking of it, and especially of the famous trees that deepen the seclusion of its lawns. I remember, when I saw him first, after a brief visit to America in 1885, he asked me immediately about the elms of Mount Auburn. 'Did they send me a message?' he asked. Long may their venerable shadow be thrown across his household goals!"

The Society for the Preservation of Beautiful Historic Places would have a pretty task here when, if ever, the heirs of Mr. Lowell wish to part with Elmwood.

PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC PLACES.

Active work has begun in the preservation of beautiful and historic places in this Commonwealth, under the direction of the recently formed board of trustees of public reservations and its standing committee—Mr. Philip A. Chase of Lynn, chairman, Mr. Charles S. Sargent of Brookline and Mr. Henry P. Walcott of Cambridge. It is a pleasure to quote the appeal of the board, of which Senator Hoar is president, and F. L. Ames, chairman of the board of directors:

The trustees of Public Reservations wish to obtain complete information regarding the public holdings in all the towns of Massachusetts; that is, of all public holdings which are used, or may of right be used, in any degree as places of public resort. This does not include the grounds around schools, colleges, churches or public buildings, unless they are of such extent and character as to adapt them to use as commons or public grounds, nor cemeteries, except old burying grounds now used chiefly as parks. We wish to know the number, area, condition and history of all parks, open spaces, beaches and common lands of any kind, the title of which is held by the town, and which are intended for common or public use. It is obvious that such knowledge cannot be acquired without considerable effort.

The trustees invite the co-operation of the public-spirited men and women of Massachusetts in promoting popular interest in the preservation of the beautiful and historical places of the State. They also invite suggestions relating to places which may be thought desirable to preserve for public use, either on account of historic interest or the beauty of the local scenery. In order to acquire this information as soon as possible, they have appointed a salaried agent, Mr. J. B. Harrison, who will travel throughout the State, and for whom the trustees bespeak every assistance. There is need of more complete recognition of the conditions which will soon result from the increasing density of the population of our country and its concentration in cities and towns. There is need, too, that the value of historical and literary memorials be recognized before they are injured or destroyed. Accordingly, the trustees request all persons who are already interested in any part of the broad field of their endeavors—all persons and societies interested in scenery, in natural history, in history, in public health, and in the common weal in general—to unite in assisting the work of the board by corresponding with the secretary or agent, and by becoming subscribers to the working fund. The annual subscribers shall be such persons and such societies or corporations as may pay annually into the treasury of the corporation the sum of ten dollars or more.

The annual subscribers shall each be entitled to receive a copy of the annual reports of the secretary and treasurer of the corporation. The annual subscribers shall also be invited to the annual conference, with the associates. Each subscriber to the society or corporation shall be invited to send to the conference one representative for every \$10 subscribed. George Wiglesworth, 83 State street, Boston, is treasurer, and Charles Elliot, 90 State street, Boston, is secretary of the board of trustees.

Prof. Advocate
Sep 3.

Public Reservations.

Mr. J. B. Harrison, of Boston, agent of the State Trustees of Public Reservations, visited Provincetown Monday. The aim of the Trustees is to preserve the beautiful and historical places of the state. His visit to Provincetown was with a view to invite suggestions relating to places here which it may be thought desirable to preserve for public use on account of their historic interest. The trustees are especially anxious to secure funds for a work that deserves encouragement. Persons who contribute ten dollars annually become annual subscribers and are entitled to all the publications of the trustees and to attend the meetings of the society.

Trustees of Public Reservations.

EDITOR OR ADVOCATE: I want to thank you for your handsome and unsolicited notice of the Highland Light edition of Sand and Salt and to say that I am taking great pains to produce a Provincetown edition to be circulated freely all over Massachusetts to attract the people to your favored town.

One influence which should now be mentioned is that of Trustees of Public Reservations of which Senator Hoar of Worcester is the president. Their agent Mr. J. B. Harrison, a New Hampshire man interested in preserving the forests of that state, and in reservations elsewhere (among others those at Niagara Falls and the Adirondacks in New York) is visiting various portions of the state, and will soon be in Provincetown.

Yesterday I met Mr. Harrison in Boston and called his attention to your Province Lands, suggesting that if the State has a valid claim there could be no more acceptable evidence of it than the building of roads within the claimed territory. When the people of Massachusetts come to Provincetown they want to see the Atlantic ocean, but they are prevented from so doing because of the want of good roads over the Province Lands, claimed by the state which are sadly in need of improvement, and which, unlike Middlesex Fells and Milton Hills, do not need to be purchased, but are already public property awaiting improvement.

It seems to me that if Mr. Harrison could meet fifteen or twenty of the leading men of Provincetown and Truro, that a practicable result might be reached within a reasonable time, if his suggestions can be taken in hand in earnest.

CHARLES W. FELL.
North Eastham, Aug. 25th.

Prof. Barton
Sep 12.

EDITOR OF BRACON:

I have been much interested in the work of Mr. J. B. Harrison, agent of the trustees of public reservations, who visited Provincetown last week, and considered the subject of the Province Lands with your town officials.

I am trying to supplement the work of Mr. Harrison with the aid of a committee from Worcester, Boston and Salem, who are interested to have the state to continue to hold the Province Lands and to improve them by devoting a portion to a state marine park, and making good roads from the town to the ocean beach. One or more of that committee is expected to visit Provincetown next week.

Faithfully yours,
CHARLES W. FELL.

To Save Our Scenery and History.

The trustees of public reservations in this state are through their agent, J. B. Harrison, taking special interest at present in the matter of securing to the public some rights to free approach to the sea-shore. For it is becoming unpleasantly plain to visitors along our picturesque coast that at its most interesting parts they are being largely shut off from the shore by private ownership, and shall presently have to pay a fee for a look at the ocean, as everybody had to pay to see Niagara until New York state made its public reservation. That was one of the few really admirable things the New York Legislature has done in recent years; the movement for an Adirondack preserve is evidently destined to almost complete failure because of the invasion of the private interests of rich men like Seward Webb on the one hand and the lumbermen on the other. Even Niagara is not wholly secure from assaults, for at every session of the Legislature some underhanded scheme is discovered to injure the reservation. But let us be thankful for what has been gained.

There is no justice, whatever legal right there may be, for the fencing in of the Massachusetts coast by summer residents and hotel proprietors which is now going on. Nearly all Cape Ann is already in private hands, and if the public reach the sea at all, it is by sufferance, and they are often made to feel the fact. The Massachusetts coast is rapidly falling into the same condition in which Mount Desert has long been. The right of private ownership in land, for residence and cultivation, is not necessarily disputed when it is said that there can be no such exclusive right to the enjoyment of the beaches and the rocks. The state ought to possess its entire seaboard for the pleasure and recreation of its citizens, wherever they come from, as well as for purposes of public use and defense if necessary. It is not to be borne with content that to see such features as Rafe's Chasm and the reef of Norman's Woe, the citizen should be dependent upon the permission of the local and transitory owner of a house near by. That is a degree of arrogation that ought not to be. What the trustees of public reservations can do in the way of securing holdings yet unencumbered does not yet appear, but they ought to be able to regain the freedom of the coast.

There is much work for this new corporation to do, and it is to be congratulated on the service of a man so thoroughly awake to the object of its existence as Mr Harrison. Probably there is nothing of more immediate importance in its way than just this saving part of our rugged, reef-ribbed, wreck-strewn shore. But we trust that they will not forget the mountains and lakes of inland Massachusetts. Let them look at Mount Tom, that superb rude headland of trap, unfit for anything but forest, with its humble attendant Little Tom, where the sandstone hugs the trap, and the pretty valleys between,—a fine region of woodland, the home of multitudes of birds, besides the squirrels, foxes, woodchucks and rattlesnakes. This is a region most fit to be preserved forever for a public rambling ground; it has been largely invaded of late by the woodman's ax, and much of its valley area occupied for the Holyoke reservoir, but what is left is precious to the lover of the wild wood.

Let them visit the Windsor Jamba, where a mountain brook plunges into a gorge whence the rocks rise sheer 75 to 100 feet, in ancient forests where as yet no fire has run to burn up the very ground,—a piece of scenery of the most impressive character. In such instances as these no doubt much local help might be enlisted to aid the trustees. The object for which the corporation exists is often brought to the mind of one who loving the scenic beauty of his state, is loth to see it ruined by the natural course of private ownership.

The same danger threatens places of historic interest, to preserve which is another object of the corporation. In this city, for example, is the site of the Indian fort, whence in King Phillip's war some hundreds of red men descended upon the town of Springfield and burned it. The Storrs lot, as it is called, is now occupied as part of a market garden. It is somewhat changed in its character, for the ravine down which lay the gate of the fort has been filled up for some distance, and it has been leveled to convenient cultivation. But its outer lines are the same, the ravine still remains, clothed with trees, and those who drive alongside the Connecticut have long been privileged to enter the lot and encompass the tomatoes or beans to enjoy the view of the river, the city and Mount Tom in the background. Until this summer there stood on the hill's north-west verge an ancient chestnut tree which tradition asserted was there on the memorable day of the burning of the town. It had lived for more than a generation by its outer shell, for the inside had decayed, and strong sprouts had started from the roots to preserve its existence. Sometime this summer the proprietors felled the old tree, and with it felled its young successors. No one knows why they did it. In Mason Green's history of Springfield it is said of this tree: "Artists have painted it, tourists have climbed the hill to look at it, and it is a sacred though speechless monument of the local past." The owners did not know that it was sacred, though they may have thought it was speechless. This is its speech: Your foolish axes have destroyed the most ancient landmark in Springfield. Old shell as it was, it would have lived easily a hundred years,—for the chestnut is of long life. But now that it is gone, should not some steps be taken to put the site of the old Indian fort in public possession, and keep it from buildings, or the encroachments of the brick yards which undoubtedly threaten it. When one looks upon the great pains taken by English cities like York to even rebuild the ancient walls of the city, in order that its history may not be forgotten, one must think that a regard for even our small antiquity is a sentiment to be cultivated.

The objects for which the trustees of public reservations is incorporated appeal to all those who value the records of the past in the way of human occupancy and in the way of Nature's supremacy. Man has made interesting many places in this old commonwealth. Nature commands many more with her myriad resources of sublimity and beauty. Both sorts of places are of very great value to the public, not only of each locality, but of the whole state and of hundreds or thousands more who will visit her borders. It would be a noble and wonderful thing for Massachusetts to lead the other states in the line of preserving such regions of country or localities of history. So far only the

Niagara Falls reservation is our antecedent, excepting such city parks as have been formed. An individual or a society may become an annual subscriber by giving \$10; each such subscriber shall receive a copy of the annual reports of the secretary and treasurer; each individual is invited to the annual conference by the associates; each subscribing society shall be entitled to send to said conference a representative for every \$10 subscribed. Our Connecticut Valley historical society ought to muster up enough vitality to pay \$10 and send a delegate. Why are we so inert in this important matter?

Barnstable Patriot Sep 15

Mr. J. B. Harrison, agent for the Trustees of the Public Reservations, was in town Thursday acquiring information relative to public reservations of all kinds; their number, character, and locality, and the titles and conditions under which they are held. He invites suggestions relating to places which it may be thought desirable to preserve for public use, either on account of historic interest or the beauty of the local scenery. The Board suggests that "There is need of more complete recognition of the conditions which will soon result from the increasing density of the population of our country and its concentration in cities and towns. There is need, too, that the value of historical and literary memorials be recognized before they are injured or destroyed. Accordingly the trustees request all persons who are already interested in any part of the broad field of their endeavors,—all persons and societies interested in scenery, in natural history, in history, in public health, and in the common weal in general,—to unite in assisting the work of the Board by corresponding with the secretary or agent, and by becoming subscribers to the working fund." Copies of the By-Laws will be sent by the secretary, Charles Eliot, 50 State St., Boston, to any address.

Advertiser Sep 15.

The New Nation, the organ of the nationalists of Boston, takes occasion to urge on public consideration the establishment of a state marine park, taking for that purpose the old province lands on the end of Cape Cod, which have always been public property. The idea is certainly one which has much in its favor if the project can be shown to involve only a slight monetary outlay and suitable means of quick communication could be established. The great objection to the plan would seem to be the time and expense involved in getting to a park so remote from the city and the probable cost of maintaining a park there.

THE PROVINCE LANDS.

There appears to be such a thing as a once familiar fact becoming almost universally forgotten within a comparatively few years. For instance, few of the present generation know anything about the "province lands" of Massachusetts, which practically everybody in the state was informed about not so very long ago. Therefore, the statement that the commonwealth absolutely owns the entire territory of one of its most important towns, with the exception of a strip ceded to the national government, and that the occupants of the historic ground where the Pilgrims made their first landing have always been squatters to all intents and purposes, liable, though, of course, not in the least likely, to be warned out of their homes at any time, is received with astonishment by nearly every one.

The fresh attention called to this matter comes at a particularly opportune time. We have repeatedly called attention to the necessity for a generous reservation to the uses of the public of prominent points of view and convenient locations for general resort on the hilltops and along the coast. Agitation toward that end is now more earnest than ever, and definite movements for the purpose are on foot. A hearty public interest has developed that promises active support to these endeavors. While certain locations appear to be generally agreed upon as the most suitable sites for public forests, no particular seashore territory has, until now, been the subject of discussion, although this latter feature is commonly regarded as equal to the former in importance. Now it happens that, without any outlay for purchase of territory, just the opportunity is here offered in these "province lands," already in possession of the commonwealth and comprising nearly the entire area, amounting to many thousand acres, of the town of Provincetown, which gets its name from having been the property of the province of Massachusetts bay.

This land appears to be peculiarly suited to become a great marine park for the state. Almost surrounded by water, with sea breezes blowing from every side, and easily accessible from Boston, whence thousands might be conveniently transported by swift steamers at low fares, it could be made a blessing to multitudes in the way of health and recreation. Under the administration of either the state board of agriculture, acting in its capacity of a forestry commission, conferred by the public forest act, or of a special commission, if deemed more desirable, and perhaps in connection with the State Agricultural College, this domain might be made of invaluable economic and scientific service as a seaside forest and experiment station in ascertaining the best growths suitable for exposed coast locations.

Fortunately, the interests of the town itself demand that something be done, and the co-operation of local sentiment might, therefore, be looked for. Mr. J. B. Harrison, as special agent for the new trustees of public reservations, is now making a tour of the state to awaken interest in the work of that body, and to gather information as to the public

lands that may exist. There have been various reports of lands still held in common by towns according to the custom universal in the early colonial days, but of these he has found not a vestige as yet, save the small urban areas in places like Salem, Worcester and Lynn, analogous to Boston Common. But at Provincetown he has come across this fine domain of the commonwealth. Here, owing to the original mischief of tree cutting next the ocean shore in the earlier half of the present century, the great sand-dunes are now steadily advancing across the town, year by year, overwhelming the forest growth, and sure, unless checked, ultimately to overwhelm the inhabited portion, and, perhaps, greatly damage, if not utterly ruin, the fine harbor.

This advance can only be checked by starting the remedy of revegetation and reforestation at the place where the mischief began. That this is entirely practicable has been proven by important works undertaken in the sand-dunes of France and elsewhere. This work can best be carried out by the state, which happily is already master of the situation and can do as it wills with its own land.

There is also a likelihood that the state can turn its holding to excellent financial profit. Massachusetts has always been peculiarly fortunate in its real estate operations. The peninsula of Cape Cod has, of late years, become one of the great seaside resorts on the Atlantic coast. Thousands annually go thither for the summer from all parts of the Union. This tendency cannot fail to increase, for, while the population and wealth of the country are growing enormously, there is only so much seacoast available, and its value correspondingly increases. The extreme of the cape at Provincetown is one of its most attractive and charming portions. A good lesson might be learned from the phenomenal development of the great English seaside resort of Bournemouth in recent years, where the entire region is held in a very few hands, bringing almost fabulous wealth in the shape of ground-rents to a small group of individuals. Following its course with the Back Bay and the South Boston flats, the commonwealth might systematically develop this territory by laying out pleasant roads to give access to all parts, maintaining the present woodland and reforesting the remainder. For the sake of protecting the invaluable public interests at stake in the place, it might be found advisable to dispose of the sites thus made desirable for seaside residences, not in fee-simple, but only by ground rents, as has been done at Bournemouth, with the difference that in this case a permanent and ever-increasing revenue would accrue to the state. With the entire shore reserved to public use, and the greater portion of the territory devoted to forest growth, there would be still left, under suitable planning, a large area for such private occupancies. The province lands might thus become one of the most delightful and unique pleasure resorts on the coast.

It is notable that the attention of both the trustees of public reservations and of the Boston Nationalists have been simultaneously attracted to this matter. The latter can do a genuine public service in making their influence judiciously felt toward securing the proper utilization of this territory.

Provincetown
Oct. 30, 1905

IMPROVING BARREN SITES.

Mr. J. B. Harrison while in town Tuesday, visited the sand hills back of the town, accompanied by our town clerk, Mr. Seth Smith, and was much surprised to find thrifty pine trees growing in the bare sand. It is possible that through the visit of Mr. Harrison to our town, valuable assistance may be rendered in checking the gradual encroachment of the drifting sands upon the north edge of our scanty forests. The trustees of Public Reservations, whose salaried agent Mr. Harrison is, have appointed him to travel through the state to acquire all the information possible regarding existing public reservations of all kinds; their number, character and locality and the titles and conditions under which they are held. They also invite suggestions relating to places which it may be thought desirable to preserve for public use, either on account of historic interest or the beauty of the local scenery. They have been made a corporation for the purpose of acquiring the arranging, maintaining and opening to the public beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this commonwealth. While the land out back of the town may not be such as this corporation desires to preserve and beautify, still we think it very likely, that Mr. Harrison may appeal to the higher powers in our behalf. It does seem a pity that what forests we have should be slowly but surely buried alive in the bosoms of the moving sand hills. Trees of rapid growth, such as willows, silver oaks, etc., could be planted well out near the Race run, and as they rooted others could be planted, gradually working south and east. Scrub pine, bayberry bushes, etc., would help the good work along, and, although the work might be carried on many years before accomplishment, yet it could surely be done, and what is now an eyesore and a standing menace would be converted into a pretty forest. The trustees request all persons or societies interested in scenery, public health, or the common weal, to unite in assisting the work of the board by corresponding with the agent or secretary, and by becoming subscribers to the working fund. Persons may become annual subscribers by paying ten dollars annually into the treasury, and will receive copies of the annual reports of the secretary and treasurer and be invited to the annual conference of associates. This corporation is engaged in a meritorious work, and deserves the commendation and hearty support of every man, woman and child in the state.

SAND HILLS IN MOTION.

The Dunes at the End of Cape Cod Threatening the Town of Provincetown—The People a Community of Squatters—State Aid Wanted.

[Correspondence of The Evening Post.]

BOSTON, September 17.

THE two days' trip of Edward Bellamy and his fellow nationalists to the town of Provincetown is over, and they are here again, but there is no connection of consequence between their doctrines and their visit. They were invited by the Selectmen of Provincetown, because of their interest in having the State secure land on the coast for the benefit of all the people in order to save it from falling into the exclusive possession of wealthy people, who would hold it for summer residences, and so shut the public from the shore entirely. This process is going on rapidly on the north shore, and it is desired to save the Cape from the same fate. Nearly all the land on which Provincetown stands is the property of the State, and it is desired to have the State protect its own property. The fact is, that the town of Provincetown is threatened by the moving sand hills, or dunes, of the end of the cape, and the people want the State to protect them. That is all there is in this movement. Never has there been the slightest idea of founding a Nationalist colony in the town. The State last year appropriated a large sum to keep the Connecticut River from eating away the north end of Old Hadley Street. This year it gave more to protect the town of Westfield from the encroachments of the same river, and it paid out several thousand dollars to repair the roads of the town of Washington after they had been destroyed by a cloudburst. So the Provincetown people think they should be protected from extinction by the sand.

It is very interesting, this story of the movement of the sand upon the town. Most of the end of Cape Cod is loose and shifting sand, so that the town of several thousand people lies mostly in one long street upon the inner side of the Cape, as it curves around like a ram's horn at its northern end. The movement of the sand is from the northwest. When the wind is from the northeast it is usually accompanied by rain. This wets the sand so that it will not blow, but the northwest winds are dry and always brings fair weather. So the movement of the sand is from that direction towards the town.

As the sand lies without any protection from the winds, which have a long sweep over the wide waters of Cape Cod Bay, it is blown like mow, sometimes with great force and rapidly. Its forms are ever changing. Where there is now a hill twenty feet high there may be in a few weeks not only no hill, but a depression. On the side towards which the wind is blowing, the drift is sometimes almost perpendicular. It is said that there are trees twenty feet high upon which the sand has blown so that they are nearly covered up, while their neighbors yet have only a small depth of sand at their feet. The party which went down this week reports that it is possible to stand on the top of the sand drift and touch the topmost twigs of trees twenty feet high whose trunks are yet but very little covered. The companions of these trees are buried and they themselves are doomed, but they have a short respite till the northwest wind shall move the great mass of sand bodily upon them.

It appears that very little new sand is blown up from the beach, but that it is the same mass which is constantly travelling onward before the wind. There are some places where it has so far passed by as to uncover again the trunks of the trees which it overwhelmed and destroyed many years ago. Yet the form of the sand-bluffs, as a whole, is said to have remained substantially unchanged since men can remember. This moving sand is at a good height above the level of the sea, and is never touched by the tides. In all, there are said to be some five or six square miles of it upon the point of the Cape.

This is the danger to Provincetown. In some instances the sand has come so near to the houses that the owners shovel it out of their yards. The remedy which is proposed is the planting of trees. Where the sand lies still long enough for vegetation to take root, trees have grown up till they are about twenty feet high, as already mentioned, and the underbrush is said to be about the same as in wooded tracts further up the Cape. A short distance below the surface there is abundant moisture, and the willow would grow well but for one thing; the bark of the willow is very tender and the particles of sand are very sharp. High winds blow the sand with sufficient force against the trees to cut the bark, and this process is so constant that the trees cannot endure it, and die. But what is called the silver oak and the common pitch pine grow well on the Cape, and a barrier might apparently be constructed of them by attention to the matter. There is also a kind of beach grass which will grow in the sand and prevent it from blowing away. What the people of Provincetown want is that the State should cut trees and protect them from the incursions of the ever-encroaching sand.

Now the question will be asked why the Provincetown people should be so ready to seek aid of the State without an effort to help themselves. The fact is that they are a town of squatters. They know it. The State of Massachusetts owns nearly all of the land in the town. It seems that the old province of Massachusetts Bay, away back in 1694, it is said, granted this as a fishing-station to the people of that part of the province, but with a distinct reservation of ownership. This grant covered nearly the whole of the land within the limits of the town. The consequence is that none of the people own any land in town. They are fully aware of this state of affairs, and never give any kind of deeds when property changes hands except quit-claim deeds. Everything is in an unsettled state, so far as relates to land-holding. One consequence of the impossibility of getting a title to the land is, that no one is able to hold more than he can occupy. Thus it happens that all along their main street the houses are put as close together as they can conveniently stand. It is said that claims are staked out something as they might be in a mining camp, but with this difference, that each knows that there is no title of any sort. He cannot get a perfect one himself, but neither can any other man get one against him. The outlying parts of the town are not of sufficient value to make it worth while to grab any great amount of land, and so there is not as much confusion and quarrelling as might be expected. One case is mentioned, however, as now pending, which illustrates how matters may go against the poor compared with the rich. A while ago a man sold a piece of land, to which, of course, he had no right, for \$20. But the purchaser never improved it or used it in any way. Then came along a third man, and seized here an apparently eligible spot, built

himself a little house upon it. Then turns up the second man and claims the land. If he had a title to the land, of course the house would go with it, for such is Massachusetts law regarding improvements built upon land occupied by one not the owner. There is no case for courts, but the second man has money, and has hired a lawyer to make a contest for him, while the third man has no money for his defence, and it is expected that he will be evicted.

It is this fact of State ownership which leads the Provincetown people to look to the State for help against the moving sandhills, and they will probably bring the matter to the attention of the new body of "Trustees of Public Reservations," established by the last Legislature for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining, and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this commonwealth. Among the trustees are Frederick L. Ames, Charles K. Codman, George F. Hoar, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles S. Sargent (of the Arnold Arboretum), Nathaniel S. Shaler, and Francis A. Walker. Mention is made of a grand project for a marine park on Cape Cod, but all there is to the present movement is to protect Provincetown from the moving sand-hills that threaten its destruction.

LONDON.

PROVINCETOWN.

A MARINE PARK WANTED.

Piloted by that indefatigable worker, Mr. Chas. W. Felt, Messrs. Edward Bellamy, Chicopee Falls, of "Looking Backward" fame and editor of the New Nation, H. R. Legate, associate editor of the same sheet, Herbert McIntosh of Worcester, T. A. Waton of Braintree, John W. Porter of Danvers and Henry Lemon of Boston arrived in this town Tuesday noon, to consider the advisability of establishing a marine park and roads to the life saving stations. Taking Campbell's Josie the party, with Mr. James A. Snull, was driven about town and to the Peaked Hill Bar station.

At 7:30 Tuesday evening the citizens of the town gathered in the caucus room, Town hall. Mr. M. L. Adams opened the meeting and with a few well-chosen words explained the object of the gathering and introduced as master of ceremonies Mr. Charles W. Felt of Northboro. This gentleman said he came down here a year ago and became interested in the place, and was also greatly benefited by the air, so had continued to come at intervals. Had met Mr. J. B. Harrison, agent of the trustees of public reservations, and became deeply interested in the work and plans of that corporation as explained by the agent. Thought that here were Provincetown lands owned by the commonwealth which would make a fitting place to establish a marine park, without the expense of buying land at great price elsewhere. He had induced the Nationalists to send a deputation to look at these lands. The first thing to do, in his opinion, would be to petition the legislature to appropriate the sum of say \$25,000, to be used in constructing the park, road and planting of trees on the barren sand dunes to protect the sand hills from the sweeping north wind.

Mr. Felt introduced as the next speaker Edward Bellamy, that chief of all good Nationalists, who desire that the good things of the earth may be enjoyed by one and all, the poor as well as the rich, to the exclusion of none. Mr. Bellamy's remarks were good, having but one fault, that of brevity. He said he was very much interested in the day's ramble by the sight of the white sand dunes. The town appeared to possess great possibilities, and whatever we saw fit to do in asserting our claims for the proposed park, etc., we might be assured of his support, and that it was right and proper to begin the New Nation on the spot where the old was formed in Provincetown.

Following this gentleman came John W. Porter of Danvers, who said he was very much pleased with the town, had visited many places and had studied the geography of and was familiar with the state of Massachusetts, yet had never met a place in which he had in so short a time taken such an interest. The ride over the sand dunes, with their varied lights and shadows, particularly pleased him, and he could, although having seen them, never be able to describe their color and form. Their ever-changing faces were a source of wonder to him. Thought that as the land belonged to the state it could do nothing less than look after it. A good road should be put down so coaches could with ease carry large numbers of passengers across this miniature Sahara. That during the ride, although he was delighted by this wonderful view of God's handiwork, his heart was pained by the sight of the horses straining in the harness, pulling the party through the deep sand. People, he said, travel all over the world viewing the wonders

of nature and yet see nothing prettier or more unique than what was displayed to him on his ride. He gave a description of a visit to a New Hampshire mountain at night and alone, speaking of the sense of loneliness and exclusion from the world, and of another visit during the day, when the sense of isolation was lessened by light. He thought in the very remoteness of our sand hills lies their beauty in a great measure. He spoke of the feeling of severance from the busy world that thrilled him as he stood out in those deep ravines, the sand lying white and bare in stillness almost oppressive. Thought the man named should be asked for, as it would be of benefit to all, whether dwelling here or abroad.

Mr. Felt next stated that he had brought with him this time probably the largest lemon that Cape Codders had ever seen. It measured nearly six feet in length and was of good bulk. He introduced his friend of a lifetime, Mr. Henry Lemon. Mr. Lemon began by saying: "I am in the habit of being squeezed and if any acid or juice can be extracted from me which will prove beneficial to the Cape, the Cape is welcome to it." He spoke of the literary guests who graced the hall and said although he had been down in sight of our town, he had never set foot on its soil before. He said the great difficulty in the way of progress was people usually had no sand in their make-up, but he had now got into the right place; if anything, the people here had too much. The scenery he considered grand. He hoped the sand hills might not be eliminated. The dunes impressed him with their fairness, beauty and permeating sweetness. Would like, however, to see them fringed with thrifty trees, to break the rigor of the wind and preserve their contour. Thought it should be done by the commonwealth, which is our immediate landlord. Would like to ride over the projected road by-and-by. He expressed himself as being a working man's representative and as such the deputy of a large body of constituents.

Mr. Herbert McIntosh said that when the state owns the land every one owns a common right in that land and should do his best for the preservation and beautifying of the same. Land here is well calculated to be a breathing place for the city of Boston, and an influx of strangers here would prove beneficial to the place as well as to the visitor. It has been said the test of civilization is its roads, but here is an exception to the rule, for here is the highest type of civilization with the poorest of roads. An appropriation from the state should be granted for the building of a road over the hills and the planting of a heavy belt of trees to protect the same, and that it is the duty of the citizens to take the initiative, and our duty as joint owners to help carry the measure. This land is beautiful and historic. Dwellers of a lifetime might have become blind by long association to its beauty, but the new-comer could but admire the unusual land formation. Let the citizens make the first step in this effort and abundant outside help would be given.

Mr. Legate said he was until recently unaware that he owned land on the Cape, but now he had come down to look after and protect same. Thought that whether or no a marine park should be made here rests with the people of the town, who should petition the legislature to that end and secure the aid of the committee on public reservations. Push would accomplish the desired im-

provements, and he was satisfied that an appeal would be a success. Thought it ought to be a great resort for city people. Said New Hampshire made a regular and paying business of importing city boarders, but its scenery was not to be compared to our own. Believed this could be made the most popular resort on the coast. We should put our hands to the plow and not look back. Was satisfied that if the Cape Cod people, famous for their energy, should take hold thoroughly of this work it would go through rapidly. Said the trustees of public reservations had been considering the feasibility of purchasing great tracts of land in Middlesex Fells and the Blue Hills region for park purposes, but here was land owned by the state just suitable for the purpose which would cost absolutely nothing, while land in the above-mentioned localities would cost fabulous sums. Thought great profits would accrue to Provincetown could this thing be brought to pass.

Mr. Watson was next called to the floor. He said the gentlemen who came with him were all orators, while he was not one, and he could add nothing to what had been said, but could heartily endorse his comrades' sentiments. Was thoroughly acquainted with New England scenery and thought this to be as good as the best. Its nearness to the city, being easily accessible both by rail and steamer, with its natural advantages, made it a desirable place for a park, and believed the state would do its part if the people pushed the matter.

Mr. M. L. Adams called for a vote of thanks, which was given by the audience, after which the meeting adjourned and a general introduction of townsfolk and visitors was in order. A half hour was then given to conversation. Mr. Lemon said he believed this town, with the added improvements now in contemplation, would develop into a thriving city. The remarks of the speakers called forth frequent applause, showing, as they did, their perfect readiness to assist in the good work. We think if Mr. Bellamy, or his fellows of the Nationalists, should visit this town occasionally and air their doctrine, many converts might be made of those who, like them, have become disgusted with the showings of the two great political parties.

GREAT METROPOLITAN PLAN.

Improvement of the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Rivers.

A Suggestion for Their Comprehensive Treatment—Important Benefits to Be Gained—Beautified by Full Tidal Basins—Improved Navigation—An Enormous Water Power Available.

Probably the boldest of the suggestions made by Mayor Matthews in the inaugural address which marked him as one of the most progressive chief magistrates whom Boston has had since the days of Josiah Quincy, was that relating to the systematic improvement of the Charles river estuary, including a proposition to convert it into a full basin, similar to the beautiful water park formed by the celebrated Alister basin at Hamburg. It has been a most frequent remark that had the recommendations of Mayor Quincy been adopted, the Boston of later generations would have been saved expenditures amounting to many millions of dollars, while we would have the benefit of important improvements that today would be invaluable, but which have now become practically impossible on account of their cost.

That public sentiment has become more enlightened since the days of Josiah Quincy—whose clear, far-seeing vision made him appear "visionary" and "unpractical" in the eyes of the average citizen of his day—is evident from the reception which the radical propositions of Mayor Matthews have received, some of which are already adopted, while others are under consideration in the way suggested. Among the latter is this proposition in relation to Charles river, the study of the various problems connected with which has been intrusted to a special commission authorized by the last Legislature.

In considering the advisability of any important improvement, the question of cost, of course, largely determines its expediency. But its expediency properly depends, not so much upon the outlay required, as upon the relation of return to outlay. If it can be shown that the investment will be profitable, then the outlay is justifiable, however great it may be.

There is reason to believe that, although the proposed improvement will require a very large outlay, the returns which it will yield will amply justify it. The investigation of the commission appointed will, of course, show very clearly just what may be expected in this regard, but meantime it may be worth while briefly to consider the nature of the problems involved and the gains that may be looked for from the improvement.

Value of Beauty.

In the first place the full basin is desirable on account of its beautiful aspect. A serious drawback to the enjoyment of a water view where the tide ebbs and flows to a great extent, is the feeling of impermanence which it generates. One is apt to behold, in imagination, the unsightly flats to be laid bare within a few hours when the tide goes out. Moreover, the variations in the periods of ebb and flow from day to day render the enjoyment of the river for boating, sailing, boating, etc., impossible for a large portion of the time at just the hours when it is most desired. A full basin would give the beauty of the scene an abiding character, and assure a wider and more popular enjoyment of its pleasure-giving qualities.

The element of beauty has a decided economic, as well as aesthetic, value. This value proceeds, not only from making the city more attractive, and consequently more prosperous, but in adding greatly to the value of surrounding property.

There are, however, other important advantages that may be looked for beside that of beauty. Among the questions to be considered is that of improved transit between the opposite shores of the river, either by means of bridges, or, as the mayor suggested, beneath the stream by means of tunnels. It will be seen that, in this respect, the advantage of the Charles river commission runs parallel with that of the rapid transit commission. This aspect of the case suggests one of the most interesting and complicated of the problems involved.

Just how far it might be practicable either to supplement the bridges with tunnels or to substitute tunnels for the bridges, or to what extent the transit by bridges may be simplified and improved, remains to be seen.

Were the passenger traffic of the four lines of steam railway now crossing the river alone to be considered, it would probably be comparatively easy to provide for an entrance to the city beneath the river by means of tunnels, carrying the several railways to some centrally located union station. But the freight traffic, apparently, makes such a solution of the question very difficult, since for freight purposes it seems desirable that railways should enter and leave the city on grade. Possibly, however, this difficulty might be overcome in some way. The principal freight yards of the railways are already on the other side of the river, in Christown and East Cambridge, so that freight has brought into and taken out of the city by leaning across the highway bridges. Possibly modern methods may offer some more effective means, both in economy of time and money, by transferring it by a system of subways and elevators to some central freight station in the heart of the business section.

It is evident that the navigation of the river would be much more easy, and consequently the less costly, the fewer bridges there were, should some of these be replaced by tunnels, having the water to be correspondingly facilitated, and the elevation of whatever bridges should remain would also improve the navigability of the stream by permitting the passage of barges without the opening of draws. Travel across the bridges would thus also be greatly facilitated. Should it prove impracticable to bring the railways under the river by tunnels, it would, at least, probably be found practicable to cross by elevated bridges, which would be advantageous to navigation, and consequently to railway traffic, now often so seriously interrupted by the opening of draws. There is an increasing tendency to transport the coal carrying trade by steamers and barges, and with the elevation of the bridges, this would naturally increase still more. As the coal business constitutes the bulk of the navigation on the river, it is likely that traffic over the bridge would very seldom have to be interrupted by the opening of the draws.

Solid Causeways for Bridges.

A third advantage to be derived from the establishment of a full basin would come from the improvement of communication with Charlestown. The damming of the river would, of course, naturally be attended by the substitution of a solid causeway for the present two bridges to Charlestown, similar to that one formed by the Milldam road across the Back Bay, and by Causeway street before the old "North" wharf. The North wharf was filled in. This causeway might easily be made of any width required—150 or 200 feet, if need be, accommodating without difficulty any amount of traffic.

The conversion of the river estuary into a full basin would not signify by any means the abolition of navigation. On the contrary, its navigable character would be greatly improved by the increased depth of water that would thus be afforded, and by the possible lessening of interruptions from obstructions now presented in the bridges. In connection with the causeway, it might be established an extensive dock, by means of which vessels could be looked into or out of the river at all times, and, with the causeway established at side wharf, it would be possible to construct the passage so that there should be a double draw. Thus, by keeping one closed when the other was open, traffic would never be interrupted by the passage of vessels. The saving that would be effected by the substitution of a solid causeway for bridges, so extensive to maintain, would be periodically requiring reconstruction, would in itself be enormous.

A fourth advantage proceeding from the improvement would consist in the water power which it would furnish. For the conversion of the estuary into a "full basin" would not necessitate that there should be no tidal flow. There are various considerations that would demand that the basin be emptied once in 24 hours. This would interfere little with the beauty of the river, for the emptying would, of course, take place with the tides occurring chiefly at high and low water, and the second would be marred but little.

A Great Water Power Possible.

This daily discharge would be desirable, if only for the sake of the power which it would furnish. It would, however, be essential for other considerations. One of these would be the purification of the basin by the daily change of water, and another would be the necessity for maintaining the tidal ebb in the channels of the harbor. Without the assurance of the latter, neither the United States nor the state authorities would be likely to consent to the improvement. The establishment of a full basin would, of course, be a great advantage, but this was provided for once in the 24 hours, there can be no doubt that it would answer all

requirements for the preservation of the harbor.

This water power would be very large, proceeding, as it would, from the daily outflow of a body of water with a surface of several thousand acres and a velocity averaging at least four feet in thickness, which would weigh 111,912,000 cubic feet to each square mile of the basin. The utilization of water power from tidal basins has been tried, but it has not been practiced, but it has not become widespread on account of the disadvantages proceeding from its intermittent character and the shifting nature of the tides, in consequence from day to day, so that the power was available for but a few hours at a time, and often at times of the day that made its use extremely inconvenient by industries. It has been employed only in those forms of industry that require but a small working force to look after their operations, and consequently its uses have necessarily been extremely limited. Before the introduction of steam power the mills were in considerable use along the coast, but now they are of comparatively rare occurrence.

The progress of invention in the past few years, however, has made it practicable to utilize the water power from tidal basins through the means now commanded for the conversion of water into steady and constant power, so that the energy thus obtained may be employed at any convenient time. It is possible to store the energy from such intermittent power, generated by turbines, or pumped up into reservoirs, of electric accumulators or by compressed air. The latter two methods would probably be the most practicable, improvements having been recently made in the employment of compressed air as a motive power which remove the objections that formerly made it a wasteful source of energy.

It has been practicable to employ

The Force from Tidal Basins

Only during the outflow, but it is likely that inventive skill would now find little difficulty in devising some efficient means for utilizing the power of the inflow also, thus practically doubling the amount of available power. It is also probable that the time during which the flow in one direction, both ebbing and rising, would be available for the production of motive power, might be considerably extended over that during which the old tide mills have customarily been kept in operation. Another gain might proceed from improvement in the construction of motor mechanism. Possibly something more efficient than a water wheel might be adopted in the production of compressed air, for instance, it has been found that the most efficient means is obtained from an improved form of the hydraulic ram, by which the force of the impact of the water, as well as the weight of the column, is made available. It seems likely that this instrumentality might be used to advantage in connection with a tidal basin.

A great advantage of compressed air proceeds from the fact that the same energy that is used for motive power may subsequently be utilized for other purposes. It has been used for a family which employed compressed air for running a sewing machine, a pump, a wafer, or any other purpose requiring a small motor, could be used to exhaust air to the ice chest, and so away with all the inconvenience of an ice supply. In Paris a system of compressed air supply was introduced a few years ago for the simple purpose of running a service of pneumatic clocks over the city. This power was found so convenient for running small motors that the service has been extended enormously, so that it now furnishes motive power on a large scale even for important electric light plants, and is also widely used for refrigeration.

It is evident that compressed air will form an important factor among the serviceable forces of the future, for it will furnish a convenient means of transmitting power directly, heat and heat our houses when converted into electric energy, and in summer cool our rooms to any desired degree and enable city dwellers to enjoy a constant breeze in perfect comfort. The possession by the city of such a source for its production as might be afforded in the proposed Charles river improvement, enables us to state that within reach of air, like a supply of water, would be something of great value, and productive of an important result. The reasons for this in improving the Charles river basin would apply with equal force to a similar improvement of the two other important tidal basins, those of the Mystic and the Neponset rivers. These rivers are bordered by extensive tracts of salt marsh, which, in connection with neighboring salt flats, form one of the most beautiful characteristics of the landscape around Boston. Mr. Charles Eliot, the landscape architect, has pointed out to the writer how these rivers are the natural channels for the passage of pure air with the free sweep of the winds down from the island, and inland from the sea. It is important that they should be kept free of obstructions, and that the great salt flats that flow along the floors of their water courses unimpeded

and unchecked by obstructions set by human hands, and reserved forever for the enjoyment of the population that is crowding around them.

Therefore, these great expanses of salt marsh should be incorporated either into the park system of Boston, or of one specially designed for the population district. The Back Bay Fen, Stow, or other scenic, low beautiful landscape feature there, marsh lands might be made on a large scale. The

conversion of the Mystic and Neponset estuaries into full basins, in the same way as proposed with the Charles, would give the landscape a permanent beauty at practically all hours of the day, and vastly increase the value of these water courses for public recreation.

A Great Mystic Valley Park.

Turning our attention first to the Mystic, we will see that the tide reaches as far inland as the lower Mystic pond, in Medford and Arlington. Its improvement would directly interest Boston, Chelsea, Everett, Somerville, Medford, Arlington and Malden. By taking the adjacent marshland and a portion of the neighboring upland to provide for landscape diversity and give room for the present drives and walks, the Mystic valley would make a noble metropolitan park of exceptional charm, as well as utility. It would also be one of the most inexpensive of parks to establish, since most of the land to be taken, being marsh, is of small value. As its improvement would concern seven cities and towns, it would hardly be practicable to accomplish the work except through some form of metropolitan organization for the purpose, as under a metropolitan plan the expense for such work could not be undertaken by separate municipal action.

The importance of a work of this kind to a densely populated district of Boston may be seen at a glance, and yet Boston, with its efficiently organized park department, is at present powerless to take any steps in the matter, although the city government of such a great park at its very door, and which town would receive a benefit comparable to that conferred upon the old West end by the creation of the Charles park.

Two new pieces of public ground are now under construction in the Charlestown district by the park department. These will be little more than local playgrounds, however, and will not meet the needs of Charlestown even for breathing places. The reason is obvious to any one familiar with the locality. One of these spaces is to be formed by the filling in of the old tidal basin known as Tutts' millpond, at this end of Malden bridge. The other occupies the northerly slope of Bunker Hill, running down to the Mystic river. Both are, therefore, riverside grounds, and command charming views, and both will have features of considerable beauty. But their location, being on the southerly shore of the river, with the city between them, is such that they can never furnish the water joy the northerly and cooler winds, while the prevailing summer winds, from the southward and westward, will come hot from the city streets, often laden with foul odors.

Just across the river, however, which here forms a broad basin at high water, is a beautiful stretch of land, reaching from Chelsea bridge to Maiden bridge. This spot is characterized by a background of gently undulating upland, adorned with the groups of trees, including some very fine, and the marshland spurs between the upland and the river in places, and the large cove called this End river, forming the boundary between Chelsea and Everett at this point, carries the salt marsh inland behind the Malden bridge, forming an expanse of several hundred acres as far as the line of the Eastern division of the Boston & Maine railroad, as it runs from Everett to Chelsea. On a still Chelsea, at the Island End river the territory is occupied by the extensive grounds of the United States naval and marine hospitals, the latter a conspicuous landmark from all directions, the summit of a smooth rounded and considerable hill.

There is little doubt that the Boston park commission would have taken this territory to the north of the Mystic as

A Park for Charlestown.

had it been within the city limits, for its members were impressed by its striking beauty at the time they examined the sites that have been taken in Charlestown. The land in question is chiefly in Everett, the territory in Chelsea being hospital grounds, and owned by the national government. Such a park would be invaluable to Everett, which, although the most rapidly increasing community in Massachusetts today, has not so much as a square foot of pleasure ground. Fortunately, the value of the land, although the encroachments of the bald carpentry of commonplace suburban houses press thick upon it, the place being one of those old-fashioned and efficient residential districts once so numerous in the neighborhood of Boston. The marsh land is well for dwelling purposes, and if ever built upon, would become a nuisance in the city, its population and from a sanitary standpoint.

It is probable that the national government would grant the use of the greater part of its hospital land in connection with its park, just as it has granted the use of Faneuil Island as a part of the Marine Park at City Point. A bridge thrown across Island End river, near its confluence with the Mystic, would permit the construction of a drive from Broadway, Chelsea, at the end of Chelsea bridge, along the river to Broadway in Everett, at the end of Malden bridge, which would make the park of great value to Chelsea.

The widening of Alford street to Malden bridge from Main street in Charlestown, in connection with the construction of the new pleasure ground at Tutts' mill pond, and of Malden bridge, which could be reconstructed with appropriate ornamental features, would form a fine boulevard approach from Charlestown to the portion of the Mystic valley park. Several acres around the old Charlestown almshouse, at the end of Malden bridge on the northerly side of the Mystic, are within the limits of Boston.

Between the Eastern and Western divisions of the Boston & Maine railroad, the creek known as Malden river enters the Mystic. This creek is bordered by a long and wide stretch of upland, between Everett and Medford, forming a great expanse of green from the Mystic up into the heart of Malden, where, as is apt to be the case with such features in similar localities, the surroundings have been built up with a square and unsightly neighborhood. For the sake of fresh air space, as well as for a recreation ground and landscape beauty for a large and populous section of the metropolitan district, this marsh should be included in the Mystic valley park.

The Mystic continues to be bordered by extensive stretches of marsh between Medford on one side and Somerville and Arlington on the other, though wholly within the limits of Medford for portions of its upper course, as far as the lower Mystic pond, which, by the construction of the dam of the water works separating it from the source of the Charlestown supply in the upper pond, is left still a portion of the tidal basin. The upland connecting the river in these places on either side, and Somerville has a handsome pleasure ground near the water a short distance above the site of Gov. Winthrop's country seat at "Ten Hills Farm." Other historic features of the Mysticide along here are the ancient Carriage house in Medford—the oldest house in New England, and, indeed, in the United States, outside of Fort and New Mexico, and the picturesque old powder tower in Somerville, the land about which has recently become a public pleasure ground for that city. A remarkable feature of the landscape of the Mystic valley is formed by College Hill in Medford, crowned by the buildings of Tufts College as by an ancient casite.

Parkway Connections.

Alveley brook, from Fresh pond in Cambridge, which, with its fine surrounding drive, forms a pleasure ground for Cambridge, joins the Mystic in Medford, and with comparatively little trouble and expense, in comparison with the results achieved, this might be made the line of a parkway connecting Cambridge with the Mystic Valley Park. Cambridge would thus gain the benefit of both the Charles and Mystic improvements.

Another important parkway should connect Cambridge with Arlington, along the line of its outlet, which enters the lower Mystic pond; while yet another should carry the main line of the Mystic Valley Park along the shores of the Mystic in Medford, Arlington and Winchester, through the beautiful scenery of the Abnaja river and Wetzel pond in Winchester, to Horn pond in Woburn, which city has just established a public pleasure ground with the appropriate name of Humford Park, in honor of the distinguished American scientist and artist, Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, who was a native of Woburn. Count Rumford, who received his title from the King of Bavaria, designed the beautiful park at Munich called the Englischer Garten, or the English Garden. In this park he was the first to introduce upon the continent the natural style of landscape gardening that originated in England, in place of the stiff and formal style of which Versailles is the leading example. It is therefore particularly fitting that Count Rumford should be honored by the giving of his name to the public park in his native place. It is to be hoped that in design it will be a worthy monument of his so eminent in landscape art.

The substitution of a caseway of solid filling for the present structure of planks at Chelsea bridge would effect an economy in maintenance even greater than that at the Charlestown bridges. The gain from navigation facilities on the Mystic and Malden rivers would be very great, and boats would reach Medford, Malden, Somerville and Everett with less water throughout the greater part of the day, and thereby enormously rapidly growing places by the reduced length of time.

In the execution of the plan for the improvement of the Mystic it would be very important to secure that the water be kept in the Mystic, in the vicinity of the Charles, of the Boston & Maine railroad for the benefit of the Mystic, whatever would pass underneath, and so abolish these annoying and dangerous grade crossings.

The Neponset Valley.

On the Neponset the space between the bridge of the Old Colony railroad and the highway bridge would make a good tidal dock for locking vessels to and from the river basin, by substituting solid filling for the present bridges. The Neponset also has shores of great beauty, with marshes alternating with upland slopes, now in open field, now clothed with woods, while the Blue hills, here near at hand, form a noble background for many delightful views in that direction.

The estuary of the Neponset reaches inland as far as the falls at Milton, Lower Mills, for which point the river is navigable. The improvement of the Neponset basin directly concerns Boston, Milton and Quincy, and if the Neponset Valley Park should be continued along the banks of the fresh water stream, as proposed in the case of the Mystic, Hyde Park would also be interested.

The improvement of these three river basins would provide at a comparatively low cost, three great metropolitan parks of inestimable economic, recreative and sanitary value. As the improvement of the Charles river basin, for river navigation, is a metropolitan affair, it would be appropriate to include the Mystic and Neponset in the scheme. It is likely that the value of the water power thus obtainable would exceed more than ten times the expense of the work. The energy from the tidal flow of these three estuaries could not fail to amount to many thousand horse power. It would probably not be a difficult matter for a competent engineer to make an approximate computation of just how much this power would be from the data easily obtainable. And this power could be largely increased by dredging away the flats of the basins to low water level, which would vastly enlarge the capacity of the tidal reservoirs. The material thus obtained might be usefully employed in forming islands here and there, or upland knolls and the marshes. These islands and knolls, clothed with trees and shrubbery, would pleasantly diversify the level expanses.

In the project, as suggested, we therefore have the following features to commend it: 1. A source of cheap and extensive motive power. 2. Vastly increased navigable facilities. 3. Improved means of communication across the rivers. 4. A permanent gain in landscape beauty, with corresponding opportunities for popular health and recreation.

The chief objection to the execution of such an undertaking might be expected from the national government, but the intelligent engineering authorities who would be appointed to report upon the subject ought readily to perceive the great advantages to navigation which might ensue, with particular benefit to governmental interests. The United States arsenal at Watertown being at the head of navigation on the Charles, and the United States nitre depot on the river at Malden.

In the various problems involved, such as the development of water power in the most efficient manner from both the ebb and flood tides, in the construction of tidal docks that would facilitate the entrance and exit of vessels from the full basins, in the building of tunnels and improved construction of bridges and caseways, there appear to be no obstacles insuperable to the project, and we have every talent which would be at command. Once let the question be taken comprehensively in hand, and its practical solution would be found.

SYLVESTER BAXTER.

BEAUTIFUL SUBURBAN SCENES

Places Desirable to Reserve for Metropolitan Parks.

Charming Reaches of River and Shore Landscape—Sylvan Banks of the Charles—The Saugus Valley—Ocean-side at Revere—The Waverly Group of Oaks.

The feeling in favor of a system of metropolitan parks for the various communities surrounding Boston is becoming so strong that it is evident that ere long it will find concrete expression in a movement toward that end. It is therefore worth while to consider some of the localities which appear most suitable for reservation for park purposes.

The country about Boston is full of landscape beauty, but one of the greatest drawbacks to the satisfaction which it gives is the feeling of insecurity in its enjoyment. It is too often here today and gone tomorrow. There are spots which, by their attractiveness, have long been favorite rural resorts for hundreds who love them. They have struck their roots, so to speak, deep into the popular affection and become a part of the life of the community. But, being in private possession, the public is liable to be deprived of their enjoyment at any time.

The finer the woodland, for instance, the greater the danger of its being cut away for the sake of the timber; the picturesque ledges may be composed of a particularly desirable quality of stone and be turned into quarries; the slightly hill due away for the sake of its gravel; the expanse of pleasant meadow cut up into speculative house lots.

These nature tragedies are continually going on about us, the extent to which they pain the hearts of communities is but slightly appreciated.

The nature of the tracts that should be preserved may be broadly classified as follows:

(1.) Territories of considerable extent that have become celebrated for their natural attractiveness, or which possess features that render their reservation as public grounds particularly desirable.

(2.) Smaller areas possessing marked landscape and pictorial features, or commanding notable points of view.

(3.) Areas, now open ground, but surrounded, or promising soon to be surrounded, by urban populations, and desirable as playgrounds and "breaching" places.

To the first class belong the Middlesex Falls and the Pine Hills, which are already prominent in discussions looking to this end, and also the valleys of the tidal basins of the Charles, Mystic and Neponset rivers, important reasons for the preservation of which were presented in a recent article in the Herald.

The River Borders.

It is particularly to be desired that, so far as possible, enough of the borders of the streams in the neighborhood of Boston available for aquatic recreation should be made public ground to assure their banks against disfigurement and the preservation of their present natural landscape character.

That stretch of the Charles river lying between Newton Lower Falls and Waltham is a typical example. With Riverside station on the Boston and Albany railroad, as its nucleus, this portion of the river has become the most popular fresh water boating resort around Boston.

On a summer evening it is one of the most notable spectacles offered by the outdoor life of the New England metropolis, with its hundreds of craft, chiefly canoes modelled after the graceful Dutch Albany pattern, gliding swiftly to and fro over the smooth river, occupied by young people of both sexes, wearing the picturesque garb which, fortunately, belongs with the recreation. The mirror-like stream reflects rays of color from the costumes, contrasting with the quiet tones of the water and its sylvan shores.

The margins of the river between Riverside and Waltham are chiefly clothed with trees and shrubbery, rising in abrupt banks of lean from the stream. The river expands here and there into broad bays, and again contracts into narrow passages. Inlets run up into the land at places in a way to entice strangers as to the direction of the main

channel, and occasionally a space of open ground, with handsome villas, gives variety to the scene. On the westerly shore Prof. Horsford's picturesque Norumbega tower gives a beautiful contrast to a considerable reach of the river landscape.

The great beauty of the stream here is the absolute naturalness presented by its woodland shores. It would be an irreparable misfortune should anything occur to mar its picturesque which would be felt by thousands. But there is no security against such an event, unless the shores be made public property. The "march of improvement" is likely to appear, with its devastating footsteps, at any time, cutting away the trees to clear the ground for house lots, the erection of hideous factories, or the creation of worse nuisances.

Public ownership of the banks would mean the preservation of the beauty of the river forever. Eventually, riverside roads might be constructed along either shore, with occasional glimpses of the water through the trees, and these driveways would tend to the neighboring property more value than the possession of the shores would do.

The sanitary regulation and improvement of the stream, resulting in more efficient protection against malarial influences that might develop, would also thus be practicable, with better provisions for the enjoyable use of the river for aquatic recreation, and accommodations for pranking parties in adjacent groves without fear of trespassing.

The same holds true of other reaches of the Charles at Leaching and of that exceptionally beautiful though not generally known, portion between Newton Lower Falls and Upper Falls. At the Upper Falls is a remarkably beautiful landscape, with wild hemlock clothed banks, seen through the great arch of the aqueduct bridge.

For the effective preservation of the scenery along the Charles river it is important that the towns of Lynn, Saugus and Dedham should be included in the scope of the proposed metropolitan park commission.

An Ideal Rural Landscape.

One of the most exquisitely beautiful landscapes within 10 miles of Boston is that along the Saugus river between Saugus Centre and East Saugus. Standing on the highway a little to the southward of Pranker's mills an overlooking the river valley there is an almost perfect example of tranquil New England rural landscape. There is hardly a disturbing element in the scene, which is picturesque in the truest sense of the word. It is an ideal picture of still waters and green pastures.

The view is to the eastward. The stream meanders lazily through a long stretch of verdant meadows, with only rising upland borders. In the distance a village church spire, with a cluster of houses so remote as not to annoy the vision with broad details, makes a pleasing feature in the scene, which, for the rest, consists of undulating pastureland, agreeably diversified with tree groups, and skirted by woods, both deciduous and coniferous.

This tract includes the Pirates' glen, celebrated in Lynn legends as the scene of pirates' carousals in the early days of the last century, and also the famous Dongee rock with its hidden treasures, in the Lynn Great Woods. An important historical feature of the banks of the stream in this neighborhood is the site of the first iron foundry in New England, marked by heaps of slag which may still be easily seen, though more than 200 years have passed since they were deposited.

Consisting almost entirely of fenny meadow and rural pasture, of present little value for any other purpose, the cost of taking this beautiful tract to park purposes would be small. Contemplating the new soldiers' monument in front of the Saugus town hall seen by the thought occurs: What a noble memorial this park would be, and what a subject for individual generosity such as gave that monument to the town is here presented! It would be a priceless and ever growing boon to future generations. The rustic towns around Boston, is now growing very rapidly. Practically, it is a part of Lynn, with which it is closely identified, and whose chief industry is assumed by Saugus when it was set off from the great shoe town.

Though little known beyond the immediate locality, this tract of land is very accessible by rail, the Saugus road running close by, and, with little expense, it could be made immediately available for park purposes. It is very near the celebrated Great Woods Park of Lynn, and could be made an even more interestingly connected with it. In its landscape character it forms a beautiful complement to the Lynn Great Woods Park.

Along the Ocean Shore.

The ocean forms one of the grandest of distinctive features in the scenery about Boston. Therefore it should, in some way, enter into the scheme of metropolitan parks.

Beautiful distant views of the ocean are obtainable from certain portions of the present Boston park system, as from the hill in the Arlington park, also from the Lynn Great Woods, as well as from approved public domains like the Middlesex Falls.

Beside the quiet waters of the harbor we have the Marine Park at City Point, the parkway along the shore of Boston, and the South Boston, and Wood Island Park in East Boston. Even in the Back Bay Fen the sea water enters into the brackish creek, and the mighty Atlantic sends his waves into the quiet inland reaches of the Charles, Mystic and Neponset, when it is proposed to improve. It is very important, however, that the public be assured some steps be taken to open sea, which forms an element so considerable in the recreation of the Boston multitude in the summer time. With the Atlantic at the very doors of the city nothing has yet been done toward this end. Revere Beach is the most popular ocean-side resort near the city, but the public is here entirely dependent upon purveyors to its pleasure at the hotels, restaurants, etc., for its access to the shore and the surf.

The construction of the proposed ocean-side boulevard along Revere Beach as a feature of the metropolitan park system, would meet this need. It would be easy to connect this with the Lynn Great Woods at one end, and with Wood Island Park at the other, whence a ferry to the Marine Park might connect the north metropolitan system with the chain of parks to the south of the Charles.

The grove-covered inland area rising out of the marsh adjacent to Revere Beach, known as Oak Island, and at present a picnic ground, should become a public domain in connection with the ocean-side driveway, together with a sufficient extent of the neighboring marsh. This would afford an unobstructed view of the ocean, the most extensive of the kind in the neighborhood of Boston, and a landscape of peculiar charm. With the vast expanse of marsh land spreading out to the eastward, the feet of the coast like rocky hills of Lynn, Saugus and Malden.

On the line between Chelsea and Haverhill there is a locality which seems to invite the establishment of a park. This is the valley between Powderhorn Hill in Chelsea and the parallel elevation in Haverhill of a similar form and wave-like character. The floor of this valley is a salt marsh, through which meanders a creek, the tidal flow of which furnishes the power for Slade's tide mill. It would therefore be easy to keep it full of water throughout the day.

This tranquil marsh, with the steep hills on either side, and looped by the silvery and quiet creek, is a charming landscape effect when viewed from the neighboring slopes, and it would be easy to transform it into a pleasant pleasure ground for the population growing up around it. In a way this promises to make the neighborhood a densely settled one very soon.

To the southward of the harbor the beautiful and varied shores of Quincy present a fine opportunity for a waterside park.

Waverly Oaks and Beaver Brook.

In the second class, consisting of more detached areas containing notably picturesque and pleasing landscape features, or commanding particularly fine views, the most celebrated spot is probably the ground upon which stand the Waverly oaks in the town of Belmont. These oaks are famous among tree lovers. Just now they have a peculiar interest from the fact that the spot was one of the favorite haunts of James Russell Lowell.

The entire country around, which is the most accessible rural region for the people of Cambridge, has suffered, in the hands of Lowell, for it was his roaming ground from boyhood, and it was, perhaps, the most important factor in developing the charming landscape elements of the oaks. The preservation of these oaks by the setting aside of the few acres upon which they stand as public ground would form the noblest and most fitting memorial to the great poet and patriot.

Along the base of the fine terminal moraine upon whose slopes these oaks stand flows Beaver Brook, which has inspired one of Lowell's most beautiful lyrics:

"No mountain tyrant's strength is here,
Sweet Beaver, child of forest soil,
Beats his way down the hillside, and
And gently wails the miller's will."

"Soft stirrings lull me along the race
Unheard, and then, with dashing sound,
Flings the dull wheel with light and glow,
And, launching me, the mill-drum round."

It would be desirable to include in the proposed park a considerable portion of the scenery of this sylvan brook above where it enters the field where the oaks stand. Of the Waverly oaks Mr. Charles Eliot, the landscape architect, writes in Garden and Forest: "These Waverly oaks are, at times

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MARINE PARK AT THE END OF THE CAPE

Yarmouth Register.

A public meeting has recently been held in Yarmouth, one of the auspices of Edward Bellamy and a party of Nationalists, as they style themselves, the ostensible object of which was to take measures to hold the large and desolate waste in the rear of the town for a public reservation, and to develop the same by planting trees and shrubs, arborizing the soil, and constructing highways, to the end that "all the people may use and enjoy" the same.

We have taken some pains to ascertain precisely what is to be done, and are led to conclude that it will be accomplished about the time Mr. Bellamy's project for reorganizing society by a change of human nature, a set forth in "Looking Backward," is consummated, and with equally salutary results. The Province lands are to be "held as a public reservation." Well, what are they? They are to be held for two hundred years, and what have they been for other fellow has not taken the same lot. All the people are to be at liberty to "use and enjoy" the same. No one, up to date, who has taken pleasure in going over this region, has been hindered, disturbed or interfered with. An act of the Legislature could not make their freedom more complete or their enjoyment more secure. There is, in a great "public reservation," and we were about to add, in the words of Webster, "there it will remain forever."

Now about the improvements to be made. The modest sum of \$25,000 is to be appropriated to do up this region with a crissage roads, to plant and cultivate trees, shrubs and lawns, and do various things of the sort. How many trees, and of what variety, do these gentlemen propose to plant and cultivate? How many miles of hard road do they expect to build, and how do they propose to prevent its being blown away or covered over, with this paltry \$25,000? But great as this may be done, how many of the people of the State will be able to come to a point nearly a hundred miles from the centre of population to "enjoy" this new acquisition which is "free to all." Horne Tooke was once told that the law was open to all. "Yes," replied he, "so is the London Tavern." Perhaps, however, by the time this project is consummated the State will arrange to transport horticultural trees to this new Eden, and provide lodging and subsistence for them while they tarry there and "enjoy" the scene.

It will be noticed that the chairman of the Selections very properly, as the officer authorized to license public diversions, started the ball, and set the tongues of these harmless cranks to wagging. There is not money enough left in the State treasury to carry out to a successful issue, the schemes which they then outlined. Had they pursued as a starter some other improvement within the resources of a community of moderate means, we might commence to consider some of the details. But no; they never lack a thing of their own size. It has got to be magnified in cost and imposing in proportions, or it loses all charms for them. It is wonderful that they should descend to consider a bagatelle like \$25,000. That must be an oversight or a misprint. Two or three more figures should be added to the right hand of the column. A "new nation" to be started for \$25,000 is not to be thought of for a moment.

We omitted to say that the most appropriate thing of the whole scheme is the name, which with rare felicity styles it a "Marine" park!

Atlantic City, N. J.
Provincetown, Oct. 1, 1891.

Editor of Beacon.—An article on the Marine Park, proposed for a portion of the Province lands, seems to call for a word from me. In the first place, no plan has been suggested. All that has been done has been in the form of preliminary suggestion. It is not clear how the \$25,000 can be so wisely spent. A much larger sum spent in trees would lead to confine the blowing sand, and trees of proper variety judiciously set would form a good basis for a park in the future.

The practical form which the subject is to take will be set forth mainly only between the Trustees of Public Reservations and the citizens of Provincetown, at such time as seems to be most proper.

F. CHARLES W. PELT.

A COMMENDABLE WORK.

Aside from the political and administrative measures passed by the last legislature, few acts were of greater promise for the general welfare than that incorporating the Trustees of Public Reservations. The law adopted establishes the trustees as a corporation "for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining, and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth." The act was approved by the Governor in May, and during the summer the trustees have perfected their organization. The president of the board is Senator Hoar; the secretary, Mr. Charles Elliot, the well known landscape gardener; and the treasurer, Mr. George Wigglesworth. The board has selected as its agent Mr. J. B. Harrison of Franklin Falls, New Hampshire, a student of forestry of long experience and high repute.

Their organization thus completed, the trustees have issued a circular stating their plans and purposes.

"They desire to obtain information regarding public reservations of all kinds, their number, character, and locality, and the titles and conditions under which they are held. They also invite suggestions relating to places which it may be thought desirable to preserve for public use, either on account of historic interest or the beauty of the local scenery. There is need of more complete recognition of the conditions which will soon result from the increasing density of the population of our country and its concentration in cities and towns. There is need, too, that the value of historical and literary memorials be recognized before they are injured or destroyed. Accordingly the trustees request all persons who are already interested in any part of the broad field of their endeavors—all persons and societies interested in scenery, in natural history, in history, in public health, and in the common weal in general—to unite in assisting the work of the Board by corresponding with the secretary or agent, and by becoming subscribers to the working fund."

The purpose of the trustees, it thus appears, is twofold: to preserve intact historic sites and buildings and—a still more praiseworthy aim—to maintain so far as possible the present parks, open spaces and common lands in cities and towns and to increase the number of them. Admirable as the proposed scheme of parks for Boston, for example, is, it scarcely meets the imperative demand for open spaces in the poorer quarters of the city. Happily the demand for such open spaces grows stronger and stronger and the municipal government is beginning to heed it. In other cities and towns of the state, common lands have more than once been encroached upon by avaricious or careless builders; and thus, throughout the state, in the work of maintaining and increasing such open spaces the trustees have an ample field for most effective work.

THE COMMONWEALTH from the first advocated the incorporation of the trustees and cordially approved their purposes. Now that their organization is completed so effectually and their work so wisely planned, it can only repeat its commendation, promise what cooperation it can afford, and wish the trustees and their agent the fullest success.

considered, the most interesting trees in eastern Massachusetts, and although there are larger oaks in New England and in the middle states, a group containing so many large trees is not often seen now anywhere in eastern America. There are in this group 23 large oaks and one large elm growing on an area of two or three acres. The oaks are all white oaks, with the exception of a single swamp white oak.

Other Notable Spots.

Other groups and areas of trees notable for their size and beautiful development might, by investigation, be pointed out in various spots in the neighborhood of Boston whose preservation is a matter of importance. The grand oaks and other trees on the Brooks place in West Medford, for instance, form a group that vies with the Waverly oaks. Particularly desirable is that fine growth of white pine and hemlock should be preserved, for the splendid development of which these trees are capable is something which few people in this part of the world can now realize, so rare have the better types become.

In the early days of New England there were white pines which, in their gigantic proportions, rivalled some of the great conifers of the Pacific slope. If the best growths of the tree that yet remain in this vicinity can only be preserved, future generations may have the privilege of knowing it in its perfection.

Fortunately, one of the finest areas of white pine and hemlock—that about Dingston rock in Lynn—has been preserved by the creation of the Great Woods Park, and the example thus set should be followed wherever possible.

Hilltops distinguished for their fine prospects should be set aside wherever possible. Among these may be mentioned the Menotomy hills of Arlington, the highest hill in Waltham, and various points in the range that forms the rim of the Boston basin, to the northward and westward. It is a city that the summit of Corey hill in Brookline was not reserved for the public, which would have been one of the finest near views of Boston, has now been so built over that the view can only be obtained in detached and unsatisfactory fragments. Among the extensive improvements now going on in this locality, a tower from which the public might be free to obtain this view ought to be a feature.

All ponds of any importance should, with sufficient of their margins to preserve their character, be included in the metropolitan scheme. This is extremely important, not only for the sake of public recreation, but to prevent these ponds from becoming nuisances from the character of the population that may build up close around them, while, by taking this precaution, their utilization for water supply may, in some cases at least, be impossible.

Among the ponds that should thus be preserved to the public may be mentioned Spy pond in Arlington, Mye pond in Medford, Arlington and Winchester, Wedge pond in Winchester, Horn pond in Woburn, L. Swan's and Long ponds in Melrose, Lake Quannapissett in Salisbury—a portion of whose shores are already public ground—and Franker's pond in Saugus.

It is suggested that it would be worth while for the trustees of public reservations, supported by an organization like the Appalachian Club, which has many members who are thoroughly familiar with the landscape features of the metropolitan region, to institute an investigation of the kind, with a view to a careful report upon the various scenic features which it is important to preserve, and then, possibly in connection with the trustees of the public reservations, make earnest efforts in behalf of the creation of a metropolitan park commission, after the plan suggested by Mr. Charles Elliot in his recent communication to Governor and Council.

Of the other class of grounds mentioned in the foregoing, those of a more strictly local character, and designed for playgrounds, there is no room for special consideration in this article, since they would be chosen more with reference to local convenience rather than landscape quality, although, of course, it would be desirable to combine both where possible.

PRESERVING BERKSHIRE SCENERY.

FRYEBURG, Oct. 6.—Prominent citizens met last evening at the residence of the Hon. H. W. Bishop and formed a society for the preservation of marvellous Berkshire scenery by signs placed on the landscapes. Judge Tucker, the Rev. Dr. Newton and H. C. Valentine were made a committee to perfect organization.

The Advocate.

PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

Thursday, October 1, 1891.

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THE COURTS have decided that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until arrears are paid, and their papers are ordered to be discontinued.

The Yarmouth Register seems to take a very practical view of the park scheme. A more impracticable visionary scheme it would be difficult to conceive. The most serious difficulty in the way, if it was necessary to suggest difficulties, would be land damages. Every foot of land in the rear of the village of Provincetown that has pecuniary value (and most of it has some value), is occupied and owned by private citizens. Of course, technically, the Commonwealth has never released its title, but practically the occupants own the land as have their grantors and ancestors for years, and the Commonwealth will never be so cruelly unjust as to take a foot of this land without compensating the present owners therefor. To buy all the tract of land that our visionary friends point out as desirable for park purposes would cost considerable money. But as long as Provincetown stands in such urgent need of improved sewerage, an adequate water supply, increased school buildings, enlarged cemeteries, wider and better streets, and the proper protection of the Long Point shore of her harbor the generous schemes of our enthusiastic but not practical outside friends to cover our territory with magnificent parks and towering monuments may very well be allowed to fall peacefully to the rest that they deserve. The Advocate is inclined to believe that we the citizens of Provincetown are very well able to conduct our own affairs, though the kindly and well-intended advice of our friends from abroad should be courteously received and fairly considered.

The Province Lands.

A meeting was called of the citizens of this place to assemble in Caucus Hall on the evening of Tuesday 15th. Mr. Charles W. Felt of Northboro, a gentleman who is taking great interest in the advancement of the Cape, issued the call for the meeting through the Board of Selectmen. The following named gentlemen were present and addressed the meeting: Edward Bellamy of Chicopee Falls, author of Looking Backward and editor of the nationalist paper, "New Nation"; H. R. Legate, assistant editor, and Henry Lemon of Boston; Herbert McIntosh of Worcester; T. A. Watson of Braintree; John W. Porter of Danvers. M. L. Adams, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, opened the meeting with a few remarks stating the object of the meeting and concluded by introducing Mr. Felt as the prime mover in and chairman of the meeting. In Mr. Felt's opening address he spoke in terms of praise of the natural advantages that the Cape has and Provincetown in particular to be made a summer resort for those who wish to get away from the heat of the city during the summer months and enjoy God's free air. Spoke of the advantages that would accrue to the place by having a road to the backside and that something should be done towards stopping the encroachment of the sand dunes upon the fertile lands in the rear of the town. He also advocated a State Marine Park to be laid out, and as the state owns the land it would be cheaper to construct the park than expend money to buy land where the natural advantages were not so good as here. He suggested to the citizens that a petition be sent to the Legislature, asking for \$25,000 to carry on the work. He then introduced the next speaker, Edward Bellamy, Esq., who said that he would support such a petition as he believed it would be a benefit not only to the place but to the nation and knew of no more fitting place to start a new nation than where the old one was first established.

He was followed by J. W. Porter, who expressed himself pleased with the place and thought that as the state owned the property that it could do no less than look after it. Mr. Henry Lemon said: I am a working man's representative and as such represent a large body of constituents. It has been said that when a project was undertaken and failed that it was for want of sand in the projectors, but that would not apply to Provincetown as there was plenty of sand in the people and too much in the land. He advocated the planting of trees to protect the land and keep the sand in its place, also that a road should be constructed to the backside and with good hardened roads the bicycle rider would soon visit the place.

Herbert McIntosh said: "As a citizen of this commonwealth I am a joint owner in these lands and I came down here to-day to look after my property. When the State owns the land everyone owns a right in that land and should do his best for the preservation and beautifying of the same. Land in Provincetown is well calculated to be the breathing place for the city of Boston, an influx of the stranger here would be of benefit to the place as well as to those that came. It has been said that the test of civilization is its roads. I must say that here is an exception to the rule, for I find here the highest type of civilization, but mighty poor roads. An appropriation from the state for the building of a road over the sand dunes and the planting of a belt of trees along the ocean coast is greatly needed, and it is your duty as citizens to make the initiatory movement, and our duty as joint owners in the land to help the passage of the act. Above all things preserve your land for the people and keep it from the grasp of corporate greed".

H. R. Legate said: "It rests with the people of Provincetown whether there shall be a Marine Park, and it is your duty to appeal to the Legislature to make one here. Call the attention of the Committee on Public Reservations to the fact and enlist them in the cause. New Hampshire besides her agricultural crops also cultivates another crop which yields good returns, the summer boarders. You are favored here with all the natural advantages and you should cultivate the city boarder. I know of no place along the whole Atlantic Coast which is more favorable for that industry. It is in your hands to get what you want, make no mistake."

Mr. T. A. Watson, the last speaker of the evening, also alluded to the fact that the place was well adapted for a breathing place for the people Boston. Its nearness to the city, being easy of access by both rail and boat, and its natural advantages made it a desirable place for a park and thought that the state would do its part towards bringing it about if the people here would push the matter.

The speakers were received with much applause during their remarks and all expressed a willingness to help the matter along as far as it lay in their power if the people here would take the first step towards legislation in the matter. After the adjournment a general introduction of speakers and audience took place and a half hour was spent in general conversation on the subject.

the wall that supports Charlestown west to cross the railroad bridge, marked by the handsome curving line of sturdy Lombardy poplars that, in themselves, form a sort of monumental gateway to the solid core of the Boylston bridge designed by Richardson.

From this point, where the Fens begin, the formal character modulates itself to a union with the more natural circumstances of the landscape, with the semi-abandonment of which there are commingled elements that result in the picturesque profusion of hardy garden perennials scattered carelessly amid the clutches of wilder growth, the environment of urban conditions, which seem thus to have influenced that appears to be a passage of primitive landscape that has somehow been retained.

The main drive, the Fenway, keeps along on the left of the Fenway, accompanied by a saddle path, while a charming walk rambles through the shrubbery of the Fenwale, as the banks of the marshy basins are called. At the place on the Upper Fen where the Fenway turns somewhat abruptly to the westward, there is planned a broad approach from Huntington avenue to the junction of which the thoroughfare with Longwood avenue. It is probable that the large space of level ground which this approach includes

Will Be Devoted to a Playstead,

with an open-air gymnasium, similar to that on Charlesbank, serving as a recreation ground for the boys and young men of a densely populated section of Roxbury.

The Fenway bridge over the canal by which Stony brook enters the Fens will probably be completed either at the end of this season or early in the next. The bridge at the south of the Fens, on the other side of which the Riverway begins, is also fast approaching completion. This will enable carriages, not only to make their way from the Fenway but also to arrive along the Riverway as far as Brookline avenue, thus affording a most welcome extension of driving and riding opportunities, and affording a still more agreeable approach to Brookline than has heretofore existed in that direction.

In the Upper Fens the landscape character is different from that of the lower basin, simulating with remarkable fidelity the changes in marsh scenery as it merges in that of the island, with the frequent islands and straits, and the knolls interspersed in the lenny lowland.

Slender saplings are planted along the borders of the roads, and some are already growing. To the westerly it is difficult to realize that eventually these roads of the Riverway will be shaded with stately over-arching trees—alms, maples, ash, lindens, and bordering the massive sections—with glimpses over the pleasant scenery obtained under their branches.

The change in landscape character that is presented on the other side of the bridge connecting the Fenway and Autubon road, which marks the division between the Fens and the Riverway, may be advanced. It looks as if that portion of the Riverway this side of Brookline avenue, lying entirely within the Boston limits, would be substantially finished this season, the planting of the banks is proceeding rapidly, and near the bridge there are already of a brilliant green, having been sown with oats, which serve to hold the soil together, and afford a food for the grass seed which will cover them with turf. The Parkway here is comparatively narrow, and the stream which winds gently down to its inlet, carries a load of mud there and holding a small island in its embrace, has meadow-like surroundings in place of the fenland below.

The revised plan of the Riverway provides for a line of electric railway passing through the turf beside the drive-way, after the method adopted with such success on the Boston street. Electric trolleys may be carried out through the entire length of the Parkway to Franklin Park, thus giving the means for a cheap and delightful excursion through the Fenway scenery. The way to the three large parks—Jamaica, the Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park, a service of cheap park carriages, like those in use in Central Park, will be ordered elsewhere, and such as will probably be established in Franklin Park next summer, on the completion of the circuit drive, might

Also Be Put Upon the Parkway.

Above Brookline avenue the work, which is carried on by Boston and Brookline respectively, on the two sides of the stream, is advancing very rapidly. Here the landscape has much original beauty, and nature has merely to be assisted, instead of re-created, as in all that has been done up to that point. The narrow way, with its occasional poplars, has many large and handsome trees, and these have been preserved as far as possible. The Brookline branch of the Boston & Albany will probably be completed at the walks of the Parkway by a considerable embankment, covered with shrubbery, and a handsome railway station is designed for the accommodation of the cars that will now go to Chapel and Longwood stations. The crossing of the valley by Longwood avenue over a high bridge offers an opportunity for a beautiful view of the Fenway in place of the present three sections of views.

The name of Riverway continues as far as Tremont street. While it is desirable to retain established names so far as possible, a study river is an appellation so undesirable that it would seem a good idea to change it to something more in keeping. The name will be no longer descriptive of the stream, which, as transformed, will be clear. "Line brook" would be a strikingly appropriate name, since it forms the boundary line between Brookline and Boston and probably makes the circumstance that gave Brookline its name.

Beyond Tremont street no name has yet been decided upon. Perhaps Jamaica-way for the entire section as far as the Arborway might be most appropriate, while thence to Franklin Park it might be the Arborway, and from Franklin Park to South Boston Dorchesterway, in honor of the respective sections through which it passes. Along the South Boston water front, either the Harborway or Shoreway would be a good designation. Between Tremont street and Jamaica pond the work is proceeding with equal rapidity. Here the valley broadens out, with high slopes on either side, formed by the flank of Parker hill to the eastward and the Highlands to the westward. A large nest of equal tenements, comprising the greater portion of what is known as "Grain Village" on the corners of Roxbury and Brookline, in the corner of Tremont street, has been demolished to make way for the improvement. Enough, however, has been left to make it a cause for some concern as to how to reform the character of the neighborhood into keeping with the beauty of the Parkway. The suggestion of Mayor Matthews, that cities and towns, in making park improvements, be empowered to take land in the vicinity, to be sold again for occupancy under the proper conditions and restrictions, would be especially applicable here, and would refer to the ground that the interest of the public benefits that the beautiful and costly public property would not be injured in appearance by unsightly environments. The conditions of private ownership, individuals have no more right to make their property a nuisance in the eyes any more than to the owners of the public.

The Parkway Broadens Out

here with the topography of the valley, and will contain, in this section, two ponds of considerable size, a large one just beyond Tremont street, and a smaller one, already existing and known as flatmen's pond, amid sylvan surroundings, near Jamaica pond. Here it is proposed to establish the fresh water aquaria and certain other zoological features arranged for in accordance with the comprehensive plan agreed upon between the Boston Society of Natural History and the Park commission.

Jamaica pond, with its borders, will form a water park of rare beauty and a most valuable feature of the Parkway designed to run from Jamaica pond to Franklin Park will skirt the northeasterly side of the Arborway. The total length of this water park, from Franklin Park to something over a mile and a half, follows a little over half a mile from the pond to the Arborway, about half a mile beside the Arborway, and the other more than the same distance between the Arborway and Franklin Park, crossing the Providence division of the Old Colony by a bridge near the Forest Hills station, which will probably carry also over Washington street, with its cars, also over Westinghouse street, with its electric cars. The parkway will adapt itself to the general contour of the country, in generally irregular curves and easy grades, and varying in width according to circumstances. In passing the Arborway it will have a beautiful feature in the shape of a noble grove of trees, which will be planted between a broad, inward curving roadway on the inner side and a narrow way on the outer side.

The precise character of that section between Franklin Park and South Boston has not yet been determined upon. It has been proposed to give it the name of the Parkway, by which the Columbia and Boston streets, which afford the most direct route from the park. The suggestion has been made that, either as a name for the Parkway or as a name for the highway to be laid out from Franklin Park to the shore in the neighborhood of Savin Hill, and thence by the water side over to the south Boston. This would give a more attractive, though indirect, route, and would probably better suit the people of Dorchester.

The section along the shore of South Boston will be one of the most beautiful portions of the Parkway, running, as it does, for a mile by the water-side, with its extensive prospect over Dorchester Bay, and the harbor, and the diversified shores of Dorchester, Quincy and Weymouth, and the stately Blue Hills beyond. The flats of the bay, now bare of low water, will probably be excavated to give an attractive appearance at all stages of the tide, and the facilities for bathing, boating and yachting will be greater than ever.

Ultimately the Park System

may, perhaps, be united with Wood Island Park at East Boston by a ferry service from the Marine Park at City Point. Thence, if the project for an ocean-side boulevard along Leverett Beach is realized, a connection of the Boston system might thus be made with the beautiful Great Woods Park of Lynn.

If we count the mile of Commonwealth avenue from the Public Garden to Charlestown as a portion of the Parkway, the total length of the drive from the heart of the city to the further end of the Marine Park as Governor's Island would be about 13 1/2 miles. To Jamaica Pond, the distance by the Riverway will be about 4 1/2 miles, to the Arnold Arboretum 6 1/2 miles, and to Franklin Park 6 1/2 miles.

In addition, the eight miles of drive from Charlestown out to an around Chestnut Hill reservoir, and returning by way of Commonwealth avenue, may be counted as a second parkway system, this giving nearly 22 miles of continuous leisure drive in Boston and Brookline, not counting the additional roads in Franklin Park and the Arborway, nor the road on the opposite side of the Fenway, which altogether would increase the figure to considerably over 30 miles.

The approaching completion of the Parkway as far as Jamaica Pond raises the interesting question as to where the great fashionable drive, ride and promenade of Boston will be likely to be, corresponding to that of London in Hyde Park with its Rotten Row, the Bois de Boulogne of Paris, the Tiergarten of Berlin, the Paseo de Mexico or the Central Park drive of New York, where "all eyes of the world" are, the world of leisure, congregates in carriages, on horseback and on foot, at a certain hour of the day, to see and be seen. It is always a brilliant and interesting spectacle.

Boston has had no particular meeting place of the kind, since the driving has been so pleasant in all directions. The meeting place has been so beautifully chosen by preference. In the design of Franklin Park provision has been made for a feature of this kind in "The Greenway," which will drive, ride and promenades arranged with special reference to people in carriages, on foot or horseback seeing each other as they pass. But "The Greenway" in Franklin Park is probably too remote from the centres of fashion to become a general resort of this kind, for it is some seven or eight miles from the Back Bay quarter. This, of course, is too remote for a regular afternoon drive. Moreover, the fashionable promenade is naturally near the beginning of a drive, rather than its extreme. Therefore, "The Greenway" of Franklin Park is likely to be a favorite gathering place for Roxbury, Dorchester and Jamaica Plain. It will probably not be anything more than a local resort for those sections and an attractive nucleus for the frequenters of Franklin Park.

As the fashionable and exclusive neighborhood of the city continues on the Back Bay and in the neighborhood of Brookline, it seems likely that the grand promenade will be developed by a "Grand Avenue" or "Grandway" somewhere along the Parkway between Boston and Brookline, perhaps beginning on Commonwealth avenue at the statue of Leif Ericsson.

The town of Brunswick owns over 1000 acres of land, which it hardly knows what to do with. It is the old common granted to the town by the Pelepow proprietors in 1719, and the deed states that it was to be "in General and perpetual commonage to and Town of Brunswick Forever." It was in the early history of the town a common pasture ground for the flocks and herds of our forefathers, but has sadly gone to waste now. After the deed was received nothing was done to the land until 1807, when it was sold to a private party, but no permission was given and no sale effected. Then in 1811 the town petitioned Legislature for authority to convey to the trustees of the town the land, and the deed was made, and the commons, and this was done. The land has always been a bothersome piece of property. Away back in 1858 a committee appointed to investigate it was so impressed with the expenses of looking after it had been thousands of dollars, and the work that had been done had amounted to nothing. Depreciations had continued from year to year and continual complaints would be made until some disposition was made which would secure to the town the enjoyment of it. Finally then it was decided to be a town expense instead of income to the town. At the last town meeting it was voted to have a thorough survey of the commons and Mr. D. F. Campbell has been engaged to do this. His report brings out the fact that a number of acres have been encroached upon. This troublesome piece of land, now that it is being carefully surveyed, has been marked by iron and stone posts, so that future surveys can be made under much less difficulty. There is no doubt but the town will make improvements on the tract already surveyed, has been talked over for building a road completely around the common. Not only would this make a pleasant drive, but it would serve as a barrier to future encroachments. The land is very valuable and a road could be built with but very little expense. (Lewiston Journal.)

TIME IS RIPE.

"Greater" Boston Should Extend Its Parks.

Breathing Places Demanded for People.

Other Large Cities Way Ahead of Us.

Mr. Eliot's Plan and What It Would Have Done.

Natural Advantages Make Great Things Possible.

When a Parisian tires of asphalt and paving stones and bricks; when he, instead, longs for fields and woods, he has but to turn his face from the haunts of business to be greeted by the open portals of armed Vincennes or fashionable Boulogne.

He can sip his claret in the shade of the trees of Meudon, inhale his cigarette 'mid the glories of Napoleonic St. Cloud, or dream of the glories of departed royalty at quaint Versailles.

As near to him as is the river side to us is the famous forest of St. Germain, so large that the combined acreage of Cambridge, Somerville, Belmont and Arlington does not much more than equal it; a forest renowned as an inheritance from royalty, the king's hunting ground, now the people's pleasure ground.

For these health spots in or about hunting, life-destroying Paris the Frenchmen are indebted to their kings.

Across the channel is London, which has given up to breathing places acres, held against all encroachments of business and as valuable as gold.

When a Londoner wearies of the strife for life daily enacted about him Victoria Park, or Regents Park, or Hyde Park, or Battersee Park are for his recreation.

If the day is all his own, for a small fare he can ride for 10 miles on the wonderful Thames, smoke a pipe 'mid the botanical collections of Kew, have a mug at Bushey, and loiter in the picture gallery at Hampton court.

If he would a greater country have, 15 miles riding on the West Side brings him to the 13,000 acres of Windsor's great park, once the sporting ground of William the Conqueror; eight miles ride on the East Side brings him to the 6000 acres of Epping forest.

As in France, so in England. All the parks that the people are thankful for are

Due to Royalty's Passion

for hunting.

How does Boston compare with these great cities?

Mr. Charles Eliot, 50 State st., has three maps, which in this connection are of the greatest interest. They show the park systems of the three cities, the parks being represented on the maps in green.

Boston is to the others in the size and number of these green spots as a drop of ink would be to a heavy splatter.

These maps are the result in part of a course of investigations which Mr. Eliot has been making as to what may be provided for the future park system of the "greater" Boston. His ideas on the matter have been clearly set forth in a letter, the publication of which excited much favorable comment.

"Greater" Boston now has its only existence on paper.

So it was with the present Boston before the city broadened and included Dorchester, Charlestown, Roxbury and Jamaica Plain.

"Greater" Boston must be Municipalities either grow or decay.

With us there are no indications of the latter.

"Greater" Boston means many changes, and from many changes strange things happen.

Public squares.

Public grounds.

These are the lungs of thickly-settled communities, and the necessary spaces should be reserved at once, while they can be had at first price.

Land in "Greater Boston" will not be so cheap as in lesser Boston.

St. Germain, Windsor, Epping, Vincennes, St. Cloud and the other delightful pleasure grounds would be wellnigh an impossibility if the purchase of them were to be begun today.

So much has been said and written of Boston's park system that the inference is very natural that in comparison with other cities it, to use a very forcible term, is "not in it."

While Boston has not done much to boast of, still the fact remains that it is two-thirds wanting. Some of the smaller parks of other cities are each large enough to include within their boundaries our whole park system and yet have several acres to spare.

How big a fellow will this Boston of the future be, and how large a pair of lungs will his health require?

It's a positive prediction that there will reside within its confines a million and a half of people.

Mr. Eliot realizes that what could be done with hundreds of thousands of dollars today would be impossible with as many millions a few years hence. So it is desirable to acquire the land now to provide for the health and happiness of the people.

"Greater" Boston will comprise all the cities and towns lying within a radius of 10 miles from the State House. Very few of the municipalities included in "greater" Boston have done anything in the way of providing parks.

Malden has voted to acquire land for park purposes, but is delaying to await the appointment of park commissioners.

Why is this case it is, has not been generally explained.

Melrose is all right.

The town has Sewall's woods a thickly wooded area between 20 and 30 acres. Given some attention, Sewall's woods would soon provide a delightful retreat.

Bear Hill, at Stoneham, could with a small expenditure be saved for a reservation.

Woburn Feels so Proud of Rumford park that of course it to be expected that its park system will be enlarged some day.

Wealthy Newton is not doing as well as from the character of the residents the city might be expected to do. This is in part explained by the town still being encircled by trees and fields. But how long will this be so? Only a few years more, in all probability.

Then there is wealthy Brookline. Its people are of the same character as those of Newton. But Brookline lives in parks. The more they have, the better they like it, and so its park commissioners are spending lots of money in reclaiming and beautifying the marshes and unused lands on the line of the Brookline branch of the Boston & Albany railroad.

Milton is noted for its handsome private grounds, and it is possible because of these many handsome grounds that its board of park commissioners has done nothing as yet towards securing land for park purposes.

Quincy may boast that it has been and still is the home of statesmen, but it can also boast that the piece of land which was taken for park purposes has never been improved.

Lynn seems fully aware that De Nature should be provided with a good resting place to be at hand always to care for the city's health. So 2500 acres of woods and fields hills and meadows and steeps have been saved from the treads of business and shoe-making enterprises. There is fame for the Lynn park commissioners in the huge greenery of this noble public forest, the latest municipal park in New England.

The latest municipal park in New England is the Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. In the Lynn forest, however, which is numerous, from which an excellent view of a road,

wild landscape can be had, everything about it—its woods, fields, brooks, cliffs, paths and is only to inmates' ride by horse cars from the city.

Cambridge has begun its park work by laying out a driveway around Fresh pond. Small as is the beginning made by the towns enumerated above, it is a good thing.

Way in Advance

of what has been done by a majority of the towns and cities included within the limits of "greater" Boston.

The places commented upon have either secured some land for park purposes, or size commission, towards securing such land. But the following cities and towns have done absolutely nothing. Their population, valuation and rate of taxation is given in cities and towns which have done something.

CITY	LARGE CITIES AND TOWNS.		
	Pop.	Val.	Tax Rate
Boston	446,877	\$81,941,800	\$18.60
Malden	23,031	4,507,800	19.58
Melrose	8,810	1,724,704	19.70
New Bedford	12,498	3,609,871	28.90
Woburn	13,499	4,271,600	31.68
Newton	28,370	90,130,025	31.70
Brookline	12,650	46,437,100	36.70
Somerville	40,173	12,781,600	31.60
Milton	8,373	14,431,550	17.00
Quincy	35,227	13,847,410	38.00
Lynn	55,727	10,565,028	18.60
Cambridge	70,928	67,471,903	33.00

CITY	CITIES AND TOWNS WITHOUT PARKS.		
	Pop.	Val.	Tax Rate
Chelsea	27,000	\$20,798,220	17.60
Revere	5,008	4,808,833	19.60
Waltham	27,750	3,261,981	12.40
Everett	11,000	7,830,050	14.20
Medford	11,070	6,882,000	17.60
Wakefield	6,982	4,603,928	16.60
Andover	8,867	4,607,053	17.70
Acton	6,029	4,565,262	17.60
Hilltown	2,008	6,183,233	13.20
Waterloo	7,073	7,287,027	14.60
Wilmington	1,710	1,111,000	12.60
Hyde Park	10,103	7,470,112	16.60
Saugus	5,373	2,409,863	18.00
Swampscott	3,138	4,524,707	16.60
Nahant	380	4,508,611	6.00

Most of the cities and towns without parks are located in what might be termed the field and in reservation in contradiction to Boston. But they are all growing, and every year one or more hundred acres are swallowed by the enlarging municipalities.

It is on this very matter that Mr. Eliot wrote the letter to which a reference is made in the beginning of this article. In that letter he suggests that the Legislature of next year should create one special board of commissioners endowed with power to take lands for park purposes in any of the municipalities which possess "greater" Boston.

He writes: "These cities and towns possess 1,000,000 inhabitants and more than \$1,000,000,000 worth of taxed property. The whole district in reservation is one numerous small plots of land for squares and breathing places, and for country parks; not the Blue Hills only, but the Falls and some other wild lands as well. These needed reservations will never be secured unless the several municipalities will unite for the purpose."

"Let the next Legislature frame an act naming a metropolitan park commission and giving it power to take lands regardless of town and city boundaries. Let the act provide money for the purchase of lands by means of a sinking fund to be raised in 20 years by the interested towns. Then let the act provide that it shall take effect and the commission come into existence only when a majority of the voters cast at special elections held in these municipalities shall be 'yes' votes."

"A tax levied on a growing town a mill on a dollar would in five years yield more than enough to pay off a loan of \$5,000,000 spent in the purchase of lands today."

Five Millions Would Today

buy sites for at least 50 squares, averaging five acres together with 10,000 acres of wild lands, distributed between the Falls, the Blue Hills and other quarters another tenth of a mill on every dollar would provide \$100,000 a year for maintenance. This easily can "greater" Boston save, if she will, her reputation as the most beautiful and enlightened city in America."

In explaining his ideas, Mr. Eliot said to THE GLOBE man that he has had in mind for years his notions on metropolitanizing. The many cities and towns included were being getting along in that undertaking very slowly. These park lands already secured were all very well in their way, but were not what they should be in amount with what the State promises to the neighborhood of Boston.

Spring 1900
Oct. 27 '91

The absence of park land is not in any way sufficient. There is already a population of 1,000,000 residing in the group of municipalities adjacent to Boston, and that number is going to be much increased. When we ask why the town embraced in this district do not succeed in obtaining park lands faster than they do, and why they demand that the spots faced remarkable for their beauty, we find that it is largely because under the park act the towns can only take for parks land within their respective limits. Moreover, town voters are willing to take for parks lands lying anywhere near their limits, because they fear that the neighbor town will enjoy the park more than they who pay for it.

It appears, therefore, that the present method will not suffice to obtain for the great and growing community the fine park reservations that it ought to possess. Only a bold course of taking lands for parks will out-vigil to town boundaries can so obtain the desirable lands. This is the reason of the desire expressed in several quarters for a general park commission, empowered to secure to parks lands within the limits of the towns surrounding Boston. To do this would be comparatively easy now, in the years to come it will become more and more difficult.

Everything is here to make the most beautiful park system

in the world. There is a commission appointed, upon which Gov. Russell honored us with a place, to devise some scheme for improving the Charles river from Charlestown bridge to the head of tide water in Watertown. This scheme already in the public mind includes handsome driveways along both banks of our only majestic river. We have got the Blue Hills of Milton, the highest lands on the Atlantic coast from Maine to Mexico, North of the city are the Middlesex Fields offering wilderness effects. Leading from the city in every direction are the valleys of salt and fresh water streams, which are certain to be completed in desirable and unobtrusive ways if not taken for park purposes. Then there is the grandeur of the ocean on the coast.

Mr. Sylvester Baxter, in writing of Mr. Eliot's proposed system, said: "Under metropolitan management a chain of pleasure grounds might, at a comparatively slight expense, be laid out around the city to the northward and westward, forming a continuous communication from Lynn Beach around to a connection with the southern system, the whole forming, together with the present system, one of the grandest park systems in the world."

"The general line of this system might be formed upon the basis of the range of hills extending from Lynn around to Newton, with a generally southerly aspect, and presenting unimpeded access for pleasant walking drives. These hills are mostly woodland, and wherever the grand parkway that should follow this course with a series of more or less varied prospects, constituted an area."

Available for a Recreation Ground, the nature of the landscape is usually such that it could most appropriately be treated in a simple, attractive and very inexpensive manner, similar to that adopted for the Lynn woods.

"The celebrated region of the Middlesex Fells would thus be included in the metropolitan park system, and the long and earnestly sought means for reserving this wild and beautiful area for public use would in this way be preserved. As this territory contains three important sources of water supply—Spot Pond and the two great reservoirs constructed by the town of Waltham—its preservation in a natural state becomes doubly important."

"Other important features of the metropolitan park system would naturally be treated around Mystic pond in Medford, Woburn and Arlington, Boy pond and the Menotomy hills in Arlington, also in the picturesque woodland surroundings of Woburn, and of Waltham at Prospect Hill, last, and of very great importance would come the mountain-like Blue Hill range in Milton. Although the greatest elevations in eastern Massachusetts, with in character and commanding views of the coast and inland, countries so wide reaching and variedly beautiful, that were they 1000 miles away instead of within 10 miles of Boston's City Hall, they would be famous and resorted to by tourists. The Blue Hills are familiar except at a distance, to a large and rapidly increasing fraction of the population of Boston."

"It is not generally known that the Blue Hills form the highest land near the ocean on this entire Atlantic coast of the United States between the mountains of the western States and the mouth of the Rio Grande. The character of the Blue Hills is

such that, with the organization of the metropolitan park commission they would form the most attractive location for a great public forest, for educational and for the most practical and scientific principles as the city grew of London in its parks and the Bois de Boulogne and other European municipalities, becoming a source of revenue to the city treasury as well as of recreation to the people. Here we would find the same health-giving material air at the city's doors that many so hundreds of miles enjoy."

"We made the Blue Hills made a feature of the metropolitan park system frequent and varied means of transit thither would be provided, and with the establishment of educational institutions including a model sanitarium they would become a popular resort for thousands, and afford an invaluable source of health and pleasure to many who could otherwise neither the time nor the money required for distant mountain journeys."

Charles Eliot, Esq.

Mr. President and Gentlemen: In the preliminary puff which this meeting received at the hands of the Boston Herald I read that President Eliot of the Trustees of the State of Public Reservations. Accordingly I accepted my invitation to be present, hoping to hear something good upon a subject which I have long and anxiously imagined my feelings, of course, at finding myself called upon. It appears now that the Herald told one of those lies which are never apologized for, and you will have to excuse me.

Your President has tried to alleviate your feelings by introducing me as the son of the President of Harvard College. I am not a son, but I know that that is not what you want to-day. It is simply because I am Secretary of a new institution in Massachusetts, called by the act which created this institution the Trustees of Public Reservations. Previous speakers—and Mr. Slater and Mr. Adams had been here—they would have been among those I mean—have told us about the official machinery which the State of Massachusetts has set up of late for the purpose of investigating and thoroughly reporting upon the condition of our parks. The names of these Commissioners are printed on your programme of the day. They are so reported to the next Legislature in all three cases. My duties as Secretary give us reports which shall lead straight to action. These highway and park portions call for immediate action, and I must refer to many others. As respects public open spaces the time for action has I may say, gone by already in many places. In many regions of our State it has already gone and is being for better playgrounds and ordinary open squares and public gardens and such things, which can be had in almost any piece of land, what else do we need for public open spaces? We want places to which all of us may go to see and feel and be benefited by the beauty and the glory of the natural world. The more closely we are bound to our daily toil or business, the more need have we of that wonderful refreshment which the sight of the sea or the sky or the grand hills brings to us. Now within the reach of all our large towns, and our growing villages, too, these places of specially refreshing power are being rapidly destroyed. In the districts to be covered by the investigations of the Metropolitan Park Commission I have seen a scene extremely deplorable. In many places, within the last few years, in these cases our opportunity for action has not only come but it has gone and gone forever. Meanwhile, another and only less depressing fate has befallen such spots of beauty as escape the destroyer. They become inclosed for private gain or pleasure. You and I and all of us are shut out in a city that one man may enjoy the beauty of this sea beach or this pond shore or this hill top or else that we may pay him for the privilege of viewing that which is his property. In many cases we are allowed to allow the finest nature's pictures here in Massachusetts to be thus destroyed or inclosed.

Without stopping to consider the evil effects upon civilization, the wounds, as I may say, to art and to morals and to religion which must follow this blotting out of beauty from the surroundings of life, let me as a speaking business man, call your attention to the business aspect of this question. In the country and in the summer districts of Massachusetts, the summer resort business is the best business of the year. Now the history of our summer resorts has been decidedly peculiar. Nantucket possessed the largest large hotels, Newport was also a noted town. Bar Harbor, in Maine, had many large hotels every year for a considerable period of years, but last year they were closed, the hotels of that town have been entirely closed, and I very much doubt if they ever open again. What means a year's loss of revenue? The sea beach or such other scenery as there may be in the neighborhood is owned and occupied by private citizens who, if they admit you to their lands, do so gratuitously or for a fee? It is evident that our hotel men and all people interested in the development of this great business of the summer resort, must go to work to preserve their goose of the golden egg. The fact is to say, the fine scenery to their neighborhood. Even in the case of towns of cottages, would not every estate owner be the richer if he were possible for him to have access at any time to every finest spot within his neighborhood? As a matter of business the proprietors and protectors of summer cottages ought to take account of this.

And now I simply want to have the pleasure of telling you that owing to the wisdom of the Legislature in 1897 we in Massachusetts are no longer compelled to wait for action by these official boards, these investigating boards, or for town action, for municipal action or any sort. We are no longer compelled to wait for such formal action in this matter of reserving open spaces. Through the instrumentality of this Board of Trustees of Public Reservations, composed of well-known men resident in all parts of Massachusetts, any man or woman or any company of people may dedicate any beautiful or historical spot in Massachusetts to the enjoyment of all forever. Here is a ready instrument by which the admirer of any particular spot in Massachusetts may in that spot a reservation and may provide for its perpetual care. Here is the tool by which our pleasure-resort people may save for all time their goose of the golden egg, if they so choose. By giving wild, beautiful lands into the keeping of these Trustees, you will save yourselves, in the first place, the taxes that are levied. I should say perhaps in addition that whatever is given to these Trustees, is immediately exempted from taxation. By the act of the Legislature, whatever is given to these Trustees is thrown open to the public by this Board of Trustees is, for the reason that it is open to the public, exempted from taxation.

I think I had better leave to you, gentlemen, to think about that, and to see how it is likely to affect the future here in this neighborhood and in all parts of Massachusetts as soon as our people come to see the opportunities which the establishment of this institution presents. It is no longer possible for us to ourselves from doing anything in this matter. We have had no end of talk and we have had no end of writing. The book stores are filled with books in praise of the beauty of nature and the picture galleries are full of pictures thereof. Meanwhile we are destroying and losing every day the real pictures which the Almighty painted, and we have no longer any excuse for that form of destruction in our midst. [Applause.]

A letter from J. B. Harrison, agent of the trustees of public reservations, which we print elsewhere, presents some good reasons why the notion of establishing a state park on the hook-end of Cape Cod should not be dismissed without consideration. It is not merely a question of reserving these Province lands for popular pleasure, but of preserving Provincetown harbor. The first harbor of the Pilgrims is spacious and sheltered, and around it a thrifty community, chiefly dependent upon the sea, has built on the side of the sand bluff and the narrow strip of land between that and the waters of Massachusetts bay. White Barnstable county as a whole has steadily decreased in population since 1855, Provincetown has increased, and has by the census of 1890 a population of 4642, or 296 more than in 1880, a gain of nearly 6 per cent. Yet Mr Harrison's inquiries show that the constant encroachment of the sand is threatening the destruction of the town and harbor. Nor is it a very remote event, unless the blowing of the sand is checked, as it can be by re-planting the point with the pine and oak forest which has been stripped from it—for when it was discovered by the Pilgrims the Cape was heavily wooded. The effort is surely worth making.

THE PROVINCE LANDS.

The Agent of the Trustees of Public Reservations Says a Good Word for the Cape Cod Park Idea.

To the Editor of the Republican:—

I am glad to see in various papers articles from your regarding the Province lands of Provincetown. Besides the tract which is built upon, there is an area which the town officers estimate as 4000 acres, or about six square miles, which is without human habitation or occupancy. About half of this is finely well wooded with "pitch pine"—Pinus rigida—oak, maple and other trees, with a dense undergrowth of shrubbery and vines. The other half is a desert of sand, which is blown by the wind into great ridges or billows, which every year roll nearer to the village, and swallow up more and more of the woodland. I saw maple trees more than 20 feet in height all buried as they stand, except a few sprouts from the topmost branches, by which the tree is struggling to lift its lungs above the suffocating sand. It seems as certain as anything in the future can be that if it is let alone the sand will in time bury the village and destroy the harbor.

I examined the entire area carefully, and I think it could all be redeemed and rendered stable and productive. It is very curious and interesting to find that while we have been urging the government to protect the forests on the national domain and have been trying to promote the formation of public reservations here, we have all the time had a forest reservation of thousands of acres here in Massachusetts, to which the state holds absolute title, and that we have allowed half of it to be made a desert. It was all covered with forest when white men first came to the Cape. There is an excellent opportunity here for scientific and practical work for the restoration of the desert area and the protection of the woodland that still remains unburied. I have made a full report of the matter to the trustees of public reservations, and the general question of what shall be done with the Province lands will soon be brought before the people of the state. The facts are important, and their discussion by the press is a valuable public service. The neglect and abuse of this remarkable possession of the state should not be permitted to continue.

I visited all the shore towns of the state and found the search for public holdings very interesting, though my time was too short for much that I wished to learn. The change of population now in progress in all the shore towns is very suggestive to a student of civilization.

J. B. HARRISON.

Boston, October 27, 1891.

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Boston Commonwealth
Oct 31-91

THE PROVINCE LANDS.

Out at the end of Cape Cod, where the town of Provincetown stands and for a distance along the hook toward the mainland, there is a considerable territory of which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts stands as owner. These are the Province Lands. The state has cared little for them. The town has been built where and as its inhabitants pleased, and the sand has drifted as the winds blew.

The possibilities of this section for the making of a State Park have been brought to the attention of the Trustees of Public Reservations, and for the first time the question of how to save and put to an intelligent and beneficial use this neglected part of the public domain is presented for consideration. The urgency of this matter is seen in the fact that, as things are going now, this tract is the prey of advancing desolation. When the Pilgrims made this their first harbor in the new world, Cape Cod was a forest, well-wooded and secure. It is now in great extent a sand strip; and the sand is yearly invading that which is left of fertile soil.

The agent of the Trustees of Public Reservations, Mr. J. B. Harrison, who has made an examination of the territory, gives a vivid description of its condition in a letter to the Springfield Republican. "Besides the tract which is built upon," he writes, "there is an area which the town officers estimate as four thousand acres, or about six square miles, which is without human inhabitation or occupancy. About half of this is fairly well-wooded with 'pitch pine'—*Pinus rigida*—oak, maple and other trees, with a dense undergrowth of shrubbery and vines. The other half is a desert of sand, which is blown by the wind into great ridges or billows, which every year roll nearer to the village and swallow up more and more of the woodland."

Mr. Harrison goes on to say that he has seen maple trees more than twenty feet in height all buried as they stand, except a few sprouts from the topmost branches, by which the tree is struggling to lift its lungs above the suffocating sand. And it is not only the destruction of vegetation which is threatened by this encroachment of the desert, but the obliteration of human occupancy. The advance of the sand is directly upon the village and the harbor; and, whatever may be the fate of the four or five thousand people who form this thrifty community, even the most un sentimental and harshly practical mind will recognize the need of saving the harbor for the use of our commerce.

This territory, when the Pilgrims first saw it and for many years after, was covered with dense forest. The resources of scientific forestry are ample to reclothe this sand with trees, to stay the advance of the desert and to convert the barrens into a park. "It is very curious and interesting," writes Mr. Harrison, "to find that while we have been urging the government to protect the forests on the national domain and have been trying to promote the formation of public reservations here, we have all the time had a forest reservation of thousands of acres here in Massachusetts, to which the state holds absolute title, and that we have allowed half of it to be made a desert."

The question of the disposition of the Province Lands will be brought before the Legislature that meets this winter, and a better thing cannot be done than to place them in the hands of the Trustees of Public Reservations, with sufficient provision for their redemption from the waste now going on.

ELIZUR TRYON.

The Appalachian Mountain Club met at the Institute of Technology on Wednesday and after the reading of reports and the election of members listened to an address by Mr. J. B. Harrison, the agent of the Trustees of Public Reservations, on the necessity of open spaces for public resort. Mr. Harrison spoke particularly of the rapidity with which land along the coast of Massachusetts is becoming the property of speculators or private owners, and he emphasized the duty of cities and towns and of the state also to secure to their inhabitants the privilege of free access to the ocean. He pointed out, too, the deplorable neglect of village burial places, often of some historical interest, by town authorities, and he urged warmly the study of local history in schools as a means to the conservation of local antiquities.

Post-Route

OFFERED FOR PUBLIC USES.

OPEN SPACES FOR THE PEOPLE.
Mr. HARRISON, agent of the Trustees of Public Reservations, spoke a word of solemn warning when he declared, last evening, before the Appalachian Club, that the State must keep open spaces for the people on the mountains and the seashore, or see a decline in our civilization.

One has only to look at Nahant to see how the appropriation by exclusive ownership has cut off the people, who are not owners, from the full enjoyment of the sea. And the same thing is going on all along our coast. The sands of the beach and the view of the ocean are fast becoming individual property, the decorative adjuncts of summer residences.

Personal possession is also extending to our mountains, and year by year wealth is taking for itself that which should be the heritage and the enjoyment of all.

The Trustees of Public Reservations, as Mr. HARRISON shows, have before them a great and necessary work in saving for the people "great open spaces on the shore and the mountain tops." And the State should be liberal in granting what they ask for the benefit of the people.

There should be permitted no monopoly of seashore and mountains.

Herald Nov 15

OFFERED FOR PUBLIC USES.

A Tract for Park Purposes Near Middlesex Fells.

The regular Saturday outing of the Appalachian Mountain Club yesterday afternoon possessed more than the usual interest. The tramp was from the station at Wyoming, on the Boston & Maine railroad, to a tract of woodland in the Middlesex Fells, which has lately been offered to the trustees of public reservations.

The following notice has been sent to every member of the Appalachian Club by its recording secretary, Mr. Rowell B. Lawrence, on behalf of the council:

"The council has been informed by Mr. Henry Brooks of West Medford that, if \$200 can be provided for the care of the property, this tract of pine and hemlock, situated in the Middlesex Fells, on the north side of the Ravine road, will be given into the keeping of the trustees of public reservations. The council recommends this project to the favorable consideration of the members of the Appalachian Mountain Club regarding them that this work is in the line of the club's work, and that the club called the meeting which resulted in the incorporation of the trustees of public reservations."

Yesterday afternoon 83 members of the club, including President R. F. Curtis, under the guidance of Mr. Lawrence, went over the proposed reservation. They satisfied themselves that the place was eminently suitable for the object intended by the donor, and that the proposed gift should not be allowed to lapse for lack of funds.

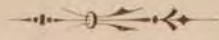
Mr. Henry Brooks, who is greatly interested in having the tract reserved for the public use, has started the required fund, and has already raised over \$600. A subscription list was also started on the spot yesterday afternoon by Mr. Lawrence, and all the Appalachians present were invited to contribute. About \$200 was subscribed, and Mr. Lawrence states that \$800 more has been promised from another source.

The only condition made by the donor is that the place be called the "Virginia Wood." It consists of some 20 acres of hilly land, thickly wooded with pines, hemlocks and beeches, and has many spots of beauty and several picturesque slopes. Its location is partly along the Ravine road in Wyoming, partly along the road which runs by Spot pond. Northeast of the wooded, touching it at several points, will run the new branch of the Boston & Maine railroad, to be built from Fells to Stoneham Centre. One reason for the securing of the tract for the public lies in the fact that the proposed branch will considerably increase the value of the land for building purposes, and since various other parts of the Fells have been already reserved for public parks, by the purchase of tracts surrounding Spot Pond by Stoneham, Medford, Malden and Winchester, it is appropriate that this area of "Virginia Wood" be added.

If the project is carried through, as in all probability it will be, "Virginia Wood" will be the first tract of land received by the trustees of public reservations, and the Appalachian Club will have assisted in securing it for the people.

After leaving the wood yesterday the Appalachian party walked to Spot Pond, where Secretary Lawrence related the traditions connected with the naming of the pond by Gov. Winthrop, and also the story of the Governor's excursion to West Medford, near the place. The afternoon's outing was most thoroughly enjoyed.

Open Spaces for the People.



[From the Boston Post, Nov. 12.]

Mr. Harrison, agent of the Trustees of Public Reservations, spoke a word of solemn warning when he declared, last evening, before the Appalachian Club, that the State must keep open spaces for the people on the mountains and the seashore, or see a decline in our civilization.

One has only to look at Nahant to see how the appropriation by exclusive ownership has cut off the people, who are not owners, from the full enjoyment of the sea. And the same thing is going on all along our coast. The sands of the beach and the view of the ocean are fast becoming individual property, the decorative adjuncts of summer residences.

Personal possession is also extending to our mountains, and year by year wealth is taking for itself that which should be the heritage and the enjoyment of all.

The Trustees of Public Reservations, as Mr. Harrison shows, have before them a great and necessary work in saving for the people "great open spaces on the shore and the mountain tops." And the State should be liberal in granting what they ask for the benefit of the people.

There should be permitted no monopoly of seashore and mountains.

PUBLIC LANDS ON OUR SHORE.

The recently created Trustees of Public Reservations in Massachusetts have employed Mr. J. B. Harrison to investigate and report on the number and extent of public holdings in the cities and towns on our coast. Two letters pertaining to this matter have been printed in the "Garden and Forest," which contain much information of interest and value.

It is surprising to find that the areas to which the public has a legal access are quite small, especially near the cities, where larger tracts of public land are most needed. Mr. Harrison states that in Manchester, a town financially in about the best condition of any in the State, with a very low tax rate, "the people talk of selling some of these (public holdings), as they think the town has more land than it needs, or can afford to keep." Further on Mr. Harrison says:—

"Not far from Barf's Chasm there is a pine grove, which is very pleasant and convenient for picnics, and has been used as a place of public resort by the people of the region. Some years ago it was purchased by a public-spirited woman, who is interested in the objects for which the Trustees of Public Reservations were incorporated. She is especially desirous that the people of the adjacent country shall have access to pleasant and interesting places by the sea, and wished to preserve this tract and the pine grove for that purpose. She gladly gives the use of it to all comers, asking only that the trees shall not be injured, and that fires shall not be left burning to endanger contiguous property. She has had some rather discouraging experiences. The picnic people, and the boys, leave fires burning in the pine grove, which require caution, and show such a spirit of disregard and mischief that the owner is compelled to employ some one to care for the grove much of the time during the picnic season. This is an unreasonable burden, as the grounds yield no income or profit. It is probable that the abuse of the privilege here enjoyed by the public will lead to its withdrawal."

Notwithstanding these discouraging instances there is, on the whole, an appreciation of public reservations by the citizens, and the account, too long for re-printing here, is instructive reading. In regard to Salem, Mr. Harrison writes as follows:—

"Salem has a pretty common in the most populous part of the city, nine acres of sward with trees encircling it, paths and seats. It is for people on foot only, and is quiet and pleasant for women and children. It is, I believe, the only public holding in the New England shore, and the cost of maintaining it is very small. The annual appropriation for this purpose is about \$1200. The rents from callow-houses, etc., amount to \$800 a year. The real annual cost to the city is thus only about \$400. Yet the people of the adjacent suburb of Juniper Point would like to see this place of resort closed. There is an area of two and a half acres on Liberty Hill, in North Salem, with a few fine trees and a spring of very cold water, but the place is neglected, uncared for, and abused. A park or common is needed here, as there is a populous suburb near by which has no other place of resort. When I was there on a hot day in August a party of women and children came up at the same time, tired and thirsty, but a huge dog was laying in the spring, and the children had to wait till the water ran itself clear again. The city's neglect of this valuable property is sure to result in its injury and depreciation."

The region formerly known as Salem Great Pastures was held as common land in early times, but it was all divided into private holdings long ago. Much of it is still used for pasturage. It is separated into two parts by the occupied and inhabited belt along both sides of the highway leading to Lynn and Boston. It is to be noted on the eastern or shoreward side of this belt that Salem will probably look for the territory for new parks

and commons in the future. I could not learn why it is not thought judicious to anticipate these future needs—which, indeed, already impress most observers—and to purchase the land which will be required while it can be obtained at small cost. There is much complaint by the working people of Salem that they are of late hunted and driven from all the places along the shore to which, from time immemorial, they have been accustomed to resort for small picnics and excursions and family and society outings. Several members of the police force say they are tired of being sent to drive away little parties of quiet and orderly women and children at the beach, and it which happens, of persons who have themselves no real title to the lands from which they want all visitors expelled as trespassers. There is need of additional public holdings on the shore in this region; for a small party to go to the Willows is often about the same as trying to have a picnic in a crowded street or public hall.

Salem is historically one of the most interesting places in New England. Some of the old houses have been destroyed which should have been preserved, but of course they could not all be kept forever. It costs money to acquire these old houses, and to take care of them. To the house, and which most historic work is stimulating and extending historical research and in promoting the temper and spirit which make history worth preserving. There are many objects of great interest and value to their museums. Mr. John Robinson, who is treasurer of the Peabody Academy of Science, has recently written a series of entertaining articles on the trees of the region. It has been published in the Salem Gazette, and it should now be issued in a more permanent form so as to be accessible to the public. Mayor Rantoul expressed much interest in the aims of the Trustees of Public Reservations."

The officers and workers of the Essex Institute and those of the Peabody Academy of Science have done their best to do most useful work in stimulating and extending historical research and in promoting the temper and spirit which make history worth preserving. There are many objects of great interest and value to their museums. Mr. John Robinson, who is treasurer of the Peabody Academy of Science, has recently written a series of entertaining articles on the trees of the region. It has been published in the Salem Gazette, and it should now be issued in a more permanent form so as to be accessible to the public. Mayor Rantoul expressed much interest in the aims of the Trustees of Public Reservations."

What is said here is, in the main, excellent, and coincides with the views previously expressed in the columns of the Gazette in regard to the "Willows" and the "Look Out" at the head of Broad street. But we must differ from Mr. Harrison in his estimate of the opinion held by the residents of Juniper Point in regard to having "the place of resort (the Willows) closed." We cannot imagine from whom he could have obtained this opinion, for it is our impression, gathered from a pretty intimate acquaintance with many of the summer residents at Juniper Point, that no intrusion whatever occur from the "Willows" on the part of the Salem public, or picnickers, who invariably remain on the public grounds; and, furthermore, that the restaurants, band concerts, etc., are a decided advantage to them. Neither would the line of street cars, with the frequent trips, exist without the public reservation was there to encourage its establishment.

We do not know exactly where the place is from which the "working people of Salem" are of late hunted and driven," but as the land is private property it is hardly the thing for our police officers to inform Mr. Harrison that "they are tired of being sent to drive away parties," for if they are sent by proper authority it is their duty to execute orders, and if those who make such requests have no authority they are most certainly not expected to proceed. The articles on the trees of which Mr. Harrison speaks as printed in the Gazette, are to be re-printed as a pamphlet and will appear very soon.

On the whole, the work on public reservations has been thoroughly and conscientiously done and we hope it may stimulate a zeal for increasing these reservations along our shores, for they will be needed more and more as the settlement of our waste land and public restrictions increase.

How easy it is to let public grounds be gradually cut up and dissipated, utterly lost to the public, when such a tendency is once allowed to start! Mr. J. B. Harrison's record of public holdings in the shore towns of Massachusetts, which he is preparing under the authority of the trustees of public reservations, and the story of which he is contributing week by week to Garden and Forest, is a series of melancholy chapters of gobblings up of old common lands by private corporations often for alleged public reasons. The case of the Peabody common lands, the story of which Mr. Harrison tells, in the last number of Garden and Forest, is a sample one:

"The town formerly had extensive holdings on the beach. Deane's History says: 'The benches from the third cliff eastward to the river's mouth have been defaced from waste by repeated acts of the town, forbidding the removing of stones, etc. Two landings at the harbor have been preserved by the town, and frequently surveyed for the purpose of keeping their bounds. These came into the town's possession in 1704, when the Conlissett partners surrendered their highways, etc., to the town.' These important shore lands have mostly been forcibly taken possession of and appropriated to their own use by some of the owners of contiguous grounds. The town has been the theatre of one of the great beach controversies of the country. It has vainly expended thousands of dollars in the effort to defend its rights on the shore. The people have grown weary of the unavailing struggle, and although the courts have not rendered a full decision on the merits of the case, it is not likely that the town will make any further effort to obtain redress. The men who have seized the public property say to the people of the town, 'Come on this beach if you dare!' and if any citizen drives his team on the shore in the exercise of the ancient right to collect seaweed or drift-stuff, they meet him with weapons and violence, attack his horses with pitchforks, and are thus able to hold the fort against all efforts to maintain the public right to the beach. In early times the town had a large training-field. A long time ago a man sat down on it and stayed there, and the town could not get him off, or it did not, and some of his family are living there now. A fragment of the old training field still remains unappropriated to private use, and now forms a small common."

Let us keep our Common unappropriated to the private use of street car companies and cotton-waste trucks. The public use of the small boy who spins his top, or of the laboring man who sits on a bench to eat his dinner, is as legitimate a "public use" of the strip of land in question as that of any street car or express wagon that ever went on wheels.

In an afternoon session spent some time in explaining in detail what had been done by the board of agriculture in its work to exterminate the gypsy moth, which has become such a pest in some eastern towns of the state. Then he went on to the assistance of farmers who had made marked successes in their calling, taking illustrations among the tobacco-growers, the truck-makers, market gardeners, dairymen and others. He advised you specially, learn your business, push it with energy, industry, skill and perseverance, said he, and you will succeed as well as those in any other kinds of business proper. In the discussions H. O. Strong, B. N. Norton, Rufus Lyman, G. A. Ross and Christopher Clarke of Northampton, H. E. Strong and James Fowler of Westfield and others took part. Christopher Clarke, one of the trustees of public reservations, explained the laws relative to preserving ornamental and shade trees, the highways and showed what could be done at little expense to beautify and make attractive the country roads and villages.

Sent to mayors.
Chairmen of selection.
Park Commissioners.



FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL
AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

50 State St. Boston.

9 Dec. 1891.

My dear Sir:

You are cordially invited to attend a
Conference of the Park Commissioners, and
other representatives of the towns and cities
of the neighborhood of Boston, to be held in
the meeting-room of the Boston Park Com-
mission, Exchange Building, Boston,
on Wednesday, December 16th, 1891 at 2.45
P.M. Yours very truly:

Standing
Committee.

P. A. Chase. Chairman.
C. S. Sargent.
H. P. Watercott.
Geo. Wigglesworth.
Charles Chitt. Secretary.



Sent to a few interested
men not mayors
chairmen or commis.
sioners.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL
AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

50 State St., Boston.

11 Dec. 1891.

My dear Sir:

You are cordially invited to be present
at a Conference of the eleven park Commissioners
of the neighborhood of Boston to be held in the
meeting-room of the Boston Park Commission,
Exchange Building, State St., on Wednesday,
Dec. 16th. 1891 at 2.45 P.M.

Yours very truly:

Standing

Committee.

P. A. Chase, Chairman.

C. D. Sargent.

H. P. Walcott.

Geo. Wigglesworth.

by Charles Eliot, Secretary.

P.S. Please bring with you two of your towns
men interested in the problem of providing
open spaces for public resort, and if you
cannot attend yourself please send
three gentlemen.

P.S. Please cause the existing public
pleasure grounds of your town, with
lands held for pleasure grounds, to be
marked on the enclosed map, which should
be mailed to Charles Eliot, 50 State St.
Boston, to reach him not before Monday.

Sent to Chairman of Park Commission.

FOR PARKS AROUND BOSTON

How Nature's Beauty Spots May Be Preserved.

An Important Meeting Held Yesterday
—First Steps in Developing a Metropolitan System—Boston, London and Paris Compared—Petition to the Legislature.

The movement in favor of a metropolitan park system for the territory surrounding Boston has assumed definite shape. The recently organized corporation for the preservation of beautiful and historic places in Massachusetts called the Trustees of Public Reservations, in considering the needs of the region around Boston, became convinced that the only practicable way of dealing with the question in a satisfactory manner was through some form of public action under which the needed areas could be taken and improved.

One thing in the recent experience of the trustees had great weight in leading them to this conclusion, and that was their effort to secure the preservation of the famous group of trees in Belmont called the Waverly Oaks, together with the beautiful tract about them.

They found the ownership so complicated that it was found impracticable to secure a title to the place by any means except by taking under the right of public domain, and that right the trustees of public reservations do not possess. Therefore, until some means are provided that will effect such an end, these celebrated trees, including some of the noblest old oaks in America, invaluable both by reason of their landscape charm and their association with the memory of the great poet, the late James Russell Lowell, must remain in private hands, and liable at any time to be cut up into timber or firewood.

The same liability to ruin and destruction attends the most of the valued landscape features in the

Neighborhood of Boston.

Alive to the necessity of doing something, the executive committee of the trustees called a meeting of the park commissions and other authorities of the cities and towns within a circle 11 miles from the Boston City Hall, together with a few other gentlemen particularly interested in the subject. The meeting was held yesterday afternoon at the office of the Boston board of park commissioners in the Exchange building on State street. In the absence of Col. Livermore, the chairman of the Boston park board, Gen. Francis A. Walker presided, and Mr. Charles Elliot, the secretary of the trustees of public reservations, acted as secretary. Nearly every city and town in the metropolitan region was represented, from Nahant and Lynn around to Hingham, either by members of park boards or other gentlemen interested.

Mr. Elliot explained in a most interesting manner the reasons why the meeting was called, and the conditions now prevailing about Boston. The latter were illustrated by two maps of the metropolitan district within the 11-mile circuit, which he had prepared expressly for the occasion. One of these exhibited the topography of the country in graduated colors, giving a good idea of the varied character of the surface. The other showed the public reservations now existing, the areas under the control of park commissions indicated by green, and those under the control of water boards were indicated by blue coloring.

It was shown that, with the exception of Lynn, the work of the water boards in this respect had been more expensive than that of park boards largely for the reason that the former had not been restricted by local limitations, while the latter had to keep

within local boundaries. This showed the need of some plan of comprehensive action. In the laying out of public grounds by localities it was often the case that the best adapted lands could not be taken since they were too near some other city or town, and it was felt that another place might get the advantage of what one place was paying for!

A commissioner from another planet who should come to inquire into the conditions here prevailing, would be struck by the way in which God had favored Boston with such varied charms of land and sea, and then he would be

Amazed at the Neglect

of the people in not taking better advantage of their splendid opportunities.

Mr. Elliot further illustrated our deficient conditions by means of three charts representing the public holdings within an area of 20 by 30 miles around Boston, London and Paris respectively. These charts are herewith reproduced, and they make a mutually eloquent exhibit. It will be seen how sparsely is dotted the population of Boston as today; the city is rapidly growing, and there is need of a wise provision for future needs. Paris is the best endowed in this respect, with the vast public reservations on all sides, national, departmental and communal forests.

London, however, is splendidly provided, the extensive reach of Epping forest in the northeasterly portion being equal in area to the territory covered by the Blue Hill ranges. But the British Metropolis is not beyond feeling the need of still more parks for its enormous population, for it appreciates what it has so well as to lay aside the benefits of none, and it is, therefore, constantly making additions to its park system.

The old city of London, for instance, recently bought a large tract for park purposes at a distance comparatively as remote as Framlingham is from Boston.

The discussion and interchange of views showed a remarkable unanimity of sentiment on the subject and an encouraging appreciation of the situation, together with the desirability of action in the near future. The elements in the problem were agreed upon as being the main and distinguishing features of beautiful scenery in the metropolitan region; scenery which had gained a place in the affections of the multitude, in which the public had by long familiarity and use acquired a sort of vested right, and which it was important should be preserved for the use of the public forever.

Among these features were wild regions like the Middlesex Fells, the grand range of the Blue hills, which had given Massachusetts its name; the marshes and upland banks of the estuaries of the Charles, Mystic and Neponset, reaching for instance, and which could be preserved and kept beautiful at slight cost; the celebrated stretch of

The Charles River

from Riverside down to Waltham, one of the greatest boating places in the country; and the seashore near the city, where there was urgent need of provision of public use, since there was a liability that the people might be excluded from any opportunity to see the surf roll in anywhere in this neighborhood without the payment of a fee, just as until recently the public had to pay a fee for the privilege of seeing Niagara Falls.

To accomplish the preservation of such features, and to make them rightly accessible to the public, needed collective action on the part of the metropolitan district as a unit, it was agreed, for it was hardly practicable to get the numerous cities and towns, in their separate capacities, to take the comprehensive action necessary.

Although most of the areas in question were beyond the limits of the present Boston, it was pointed out that it was practically as important to Boston that such a measure should be adopted, for it was certain that in a comparatively near future the entire metropolitan region would form a part of Boston; it was therefore for Boston's interest to find its heritage in proper order when it should enter upon it, and not spoiled by mismanagement.

Many interesting points were brought out. The example of Lynn in establishing its magnificent public forest was pointed to as what might be done at seashore.

From Nahant it was learned that the town had voted to improve its beautiful stretches of seabeach, and had entrusted the task to Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted.

From Stoneham came word of a similar

ing beginning toward the preservation of
The Middlesex Fells
by the taking of important tracts by the town under the park act.

From Hyde Park came information of a project to make a public forest of the wild tract about Bluddy pond lying between that town and Dedham.

From Milton came expressions of interest in the preservation of the Blue hills, and a general approval of the metropolitan park idea was given.

It was also pointed out that steps ought to be taken to realize the proposition made by the Boston park commissioners several years ago, for restoring the forest clothing to the islands and shores of the harbor, which could be done at a very small outlay and with a wonderful improvement in the beauty of the scene.

Another suggestion that met with unanimous approval was one that the state board of agriculture, or some body of the sort,

should act as a central authority for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding parks and public reservations throughout the Commonwealth, in much the same way that the state board of health acts as a central source of information for the local health boards of the state.

It was voted to form a permanent organization and to petition the Legislature for action that might provide for the establishment of parks and other public reservations in the region about Boston in the most practicable way. A committee was appointed for these purposes, to report at a future meeting.

WORCESTER, December 25, 1901.

Editor Advocate: I was pleased to see in your column most satisfactory evidence that the people of Provincetown are taking action in regard to a Pilgrim Monument, and to read the handsome notice in regard to the same from the Yarmouth Register. Your town seems to be entering upon a new era. I am surprised that your people so readily signed the petition regarding the Province Lands, and trust that soon the list will fully represent the whole town. A few hundred blanks have been printed for petitions in aid of the Provincetown petition, and three of them have already received the signatures of influential men. Quite an interest in the movement is manifested in this city. We shall send for signatures to every one of the seventy-four post offices in Barnstable County, and to numerous points in the state where an interest friendly to Cape Cod may be presumed to exist. Some of my friends have kindly suggested that I be engaged in a thankless task, but a considerable interest has been awakened thus far, and I trust it may increase, and that the Legislature may be led to see that the true interest of the Commonwealth has heretofore been neglected in this matter. I incline to the opinion that if the Trustees of Public Reservations meet with encouragement in Provincetown they can commence there a work which will extend throughout Massachusetts.

CHARLES W. FEEB

PROGRESS ON THE PUBLIC PARK PROBLEM.

The scheme for a metropolitan park system running through the territory about Boston was considered at a meeting of the Trustees of the Public Reservations held yesterday. It was shown by means of maps that there are many spots within a radius of eleven miles of City Hall which can be turned into public parks of various sorts. Hardly a spot of its size in the world has been better endowed by nature than is the shapeless patch of which Boston is made the centre. There is the picturesque of irregularity on every hand—in the very surface, on which are found plains, marshes, slopes, hills, even precipices; in the outlook, which is here cut off by dense forests, is there stopped by ranges of hills, and in many places has its limit miles away where sky and water join. All this immense variety, years and years ago, was the pride of the town. "We need no Central or Fairmount Park to show us nature in reposed mood," we were accustomed to say; "Our suburbs are park enough." But since then the city and all its neighborhood has grown, and bits of the woods, the hills and the beaches, where once everyone strayed without let or hindrance, have been enclosed by their new owners, who have laid them out into house lots or "improved" them for their personal gratification. With all our boasted intelligence it has ever been a defect with us that we have had small thought of the possible growth of the city. Fifty years ago all the property that is now recommended for parks could have been bought for a trifle. Fifty years hence, not one of these pieces can be bought for less than a king's ransom. The commonest instinct of prudence, therefore, urges instant action. It is a satisfaction to know that the public mind has been awakened in many towns within the eleven-mile radius, and that plans for the purchase and fitting development of waste spots are being pushed here and there. The accomplishment of the schemes laid out by those who have studied the subject with special care will not be possible within many years. It is possible at this moment, however, to buy the lands, the marshes and the beaches before real estate speculators shall have so raised their market value that taxpayers would be justified in questioning the wisdom of their purchase by a municipality. In many foreign cities where, in our fine conceit, the intelligence of the people is immeasurably below ours, the parks and other open places are so much more abundant than with us, making due allowance for differences in population, that our backwardness only betrays our ignorance of the real needs of the community. Slow-going London and fast-going Paris have alike provided great tracts where the people can see blue sky, unbarred by a hundred telegraph wires, and where they can breathe the air of heaven unpoisoned by the noxious vapors that are exhaled from the homes of those whom Fate has compelled to live in choked lanes and stived-up back yards.



PUBLIC RESERVATIONS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF BOSTON.



PUBLIC DOMAINS AROUND LONDON.



PUBLIC PARKS AND FORESTS AROUND PARIS.

A COMMUNISTIC PARK SYSTEM.

A Plan Discussed among the Officials of Towns near Boston.

A meeting having for its main object the preservation of lands in the vicinity of Boston available for park purposes was held yesterday afternoon in the office of the Boston Park Commissioners. The meeting was called by the executive committee of the Trustees of Public Reservations, and there were present among others the Park Commissioners and other city and town authorities within a radius of eleven miles. General Francis A. Walker of the Boston Park Commissioners presided and Charles Elliot, secretary of the trustees, explained the object of the meeting, and by use of maps and charts showed the great tracts of land available for park purposes if concerted action on the part of towns could be secured. In the laying out of public grounds by localities he said, it was often the case that the best adapted lands could not be taken since they were too near some other city or town and it was felt that another place might set the advantage of what the town was paying for.

A free interchange of views followed, in which the representatives of the various towns told of the lands inside their boundaries most available for park purposes, and how they might be secured if the cooperation of bordering towns could be obtained. It was suggested that the State Board of Agriculture might act as a central authority regarding parks and public reservations throughout the Commonwealth. It was voted to form a permanent organization and to petition the Legislature for action that might provide for the establishment of parks and other public reservations in the region about Boston in the most practicable way. A committee was appointed for these purposes, to report at a future meeting.

Herald Dec 23

METROPOLITAN PARK SYSTEM.

Citizens' Movement for a Comprehensive Plan.

A metropolitan park system, on a comprehensive plan, is being considered by a committee composed of Gen. Walker (chairman), Mr. Charles Elliot of Cambridge, Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald of Brookline, Mr. Robert Treat Faine of Boston, Mr. Philip A. Chase of Lynn, and Mr. Andrew J. Bailey, the city solicitor of Boston.

The initial movement was made by the trustees of public reservations and a number of private citizens of Boston and adjoining towns. A large number of public spirited gentlemen have become interested in this subject, from among whom this committee was appointed. They have held several meetings at the office of the park commissioners, and the unanimous sentiment seemed to be that Boston is very poorly off for public breathing places within a radius of a dozen or so miles of the centre of the city, especially as compared with European cities.

An earnest effort is to be made to awaken the public and the legislature to the importance of providing ample public breathing places and commons, and to have a harmonious system developed for the future of a very large city such as Boston is destined to become.

The seashore is rapidly being covered with private residences, so that today there is but one beach where the public has a right to go to without the consent of private individuals or companies. The banks of Charles river, these gentlemen feel, must be preserved for future park purposes, the islands in the harbor must be planted with trees and shrubbery and the Middlesex Fells and other similar wooded tracts are to be included in the metropolitan system.

The committee has in view a number of things which ought to be done for the future, among which is the preservation of the various streams from pollution, and, especially, to turn their banks into promenades, parkways, etc. Plans are to be prepared to be submitted to the Legislature and to the public, but all this will require a great deal of time and the most careful preparation.

Relations with the Commonwealth.

The Legislature of 1891 refrained from passing any laws against the expressed opposition of the city government, and enacted an unusually large number of measures at the request of the city council. It is to be hoped that the action of the Legislature of 1892 toward the city will be controlled by the same desire to interfere with only local affairs only when such interference is generally demanded, and, on the other hand, to grant all reasonable requests preferred by the municipal authorities. It is pleasant to be able to recognize a growing sentiment at the State House and elsewhere in favor of increasing the limited control over its own affairs now enjoyed by the city of Boston; and it is to be hoped that not many years will elapse before the city will secure those extensive powers of self-government which have been so profitably exercised in foreign cities.

The needs of the city and its surrounding towns, considered in their metropolitan relations, would seem to be a fit subject for state legislation so long as the metropolitan area is divided into different political communities; and the theory that if the power of the commonwealth is invoked to interfere in the internal business of the city for the benefit of other towns, there exists a correlative obligation to help the city and these towns by the use of the credit of the state, appears to be gaining ground. The act creating the metropolitan sewerage commissioners is an illustration of the proper exercise of the right of the commonwealth to interfere in local affairs, and, in consideration of such interference, to loan its credit to the several communities on which the financial burden of the measure falls.

Another illustration is to be found in the laws passed in 1891 creating special commissions for the investigation of the problems growing out of the need in Boston and vicinity of increased transportation facilities and out of the desirability of improving the Charles river basin, for the benefit of the cities and towns bordering thereon.

A further application of this principle would, in my judgment, be the creation of a metropolitan park commission, with authority to secure for park purposes, while there is yet time, various desirable tracts of land in the vicinity of the city.

Public parks to be owned by the state are a novel idea in Massachusetts; at least, the proposition before the Legislature to purchase land for this purpose is a novelty. The fact is developed by it that we have excellent material to put to this use. The Middlesex Fells are familiar to the public in this vicinity. It is, perhaps, less well known that there is an enormous amount of land in Plymouth that is now in wood which can be bought low and easily kept in a wild state. The top of Wachusett mountain in Princeton is also proposed, and the territory in Berkshire hills which might be made available, contains some of the most attractive scenery in New England. For beauty, if not for grandeur, Berkshire county is ahead of New Hampshire.

Public Parks Jan 15

Massachusetts will probably follow the lead of New York in acquiring forest lands for park purposes, the proposition meeting with much favor. It has been suggested that it will be brought forward in the Legislature providing for purchase by the State of the Middlesex Fells, a tract of pine land in the neighborhood of Plymouth, a strip of shore along the coast for bathing purposes, the peak of Wachusett Mountain, which commands the view of a wide expanse of country, and some territory in the Berkshire Hills, whose woods are almost primeval in their wildness.

The petition to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts concerning the preservation of the picturesque in and about Boston, may be signed at this office, or at the office of the secretary of the committee in charge of it, Charles Elliot, 23 State street. It is set forth by the committee that "the seashore, the river banks, the hill tops and the other finest portions of the scenery surrounding Boston, to which the people have long been accustomed to resort for healthful pleasure, are now being converted to the private purposes of their owners, to the great detriment of the present population and the irreparable loss of succeeding generations." The march of real estate improvement takes small account of sentimental associations. At all events, the request made by the petitioners that "an investigation, if only a partial one, be made of the whole subject, and some effort be put forth to provide open spaces for the use and enjoyment of the increasing population of the Boston metropolitan district" seems in every respect a just and reasonable one. Granting that in many cases radical changes are unavoidable, there are surely "fair, broad acres enough" to make these good, if only public attention and public interest could be focussed on such an effort. The wholesome, moral effect which an unobstructed sunset or a view of green water has if set over against that of dark alleys or unsightly yards is a force, especially when taken in connection with a large city. And the worst of it is, it is generally the class of people to whom just this bit of Nature's influence is so important who are sacrificed. The real can take care of themselves.

SUNDAY HERALD

hardly possibly to give a system of parks in any one of these clustered cities and towns the completeness that it should possess in order to meet the needs of the people without relating it to a comprehensive plan of metropolitan park improvement designed for the entire territory. The time is, therefore, ripe for the creation of a metropolitan park commission, to be intrusted with the design and execution of a system of large and small parks and public forests, with connecting boulevards, for the whole region around Boston. In this way the park question would be most satisfactorily and economically solved for each and all the communities interested.

Public Reservations.

The order introduced by Mr. Bennett of Everett for the appointment of a special committee to institute a comprehensive and impartial investigation of the whole subject of providing ample open spaces for the use and enjoyment of the increasing population of the Boston metropolitan district, is receiving considerable favorable attention outside the legislature, as well as in it, and petitions in its endorsement have already been extensively signed.

Among the names on these petitions are those of Frederick L. Ames, Oliver W. Peabody, Phillips Brooks, Thornton K. Lothrop, Edward I. Browne, G. K. Richardson, Charles H. Dalton, Hugh O'Brien, Harvey N. Shepard, Roger Wolcott, William Power Wilson, Alex. S. Porter, Royal E. Robins, John Hogg, David P. Kimball, John Lowell, Charles P. Curtis, Edward Motley, Abbott Lawrence, Amory A. Lawrence and others and the selectmen and other citizens of Everett.

Treasurer

Speaker Barrett has appointed as House members of the Joint Committee on Public Reservations Messrs. Blodgett of Templeton, Bennett of Everett, Leonard of Waltham, Hoyt of Haverhill, Nichols of Southborough, McLean of Cambridge and Driscoll of Springfield.

Garden and Forest.

The ever enjoyable Garden and Forest has completed the fourth year of its useful career, sustaining fully the high position which it had before gained. For the excellence of its aims, the practical lines upon which it is conducted, the high ideals which it upholds, the wide range which it covers, and the literary quality of its editorial and other matter, it easily leads all similar journals in this country, if not in all countries. Men of leisurely habit and scholarly tastes read it with pleasure, expert gardeners speak of it with enthusiasm, and both amateurs and practical horticulturists of all kinds find it more and more indispensable. Its continued and fearless advocacy of all matters connected with forestry reforms, improved systems of road-building, the reservation of public lands, the establishment of parks etc., both through trenchant editorials and by the constant publication of instructive articles by leading specialists, are calculated to arouse public attention as few other existing instrumentalities are capable of doing. It has, indeed, taken up a position not heretofore exploited with any degree of persistence, and is exerting a great force for good in a much needed field.

An example of the useful class of special articles which the columns of this journal particularly encourage, is the series of papers by Mr. J. B. Harrison, giving the results of his recent search among the shore towns of Massachusetts, in behalf of the Trustees of Public Reservations. Nothing of greater interest, bearing upon the subject of park reservations and breathing places for the people, has appeared in a long time, than these papers. They depict a state of things deplorable enough in the majority of the towns visited, and should they result in arousing public interest to the degree of enactments for reform in these particulars—much needed both here and elsewhere in the State—Massachusetts might assume the entire expense of publishing Garden and Forest for the year, retire Mr. Harrison and the Trustees of Public Reservations on comfortable pensions, and still congratulate herself on her thrift at a bargain.

The excellence of the illustrations add very much both to the interest and the value of this journal, while the usual carefully prepared index will be found, to complete the usefulness of the bound volume.

METROPOLITAN PARK SYSTEM

The Subject Discussed at the Beacon Society Meeting.

Col. Pope Says "Take Time by the Forelock" - Charles Elliot Wants Beautiful Breathing Places - Sylvester Baxter Fears a Municipal Desert - Other Speakers' Views.

"There was an instructive discussion on 'the metropolitan park system' at the monthly meeting of the Beacon Society, held last night at the Hotel Vendome.

Col. Albert A. Pope presided, and there were present, in addition to about 40 members, the following guests: Charles Elliot, Sylvester Baxter, John J. Emmecking, Paul H. Kendrick, Horace W. Wadleigh, Dr. Cyrus F. Carter, Henry N. Sawyer, Charles E. Warner, John A. Reimick, George A. Tinkham, George W. Armstrong, Henry D. Hyde, G. T. W. Braiman, George E. Carter and Charles W. Stone.

Col. Pope, in opening the after dinner proceedings, said he doubted whether any one man in 50 could be found who would be willing to go back to the old park system.

"We are all glad to have our beautiful parks," said he, "and we shall be glad to see our metropolitan city surrounded by parks. Now is the time to consider this question, before the city has grown to have its million inhabitants. If we take time by the forelock and do something for those who come after us, we shall not regret it, and our successors will be grateful to us.

"We are fortunate in having with us one who has exhaustively studied the park systems of this and other countries—Mr. Charles Elliot."

Mr. Charles Elliot.

secretary of the board of public reservations, who was aided in his statement by maps, one of which depicted the physical conditions of the territory for a circle of 11 miles from the State House.

"These conditions," he said, "present peculiar physical difficulties in the way of the development of a great city, yet if this piece of country is handled properly, it is quite capable of providing the site of a city which shall be healthy, interesting and beautiful to a very unusual degree. What is already occupied the most easily occupiable land; on the one hand, people are going to the hill land for sites, while on the other the poor are going to the marsh lands.

"But these marsh lands are not filled up to a proper level before occupation, and the mistake made at Cambridgeport is going on everywhere around us, and is sure to breed trouble before many years have elapsed.

"Now what forces are there to prevent this crowding of population and this occupation of regions difficult of occupation? There are only two, so far as I know—our water boards and our parks boards. The water boards are either forcing out the unpurified, with decent, drinkable water, while the park boards are doing what they can to provide the people with healthful open spaces.

"The work thus far accomplished of providing these spaces makes but a miserable showing. And it is wrong in a necessity of our civilization, and the whole progress of our country, as census statistics show, tells us that in the future the population is to be concentrated in great cities.

"The problem is made more difficult of solution because our territory is broken up into rival municipalities, each jealous of the other." (Applaud.)

Mr. Sylvester Baxter

next said: "It is true that Boston grew intelligently. I suppose we have paid out vastly more money in remedying the mistakes made by our predecessors and in undoing what has been badly done, than we have expended in the provision of new and useful things. It is time we started out on new lines, with a broad outlook to the future. We should not where people congregate for their summer pleasures and winter sports, and should secure to the people the enjoyment of these sports, improving them and making them more accessible.

"These existing districts of cars will undoubtedly be part of a greater Boston, and Boston should be willing to tax itself to purchase shares of the cost of improving such places and securing them for the use of the people.

"The narrow idea of looking only after ourselves is a false economy. It is time it were supplanted by the broader idea of going beyond ourselves, and seeing how we can help ourselves by helping our neighbors to help themselves.

"Mr. Baxter went on to show how this might be done. He mentioned that there was now practically only one place where the people could get 'fresh' to the seaside, and that was Nahant.

"In the speaker's opinion Ryeport Beach should be secured to the people's Nahant Beach but reserved for the Ryeport, which ought to be reserved for popular use.

"Unless something is done, said Mr. Baxter, we shall have here a repetition of the terrible conditions which prevail in the East end of London; we shall have, that is to say

A Municipal Desert

in our midst, and shall be obliged to do what the Londoners have had to do—to tear down houses in order to open breathing spaces and play grounds for the people.

"Now we do not want to repeat such a mistake as that, and if we take time by the forelock we can avoid it.

"The speaker brought his remarks to a close by citing, with approval, a recommendation recently made by Mr. Charles Elliot, to treat the metropolitan district as a unit for park purposes, and to authorize a loan of \$5,000,000 for the purchase of land for park purposes, the loan to be advanced by the state and repaid in a term of years, involving a tax of one-tenth of a mill on the present valuation of the district.

"Mr. Henry H. Hyde dwelt with emphasis on the natural beauties of Boston, and said that when the park system was fully carried out Boston would be the most beautiful city he knew of. He thought there was a limit to provision for parks, much as might be said for them.

"He did not believe in borrowing money for parks, and thought that, having secured the land, the city should make improvements on a system of 'buy as you go.'

"But he would have a board of inspectors incorporated to secure the Blue Hills to the people and to create a botanical and a zoological garden by the utilization of private capital.

"Mr. John J. Emmecking, the last speaker, briefly dealt with the artistic side of the problem.

Boston Post Jan 24 1892

TAKE TIME BY THE FORELOCK.

"If we take time by the forelock," said Colonel ALBERT A. POPE in opening the discussion of an extended park system at the meeting of the Beacon Society, "and do something for those who come after us, we shall not regret it and our successors will be grateful to us."

The movement whose importance is thus set forth by Colonel POPE is one which appeals in the strongest manner to presighted men who have the interest of the community at heart. For it is the people of the Boston of today who hold in their hands the comfort and the well being of the greater community which will constitute the Boston of the future.

We can leave the city to grow up congested and ill provided for health and recreation when it reaches its million of inhabitants; or we can give our successors all the necessities of a better and a salutary civilization.

The establishment of a generous and comprehensive park system is a war the present day.

BEAUTIFY THE CITY.

Public Park Discussed at the Beacon Dinner.

Prominent Men View Favorably All That Has Been Done.

Sentiment, However, Was That Boston Could Be Still More Improved.

The Beacon Society dined at the Vendome last evening, and afterwards discussed the merits, the demerits and the possibilities of the metropolitan park system.

It was the regular monthly dinner of the society, and the following invited guests were present: Mr. Charles Elliot, Mr. Sylvester Baxter, Mr. John J. Enneking, Hon. Paul H. Kendrick, Mr. Horace W. Wadleigh, Mr. Cyrus F. Carter, Mr. Henry Sawyer, Mr. Charles F. Tinker, Mr. John A. Remick, Mr. George A. Winkham, Mr. George W. Armstrong, Mr. Henry D. Hyde, Mr. G. T. W. Braman, Mr. George C. Carter and Mr. Charles W. Stone.

There were 41 members in attendance when President Albert A. Pope opened the post-prandial exercises by saying:

"The subject for discussion this evening is the metropolitan park system, a topic in which we are all interested. The spirited men all over the country are interested in the enlargement and extension of our parks. I doubt, indeed, if we could find one man in 50 who would go back to the old system and give up the parks. We all will be glad to see the city surrounded by parks. Now is the time to consider this question before the city has grown, as it will be, to be a million of inhabitants, and if we take time by the forelock we will be doing something which, in the not far distant future, will merit and receive the thanks of our children. We have built great parks around the city, and now we want to go still farther and lay out the great open places we have got, or before long they will be built upon."

Mr. Charles Elliot, the first speaker, told at considerable length of the investigations of the trustees of public reservations, a society chartered by the Legislature to acquire and maintain beautiful and historical places in Massachusetts. Part of this investigation had been directed towards ascertaining the amount of vacant land in and about Boston.

He referred to the efforts of the water and park boards to improve the condition of lands in their care, and thought that from the relative powers invested in each, the former would hold more lands in a few years, which, of course, the public would be more accessible to than the latter.

"Water boards," he said, "are given special powers by the Legislature for the protection of the water, while the park boards are limited within their municipal limits. The water boards are extremely shy of taking lands anywhere near their limits for the reason that they feel that they will be paying for what the other fellows over the line will in a great measure enjoy."

"The people of a great city ought to have ample space to go out and enjoy themselves in, and I assume that we are all agreed that this is needed."

"It is as necessary as streets, as the police system or anything else. It is necessary for the preservation of civilized life."

"One element which presents itself in this problem is the social or local element—the question of how to go about the work and get the support of municipalities within an 11-mile radius named. It is evident that it is beyond the powers of the park boards. It is a subject which calls for immediate attention from the Legislature and our representatives there."

The next speaker was Mr. Sylvester Baxter. He said his interest in the movement dated back a long while.

"In my earliest days of newspaper life," said the speaker, "I have been interested in the question. We are learning to look ahead to the future. I suppose we have paid out more money in remedying the mistakes of our predecessors than we have in making new improvements, and it is time that we staked out on new lines and laid out the places that the people enjoy the most and make these places accessible to them. Boston should be willing to tax itself and pay its portion for the securing and improvement of those places which the growing population needs."

"Every business man in Boston is interested in seeing Boston grow intelligently. Whatever action is taken toward the development of this land should be done immediately, for in this country around Boston we see the opportunities for improvement passing away rapidly."

The speaker then told of the excellent scenery in and around Boston. He said that if the Blue hills were located in a European country they would be famous the world over, and people would go a long way to see them. He thought that these places, surrounded by such charming scenery, should be laid out and improved for the benefit of the public.

"If nothing is done in this direction, he said, we shall soon be in the condition that London finds herself in, and pay out as she did large sums to tear down houses and open up places where humanity might enjoy itself."

Mr. Henry T. Hyde spoke briefly on the excellent opportunities for the building and extension of parks around Boston. When they were built Boston would be one of the finest cities in the world in this respect.

Charles River Commission.

The Charles River embankment commission in its first report says: "It is evident that the retaining sea wall is the first step on Charles River. Such walls already edge the water on the Boston side from the river mouth to the Cottage Farm's bridge. Elsewhere only a few thousand feet are constructed. If the owners of the banks fail to act effectively for their own advantage and the public weal, the cities and towns which abut upon the river, or if they cannot agree, then the Commonwealth itself must take the banks, do the work and collect the cost from the municipalities and the individuals concerned. The commission suggests the desirability of legislation enabling towns and cities to co-operate in securing and eventually improving public open spaces lying in more than one town or city. The commission also recommends the passage of a resolution asking congress to dredge the Charles."

DOMESTIC TOPICS.

Residents of northeastern Washington are circulating a petition praying Congress that the fine forest and mountain country in the neighborhood of Lake Chelan be set apart by United States for the purposes of a national park. The petitioners say: "We are wholly influenced in this request by a desire to perpetuate the great beauties of the region referred to, which presents scenery of a more varied, beautiful, and artistic nature than is to be found anywhere else in the picturesque Northwest; and to preserve the deer, the elk, and the mountain goats found therein that are fast disappearing from American mountains." The land described is mostly mountainous, many of the peaks rising to a height of 7,000 feet from the water's edge. Chelan Lake is a narrow body of clear water averaging two miles in width and extending from a point near the Columbia River in a northwesterly direction sixty-eight miles towards the slope of the Cascade Mountains. The land within the proposed park is for the most part unfit for cultivation, but the mountains abound in wild game of all kinds, while the lake and the streams emptying into it swarm with fish. There are also in the region sought to be set aside as a national park (which is described by metes and bounds in the petition) many small lakes, the feeding places of wild ducks and geese.

One of the spots which have been selected for public squares in Philadelphia is famous as the identical place where William Penn made his great treaty with the Indians. But even before that time it had a claim to historic attention as the site of Gov. Fairman's mansion. Thomas Fairman occupied the land under the authority of the Duke of York, filing his patent as early as 1684. In the house which he erected Penn spent the first winter of his residence in Philadelphia. Govs. Markham, Halse, Holme, Evans, and Palmer also lived in the house. Gov. Palmer used to keep a pleasure-boat in which he made journeys by water to the "city," or the district now included between Vine and South Streets. In front of the mansion rose that old elm under whose branches the memorable treaty was made. This tree was blown down in 1810. Its girth was 24 feet, and one of its branches spread for 150 feet towards the river. From the rings in the cut section of its trunk it was estimated to be 283 years old. Where the tree had stood, a commemorative monument was erected, and a railing was put around it. Vandals have chipped the shaft and the railing has been broken down, until now only a seamed and broken fragment of marble remains as a testimony to Penn's league of amity. The spot is at present almost invisible amid piles of lumber. Now that a public park is to be laid out, the monument will probably be restored. The property has passed through many hands. The Fairmans owned it until 1715, when it passed into the hands of Joseph Redman. Redman sold it to Robert Worthington, and the latter sold it to Gov. Palmer in 1780, and Charles Wert became owner in 1788. After several other transfers, William Yard became the owner in 1793, and in 1793 he sold it to Matthew Vandusen.

PROVINCETOWN.

OUR MARINE PARK.

Quite a goodly number of the legislative committee on public reservations and invited guests, arrived in town by noon train Tuesday. It is needless to say they were piloted by that most persistent worker, Charles W. Felt, who has been among us so frequently of late, that he seems almost one of our own citizens. They were met by Mr. Felt consisted of Messrs. H. A. Kimball, senator from Northampton; Isaac McLean, representative, Cambridge; P. Blodgett, Templeton, chairman on the part of the House; D. C. Nichols, Southboro, representative; John A. Driscoll, Springfield, representative; Warren Hoyt, Haverhill, clerk of the committee; Hon. Wm. S. Green, Fall River, prison commissioner; W. H. Whitney, Pittsfield, representative; R. B. Jenkins, Waltham; Philip A. Chase, chairman Standing Committee of the Trustee's of Public Reservations; Shebnaugh Rich, the historian, Salem; Charles W. Swift of the Beacon, Yarmouthport, invited guests. On its arrival the party was met at the station by a delegation of the town committee, who escorted the visitors to the Central House, and after partaking of a substantial dinner, all embarked in three spanking teams provided by stableman Samuel Knowles. The party were driven about the town and were then taken over the sands to the backside seashore and on to the Peaked Hill Bar Life Saving Station, where Capt. Isaac Fisher kindly exhibited the apparatus and explained the workings of same. On their return the visitors snipped at their hotel and were promptly at the meeting at 7.30 in Caucus Room, Town Hall. Here many of the citizens who are interested in the establishing and maintenance of a Marine Park had assembled. Mr. M. L. Adams, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, presiding, opened the meeting by a few short remarks as to the object of the gathering and introduced as the first speaker, the Rev. Wm. P. Burnell, who extended a hearty welcome to the visitors who had come 120 miles to visit the state lands. The speaker touched on the needed improvement for the preservation of the reservation and hoped the meeting might result in much good. Mr. Adams next called on Mr. Charles W. Felt, the prime mover in the movement, who read a paper which we give in its entirety:

In the next century doubtless one of the strangest things on record in Massachusetts, will be the general lack of appreciation that has existed for many years, of the beauties and advantages of Cape Cod. The people of the Cape are too high spirited to even resent the most unjust and stupid things that have been said to the detriment of their locality. They are content to wait till time shall do them justice and produce a recognition of the fact that sand and sea are given us as gifts, it is indeed their bases, silex and sodium, are not to be ranked high among the precious metals. Perhaps a weak woman may be excused from falling into the current of popular opinion, so as to be unable to understand how an educated and able writer like Thoreau, who in some respects, fully appreciated this, the most remarkable peninsula in the world, should have given utterance to so many unwise and unpolished remarks. It is true, for instance, that Cape Cod people visiting the country towns of Massachusetts, have been surprised and astonished to see the profusion of blossoms and verdure of the spring time, which in a great measure has been denied to them, but we need not be ashamed for our own peculiar type of vegetation has much to call forth astonishment and admiration, while in the matter of sea-bird shores and the teeming fishy population of our ocean, the people of Cape Cod find ample scope, and such recreances become important matters of profit as well as pleasure. Then too, the experiences of our people in distant waters and foreign lands to which, the salt water and the ocean breezes have given them a free highway and ready transportation, have opened to us great sources of information and brought us experiences and memories of no ordinary value, wholly

unknown to the people of the interior towns. The splendid stretch of sandy beaches and the broad expanse of Provincetown harbor and Cape Cod Bay, with the magnificent sandy bluffs extending for 25 miles and in many places more than 100 ft. in height, are objects of interest at the lower part of Cape Cod, which, taken with the beautiful Atlantic, no one will hesitate to pronounce simply incomparable, when others tell us of beautiful mountain or lake scenery to be found elsewhere. It seems singular, that the comparatively tame beaches of the North Shore could be rated as valuable as to lead to legislative debate, like that upon the Beverly Farm division, while the ample beaches of the South Shore and Cape Cod, for the present, be deemed comparatively valueless, and yet the time cannot be distant, when every rod of seashore from Virginia to Newfoundland and perhaps Labrador, will be occupied and appreciated at its full value, and among them many lovely spots, the most attractive will be found on Cape Cod, and yet today Cape Cod is too frequently alluded to in terms of insulting caricature, or those giving evidence of inexcusable ignorance. One great offence, that we live "away down on Cape Cod," away out at the very tip end, the jumping-off place of Massachusetts. Well, how far off are we? A four hours' delightful steam from Boston covers the thirty-four miles from wharf to wharf. A four hours' ride by rail twice a day, also conveys passengers from Boston to Provincetown. With a larger and faster boat and express service, they may be reduced to three and even two hours, certainly not a long time to spend in a comfortable cabin or parlor car. Compared to the distance to other places on Cape Cod, the distance is not great. Using either boat or railway car, the fastest town on Cape Cod is only 57 miles from Boston, or less than from Boston to Springfield. Cape Cod is much nearer to Boston than Nantucket or Martha's Vineyard, but for some unknown reason the distance is "away down on Cape Cod" has been perpetuated and doubts allowed to exist whether its inhabitants were wholly civilized. To these points the only answer is "Come and see." The people of this State have been in fault, because not too ready to claim for our "Home by the deep blue sea," the high respect it deserves. But we must not forget the fact that the tip end of Cape Cod belongs to the state of Massachusetts, having no other property. It was reserved by the Pilgrims from the time of their first landing in Provincetown, Nov. 11, 1620, more than a month before they went to Plymouth, as a fishing ground, and descended from them to the colony and the Province and the state of Massachusetts. It has never been divided and the claim of the state has been repeatedly asserted. It may be necessary to state my personal position as that of a resident of the territory, just outside of the state's domain. We think we may properly call upon our neighboring proprietor, the state of Massachusetts, and tell her plainly that she has been negligent and that her conduct as a landlord or rather landlady has been simply scandalous, and however far it may be investigated, shows only a disgraceful state of affairs. We have made roads, but the wealthy owner, the state of Massachusetts, has done nothing in the way of improvement, though she has collected taxes of those enterprising enough to improve her land. She has pretended to have a State Agent here, but it has been a farce, owing rather to the system adopted than to the individual appointed. Would not the present be a good time to show that the state means to do something? We have joined with others in petitioning the legislature to appropriate \$25,000 for roads and other improvements which we imperatively demanded, believing that the evils existing can be remedied by a moderate expenditure and that sources of income can be opened. Fortunately at this time we have a body of ladies and gentlemen from all parts of the state, organized and incorporated by the last legislature as the Trustees of Public Reservations, and we hope to enlist their interest in our Provincetown lands, which we public reservation in Massachusetts today. Provincetown is the largest town in Barnstable County. It has made solid growth under many difficulties and its population are yet on the increase. We have churches and public buildings, and we shall soon have water works and electric lights. We have plenty of deep water in Provincetown harbor to float the largest steamship but we have no other projects for lines of Atlantic steamers, though the claims of Cape Cod in that way are quite as deserving of mention as those of Montauk Point, at the eastern end of Long Island. We have good steam communications to Boston, which may be increased and improved, and to time, lines also may be run to Worcester, Salem and Plymouth. We have excellent railroad communication to the whole of New England and the best of our fishing business has attracted an industrious, thrifty class of immigrants, who are growing up among us as good citizens—one of them is a prosperous merchant and another is a prosperous farmer. Moreover, as the first landing place of the Pilgrims, this is a historic spot which should be commemorated by monuments, which will make Provincetown known as home and about the shores of our town, as the "Birthplace of American Liberty."

Mr. Felt's paper, said to be the composition of one of our lady residents, received a storm of applause.

Shebnaugh Rich, Esq., the next speaker, touched on the landing of the Pilgrims and their subsequent exploits, the advantages which will surely accrue from the establishment of a fine Marine Park in the breezy, ocean purified locality; advised persistent effort to bring the matter to a successful ending; wished a mighty monument could be erected on Town Hill as a lasting memorial of our Puritan ancestors first landing in the new world, and thought, could the whole section back of our town be converted into a noble park, from all parts of our vast and glorious country, thousands would come to view our historic town and receive great benefits from the salty air.

Mr. James A. Small then made an eloquent plea for the support of the measure under discussion by the legislature, and said the now desert-like expanse could by judicious treatment be made to blossom as a rose.

Mr. Philip A. Chase, Lynn, gave a graphic description of Penny Brook Glen and the country adjacent, comprising some 2000 acres of beautiful wild wood back of his city, and how by appealing to the sympathies of citizens and the city government, it was saved from the woodman's axe and converted into a lordly park for the delight and use of all lovers of woodland scenery. He said the Trustees of Public Reservations would cheerfully help us in our endeavor to create a beautiful spot, wherein the people of our commonwealth might enjoy themselves; that libraries, museums, etc., were established elsewhere by aid of the state, and that old Massachusetts should maintain a breathing place here for her children's use.

Representative R. B. Jenkins, Wellfleet, spoke of the many thousands granted by the legislature during the past winter for various purposes; praised our magnificent harbor and healthy climate, and thought money spent in creating a park here would be money wisely expended.

Mr. A. P. Hannum, called on for a speech, said that he thought his labors on the committee ended with the visit to the legislative committee hearing. He had not expected to be asked to speak, but told of a man who was somewhat devout and who had a beautiful printed prayer nailed to the head of his bed, and on very cold nights he would dispense with the customary kneeling and prayer beside the bed, but would jump into his couch and point to the prayer, saying, "Oh! Lord, these are my sentiments." He said the remarks of the preceding speakers, expressed his sentiments also.

Mr. Felt then took the floor in response to an invitation of chairman Adams, and gave a pithy and pointed account of his labors thus far, together with some suggestions as to the method of conducting, should the legislature see fit to appropriate the sum asked—thought first a temporary transfer of lands might be made to Trustees of Public Reservations, then as minute attention cannot be expected from this busy body, an unpaid commission of three persons should be appointed with a paid agent, styled the Superintendent, who should be instructed to employ an

Order
Drawn by
C. Z.
P. F. B. by
F. P. Bembel.
Jan. '92.

ORDER as to the appointment of a special committee, consisting of seven members on the part of the house, with such as the senate may join, who shall inquire and report what legislation, if any, is advisable for the purpose of promoting the acquisition and preservation for enjoyment by the public of more numerous commons and open spaces, located so as to include some of the finest scenery of the sea-coasts, river-banks, hill-tops, or other portions of the state, and of the neighborhood of Boston in particular.

...are made public holdings, free for the people's enjoyment forever, the time will come when the tired dwellers in the cities and in the vast interior of our country, who are driven by the heat of summer to seek rest and new life by the sea, will find here the city over again, and be 'cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd' in conditions very like those from which they are trying to escape. The uplands will be almost a continuous village," he goes on to say, "and the shore everywhere will be in somebody's backyard."

Petition signed throughout metropolitan district, Jan. & Feb. '92.
To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled:

The undersigned petitioners

respectfully represent that the sea-shore, the river banks, the hill-tops and the other finest portions of the scenery of the district surrounding Boston, to which the people have long been accustomed to resort for healthful pleasure, are now being converted to the private purposes of their owners, to the great detriment of the present population and the irreparable loss of succeeding generations. Wherefore your petitioners respectfully request your honorable bodies to institute, through a special commission or otherwise, a comprehensive and impartial investigation of the whole subject of providing ample open spaces for the use and enjoyment of the increasing population of the Boston metropolitan district.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled:

The undersigned petitioners respectfully represent that the sea-shores, the river-banks, the mountain tops, and almost all the finest parts of the natural scenery of Massachusetts are possessed by private persons, whose private interests often dictate the destruction of said scenery or the exclusion of the public from the enjoyment thereof. In the opinion of the undersigned, the scenes of natural beauty to which the people of the Commonwealth are to-day of right entitled to resort for pleasure and refreshment are both too few in number and too small in area; and, therefore, your petitioners respectfully ask that an inquiry be instituted by your honorable bodies for the purpose of ascertaining what action, if any, may be advisable in the circumstances.

THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS,
By their Standing Committee.

It would be superfluous to enlarge upon the need of such open spaces for the city workers of the least fortunate classes; what demands emphasis is rather the corresponding needs of a very much broader section of the community, and the placing beyond the reach of private "enterprise" or absorption the especially beautiful tracts of land in this vicinity. The petition which is to bring this matter before the General Court, and to which reference has already been made in these columns, asks for no setting aside of these places for public use, but for an impartial investigation which will show what curtailment of lands once open to the public has taken place, and what the needs of our rapidly increasing population are in this direction. The facts once known, the remedy for whatever defects may be discovered in the situation will not lack. Such an investigation is desirable no less in the interests of those who already have holdings in these coveted spots, than for those who see themselves in danger of being shut away from them; and an equitable adjustment of the question will be much more easily reached now than when this conversion of "the seashore, the river banks, the hilltops and the other finest portions of the scenery surrounding Boston" has progressed still farther, and the feeling of restiveness over this change has become more acute.

The same investigator from whom we have already quoted reports, "after experimenting," "that an average country audience responds readily to a direct presentation of the essential facts and obvious deductions related to this matter."

This is significant testimony. It bears witness to an increasing love on the part of our people for outdoor life, and of an appreciation of the beautiful and picturesque. Certainly there are no two tendencies that better deserve encouraging.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Feb. 26, 1892.
The Committee on Public Reservations will give a hearing to parties interested in the orders and petitions for the creation of a special commission, or Metropolitan Park commission, with authority to secure for park purposes lands in the cities and towns in the vicinity of the city of Boston, in the Green Room, State House, TUESDAY, March 8, at 10 o'clock A. M.
B. MARVIN FERNALD, Chairman.
WARREN HOYT, Clerk of the Committee.
21

*Not called by Feb. 26
Not by Feb. 27*

THE CRY FOR "OPEN SPACES."

The timeliness of the effort now being made to secure a proper proportion of the beautiful sections of this Commonwealth to the use of the people forever is shown by the rapidly accumulating body of testimony on the subject, as well as by the growing public interest in such questions. The effort now being made here in Massachusetts has its counterpart in other communities, and is as markedly a measure for the public good as any that has been broached for many a long day. The "summer exodus" has already been the subject of philosophizing in high quarters, but it seems that some authoritative intervention is desirable if that exodus in search of quiet outdoor leisure is not to be more and more difficult each year. "Unless great areas here" (on the coast), writes one investiga-

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, March 1, 1892.
The Committee on Public Reservations will give a hearing to parties interested in legislation for the preservation of the Province lands at the extremity of Cape Cod. Also, for an appropriation of \$25,000—to be expended on the Province lands, by the Trustees of Public Reservations, at Green Room, State House, on FRIDAY, March 11, at ten o'clock A. M.
B. M. FERNALD, Chairman.
WARREN HOYT, Clerk of the Committee.
21

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SAVE SOME OPEN SPACES.

Public open spaces command the interest of those who care for the practical as well as the aesthetic good of the community. The hearing on the subject to be held in the Green Room of the State House tomorrow (Tuesday) morning at ten o'clock should attract many friends of what may be called the open-air philanthropy. The city of Lynn, which has the happy distinction for a town of industry of leading in care for the people's outdoor privileges, is making a lively attempt to restore to herself some of her lost shore-front, and is now engaged in a decided and probably successful effort to purchase a strip of upland near the sea to be turned into a plaza, an open space for the people by the waves. The committee of the Lynn Park Commissioners on this matter may well be applied to all objections to spending money for these things:

A ready answer to these proposals for expenditure of public money for more open air space is, that the present generation has done enough and has assumed burdens already too heavy; but it must be kept in mind that these choice spots must be taken when they are offered. It is a new gospel, but a good one, that nothing is too good for the people. There is no reason why one man or one hundred men should monopolize all the finest spots of natural beauty or historic interest. A law, at any rate, should be reserved for the public, and the public who are becoming more and more circumscribed in their home spaces by reason of the advancing price of rents and real estate in our large towns and cities. Large property holders can make no better investment of a very small part of their wealth than in purchasing security for their possessions by a prompt and generous cooperation in giving to those of less ability and less good fortune an equal chance in the enjoyment of great nature in the woods, on the hills and by the shore. This is the communism that gives Niagara Falls, Yellowstone Park and the Valley of the Yosemite to the whole world.

And this is the sort of communism that the most conservative mind instinctively approves, the sort that reaches out to make the common blessing of fresh air at least accessible to the people.

Breathing Places for the People.

Secretary Elliot of the trustees of public reservations went before the committee on public reservations and lands yesterday and suggested that a State commission be appointed to make a comprehensive investigation of the general park question. The members should be appointed by the Governor with the consent and advice of the Council. It would be their duty to discover and examine all public holdings in the State, suggest methods for joint action by towns and cities in improving and beautifying them, and recommend what action is necessary by the General Court to increase the park system. It should be appointed for three years and have from \$3000 to \$8000 a year for its expenses. Its relation to local park commissions would be about the same as in that of the State Board of Health to local health boards.

Sylvester Baxter, Artia Emshing, Professor Shaler of Harvard and General Francis A. Walker all favor the plan of Mr. Elliot.

Public Reservation of Attractive Places.

STATE HOUSE, Tuesday, March 8.

The special legislative Committee on Public Reservations and Lands had its first public hearing this morning. The subject was the petition of Thomas Wentworth Higginson and many others for the establishment of a Metropolitan Park Commission and for the setting apart for public use of attractive green places in various parts of the Commonwealth.

The desires of the petitioners were first expressed by Secretary Elliot of the Trustees of Public Reservations, an organization which was formed last year to foster the acquisition of breathing places for the people. He read an address in which he set forth that parks were conservators of morals and health. The State owns no open spaces of any extent and cities and towns own scarcely any. Some of the most beautiful sites are debarr'd from acquisition and improvement because they are in several towns, and no one town can go outside its own boundaries under the present law. The Middlesex Fells near Stoneham, was instanced as a case in point, several town boundaries entering the territory.

Mr. Elliot suggested that a State commission be appointed to make a comprehensive investigation of the general park question. The members should be appointed by the Governor with the consent and advice of the Council. It would be their duty to discover and examine all public holdings in the State, suggest methods for joint action by towns and cities in improving and beautifying them, and recommend what action is necessary by the General Court to increase the park system. It should be appointed for three years and have from \$3000 to \$5000 a year for its expenses. Its relation to local park commissions would be about the same as in that of the State Board of Health to local health boards.

Mr. Sylvester Baxter spoke of the special advantages to Boston and its vicinity of parks and breathing places. In some towns near the Hub there were no places for the children to play in open the streets and school yards. From an economic standpoint the value of open places in densely populated districts was well understood. Unless breathing places are set apart now, before the available spots are overbuilt, it will be necessary in the future to tear down blocks of building to provide parks, as is now being done in London and New York. It has been demonstrated that where public grounds have been established that they have paid for themselves through increasing value of taxable property in the vicinity. In one way in particular the proposed commission could do excellent work, and that is in suggesting a way to preserve the forests in Provincetown, which are being destroyed to the detriment of the harbor and the surrounding country. Provincetown, he said, belongs almost entirely to the State and the people living there are mostly squatters.

The river banks were the scenic features in which John J. Faneuil, the artist, was most interested, and he told the committee of the way in which these were abused. He believed the banks should be owned by towns, and be placed under the control of a general park commission. He was enthusiastic over the scenery of Massachusetts, which he contended had more lasting beauty than that in any other section of the world, and he thought it the duty of the State to preserve enough of this scenery to give the people an assurance of being able to enjoy it for all time.

Dr. Faxon of Quincy was especially anxious that the boys should have big playgrounds. They were little animals, he said, and must have chances to run. No one would think of raising colts without giving them places to scamper about, and boys need exercising spots for the same reason.

Professor Shaler of Harvard University had become pretty familiar with the surface of Massachusetts through his frequent excursions with his classes in geology. For six and twenty years he had seen many beautiful places obliterated by human action, and so rapidly was the work of destruction going on that it was essential that prompt action be taken to preserve some open places. He laid special stress on the educational value of natural scenery.

General Walker of the Boston Park Commission sought to impress upon the committee the importance of taking up this public reservation question at once, maintaining that it would cost infinitely less to acquire property now than it would ten years hence. Once the land was built over, it was almost impossible to open it for park purposes. The experience of the Boston Park Board had been such in opening up Downer street that they would not leave the moral courage to undertake it again. They would rather build a tunnel under the section. He thought the whole subject should first be put in the hands of a commission of inquiry, whose plan should be committed to an executive commission to be carried out.

Messrs. Robert Treat Paine, W. C. Wright and others spoke in the same general strain. No recommendations appeared.

STATE HOUSE HEARINGS.

Public Reservations Advocated by Prominent Citizens.

Charles Elliot, Gen. Francis A. Walker, Sylvester Baxter, Robert Treat Paine and others favor an investigation of the whole park subject—busy day before other committees.

A number of distinguished and public-spirited citizens of the Commonwealth climbed up to the green room of the State House this forenoon to argue for the appointment of a metropolitan park commission, which should practically make a survey of the state as to the spots and breathing places that should be preserved and set aside for public park purposes.

Upon the report of said commission, the Legislature might then create an executive commission to carry out the scheme of improvement. The desire of the petitioners was first to take the initiative by investigation and report.

Mr. Charles Elliot, secretary of the trustees of public reservations, recently formed, was the first to speak upon the legislation asked for. He said that the petitioners he represented asked for an investigation of the state, in all its parts. Massachusetts, as a whole, is very picturesque, and the cities are becoming crowded, and people are seeking sea-shore and picnic spots. "Is this for the advantage of the state?" he asked. "The cities are the hotbeds of crime, and if our civilization is to be saved it can only be done by forces of enlightenment. The future of Massachusetts is in our hands, and are we not bound by honor to do for her all in our power? The towns and cities of the Commonwealth number 351. The park set limits the bounds of improvement to the cities and towns, without reference to scenery in the immediate vicinity. The speaker exhibited a map of Middlesex Fells, a picturesque district near Malden, Stoneham, Melrose and other suburbs. Under the present town and city machinery, the Fells cannot be obtained as a public reservation. It well illustrated the

Public Desire for Parks and the inadequacy of the present laws to obtain the same. Blue Hill, Wachusett mountain and other beautiful places might be cited as bound by the conflicting conditions. We ask for a comprehensive investigation of the state by a commission with regard to reservations.

I would suggest that we have three able, disinterested men on the commission, to be appointed by the Governor by consent of the Council. Let this board be empowered to do three things: First, to make a file or schedule of plans, or description of the bounds of all the existing public reservations within the state; that the encroachments thereon may hereafter be more easily detected and checked, and in order that the commission may possess the information upon which further action may be based.

Second, to consult and advise with town and city officers and park commissioners upon the subjects relating to the making, maintaining or improving of public open spaces in order that the best interests may be followed throughout the state, and in order to promote co-operation in this matter among independent towns.

Thirdly, to take thought for the general interests of the Commonwealth in respect to the provision of public open spaces, to make a special study of these districts in which purely local forces are powerless to effect the creation of desirable reservations, to devise schemes of joint or inter-township action for the creation of open spaces, to formally propose such joint reservations to the towns or cities concerned, and recommend to the General Court, such legislation as may seem necessary to promote the interests of the Commonwealth in this matter. I suggest that the commission hold for three years, and then cease to exist, unless vote to continue it. It should have power to employ experts, and carry on lawyers, and it ought to be provided with

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Best Nov 9th

UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD. NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE. ROSEWELL B. LAWRENCE, 53 State St., Room 518, BOSTON, Mass., U. S. A.

say \$2000 a year, during its life. The state board of health has very similar powers. By the establishment of a commission we shall see what availing things should and can be done for the people by the people, through our government of the people.

Sylvester Baxter spoke of the boundaries of Boston or the metropolitan region of the city. The towns north of the Charles river, he said, had not been able to take advantage of public improvement, some 30 in number. They cannot meet the problem by themselves, and it seems that some comprehensive measure should be adopted to meet the want.

The Metropolitan Region

should be treated as a unit. In Lynn 1500 acres have been acquired at a slight expense—about \$20,000—and that scheme is an earnest of what could and would be done. From an economic standpoint, it seems also to be important.

We have seen London obliged to open built over spaces in order to open up breathing spaces, which is also true of New York city, always at great expense.

The speaker endorsed the general plan of remedy and correction offered by Mr. Elliot, and instanced the peculiar conditions surrounding the town of Provincetown, which might be set right by the investigation of a commission.

Artist Eoniken said he had been a crank for 25 years on the subject of preserving the borders of rivers. Beautiful lawns and groups of trees, surrounded with rugged ground, are being sacrificed every day which makes an artist wish Paris and London might envy these spots we are daily destroying. You must control the whole river, or encroachments will be made to be destroyed. He referred to the muddy pond breaks in Hyde Park waiting for a commission to take hold, and a natural place. All those from Boston to Blue Hill, little streams and open spaces could be found that should be kept open, and it was of the utmost importance.

Dr. Faxon of Quincy thought that if separate communities controlled the question of open spaces, nothing will be done, a commission should take hold of the matter. The money value seems now to overshadow everything, and the beauties of the forests are lost.

If handled by a commission systematically great improvement will come. In a few years Blue Hill will be covered with a park, and should be taken and put into a park.

Prof. Shaler, geologist at Harvard College, told of the experiences he had in the state. During the past 25 years he had seen advantageous spots disappear, owing to the work of quarrying, and by inclosure. There are points of considerable interest that are now in danger that might serve.

To Instruct the Scholar

for future generations. We have to count in this state the work of education, he said, and I should like to do all in my power to preserve those grounds. The commission need not be costly. We should now take charge of those remnants of nature, but a slight touch of the hand of war may destroy them.

The speaker wanted a broad permissive bill for the town to incorporate. One step has been taken in the right direction by the board of trustees, but my point is to speak of the educational advantage of preserving them. Wallace of the Institute of Technology, spoke in favor of the asked for legislation, and said he thought it would be the worst economy and public negligence to allow lawns to grow up without privileges of public reservations. It will cost us indefinitely less now to look out for the breathing spaces. When population has become dense you cannot get communities to do the right thing. The aggregate value is increased by reservations as well as the health and morals of the community. The people are being educated on the subject of checking devastation of trees and shrubbery, and one of the best influences you can give to good citizenship for future generations. Reasons to me that the appointment of a commission is a good thing.

The commission might report a scheme to the Legislature in regard to reservations, and then an executive commission could be appointed to carry out the ideas. If the Legislature should, in the first instance, commit itself to the matter, it would be productive of good results. These things are of vital importance from a sanitary and moral standpoint, and I believe that the commission could make a plan in regard to the suburbs of Boston which would commend itself to the judgment of the Legislature and the people of the Commonwealth. The commission might do its work in one year, in two or three years. I should think two years would be ample for investigation.

W. C. Wright cited the Middlesex river, and said that a public sentiment was ripe for the opportunity of a commission. Robert Treat Paine of Boston said that thoughtless persons do not appreciate the changes that are going on, large tracts of land passing into private estates, and, in time.

The People Will Have Nothing Left.

The time has come when we in Massachusetts should recognize the importance of preserving the beautiful spots on these hill tops. The value of those places is inestimable to the public. The valleys and rivers should be saved for the people, both from an economic and health point of view. We want to see the lower shore-lands, and prevent the beautiful spots of nature being taken for the habitation of mankind.

The banks of every river, the shores of the ocean and the hilltops should belong to the people. The division of estates has gone on long enough by the wealthy people. The value of property is eventually enhanced by taking land for park purposes, adding to the value of the whole. Nothing can work more to the welfare of the poor people than giving open spaces as near to their homes as possible. Wealthy people can go to the Adirondacks and seashore.

Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald of Brookline, superintendent of the western division of the Boston water works, was in favor of finding out what ought to be done, and the way to go about it would be, first, to have a commission of inquiry. He was very sorry that a bill was not already prepared for the committee.

W. H. Ladd of Boston wanted members of the committee only to look about them, and see what could be done in their immediate locality. He cited Lynn's park as a grand example, created by interested wealthy people, and purchased at very little cost.

Spots in Lynnfield and Peabody would soon be lost, and Shaker Glen, between Woburn and Winchester, could be saved to the public.

Park Commissioner Ware of Milton favored a permanent state park commission, to which anyone may come for information.

Mr. J. B. Harrison gave an eloquent account of his observations during his tour of the shore towns of Massachusetts, last summer, and Mr. Freeman of Everett spoke of the urgent need of public grounds in his town.

Among those present were ex Park Commissioner Dalton of Boston, Park Commissioner Carr of Chelsea and Hon. Everett Saltonstall.

Provincetown Advocate

State House Hearing.

Last Friday at 10 A. M. in the Green Room, chairman Fernald of the Committee on Public Reservations announced the hearing on petition of Trustees of Public Reservations for preservation of the Province lands, and petition for \$25,000 for improving the same.

Mr. Chas. Eliot, son of president Eliot of Harvard College, secretary of the Trustees of Public Reservations, made an able opening address, and was followed by Mr. Jonathan B. Harrison, agent of the trustees, who said that simple measures must be adopted lasting at least twenty years, to enable the forest, shrubbery, and beach grass to gain its natural foothold in the way of nature aided by man, rather than disturbed by man as at present.

Capt. R. B. Jenkins of Wellfleet forcibly presented the claims of Provincetown to some adequate care and protection by the state of the property it claims.

John W. Porter, Esq., of Danvers (a Salem lawyer), told of his visit to Provincetown last September and strongly expressed his belief that with a moderate expenditure the State could make the Province Lands a great source of enjoyment to the people of Massachusetts by simply building roads and encouraging a natural growth of vegetation. Mr. Porter called Mr. James A. Reed, the landlord of the Central House, to testify as a witness.

Shebna Rich of Salem made a most interesting statement of his experience at his summer home in Truro.

Mr. John W. Adams, a landscape gardener, member of the House from Springfield, addressed the committee and asked several questions claiming that a judicious selection of plants could be made that would at trifling expense with due care, in a few years produce attractive vegetation.

Mr. Charles W. Felt of Northboro, stated that he had made inquiries in Worcester county regarding the interest in this sea shore property claimed by the State, which he desired to present at another hearing, as the chairman of the Provincetown committee was present with four other members, Messrs Manta, Reed Hilliard and Hannum. The chairman agreed to continue the hearing till 12.30 and Chairman Marshall L. Adams and Messrs. Artemas P. Hannum, and John D. Hilliard addressed the committee, leading to discussion, the examination of the map, etc. A desire was expressed to have the committee visit Provincetown, and it is understood that representative Jenkins will introduce an order to that effect. It is hoped that a final hearing will be held in April. Among the audience were Senator Simpkins, Capt. Atkins Hughes, David A. Small, G. L. Mayo, Capt. John Smith of the steamer Longfellow, and Dr. Azel Ames of Boston.

Scrapbook page 72

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MASSACHUSETTS, IN GENERAL COURT ASSEMBLED:

The undersigned petitioners, members of the Appalachian Mountain Club, respectfully represent that it is of the greatest importance to the welfare of the people of Boston and of the surrounding cities and towns, that the enjoyment of the natural beauty of the country in their neighborhood should be assured to them. Only through ample open spaces provided in sufficient number can this large population obtain the opportunities for rest, relaxation, exercise, and general recreation in the open air that are essential to its continued physical and moral health. The rapid growth of this great community now threatens either the speedy destruction of, or the exclusion of the public from, the spots most suitable for public open spaces, namely: the hilltops, the rocky woods, the seashores, and the banks of the streams. At the same time there is caused a pollution of the streams most dangerous to public health.

Wherefore your petitioners respectfully request the enactment of measures that will secure to the public for its perpetual use and enjoyment a sufficient number of open spaces in the vicinity of Boston so placed as to best accomplish the above-named objects.

(Signature.)

(City or Town, and State.)

17d 1892
KEEPING NATURE NATURAL.

**First Report of the Trustees
of Public Reservations.**

**An Important and Interesting Document—What the Board Has Done to
Preserve Natural Scenery in Massachusetts—The Recent Acquisition of
Virginia Wood.**

The historic pine tree design of the old Massachusetts flag and ensign adorns the cover of the first annual report of the trustees of public reservations. Very appropriately the design has been adopted for the seal of the corporation.

The report is an interesting and important document, and shows a goodly amount of work done in the first six months of the corporation's existence. It gives an account of the origin of the organization, and the law under which it was incorporated, to acquire, hold and maintain for public use and enjoyment beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth.

The first gift to the trustees was that of the Virginia wood in the Middlesex Falls region, in the town of Stoneham, comprising about 20 acres near Spot pond. This gift came from several trustees, to whom Mrs. Fanny H. Tudor, daughter of the late William Foster of Stoneham, had conveyed the property, and the name was given in memory of a daughter of the donor.

The land is a diversified tract of woodland divided by a hollow containing a brook, possessed of many fine specimens of hemlock, pines, oaks and other trees, and capable of serving as a delightful retreat for the large population which the proposed Stoneham railroad will bring into the neighborhood.

A subscription from residents of Melrose, Malden and Medford sufficient to insure the maintenance and protection of the place has been.

Nearly Completed.

so that the charge of the wood will soon devolve upon the board, and Mrs. Tudor's name will head the list of "founders" in next year's report, while the contributors to the endowment fund will also appear as "life associates" and "contributors."

A second proposal was that of a gentleman who desired to purchase one of the finest groves near Boston as a memorial of a young man who loved all natural beauty with uncommon ardor. The complicated ownership of the tract, however, has unfortunately thus far proven an insurmountable obstacle.

The standing committee of the corporation believes that the future will witness many instances of this giving of natural landscapes in honor of all natural beauty so rigorously guarded living landscape a finer monument than any ordinary work in marble or stained glass," asks the committee.

A third interesting suggestion came from a gentleman, one of whose ancestors succeeded in permanently attaching his name to a certain picturesque spot, which was visited by the inventor and found to be so placed that it would make a very useful, as well as handsome and interesting public reservation. There must be in Massachusetts, says the committee, in various other places somewhat similarly identified with honored names, and the board will always be glad to interest itself in their permanent preservation.

Among the many spots suggested by other persons as being worthy of preservation on account of their special beauty or charm are mentioned the following: The banks of Charles river at Newton Upper Falls, the Falls of Beaver brook in Belmont, the top of Sheddock Hill in Barnstable, the Turkey in Sutton, the Glen at Whately, the Natural bridge near North Adams, the ravine of the Dash Blah in Mt. Washington. In addition to these places,

numerous other spots have been brought to the attention of the committee because of their literary, romantic, or historical associations, among them the rock of Norman's Woe, near Gloucester, Heartbreak Hill in Ipswich, the Indian cave in Medford, the Cradock House in Medford, the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, the "Captain's Well" in Amesbury and the well of "The Old Oakon Buckle" in Scituate.

The board, however, does not possess either the money or the authority to enable it to snatch real estate out of the hands of anybody. Like the trustees of a public art museum, the board stands ready to undertake the care of such precious things as may be placed in its charge.

It is urged that those anxious for the rescue of this or that interesting spot of structure must not be discouraged when they learn that the board possesses no magic powers. With all the other lovers of the scenery and the history of Massachusetts, they must learn to imitate those admirers of the fine arts who have so liberally endowed the public art museums.

The committee has from the first given attention to

Certain Broad Questions.

It found Massachusetts, as a whole, shamefully lacking in open spaces reserved expressly for public enjoyment, and the choicest places were passing into the hands of private owners. As population increases the final destruction of the finest remaining bits of scenery goes on more and more rapidly. The prospect thus seemed in many ways gloomy, particularly upon the seashore, and in the neighborhood of Boston. Action was therefore taken in four directions: 1. To investigate and publish the facts in respect to the provision of public open spaces. 2. To collect and publish the laws of Massachusetts which permit, or otherwise affect the acquisition and maintenance of public open spaces. 3. To call together the park commissioners and committees of the several metropolitan districts. 4. To ask the present Legislature to institute an inquiry into the whole subject.

For the first purpose Mr. J. E. Harrison, whose important work in behalf of the preservation of Niagara and the Adirondacks is well known, was engaged as

agent of the trustees, and this interesting report of his exploration of the shore towns in August and September is given in the appendix. It is hoped that he will be able to explore the inland towns this season.

Mr. Harrison made a special report on the only large public reservation held by the Commonwealth, the Province lands at Provincetown, and in consequence the trustees have notified the Legislature for measures for their protection and reservation.

In consequence of the meeting of the park commissioners and committees of the metropolitan district, called by the committee, the subject is now before the Legislature with favorable prospects for the appointment of a special commission to inquire into the subject of preserving the finest natural scenery in the state.

The first annual report of the Trustees of Public Reservations is a most interesting little pamphlet. This organization is a corporation which exists, to use the language of its report, "to facilitate the preservation of beautiful and historical places in Massachusetts." There is need for some organized effort to accomplish this end, for a mistaken utilitarian spirit has already permitted, if not encouraged, the destruction of many beautiful spots in this state. Individual influence can hardly be counted upon to arrest the work of devastation, and the power of co-operation is wisely invoked.

The society, however, found itself forced to give attention to certain broad questions from which it found itself unable to escape. "Massachusetts," it says, "as a whole, is shamefully lacking in open spaces reserved expressly for enjoyment by the public. The mountain tops of the interior, the cliffs and beaches of the seashore, and most of the interesting scenes of special beauty are rapidly passing into the possession of private owners who hold these places either for their own private pleasure or for the profit which may be reaped from fees collected from the pub-

lic. Moreover, as population increases, the final destruction of the finest bits of scenery goes on more and more rapidly. Thus, the prospect for the future is in many ways a gloomy one, particularly upon the seashore and in the neighborhood of Boston."

This condition of things is yearly becoming more noticeable in southern Massachusetts, and the report of the agent of the society emphasizes the fact. The MERCHANT has already printed some of the agent's remarks upon the state of affairs in some of the individual cities and towns of this section. But we may call attention to some of Mr. Harrison's more general observations.

He says: "I found leagues and leagues together of the shore line to be all private holdings, without the intervention, in these long reaches, of a road or space on the shore to which the public has a right to go. I walked across the domain of one man who owns about six miles of shore line. I found a great population inland hedged away from the beach, and all conditions pointing to a time, not remote, when nobody can walk by the ocean in Massachusetts without payment of a fee, as we formerly had to pay for a glimpse of Niagara." With this condition of affairs goes another, which is perfectly natural, for as everybody in southern Massachusetts knows: "Wherever the summer people have bought places on the seashore, they show a disposition to exercise the right of exclusive domain, and to repel as trespassers all who enter upon their grounds for any purpose whatever. In some instances, people thus excluded from places where rights of public resort and passage have been exercised for generations. Even where the ancient legal rights of the people are clear, they are being generally relinquished because it costs too much to maintain them against such aggression."

There are many collateral problems and probable results which force themselves upon the mind of one who looks beyond the surface of this topic. But this which is raised in the quotations we have given is of especial importance, particularly in this part of the state. Ample food for reflection is found in two questions which are aptly put by Mr. Harrison in this language:

(a) Should there not be a broad public highway or a strip of public land along the whole length of the sea-beach of the state? It need not always follow the water's edge, perhaps, but could be carried inland above the worst beaches.

(b) Would it not be well to consider the question of limiting the length of the shore line or ocean front of private holdings? The extent of the shore line of the state is impossibly limited, while the population of the country is certain to increase to an extent which is at present almost unimaginable. Is it consistent with the public welfare that a few persons should have the absolute possession and control of unlimited areas of the shore? What are the reasons which justify such a monopoly? With all possible regard for private and individual interests, it is proper to inquire what actual benefits a man derives from the exclusive ownership and occupancy of four or five miles of seashore. The problem of title to the shore, and of the use and enjoyment of it by the people of the state, will in time be a most vital and important public question here.

It is not necessary to answer these questions without thinking of all that the answers may involve. But, to make a practical application, the mere presentation of the subject ought to arouse the people of southern Massachusetts to the urgent need of taking steps which shall forever prevent the possibility of their being excluded from the benefits and pleasures of the seashore. In arranging the park system of New Bedford, this important necessity should never be forgotten, while the citizens of each of our city's adjacent towns may profitably consider their duty and interests in this direction.

New Bedford Mercury

Cape Ann Breeze.

Transcript.

Congressionalist
April 21

ripples from rockport.

Our Park.

The First Annual Report of the Trustees of Public Reservations, is published. In regard to Rockport, it says:

Rockport has no holding of any kind available as a place of public resort, be park or common or right on the shore, except perhaps a landing or two. There are two or three beautiful headlands here, very convenient for picnics and out-door assemblies. They should be secured for public uses, as this region is certain always to have throngs of visitors. Unless steps to this end are taken very soon, these especially attractive sites are likely to be taken up for dwellings by people of means. Pool's hill, near the village of Rockport, affords a very extensive view of the ocean, of the shore regions, and of some points far inland. It is 230 feet high. The clerk of the town, Mr. Calvin W. Pool, has for several years found his chief recreation in the effort to distinguish and identify the various features of the landscape visible from the eminence. Several years ago he discovered that Mount Washington can be seen from here and I saw letters from the officers of the United States Coast Survey and other eminent scientific men confirming Mr. Pool's triangulations and conclusions. The hill ought to be public property.

N.Y. Eve. Post.

A YEAR of the gospel of out-door delight is set forth in the first annual report of the trustees of public reservations. A great deal has been accomplished in a year's work for preserving beautiful and historic places in Massachusetts, more in organization and in influence and future effect, of course, than immediate preservation of many places worth saving. Many of Mr. Harrison's admirable suggestions have recently been discussed in these columns, and these are embodied in the report. Here are some of the places named as worthy of preservation on account of their special beauty or charm: The banks of Charles River at Newton Upper Falls, the Falls of Beaver Brook in Belmont, the top of Shooting Hill in Barnstable, the Purgatory in Sutton, the Glen at Whately, the Natural Bridge near North Adams, the Ravine of the Bash Bish in Mount Washington. In addition to these places numerous other spots have been brought to the attention of the committee because of their literary, romantic, or historical associations, among them the rock of Norman's Woe near Gloucester, Heartbreak Hill in Ipswich, the Indian Cave in Medfield, the Cradock House in Medford, the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, the "Captain's Well" in Amesbury, and the well of "The Old Oaken Bucket" in Scituate. It is, of course, not in the power of the board to snatch all interesting places from possible destruction, and the secretary, Mr. Eliot, says that his correspondents must not be discouraged when they learn that this board "possesses no magic powers." Endowment is necessary, and it is needed particularly for the preservation of open spaces on the seashore. To save for public enjoyment a few of the most favored spots on our coast from private and therefore exclusive possession is a work in which this board is especially engaged.

THE PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHT TO THE SEASHORE.

The first annual report of the trustees of public reservations of Massachusetts, just issued, chronicles the work of a most worthy organization. Public reservations of fine scenery, like public libraries and public hospitals, are at once a necessity and an index of higher civilization, and it is possible for the people of Massachusetts through this board, and other States through similar boards, to save to the people what private greed is fast making inaccessible. Rev. J. B. Harrison, the agent of the trustees, after visiting forty-six of the shore towns and cities of the State, says:

It is about as certain as anything in the future can be that all the pleasant and comfortable sites along the seashore of Massachusetts will be taken up within the next few years either by summer dwellers or permanent residents. The movement toward the shore has only fairly begun, and it is certain to increase with the density of the population of our country and the growth of wealth. Even now along vast reaches

N.Y. Eve. Post.

We spoke, while they were in course of publication in *Garden and Forest*, of Mr. J. B. Harrison's remarkable series of letters from the Massachusetts shore, revealing the extent to which the people of that State had forfeited access to the sea and parted with their public commons. The whole correspondence is now reprinted in connection with the first annual report of the new Massachusetts Trustees of Public Reservations, of whom Mr. Charles Eliot, No. 20 State Street, Boston, is the secretary. The pamphlet ought to have the widest possible distribution in every State in the Union, for it points the way to an efficient combination of legislative action with public spirit for the purposes in view. The Corporation has been authorized to hold as trustees and to maintain for the public benefit "beautiful and historical places and tracts of land" within the State, to the extent of a million dollars; and these reservations will be exempt from taxation. Already one gift has been made and a fund for maintenance partly raised. The donor was a woman, and women have been significant contributors to the expenses of the Trustees thus far. Gifts of landscape in memoriam are also contemplated. An appendix contains the text of Massachusetts statutes pertinent to the subject.

N.Y. Eve. Post.
Wed. Apr. 24

DOMESTIC TOPICS.

The Alpine Club of Portland, Ore., want the Government to reserve Mt. Hood for a public park. The lands included in the plan are so mountainous that they will never be needed for settlement. It is true the sides of this fine mountain are heavily timbered, and therefore extremely valuable to speculators, but it is mainly because of the existence of the forests that the demand for reserving the land has arisen. Mr. S. F. Blythe of Hood River says on the subject: "The people of this valley are very much interested, or should be interested, in having the lands surrounding Mount Hood reserved from sale by Government. We have a noble river flowing through the valley, which rises in the heavily timbered country surrounding the mountain. This river is capable of supplying water for irrigating purposes to the whole valley, say fifteen miles long by about five miles in width. We have a climate here unexcelled for health, and the fruits of Hood River Valley are of superior quality. All of these conditions might be changed if the lands at the head of the valley and surrounding Mount Hood are allowed to be denuded of their forests." Special Agents Savery and Loomis have inspected the lands that have been mapped out by the Alpine Club for a public park, and are prepared to make a favorable report to the Government.

May 4, 1902

Proprietors' Meeting.

At a meeting of the proprietors of the common and undivided lands, held Saturday, the returns of lot layers, sitting on a piece of land near Tom Nevers pond were accepted. Petitions of Robert B. Coffin for land at Low Beach; of John Harps for land west of post office, Sacoconset; and of Charles E. Snow for the discontinuance of a road leading to Maxey's pond, were granted. The office of assistant clerk was discontinued, and the board of lot layers reorganized, Messrs. Charles C. Chadwick, Robert B. Coffin, Albert Easton and Jesse B. Snow being elected.

An interesting report has been issued by the Trustees of Public Reservations in Massachusetts, which is empowered "to acquire, hold, and maintain for public use and enjoyment beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth." The first gift made to the trustees was the "Virginia wood" in the Middlesex Falls, "a diversified tract of woodland divided by a hollow containing a brook, and possessing many fine specimens of hemlock, pines, and oaks." The donor was Mrs. Fanny H. Tudor of Stoneham. A fund has already been raised for the improvement of this tract. The trustees are in receipt of many communications recommending the acquisition of lands and buildings either attractive because of romantic beauty or traditional association. Among these are: "The banks of Charles River at Newton Upper Falls, the Falls of Beaver Brook in Belmont, the top of Shooting Hill in Barnstable, the Purgatory in Sutton, the Glen at Whately, the Natural Bridge near North Adams, the ravine of the Bash Bish in Mount Washington, the rock of Norman's Woe, near Gloucester, Heartbreak Hill in Ipswich, the Indian Cave in Medfield, the Cradock House in Medford, the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, the 'Captain's Well' in Amesbury, and the well of 'The Old Oaken Bucket' in Scituate." The trustees explain that they stand ready to take charge of any of the places named, but have not the funds wherewith to purchase them. They express the belief that as soon as their functions and responsibility are understood public-spirited citizens will aid by money and donations of land the work which has been undertaken for the recreation of the people of the State.

Scrapbook page 74

A COMMITTEE VISITS THE CAPE.
 The citizens of Provincetown have asked for an appropriation of \$25,000 for building roads, etc., on land claimed by the state on the Cape, and Senator B. Marvin Fernald's legislative committee on public reservations have been down there to examine the Province lands.
 The land about Provincetown was looked over by the Solons, who considered the position of trustees of public reservations for "prompt action to protect Provincetown, and to preserve for the use and enjoyment of the people of the commonwealth their only great ocean-side domain."
 The committee consists of Senators Fernald and Kimball and Representatives Houghton, Bennett, Leonard, McLean, Nicholas, Driscoll and Hoyt. They were accompanied by Representatives Jenkins of Wellfleet, Philip A. Chase of Lynn, chairman of the standing committee of trustees of public reservations, and Shebanah Rich of Salem, the historian of Truro.
 The weather was delightful, and the committee was impressed with the beauties of the old sea town. Their report is not yet in, and Cape people anxiously await their decision.

Nantucket Freeman

N. I. A. May 7, 92
 The directors of the Nantucket Improvement Association met in the Selectmen's room Wednesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock. Minutes of last meeting read and accepted. It was voted to have another chrysanthemum show next autumn, and the same committee as served last year was appointed, with power to fill vacancies, and to add to their number. The matter of premiums was referred to the committee.

It was voted to adopt the preamble and resolutions offered by the president, appealing to our State delegation to Congress to protect the Nation's interest in Yellowstone Park against encroachments by bills in Congress favorably reported by both Senate and House committees, and the secretary was instructed to send copies to congressmen.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Bassett Jones, of New York, for a choice lot (about one hundred) of evergreen trees, was passed. Among the collection were Austrian, Scotch and Mountain pines. These have been planted on the southern and eastern borders of Milhill Park.

The secretary was instructed to confer with Mr. H. B. Worth with reference to securing Monomoy Bug Light property, now disused by Government, as an addition to Sturgis Park.

efficient landscape gardner or engineer, and who should have general supervision, the committee to direct and make plans. Thought \$25,000 ought to be granted by legislature and that \$10,000 might be used the first year. He made several humorous hits, causing much laughter and applause, and if the thing is brought to a successful head, Mr. Felt deserves nearly all the credit to be bestowed.

Mr. Chase suggested, perhaps one commission would suffice, but Mr. Felt stated that the legislature might feel better disposed to grant the \$25,000, if the Trustees of Public Reservations had direct interest and control of workings and expenditures.

Mr. John D. Hilliard as the last speaker of the evening, spoke of slurs conferred upon our town by Thorvan in his work on Cape Cod, and then taking up the subject of reservation, expressed himself as favorable to the project which he believed if carried, would prove of incalculable benefit to all concerned. The audience then by a rising vote, expressed their gratitude to the visiting delegation for their evident interest, and the meeting was dissolved.

COLLISION IN BOSTON HARBOR.

Shortly past 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, a serious smash occurred off T wharf. The new fishing sch., Marshall L. Adams, was coming into the harbor. She was running pretty fast, when she ran into the steamer New Brunswick, her bowsprit entering the paddle-box and crushing it for nine or ten feet. Considerable damage was done to the paddle and to the steamer generally. The bowsprit of the Adams was both loosened at the figurehead and splintered to pieces at the end. The damage to the New Brunswick, which was to have sailed Thursday for St. John, N. B., cannot be less than \$500 or \$600, and the damage to the fisherman \$100. This is the first trip the latter has made.

BEACH FIRE.

As two of our citizens were riding over the Beach Point road Sunday afternoon last, they saw smoke rising ahead, and as they went farther on towards High Head they found a bad fire raging among the grass and brush. Two men and a wee small boy were battling heroically to subdue the flames, but the fire proving too much for them they asked the travellers to call help from the Pond. This was done, and for three hours upwards of 30 men with horses and ploughs labored to save the pine forest from annihilation. A fierce wind blowing, sped the flames onward with marvellous rapidity and it was by the most exhausting labor only that the fire was at last got under control. Time after time deep furrows were ploughed far in advance of the approaching flames, in hopes to check their forward movement, but when the barrier was reached it appeared to have no effect in retarding the progress of the flames, which leaped over and began licking up the dry growth beyond. Some two acres of pine woods were burned, but the main body happily escaped injury, though at one time it seemed as if the whole vast track must go.

Mr. Perez B. Rich vacated his late residence Thursday, and his belongings were conveyed to the cars for transportation to Brockton, where he will in the future reside.

Rev. A. A. Kidder, the pastor of the Centenary M. E. church during the

It was remarked recently to the writer by a gentleman who has upon different occasions acted on several government commissions, and has through his duties in connection with these positions become acquainted with the methods of Congressional legislation, that many measures become laws that ought not to pass, simply because there are no protests on the part of the public. These measures are plausibly and forcibly presented by those who are interested in their enactment, and no one appears to represent the public interests. "One would think," says an editorial in *Garden and Forest*, April 20, 1892, "the Congressmen of the country, whose duty it is to look after the affairs of the nation, would give studious attention to the great reservations of public land which belong to the people they represent. But these men are engrossed with other matters immediately of more pressing interest to the general welfare and to their constituents, so that the parks and public lands receive but a small fraction of their attention." But there are small groups of men who are sleepless in their attention to these lands from an interest born not of public spirit, but of selfishness. These men will not cease to seek their ends by every expedient known to experienced lobbyists. "It is important," says *Garden and Forest*, April 27, 1892, "that the people of the country should realize the need of constant watchfulness if these reservations are to be saved. Attacks upon them, open and insidious, may be expected at any time. These attacks will increase in force and ingenuity as time goes on. The men who organize these attacks know just what they want and the most promising schemes for obtaining their ends. The individuals, throughout the nation, who take active interest in them, on the other hand, are few and scattered, and the reservations will never be permanently safe until their value is generally recognized throughout the country. No one will dare attack them when an affectionate regard for them has become a universal sentiment." It is very appropriate that associations like this one should make these national reservations a matter of special interest and watchfulness. Hence the propriety of the action taken by the directors of the Nantucket Improvement Association at the meeting last Wednesday afternoon, when appropriate resolutions were adopted, to be forwarded to Congressmen, asking their aid in protecting the public land reservations.

for preservation of our own people

Call to First Annual Meeting.



FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The Standing Committee hereby gives notice that the Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be held in accordance with the by-laws, on Wednesday, January 27th. 1892 at 2.30 P.M. in the office of Mr T. S. Ames, Ames Building Boston.

In accordance with Article I of the by-laws the Committee herewith nominates the following gentlemen to membership in the Corporation:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| G. S. Raabemann. Milton. | Franklin Carter. Winstown. |
| Geo. C. Mann. Jan. Plain. | Henry M. Severing. Danvers. |
| Dwight Williams. Billerica. | H. S. Parker. Worcester. |
| Wm. C. Everett Jr. Salem. | J. Edward Greene. Worcester. |
| John Simpson. Yarmouth. | Geo. B. Chase. N. Andover. |

In accordance with Article VIII of the by-laws the Committee proposes the changes in the by-laws which are indicated in the papers attached to this notice.

Charles Eliot.
Secretary.

For the Standing Committee.

Sent to proposed new
members.



FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL
AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

50 State St. Boston
6 Jan. '92

My dear Sir:

When this Board was incorporated
only one name from each County of the State
was inserted in the Act of incorporation.

At the coming first annual meeting of
the Board the Standing Committee will propose
an increase of membership, and I am instructed
to ask whether the Committee may have the
privilege of proposing your name as one of the
new members.

Hoping for a favorable reply, I am

Yours very truly:

Charles Eliot,
Secretary.

For the Standing Committee,

Call to adjourned Annual Meeting.



FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The Standing Committee beg to remind you that annual meeting of the corporation held on January after accomplishing most of its business was adjourned again on the 26th of February, at 2 o'clock in the office of Mr. D. S. Ames, Ames Building. You are respectfully requested to attend.

As mentioned in Article I of the by-laws the committee herewith reminds the following gentlemen of their membership in the corporation:

- ✓ W. R. Robson. ^{212 Beacon} Dorset.
- ✓ E. B. Pickett. Westfield.
- ✓ S. Bowles. Springfield.
- ✓ W. Whiting. Holyoke.
- ✓ J. S. Trimmell. Ipswich.
- ✓ J. D. W. French. Andover.
- ✓ C. H. Dallas. Boston.
- ✓ Aug. Menanney. Cambridge.
- ✓ N. J. Kiddle. Melrose.
- ✓ John Robinson. Salem.
- ✓ T. H. Appleton. Lynn.

For the Standing Committee. Charles Eliot. Secretary.

Sent to new members elected at annual meeting



FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL
AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

50 State St. Boston!
23 Feb. '92.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that at the annual meeting of the Trustees of Public Reservations held on January 27th. 1892. you were duly elected a member of the corporation.

Your attention is called to the accompanying notice and by-laws.

Yours very truly:
Charles Chitt.
Secretary.

Sent to new members elected at adjourned
annual meeting.



FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL
AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

50 State St. Boston.
29 Feb. 1892.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that at the
annual meeting of the Trustees of Public Reservations
held on February 26th. 1892. you were duly
elected a member of the corporation.

Your attention is called to the accompanying
by-laws.

Yours very truly:

Charles Eliot. Sec.



FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL
AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

50 State St. Boston.

15 March '92.

My dear Sir:

You are respectfully requested to assist the
existing committee by inducing some young friends or
other person to raise a little money with which to carry
on the work of information and agitation which your
committee began last year. Almost all lovers of
 scenery and history readily sign the accompanying
 subscription blank when they are told of the work
 which the T. Board is doing and contemplates doing.
 All the historical, improvement and natural history
 societies of your neighborhood ought to be acquainted
 with our aims. I will send the report to all
 addresses you may furnish me.

Yours very truly:

Charles Chot. Secretary.

Manuscript No. 30.92

ELIZUR WRIGHT'S "PROSPECTS."

HIS NOBLE WORK FOR THE MIDDLESEX FELLA.

The heaven which in all generous and far-seeing minds works for the preservation of forests seems of late to be showing signs of vitality. Besides the larger move for the salvation of "views," or a part of it, is the move for a metropolitan park system, a move which in the nature of things means the securing of the Middlesex Fells. Sylvester Baxter, Robert Treat Paine and other disinterested advocates through the press have shown this, and if more such stirring matter as theirs can be applied to the heaven, the hopeful anxiety with which the friends of the much needed People's Forest Park are now watching, may be changed to something more helpful.

Believing this, I purpose to publish my father's (Elizur Wright's) appeals for the Fells and forestry and to briefly trace in my preface the course of his effort and its result, and my hope in my little volume is that it may obtain for his plan of salvation the larger help it lacked and which alone was needed for its consummation, and thus save both time and labor. I will quote it below in brief, and I think those who will give it farther thought will find that it not only applies to park making, where the woods is a part of the attraction anywhere in Massachusetts, but that it studied thoroughly all the practical necessities of the situation; it was at any rate the outgrowth of its author's five or six years of practical experience and of practical hard work in its behalf, not to mention the knowledge given it by a life of just such thinking and working for other good causes.

And if I cannot achieve this my hope is that the grave practical and scientific reasons it urges why the Fells and the whole of it should be secured and held under some disinterested and permanent single control, may make it easier for whatever plan is preferred to so secure and hold it, I mean that its profits shall in any case be devoted to the cause of the forest; and if father's plan is adopted, or if a new plan, or park system embraces its aims and its further under such regulations for the preservation, care and cultivation of the forests as he advocated, it shall be given in its interest, and I will gladly contribute also my share of my father's Pine Hill woods.

It is a portion of the woods my brother, W. C. Wright, has under similar conditions already promised, and is about thirteen acres, and takes in most of the picturesque little mountain itself.

The forest law of 1832, which was a part of my father's plan and passed in its behalf, grants that lands upon vote of the municipalities in which they are situated, may in the interest of forest preservation be purchased or taken by right of eminent domain. The State upon such action accepts the lands as public domain; her Board of Agriculture taking charge of it as a Board of Forestry, acting without pay and appointing keepers. In order that the Fells might not miss the benefits of this law by any adverse vote of the municipalities on the score of debt or extra taxation, the plan further was to extinguish private titles by subscription, and to encourage that subscription the payment of any portion of it was made conditional upon the concurrent favorable vote, thus, if the money pledged was a fair contribution, an appropriation by vote, which the law sanctions, might justly be looked for for the balance.

This plan, as my book will show, had the support or indorsement of many acknowledged to be among our first-thinking, practical men, and the approval I might almost say of all, indeed, if that portion of the public alone specially plumbing themselves on the excess of their own practical sense over sentiment had been a tenth part as generous of their practical help as they were of sentiment and approval, the Fells need not have been today still a pleader. If there is impracticability anywhere it is in what every enterprise—more largely for the people than for persons; for the future than for the present—must encounter: the difficulty of moving this practical sense one jot out of the rut of its own practical self interest. I pray the park movers may have better luck or a larger money influence in overcoming it, and hoping to add them I give here the results, as far as money goes, of my father's effort to do so. They were achieved without the usual and perhaps indispensable organized beginning, or they might have been larger.

Measured by his own labor they are not encouraging, but taking into account that there was more education to be done then than now, they are more hopeful and should do something to stimulate the needed help. To my father's plan there was given, in written pledges and in promises as reliable, about \$30,000. Five thousand dollars of this was the generous subscription of Elisha S. Converse of Malden, and \$6000 was my father's own pledge in the assessed value of woods rescued by him from the axe for the purpose. The remaining \$20,000, rather more than a quarter of which was by word of mouth, may, I think, with a small but earnest exception, be fairly called the result of his own personal labor or influence. By this showing, then, the assessed value of the Fells being at that time about \$300,000, it needed for complete success only that thirty others should have given as generously as did Mr. Converse and Mr. Wright, or that about twice the number should have worked about half as hard as did the latter.

What he needed, and what nature designs for the Fells, is a people's forest. A grove more or less to protect its waters or clothe its most at tractive views is far better than nothing, but it cannot do the work of a forest nor can it give the pleasure of one. Boston is a large and growing city, and not an acre of oxygen-breathing leafage in all that great waste and wasted four thousand can she spare. Her millions of people for pure air and for pure pleasure need more rather than less. The Blue Hills and every green one for thirty miles round would not be too much. There is faith of late, or hope, that such woods as have been taken in the Fells will make it easier to secure all, and if action can be had quick enough it may; but if not, like the good rule of the adage, it will work as well the other way. The right of eminent domain will not only have to contend with such obstructions of time as the proposed railroad through or near the eastern Fells, and the struggling little settlement about Malden Heights, but with the pretty "holdings" themselves. The promise of their future use and beauty will soon make homes about them more desirable and attractive.

Mr. R. W. S. Cleveland's terse and strongly effective article entitled, "The danger of delay in acquiring land for public use," Garden and Forest, March 16, tells us how in 1856 or 1857 he invited gentlemen to visit with him the "magnificent woods, picturesque hills and beautiful lake of the Middlesex Fells." "It was all wild," he says, "and could then have been had comparatively for a song." This was still true of it when in 1864 my father began his effort, and he urged it and the dangers of delay constantly; and even now, with the mischief a further delay will do, it is still comparatively true. Mr. Cleveland goes on: "I pleaded with all the argument I could command that it should be secured for the future use of the city and kept in its wild condition till wanted. The gentlemen who accompanied me were impressed with the beauty of the place, and to some of them it was a revelation that such a tract existed so near the city; but George S. Hillard, who was one of the party, doubtless expressed the sentiment of all, when he said, 'You might as well try to persuade the Common Council to buy land in the moon.'"

Mr. Hillard spoke the truth, and for his words to be anything else than the truth it needed that there should stand among those hills, where Mr. Cleveland stood, a man not only far-seeing and foreseeing enough to conceive what Mr. Cleveland did, but one with the determination and hardihood—spts of difficulty and the close pressure of other business—to act upon his conception. Such a man was Elizur Wright, and it was not that he was ignorant of the lunatic hopelessness of his attempt. To use his own words, in defending as sane John Brown's efforts at Harper's Ferry, "Quite possibly, in his thorough grasp of the situation, he took in view all the adverse chances, and looked beyond the immediate failure, determined that it should not be his fault." But broadly viewed there was no failure—immediate or ultimate—his work paved the way for the work of today and for its success. That fire now spreading, called popular favor, which his patient faith had blown from tiny spark to flames, and ever kept alive, did not die with the ceasing of his breath. It waned and waited for other breaths as strong, and now that they have come, the action must not lag.

Robert Treat Paine—Herald, Aug. 20, 1890, in urging what is grand and will be broadly beneficial, "the preserving of our views and natural points of vantage"—1895,

"I firmly believe that when the public realizes the importance of prompt and vigorous action, it will act as long and before the Middlesex Fells, with its Spruce Knob State, will be dedicated to the free enjoyment of all the people forever." There are seven words of this sentence—the importance of prompt and vigorous action—that I would like to illuminate with as many strong electric lights; or better, I wish the fire of a good purple glow in the author's breast would enlighten every other, and that before the chance to save the Fells is wholly lost, men can fight for their rights, and where their money or property interest is at stake they are pretty sure to do it. Forests can only plead, but so vitally is their cause our own, that should a short-ighted, and, if I may say so, a long-eared zeal for private enterprise alone continue many decades longer the present abusive war against them, there will come a time of retributive justice.

Nature for her own will exact by pains and penalties a thousandfold the money and labor refused her now.

If every city could have its People's Forest, I think, for one good thing, there would be less consumption, and, in time, there might be none.

I don't know what statistics may have to say, or whether a complication of causes allows of any that are reliable, but there are suggestive facts which certainly prove the efficacy of forests upon diseased lungs, especially of pine forests, such as Massachusetts may have by cultivating her Fells and her Blue Hills. And sure it is that a forest—a great free pine forest—where all the children may run and jump, ramble and shout, breathe pure air and expand their lungs, is the glorious source of preventive, worth all the pounds, and compounds as well, of cure. It seems shameful to urge it when suffering and death have as yet made vain appeal, but I judge the doctor's bill for consumption in Boston alone must in a very few years equal the whole cost of the Fells and Blue Hills; and if the apothecary's bills are added I know and if the people will, they will be glad to pay for their own forest. Then how much pleaster a pine forest is to take than pine compound—the Blue Hills than blue pills.

I hope the view idea—for it means preservation of forests—will come soon and strong to the rescue. Men pay thousands for little paintings that are by big artists; and, not to dwell longer on more serious reasons for beauty alone, the originals by nature herself, the sources of all art, are worth the thousands a thousand times over.

With no mountain too sublime to be marred by the cutting off of miles of forests; no river too grand for the pollution and debris of factories; no Fairy Dell or mountain cascade too pure or sacred to be put to shame and debased by long-lettered advertisements and the noise and clutter of trade, our natural National Picture Gallery competes but ill with the foreign ones.

I lunched a few years ago at the foot of Mt. Tom under the most wonderful oak in any country was ever blessed with. Its symmetry was perfect, and so far-reaching its lower branches, that an army might almost have found shade beneath them. That grand oak, with all its mountain brotherhood of forest, it now is more. Again, there is in the very heart of Syracuse, where, set in its own autumnal gold, it might shine and sparkle—the city's most choice gem, a wild little toss and tumble of a stream. The city, far from prizing it, seems both literally and metaphorically to have turned its back upon it, for it is mostly the rear window of dwellings that overlook it, and it seems to be used as a sort of cesspool for whatever refuse and rubbish these windows or the city carts of dwellings that overlook it, and it nature to her own, and yet, when her kind is nature to her abused, that much of the unsightly litter is concealed by her rich and springing growth.

ELLEN WADE.

Harvard June 3.

Provincetown
June 20.

Harvard June 20

THE METROPOLITAN PARK COMMISSION.

The Legislature has done a good thing in passing the bill for the appointment of a commission to inquire into the needs of the territory around Boston in the way of open spaces for public recreation, and report to the next General Court upon the subject. This act is an outgrowth of the movement set on foot last autumn by that admirable body, the trustees of public reservations, which has already justified its organization in many excellent ways. The meeting of the park commissioners of the metropolitan district, and of others interested, held last autumn, showed a strong public sentiment in favor of action in the direction toward which the present legislation looks.

With all that has been done in the way of public parks by Boston, and to a certain extent, by other cities and towns of the metropolitan district, notably Lynn, it is evident that the necessities of the Boston of the future will be very inadequately provided for, unless various important points of interest in the neighborhood of the city are secured before it is too late. Large open spaces for public recreation grounds are recognized as a necessity of city life. This is shown by the fact that well equipped as London has been in the way of public parks, in comparison with our own cities, the park area of the British metropolis has been doubled in three years since the organization of the new form of municipal government, the London county council. The same tendency toward a liberal provision for parks is manifest in nearly all leading cities of the world. New York, for instance, has recently made extensive additions to its park system, and has even gone beyond its present limits into the Westchester county town of Palham for the purpose.

The existence of so many minor cities and towns in a large portion of the metropolitan district renders it hardly possible to meet the necessities of the greater Boston in the way of open spaces except under some form of central authority. It is to be hoped that this measure will lead to the preservation of such beautiful regions as the Blue Hills and the Middlesex Fells, together with all possible portions of the seashore and the river margins in the metropolitan district. It is important that the members of the commission—whose positions will be honorary—should be selected with exceptional care. For such a task men are needed with good taste and sound judgment, broad views of the future and willingness to give their time to a by no means easy, though extremely interesting, investigation.

PARK SITES FOR LYNN AND NAHANT.

A Plan for Taking a Strip of Shore Around the Latter Promontory.

The Lynn Park Commissioners are seriously considering a project to secure for the public a place where they can enjoy the advantages of the seashore. It is proposed to include the shores of Lynn and Nahant in this scheme. At the foot of Nahant street lies the only unoccupied piece of upland bordering the seashore in Lynn. When the electric cars were run from Lynn to Nahant beach, at the spot where the large seaside hotel stands, the Nahant people built an extension of the Nahant road to Nahant street in Lynn. In order to secure a safer and better route for driving to Lynn and Swampscott. Between this road and the beach there lies a strip of land about 700 feet long and 200 feet wide, containing something like 3 1/2 acres. The park commissioners propose to take this land, which is now owned by two men, and dedicate it to public use. This place commands one of the most exquisitely beautiful and varied reaches of coast scenery in New England, from the promontories of Nahant, around to Swampscott and Marblehead, with the Cape Ann shore in the distance and the rugged jags of Egg rock in the midst of Nahant bay—the coast making a deep and beautiful curve from Nahant around to Phillip's Point, in Swampscott.

This proposed plaza adjoins the Nahant line, to which runs the public lands of the town of Nahant, for the town owns the entire territory comprised in the two necks of land from Great Nahant to Little Nahant, and thence to the mainland, including the site of the seaside hotel above mentioned.

The town of Nahant is considering a project for the most important seaside public improvement on the Massachusetts coast. This includes not only the laying out of the two beaches, or necks, between the open ocean on one side and Lynn harbor on the other, as a grand boulevard between the peninsula and Lynn, but also to take the entire shore entirely around the peninsula, including a strip of land sufficiently wide to enable the laying out of a grand seaside drive.

An important purchase has recently been made by Philip A. Chase, the chairman of the park commission, with the view of transferring it to his department. This Lynnfield road, which forms the main approach from the city to the Glen Lewis entrance of the Lynn woods, runs very near the westerly side of Lake Wreona. Mr. Chase's purchase comprises the narrow strip between the highway and the pond, including a fine grove of old pines. Another purchase is that of a tract of land which affords an entrance to Lynn woods directly from Lynnfield street, a short way to the southward of St. Mary's Cemetery.

A few steps and one dead horse in the midst of the wild woodland. A footpath is now under construction by a beautiful route from this point across country to Dungeon rock. From Dungeon rock a new path has been constructed under the cliff of the rock on the southern side of Glen Lacey and Tomlin's swamp; thence between the swamp and Hemlock ridge to the foot of Mount Gilboa, and thence to Penny-brook Glen and Walden Pond.

From Walden Pond pedestrians going by this path may follow the road to the Glen Lewis dam, crossing which they may walk through that portion of the woods known as Ox pasture, under the cliffs of Bow bridge to the Newburyport turnpike in Lynnfield. For one entering the woods at Lynnfield across this would make a continuous walk of five miles through the forest for nearly all the way.

The water board has under consideration the purchase of the Ox pasture as a protection to the water of Walden Pond, of which it forms the northerly watershed. It contains 250 acres of wild and rocky woodland.

CAPE COD'S SHIFTING SANDS.

One Step Taken Toward the Rescue of the Province Lands.

Among the bills of minor importance passed during the last moments of the Legislature of 1892 was one of considerable interest affecting the province lands on the cape. It marks what may be the first step toward reclaiming this realm from the encroachments of the sea and the drifting sands. That Provincetown is in imminent danger from this source has long been known to its inhabitants, and the fact has frequently been brought to the attention of the General Court, but all efforts to enlist the aid of the state in warding off the danger have hitherto proved abortive. While the commonwealth has from time to time asserted its rights of ownership in the land upon which Provincetown stands, together with the woodland and sandy beaches adjoining the settlement at the tip of the cape, it has continued to allow the settlers there to enjoy possession of their homes and to buy and sell land just as if it belonged to them by title clear and undisturbed. A strange difference of opinion has grown out of this easy-going and apparently amicable arrangement. The town has said to the state:

"Here are your province lands in danger. Come and save them."

"And the state has replied to the town: 'You have more interest in the province lands than I have. Save yourself.'"

Meanwhile the shifting sands has regarded neither the claims of the town, nor the disclaimers of the state, but is steadily swallowing an acre or more of the unimproved forest land, as if weeds grew many-voiced. There are now trees twenty feet high, and more, quite buried in the sand, except for a few sprouts from the highest branches, by which the plants are struggling to raise their lungs above the suffocating material. So far as now can be foreseen, the advancing sand will in time, if left alone, cover the whole of the woodland, and, having overcome this bulwark of safety to the town, destroy the settlement and the harbor.

The act of Legislature just passed has authorized the trustees of public reservations to look into this matter. For this power is inherently vested in these trustees, who are a creation of the Legislature of 1891. They are empowered to engage in historical research, rather than anything else, or, if they can get the funds, to see that places of historical value are preserved from the vandals of time and modern progress. Now, however, they are authorized to make maps and plans of the lands belonging to the commonwealth at Provincetown, not occupied by buildings, to collect such information with regard to them as may be deemed expedient, and to report the results of their labor to the next General Court. They are also given some latitude in the matter of expenses, being allowed to employ assistants and make other expenditures according to the determination of the Governor and council.

The aim of this investigation is understood to be the salvation of the province lands from the encroaching sand, and the act has sown a seed of hope in the souls of those persons who would like to see this salvation wrought out.

It is said that the Nationalists have had a hand in the framing of the measure. They think that the province lands should be improved and made into a park for the free and common use and enjoyment of the citizens of the state.

It will be noticed that in the language of the act the General Court again declares, as it has declared many times before in the last century or two, that the lands at Provincetown "belong to the commonwealth."

Thomas Smyth
presumably



Harold June 22 1892

Harold June 19

PARK ON "PACK MONADNOCK"

New Hampshire State Park to Be Dedicated Today.

Five Acres of Mountain Top Deeded Forever for Public Good—Will Be Named for Gen. Miller, Hero of Lundy's Lane—Description of the Park and Sketch of the Hero.

(SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE BOSTON HERALD)

PETERBORO, N. H., June 21, 1892. Tomorrow will be a notable day for southern New Hampshire, for it will see the dedication of the first state park in the Granite state. It will bring together many thousand people, who will avail themselves of the holiday thus given to come back to old and cherished scenes; it will bring back the history past by the naming of the park for Gen. James Miller, a native of this town, whose birthplace and homestead are within easy reach from the summit of Pack mountain of Pack Monadnock, and it will see a large congregation of eminent public men paying tribute to nature in a most beautiful spot. The first step will be taken in a movement which will not and should not stop here—the dedication "to the public good" of a mountain peak which shall memorialize the man for whom it was named, and also reserve for all time a unique and beautiful breathing spot and pleasure ground that shall belong to every one.

The park is 2385 feet high, rising abruptly from the surrounding plain. The Legislature of 1891 appropriated \$5000 to build a road to the summit, and this has been done in a way which gives a most excellent road, not so steep but what carriages may easily be driven to the summit, which is a natural platform of about five acres.

These five acres compose the park, and have been given by Messrs. Woodford, Jeffrey and Melindy of Temple, who deeded the same to Benjamin F. Cheney of Boston, a native of this town, to hold for "the public good."

The view is magnificent, and from the bowlder on the summit one can look into Essex County in this state.

Away to the east—a trifle north—the gilded dome that proclaims the modern Athens to the world shines like the guiding light it has ever been. From the north as sunset the pink glow on Mt. Washington's summit is reflected to the eye. Fifty villages can be counted. Mt. Ascutney in Vermont is plainly seen, and the whole Green mountain range to Mt. Sunstock is readily identified.

These views mean that when one looks toward Boston the golden beams from Beacon Hill are shining 64 miles and the pink glow from Mt. Washington is 110 miles away.

Gen. James Miller, for whom the park is named, was a native of this town and one of New Hampshire's bravest men. He was born here April 25, 1778, and was of Scotch-Irish parentage. His youth was spent at home, working on his father's farm. An opportunity offered, he studied at the district school, and later studied for Williams College. Subsequently he read law with James Wilson, Sr., a distinguished jurist of this town, and in 1808 was admitted to the Hillsboro county bar. He became commander of a troop of artillery attached to the 26th New Hampshire regiment of militia. His management of his charge won the approval of Gen. Pierce—afterward Gov. Pierce—and that officer selected for the young lawyer a commission in the 4th regiment, U. S. A. His title was then major, and he was at once transferred to Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, where he remained till 1811, when Gen. William Henry Harrison ordered him to report to him in Indiana.

In 1812 Col. Miller took his command and reported to Gen. Hull. On Aug. 8 he won a notable victory at Brownstown, and was the leader in the memorable engagement with Tecumseh.

It was Gen. Miller who planted the First United States Flag on King George's soil in Canada. He was sent home on parole, and this lost nearly a year of active service. In 1813 he was exchanged for Lord Darnley and returned to his old command at Sackett's Harbor.

It was on July 25 of the same year that Miller immortalized his name at the battle of Lundy's Lane. Upon that eminence the enemy had a battery which was the key to the situation. Gen. Brown saw Miller and his command approaching, and the commander asked his under officer if he "could storm and take that battery."

"I'll try, sir," was his short reply, but it was one which immortalized his name. By skilful management Miller's "try" became a success, and the battle was won.

Following this Col. Miller was rapidly promoted, finally being brevetted brigadier-general for courage and gallantry at Lundy's Lane and Fort Erie. Congress voted to him a gold medal, upon which was a representation of the charge at Lundy's Lane. In 1815 the general was appointed Gov. of the territory of Arkansas. The western climate did not agree with his health, and in 1823 he returned to his estate in Hillsboro county. The following year he was elected to Congress, but never took his seat, accepting the collectorship of the Salem and Beverly customs district in Massachusetts, holding it 24 years. He suffered a shock of paralysis in July, 1851, and died shortly after, aged 73 years.

His obituary spoke often of Gen. Miller in the "Scourge Letter."

This is the man to perpetuate whose name the citizens of this town and Temple have united forces

and secured this mountain, which is their monument to him.

Mr. Nabum A. Childs of Temple and Col. Charles Scott of this town have been the projectors of the plan. On behalf of Temple, Mr. Childs, James E. Barton, George F. Barker, Herbert O. Hadley and DeWitt C. Braddon were appointed at a citizens' meeting to do their share of the work, and this town selected Charles Scott, James E. Brennan, Frank G. Clarke, William Ames and Baldwin Osborn.

The state has accepted the road and also the town which will maintain it and share the expense, though the greater part of it is in Temple. Tomorrow will see a general suspension of business in this section. The dedication exercises will be informal and will consist of salutes from the summit by the Lafayette artillery of Lyndeboro. Every state will be saluted. Col. Charles Scott is president of the day and he will present the completed work to the state, and Gov. Tuttle will accept it. Hon. Charles H. Bonaparte of Wilson will deliver the oration of the day. Dinner will be served on the summit.

PUBLIC LANDS IN SHORE TOWNS.

As a preliminary to its work, the recently organized society called the Trustees of Public Reservations instituted an investigation into the number and character of the tracts of public land held by cities and towns, or by the commonwealth, throughout the state. This investigation was intrusted to Mr. J. B. Harrison, eminently qualified for the task by reason of previous experience in similar lines of work. Mr. Harrison, last summer, made a reconnaissance of the state for the purpose, and in his report he gives some important facts concerning his search for public holdings in the northern shore towns. It is lamentable how the vast tracts of lands once held in common have dwindled to a comparatively few small areas, such as a public square here and there and town landing places. Many of these old common lands would be priceless possessions if held by the public today, with the growing need for room for open-air recreation and for enjoyment of rural and seaside scenes. So long as the public had free access to the pleasant prospects of woodland and seashore, it made little difference with whom the title to the land rested; but, with the increasing tendency among the wealthy classes to occupy the best points of view, with their residences, the public yearly finds itself more and more restricted in its enjoyment.

Reminders of the old system of public holdings survive here and there in local names, as in Salisbury, for instance, where the public now has no place on the shore to which it can resort as a matter of right, but that the famous beach formerly belonged to the people in common is patent in the fact that the corporation now in possession, and deriving large revenues by leasing sites for summer cottages, which border the shore in an almost continuous village from the mouth of the Merrimack to the state line, is called "The Commoners of Salisbury." Although the town has taxed the corporation on this property for the past seventy-five years, it has recently taken measures to test the title. If the beach could in fact, as well as in name, belong again to the true Salisbury commoners, not only would the town gain an important source of revenue, but its people would acquire invaluable rights of enjoyment on the shore.

Newburyport has a fine system of public pleasure grounds, and the tendency is toward improvement in this respect. A project is on foot there to preserve "The Captain's Well," celebrated in Whittier's poem, as a memorial of the poet. Newburyport has only two small reservations, unenclosed, grazed by neighborhood cows after the manner of the old-time commons, and encumbered upon and reduced in area. Ancient Rowley, described as remaining the same as in earlier times, perhaps in greater degree than any other town in the commonwealth, has a few small commons, but no shore rights. Neither has Ipswich any public holding on the shore, with picturesque Essex, with no real seashore

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Doswell June 6 - 1892

A special meeting of the Trustees of Public Reservations will be held at the country seat of C.S. Sargent Esq. Brookline, on Wednesday June 15 from 4 to 7 P.M. Please reply to the undersigned by June 11th

Charles Eliot, Secy.
50 State St.

our order
standing committee.

but the banks of its river, makes a profitable use of its town farm, which is on the lower reaches of Essex river, by leasing small sites for summer cottages.

Gloucester, with its 25,000 inhabitants, is in a most deplorable situation, being without public holdings of any kind available for pleasure purposes, although it contains miles of some of the most beautiful coast in New England. Even band concerts have to be given on the sidewalk while the people stand in the street and listen! The Cape Ann shore is in great demand for summer residence, and every year the public is shut out more and more, even now having no right whatever to walk by the sea. Such restrictions cannot fail to have a demoralizing effect, depriving young people, especially, of natural recreations and the means of healthful exercise, and consequently driving them to seek vicious substitutes. As Gloucester will this year celebrate her 250th anniversary, and the people wish to establish an appropriate memorial of the event, Mr. Harrison urges the need of an open space of some kind, for public enjoyment, as the most suitable, and makes the timely suggestion: "If anybody born in Gloucester has gone away somewhere and got rich, I hope he will remember his native city now, and help her people establish a memorial park. There can be no doubt that the higher interests of the city have suffered loss and injury for the want of any place of public resort." Care should be taken that such a pleasure ground be on the shore, in the most suitable and pleasant place available.

It is, indeed, time that along the entire Massachusetts coast decisive steps should be taken to avert the coming of any such state of things as the following statement by Mr. Harrison gives us good reason for dreading: "Thus far my quest shows leagues and leagues of shore lands, all private holdings, a great population inland, hedged away from the beach, and all conditions pointing to a time, not remote, when nobody can walk by the ocean without the payment of a fee, as formerly we had to pay for a glimpse of Niagara."

OUR NORTHERN SUBURBAN PARK LANDS

The beauty of Boston's suburbs is almost proverbial. That aspect of it that attracts the visitor in search of the "objects of interest" is usually the architectural. What the architect has done, aided and abetted by the landscape gardener, is what the visitor sees, and the visitor's example is followed by many of our own people, who appear to be unaware of the natural beauty that lies at some distance beyond the artificial, but not so far removed as to be difficult of access. Beautiful as is the region beyond the advanced posts of architecture to the south and west of our city, it does not surpass in charm the country to the north and east of Boston where the architect has not gone. This northern belt of rural beauty is just beyond the thickly settled suburbs, and is in most refreshing contrast to the lack of architecture that characterizes their brick blocks, their Queen Anneism and their monotonous story-and-a-half wooden cottages. The northern and eastern suburbs, like Everett, Malden, Chelsea, Medford, Revere, Saugus, Wakefield and sections of Cambridge and Watertown, have grown rapidly of late years, and the problem has been how to house their population, and the carpenter has had more to say than the architect, and the speculator more than either. By consequence there are streets in some of these suburbs that appear to be lined with barracks, and one is almost surprised at not seeing soldiers lounging about; while others look like a toy village put together by a prematurely systematic child.

But beyond these trials of taste comes the region of rocky hills, of shady roads, of rural lanes, of old-fashioned farmhouses, of wallsweeps and old-time gardens. Let anyone who drives through Everett and Malden turn into the old Newburyport turnpike after he leaves those places and he will fancy himself up country at once. That once thronged highway is but little used now, and there are long stretches where the happily neglected trees arch it over and make a pleasant sombreness and grateful silence at noonday. Here, within quarter of an hour's drive of busy Malden, one may hear the lonely call of the forest bird, or catch a flashing glimpse of a red squirrel as it whisks from tree to tree. This road, which should not be confounded with the long dusty highway known as the Salem turnpike, will lead the traveller to the long chain of hills that beginning in Lynn sweep westward through Linden and Maplewood towards Middlesex Fells. Rocky as they are, they are clothed to their summit with woods, and are rough enough to please the taste sharpened by the monotony of city blocks and the precision of city parks. Skirting their base, the highway that leads towards the Fells is easily to be followed, and opens frequent vistas of wildness where the cheap suburban home has not as yet intruded its glaring paint and gimcrack architecture. Much of the Middlesex wildness has been fortunately saved by the early and sagacious efforts of Ellizur Wright and the filial loyalty of his heirs to his noble project. About 1400 of the 4000 acres are already secure. Moreover, the prompt generosity of one man, Mr. E. S. Converse of Malden, has preserved for his fellow-citizens a tract of rocky highlands just outside the Middlesex Fells proper, but still of it, which is at once a wilderness and a park. As many of the adjoining towns have preempted sections of the Fells to guard the sources of their water supply the safety of almost half of that delightful region from the spoiler is assured. Working away from the Fells towards civilization one finds in Melrose, Stoneham, Wakefield and the Readings a happy rusticity that is enchanting. Here is room for both nature and progress, for nature is so emphatic in its features that they will be ineffaceable even by modern improvement, and there is no danger that its beauties will be obliterated there as they have been in some of the most thriving of our northern suburbs.

If it is true, as some have maintained, that the present generation is so childlike that its intelligence can only be reached by means of pictures, Mr. J. B. Harrison, the forestry expert and advocate, has chosen a very wise and effective means of moulding public sentiment in the article on "The State and the Forest," which he has contributed to the July Cosmopolitan. The pictures (all from photographs), showing the way the Cape Cod woods are being turned into deserts—have been turned into deserts—are a most appealing account of a very serious matter. He who runs may get the whole story without troubling to read the text of the article. First, there is a picture representing "The Forest at Provincetown," where the Commonwealth owns four thousand acres of land—once woodland, now chiefly sand land. It is, to start with, a very respectable piece of woods. The next picture represents "the sand coming in." A great bank of sand, blown by the wind, is creeping into the woods as if it were a yellow monster reaching out one hungry lower jaw to devour everything before it. Many trees have been swallowed up. The next photograph shows "the sand gaining ground." There is a long, slanting stretch here of sand, out of which stunted bushes—once the tops of trees—project. The long lower jaw is lengthening and flattening and eating further and further into the woods. Next comes the photograph, "nearly in possession." Now we see nothing but miserable gauged little saplings; everywhere the white sand stretches away. Next comes "an outpost established." Here a hill of sand has risen far above all treestops and bush-tops. Next, the mountain of sand is advancing bodily and conquering over the woods. Then comes "the beginning of the desert," then, "nearly conquered," the desert stretches far away, with stray tufts and hummocks of grass and stunted bushes. And last of all, we have "Desolation."

It is indeed a scene of utter desolation which Mr. Harrison has photographed on the Cape. It should be made so familiar to these scoffing legislators who laugh at forest advocates as granks, that it would haunt them like a nightmare. In every direction—sand, sand, sand, stretching far away. There is a long line of footsteps loosing itself in the distance—evidently human tracks, though the drifting sand has filled them up so that whether they were men's or beast's cannot certainly be told now. But they are still so deep, in their vague uncertainty of form, that they tell a vivid story of the depth to which the poor struggling feet sank that made them. To the right, far off on a little lonely promontory of solid ground, there is a solitary human figure. The figure looks very lonesome, very helpless there, outlined against the brazen sky. It ought to be regarded as a representation of the modern American contemplating his own work. For these Cape deserts—the undoubted forerunners of deserts all along the Atlantic coast, to be where the pine forests are being swept away—are as distinctly the work of the civilized American as if he had with his engines and railways brought sand there and covered up all the solid ground.

THE PROVINCE LANDS.

The Legislature has acted wisely in taking the first steps looking toward a better administration of the province lands at Provincetown. One of the last measures to be passed was an act requesting the trustees of public reservation to have a survey made of the province lands, to collect such other information as they may deem expedient, and report to the next General Court a comprehensive plan for improving said lands. A most important task has thus been intrusted to that body, which might properly have the entire care of the province lands hereafter. The trustees of public reservations were incorporated for the purpose of preserving such beautiful and historic places as might be committed to their care, and it seems fitting that the largest area of land owned by the commonwealth should be given into the keeping of a body so eminently fitted for the responsibility. It is worthy of note that the initiative for this legislation did not come from the trustees, but from the people of Provincetown themselves, who feel the urgent need of decisive action for the protection of their own interests, as well as those of the state.

The province lands have hitherto been sadly neglected. These lands cover nearly the whole area of Provincetown, and are several thousand acres in extent. The people of the town have no title, even to the land occupied by their houses. But, while the commonwealth by special enactment has asserted its title, and expressly exempted the province lands from the provisions of the law which gives title to land after undisputed possession or occupancy for a term of years, its method, or lack of method, of administration, has substantially put a premium upon trespass, and encouraged the work of devastation, which, unless prevented, threatens ultimately to overwhelm the town, and ruin the magnificent and invaluable harbor. In Mr. J. B. Harrison's important article, "The State and the Forest," contributed to the July Cosmopolitan, a series of pictures reproduced from photographs tells with graphic eloquence the story of the awful march of the sand-dunes as they encroach upon and gradually overwhelm the forest.

Provincetown of the sand dunes, as it is known today, bears a wholly different aspect from that of the place when the Mayflower cast anchor in the harbor, and the Pilgrim fathers there first set foot upon the soil of the new world. A virgin forest then covered all the sand-hills, now so barren and glaring with the blankness of the desert. Strangers are still surprised at the luxuriance of the woods that yet cover something like 2000 acres of the territory with pitch pine, oak, maple and other trees, and a dense undergrowth. The now awful looking desert was started by man's agency. Trees were carelessly cut away, sod was removed, fire got in and burned every vestige of the soil over considerable expanses, and the bare sand that for centuries had been covered by nature with a mantle that represented her

patient toil for thousands of years was exposed. The fierce winds tore open the wounds thus inflicted, and the giant waves of the sea of sand, so long stationary, again began to move.

Experience elsewhere shows that the drifting sand can be checked and the forest growth restored. It would be well to study carefully the extensive work of this kind that has been carried out so successfully in France. The method that should be pursued, as described by Mr. Harrison, would be to erect temporary windbreaks a considerable distance along the shore, and in the shelter thus given cuttings and young trees suited to grow in such conditions could be planted. A narrow belt could thus be established which might be gradually advanced, with lateral spurs, etc., until the whole territory was reclaimed.

The province lands can be made of undoubted value as an experimental forestry station to determine the kinds of trees and methods of administration best suited to exposed situations on the coast. As the sand of the dunes is not a dry mass, but holds water like a sponge, and is always moist a few inches below the surface, it is not so difficult a matter to establish certain forms of tree growth as upon dry, though fertile land. It is possible that the territory can be made to yield a direct pecuniary return to the commonwealth through the leasing of sites for summer residences along the shore. There is no place on the coast where the air is purer or the temperature more agreeable than at the end of Cape Cod; it is but a short distance from Boston by steamer, and the main element now lacking to make the place attractive for summer dwellers is that of good roads. These, as has been demonstrated on Cape Cod, are easily and cheaply constructed upon a sand foundation. It is now a matter of hours where it might be of minutes to reach the life-saving stations from the village. Two or three lines of well built road through the woods would add immensely to the attractiveness of the place. The landscape has a peculiar and remarkable beauty with the noble forms of the low hills, the verdure of the woodland and the brilliant coloring of the flowers in the sea air, the little ponds nestling here and there in the hollows, and the intense blueness of the sky and the sea.

The study of these problems involved in the province lands will make an interesting and important task for the trustees of public reservations.

Leasing Sea Shore Lots.

People do not want to buy lots for homes for their families in the summer months without some previous knowledge. They want to explore a neighborhood, even, before locating there for a single season. The plan of leasing lots is peculiarly favorable for those who want to examine a neighborhood, and it is well adapted to the circumstances of the Province Lands.

Many people think that this property should all remain public property. If this should be so, the money paid for leases should be used for the improvement of the property or be a collection in the place of taxes. We look forward to the time when money derived from leases of seashore lots on the ocean side of Provincetown may be equal at least to the amount collected for Salisbury beach, and be placed at the disposal of trustees of public reservations for the maintenance of a portion of this estate to be forever consecrated to public uses.

The Province land is a peculiar portion of the earth. Thoreau pronounced it a desert, but this is far from a proper designation. Then the land adjoining for some few miles up the cape is of a precisely similar character. It is to be hoped that some plan will be devised for bringing to this territory the great numbers in the interior of New England and at the West, who want to reach the seaside in the heated term, and who will appreciate this territory at its full value. The system of leasing seems to be what is wanted, and we hope it will be fully tried.

THE PARK ITSELF.

Legislation—Action of the Towns—The View from the Peak—Incidental.

The idea of laying out a park on Pack Monadnock, and naming it in honor of the distinguished soldier whose brilliant career we have lately commemorated, originated with Col. Charles Scott, of Peterboro—a soldier who did gallant service for his country in the late war. Colonel Scott, as we are informed, mentioned his idea to many of his townsmen and to N. A. Child of Tple, and Mr. A. A. Spofford, of Jeffrey all of whom saw the educational problem involved, and also that such a memorial would in time attract people to a section of the state that is unrivaled in beauty. More than this; while it would serve an educational and patriotic purpose, it would—as they believed—and as the writer believes—serve the people in many other ways; that is to say, if this mountain park develops into a summer resort it will furnish a market for the tillers of the soil and the traders in the towns about the mountain will thereby discover a stimulus in their business, while society will be benefited in many ways by the summer advent of the refined and intelligent people of the cities. The matter was freely discussed and Colonel Scott, who had been chosen to represent his town in the legislature, agreed to introduce a resolution in the house for an appropriation to assist in building a mountain road.

Colonel Scott's Resolution.

Colonel Scott kept his word—as he always does—with his townsmen, and the following is a copy of the resolutions as they were finally passed:

Resolution by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Convened.

That the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3000) be, and the same is hereby appropriated to aid in the construction of a public mountain highway from a point near the summit, in the highway leading from the town of Temple, over the East mountain, so called, to Peterboro, and thence running in a northerly direction to the summit of Park Monadnock mountain, in the town of Peterboro; that the same be paid by the governor and council upon satisfactory proof that a sum sufficient, in addition to that hereby appropriated, to complete the road is provided by appropriation or otherwise on the part of the towns or citizens interested without further aid from the state; that the money hereby appropriated shall be expended under the direction of a state agent, to be appointed by the governor, with the advice of the council; provided that hereafter any money shall be expended under this appropriation the owners of land upon the summit of Pack Monadnock mountain, and persons interested, shall lay out and dedicate to the public use on said summit, free of expense to the state, a park of pleasure grounds of area satisfactory to the governor and council, the same to be kept for public use and known as the General James Miller park, in memory of General James Miller, March 12, 1891.

How the Resolution was Passed.

This resolution was referred to the proper committee and while it was being considered it was proposed to amend it by making the sum to be appropriated \$5000. The resolution, however, hung around and was opposed by some of the members of the house who put their opposition in the form of a query. "What is it worth?" The resolution was reported in the house where it failed of passage on a viva voce vote. There it was that Colonel Scott came to the rescue. He called for a poll of the house and proceeded to state the facts in the case in a vigorous and convincing speech that did him great credit. He explained that while the state

had expended money lavishly to improve the roads of the northern part of the state and thereby make them accessible to tourists and indirectly a source of income to the people, it had wholly ignored and neglected the same interests in the southern part of the state. Here was an opportunity for it to redeem itself and to bring public attention to as beautiful a region as may be discovered anywhere in the wide world. Not alone this it furnished the state an opportunity to perpetuate the name and fame of a patriot second to none to be found in all history. The colonel then outlined the career of the hero of Lundy's Lane in eloquent words, and urged his colleagues against going on record in opposition to the passage of the resolution. The speech did the business and when the roll was called hardly a representative responded in the negative. The resolution triumphantly passed the house; it passed the senate and was signed by Governor Tuttle.

The Park Laid Out.

The next move was to get the park laid out and decided to the state. Mr. Spofford, heretofore mentioned gave the land and E. M. Smith, Esq., surveyed and placed the bounds. The lot was deeded to Benjamin P. Cheney, of Boston, a noted New Hampshire man by birth, in trust for the state. It comprises a tract of about three acres and is in its natural state. It is 2289 feet above the level of the sea and the highest peak in Hillsboro county. It is six miles, almost due east, from Peterboro, between nine and ten miles from Greenville—the terminus of a branch of the Fitchburg railroad—five miles from Greenfield and 70 miles from Boston, from which city a traveler may depart at 3 p. m. and arrive at the mountain at 6:30 p. m., and returning leave the mountain at 7 o'clock, Peterboro at 8 o'clock and reach Boston at 11 o'clock. It is probable, however, that should the park become a favorite resort tourists would prefer to travel via Wilton, thus obtaining an 11 miles carriage ride through a country unsurpassed for the beauty of its rugged scenery in all New England. It is among the possibilities of the future that Peterboro may build another highway that will shorten the distance to that place to four miles, and also to four miles to Greenfield.

The View From the Park.

The view from the park is one of the finest imaginable. In fact it is unrivaled by any view that can be mentioned in the White Mountains. The tourist may peep into Boston harbor and gaze far out at sea. He may look into Lowell, Nashua, Milford and a score of other places. He may feast his vision upon old Monadnock Mountain in Cheshire county, which is 2186 feet above the level of the sea; he may note the beauty of hills in Mont Vernon and Goffstown, and, looking westward, the eye discovers the rugged outlines of the Berkshire hills, while between it, and at all points of the compass, may be seen green fields, forests, rivers, lakes, ponds and villages. In a word the view is unrivaled in its reach and beauty. A summer house, that will accommodate forty or fifty guests, has been built and another is in process of construction, so it may be truly said that the development that was outlined in Col. Scott's speech in the house has begun in earnest.

The Mountain Road.

But let us return to the highway. Acting in good faith with the state, steps were taken early last year to lay out and build its public road as recited in the resolution. June 22, 1891, a petition of which the following is a copy was presented to the officials of Peterboro and Temple:

To the Selectmen of the towns of Peterboro and Temple:

Your petitioners respectfully represent that for the accommodation of the public, there is occasion for a new highway in said towns, beginning at a stake marked O on the north side of the highway leading from Peterboro to Temple on the Stage road, so-called, in said Peterboro, about 12 rods from the highest point in said Stage road, thence southerly to a stake and stone marked on the summit of Pack Monadnock mountain, or Miller mountain, in said Peterboro, and passing through the said towns of Temple and Peterboro. Wherefore we request you to lay out a highway of suitable width on the route above described.

(Signed),
Charles Scott, Frank G. Clark, Thomas B. Tucker, John E. Miller, D. M. White, John Gates, F. G. Robbe, J. H. Stebbins, George W. Towle, A. E. Burgess, George W. Ames, Silas M. Smith, A. F. Grimes and John Scott, citizens of Peterboro.
Herbert O. Hadley, Charles B. Colburn, Marlon H. Fiske, B. M. Beald, C. D. Bragdon and James E. Burton, citizens of Temple.

Action of the Selectmen.

The selectmen of the two towns received the petition, and on the 29th of July a hearing was had at the place marked O, and the road laid out as suggested. It is four rods wide, and is built with a road-bed 16 feet wide. The length is about 1 1/3 miles, and the rise from the highway to the park is 810 feet. The selectmen who acted thus promptly were: Charles A. Jaquith, J. G. Morrill and B. M. Smith of Peterboro, and Lucius M. Felt, Charles W. Brown and George F. Barker of Temple, the last named officiating in place of Nahum A. Child, who was disqualified by reason of being a land owner.

State Agent and Contractor.

Col. Charles Scott was now appointed by the governor and council state agent to expend the amount of money named in the resolution.

Colonel Scott at once made a contract with A. A. Spofford of Jeffrey. It was estimated that the cost of construction would be considerably more than \$3000, but Mr. Spofford was anxious that the road should be built at once and so he contracted to do the same for \$2950, \$50 being reserved by the agent for the purpose of putting up rails, and gave a bond for the faithful performance of his contract. Mr. Barrett of Athol, Mass., superintended the work and it is understood that the cost was several hundred dollars more than the sum named. The work, however, was satisfactory in every particular and the road has been officially accepted by the governor and council and by the officials of the town.

To Be Dedicated June 22.

The park is to be formally opened to the public and dedicated on Wednesday, the 22d inst. The program for the occasion has not been completed, but it is expected that Gov. Hiram A. Tuttle and the council, together with the members of the governor's staff will be the guests of the two towns and there will be a large number of visitors and sightseers from near and far. A fine musical program will be given by two or three bands, Charles H. Burns of Wilton, one of the most accomplished speakers in New England, will deliver an oration, dinner will be served on the mountain, and with general rejoicing, congratulations and merrymaking, the event promises to be in full accord with the spirit that has animated those who have labored so assiduously to bring about this glad day for the people of southern New Hampshire.

Herald - June 27 - 92

Transcript - 20 June

THE HIGHWAY COMMISSION.

The appointment of a state highway commission by the Governor, in accordance with the law recently passed by the Legislature, marks an important step in the movement toward improvement of our roads. This movement furnishes one of the most gratifying signs of progress in our material civilization that has been shown in recent years. When the agitation was begun, a few years ago, there was such a general apathy on the subject that the prospect seemed discouraging. The work, however, is now making itself felt, not only here in Massachusetts, where the movement began, but in all parts of the country as well. Having acquired such a momentum, the movement appears destined to continue with accelerated force. There is little likelihood that the vantage ground gained will be lost and the discussion allowed to flag.

The public throughout the country is rapidly receiving enlightenment on the subject. Having been always used to the most abominable roads, the American people have, as a whole, been oblivious of the enormous waste of energy thus caused, and of the immense advantages to be derived from well constructed highways. Bad roads—rough, mucky, dusty, according to the season—have seemed to belong to the normal condition of things, and the idea of improving them has been as remote from the minds of the multitude as the idea of improving the climate itself. But the lesson is being rapidly learned. Fortunately, when a start is once made upon a reform in this country, the movement usually becomes surprisingly quick. The nature of our institutions makes the American people peculiarly receptive to the spread of enlightened methods, and responsive in taking action. A recent instance of this is the rapid spread of the ballot reform idea throughout the country after the adoption of the Australian ballot by Massachusetts. Therefore, it seems as if we might be on the eve of a universal movement which would result in the construction of good highways all over the country in a comparatively short space of time. For, let the practical benefits be once illustrated in a sufficient number of places in various parts of the country, the knowledge will be certain to spread until a network of good roads connects all parts.

Here in Massachusetts, our roads, as a whole, are superior to those elsewhere in the United States, and we possess some of the best built highways; still the average with us is low enough. Even around Boston, where the average is high, we have not a few atrocious roads, and one of the telling "awful examples" that illustrated Mr. Potter's admirable Century article was furnished by Blue Hill avenue, within the city limits. Still, the improvement hereabouts has been marked of late. One gratifying indication of this is to be seen in the increasing use of the steam roller. Three or four years ago such a thing as a steam roller was hardly known outside of Boston. The value of this important invention appears now to be generally recognized,

both as a labor saving device and as an instrument for making the smoothest road surface in a strikingly short space of time, and nearly every suburban town now seems to have one. In consequence there has been a most gratifying change for the better upon our suburban highways.

The appointment of the highway commission is the fruit of an agitation begun several years ago before the Legislature. Probably the successful outcome is due to the fact that the existence of so many good roads hereabouts has enabled the advantages to be perceived that might come from the general construction of their like throughout the state.

Like the Metropolitan park commission, the highway commission is one of inquiry, appointed to report to the next Legislature. The authorized scope of the investigation is very comprehensive, and the character of the commission appointed is such that a most valuable document may be expected. Mr. W. S. McClintock of Chelsea is appointed under the requirement that one of the members shall be a civil engineer, and, having had practical experience in road building, his engineering qualification is given exceptional value. Prof. N. S. Shaler of Harvard University, an eminent geologist, will be of special service under the provision for investigation of the geological formation of the state so far as it relates to the material suitable and proper for road building, while as a man of wide information and of liberal and enlightened views in public affairs, he will give weight to whatever conclusions may be reached. As the bicycle has been one of the most potent factors in creating a demand for good roads, and the League of American Wheelmen started the agitation which has resulted in this commission, it is appropriate that Mr. George A. Perkins of Cambridge, who stands at the head of that important organization, should be a member.

It would be well for the commission to include, among the subjects considered, the growing use of our highways by street railways, and the manner in which they can best be adapted to that end, with a view to the convenience and safety of all concerned; also the prospective employment of mechanical traction for road vehicles. And, as the commission is expected to consider the establishment of state or county highways, with recommendation as to their construction and maintenance, routes and approximate cost, the question of a system of metropolitan highways for the region around Boston might appropriately be studied. There is a great need of better highway communications, not only between Boston and the outlying sections of the metropolitan region, but between the various communities of this region. In this way the work of the highway commission or the Metropolitan park commission might complement each other, for a system of metropolitan parks would make a system of good roads, giving safe and pleasant access to its various parts.

PLEASURE GROUNDS FOR THE POOR.

To the Editor of the Transcript: Comparatively small public grounds and gardens in districts largely inhabited by persons who cannot frequently resort to the great parks must, in all great cities, be to those persons and their children a peculiar boon. But such public grounds are not for those persons alone; they are public and must be equally a source of pleasure to all persons who can visit them, who delight in trees and shrubs, flowers and grass. And especially must they afford infinite pleasure and satisfaction to those able to feel that they were instrumental, in however small a degree, in obtaining their creation. It is, I think, an undeniable fact that among the great works of philanthropists in Boston, the giving of land or money for public park or garden purposes, has thus far had no place, and yet in so doing one must associate his or her name with what must ever be, more or less, a thing of beauty, and most truly a joy forever for very many people, and for not a few, perchance, in the course of the town's history, who otherwise would have little joy in life. I do not indeed forget Colonel Henry Lee Higginson's splendid gift of "The Soldiers' Field" to the Harvard students, but that was not a gift to the public nor for the purposes now under consideration. Mr. Benjamin Bussey bequeathed his beautiful domain to Harvard College, but apparently without a thought of the wise use for the public benefit, instruction and enjoyment to which its sylvan portion is now devoted through the liberality of the late Mr. James Arnold—who, however, was not a Bostonian, but a New Bedford man—and the wise action of the president and trustees of the university and the then park commissioners. But of Bostonians proper, or residents for a considerable portion of the year within "the metropolitan district," I am unable to recall one name which has thus been ennobled and rendered fragrant forever in the minds of all who are or shall be capable of appreciating such a gift.

I thank you, Mr. Editor, for commending the suggestion for the "Christ Church Gardens." I cannot think how otherwise the half million appropriated for the North End public grounds can be so wisely expended. An embankment north of the present river embankment would require the taking of property needed for various kinds of business, and would be entirely wanting in the great advantage and charm of the "Chapelbank" in the view up the river and in being open to the southwesterly breeze. The other proposed area, at the extreme North End, would be quite as easily accessible to a majority of the people of that district, and it could be easily reached by many East Bostonians; while it would also be a monumental spot, gathering ever more historic interest with the lapse of time.

The Transcript of June 3 contains a valuable suggestion for a reservation for public grounds on Amory street, Roxbury, which has for me a peculiar interest, and for which I beg particularly to thank your fair correspondent. On another occasion I should like to say something more in behalf of that idea, which is by no means a new one with me, although the lady who advocates it is entirely unknown to me. BLAIXTON.

France, June, 1892.

Spencer's Song

We print elsewhere the midsummer circular of the trustees of public reservations. It will be noted that this document closes with a special call for letters from the people descriptive of the open spaces already existing and the local opportunities for securing new reservations. These letters should be sent to Charles Eliot, secretary, 50 State street, Boston, room 50. This offers a good opportunity for advertising the beauty of the Connecticut valley and all Western Massachusetts.

Herald, 5 July.

N. Y. Eve. Post July 22.

A WOODLAND MEETING.

The Boston Boat and Shoe Club is one of the liveliest of our trade organizations, and has gained a high reputation by the discussion, from a practical point of view, of important topics of the day at its gatherings. Next month the club is to take a new departure in the shape of an open air summer meeting, to be held on Aug. 17 in Lynn woods. The topic for discussion will be roads and road-making, a metropolitan park system, and matters of kindred interest bearing particularly upon the development of metropolitan Boston. The place of meeting is most appropriate to the subject. Lynn, the greatest shoe town in the country, has set a splendid example with its noble public forest, which enlarged to something like 2000 acres by the addition of "Ox Pasture" just authorized by the city government, comes very near to Philadelphia's Fairmount Park in area, the largest municipal pleasure ground in the country. It will furnish to the meeting a magnificent object lesson in the way of what is possible in a metropolitan park system for Boston. It is expected that there will be present a distinguished company numbering about 500 persons, and including among the guests the members of the new state highway commission, the metropolitan park commission, the metropolitan sewerage commission and prominent officials of the state and the city of Boston. It should, therefore, be a notable event.

New Hampshire has an annual income of \$5,000,000 from summer visitors alone, a fact that should arouse its people at once to the threatened clearing of forests from some of its grandest peaks and mountain ranges. Lovers of nature are of course also interested in this matter, but if the devastation is to be averted it must be by those whose pockets are concerned. A lumber firm, it is said, has purchased the right to cut down the trees on the south side of Mt. Washington, and will soon begin to clear the land at the rate of 10,000,000 feet a year. The forests of Mt. Willard, report says, are also in the hands of a speculator, who offers to forego his lumbering operations if the neighboring hotel-keepers will pay him \$20,000. Let no one think that the danger is imaginary. The Boston Transcript testifies: "The portable sawmill is dragging its deadly course up and down the mountain glens, leaving everywhere a track of devastation behind. The beautiful Zealand valley is one vast scene of waste and desolation; immense heaps of sawdust roll down the slopes to choke the streams, and, by the destructive acids distilled from their decaying substance, to poison the fish; smoke rises night and day from fires which are maintained to destroy the still accumulating piles of slabs and other mill debris. Those who ride through the Crawford Notch, viewing the splendid scenery as the train creeps slowly up the mountain side, find their vision offended again by the telltale sawdust-heaps, some of them as large as dwellings—signs of the ruthless destroyer's tooth in that charming and wonderful defile." A recent report of the New Hampshire Forestry Commission draws attention to the growing spoliation and suggests remedial measures, but up to this time the people of the State have shown themselves to be strangely indifferent. This can scarcely be accounted for by the fact that some of the largest summer hotels are owned by non-residents, for, admitting that to be so, it should not be forgotten that they give employment to an army of people and are the means of benefiting the local merchants and the farmers. State pride alone should be a factor in putting a stop to the depredations.

and the best means of acquiring the same to serve as a State forest reserve, to be placed in the charge of the State College for the purpose of carrying on and demonstrating practicable systems of forestry, and to serve as a necessary means for the instruction of the students and the people at large in the study of forestry. The utilitarian side of the subject in Pennsylvania is much more prominent than the sentimental. Floods in the State in recent years have done much damage and cost more lives than fire or other destructive agency. Maj. Charles Mould, who is in charge of the rivers and bors of the State, says in a recent report "All that can be done at present to protect the valley of the West Branch of the Susquehanna from inundations seems to be to move, as far as possible, the conditions tending to increase the destructive effects of floods. Obstructions by bridges and boom piers should be reduced to a minimum; leaning trees and drift should be removed from the banks; logs and lumber should be prevented from mingling with the flood discharge, and, most important of all, such forests as yet remain upon areas not valuable for cultivation, especially near the headwaters and on the upper slopes of the basin, should be protected." It is said that should the State reserve the forest growth at the headwaters and slopes of streams, the cost of their protection and management would be covered by the sale of the wood material, cut with caution and according to forest practice.

The Commission appointed by Gov. Markham of California to make improvements in the public ways through the Yosemite Valley report, after going over its roads and trails and examining the fences and bridges, that the principal points of view are unsafe for any person who has not a strong head and steady nerves. Protective rails seem to be generally needed, and they will be provided at once. The Committee also found that the banks of the Merced River are being undermined, and that trees blown into it have split the current, causing the formation of new channels. The banks should be built up with riprap, but this cannot be done unless the Legislature increases the Yosemite appropriation. Visitors to the valley generally complain of the clouds of dust that rise on the roads with every gust of wind, and to prevent this annoyance it is recommended that hydrants be set up and the roads sprinkled every day. The eyesore of dilapidated buildings is also to become a thing of the past, destruction of all sheds and houses not of the picturesque order having been determined on. Some of the members of the Commission declare themselves in favor of restoring the valley to the people of the State by reducing the area of enclosed and leased land, removing fences, and making the floor of the valley a natural park. It is now a hay-ranch. During the past twenty years a jungle of underbrush has been allowed to grow up in spaces which, to be seen at their best, should have the appearance of meadows. This underbrush is to be cut and kept down. Finally, the abuse of letting cattle and horses run about the valley, to the discomfort of visitors, is to be stopped.

At the meeting of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association at Mt. Gretna to-morrow, there will be read an important bill which it is proposed to present to the Legislature, providing for the appointment of a commission of three competent persons to examine the forests and waste lands of that State, with a view to recommending the purchase by the Legislature of certain waste lands as forest reservations, in order to control the water flow in the more important streams and preserve the condition of the forests. By the terms of the bill this commission shall, at the same time, consider and report upon practicable means of securing to the State the ownership of such forest lands at the headwaters and along the slopes of the river courses as seem necessary for the purpose of insuring stable water conditions. They shall also ascertain what wild lands, if any, now belong to the Commonwealth, their extent, character and location; and report the same in the next session of the Legislature, together with a statement of what part or parts of such lands would be suitable for a State Forest Reserve; and further, should there be insufficient lands for such purpose belonging to the Commonwealth, then to ascertain and report what other suitable lands there may be within the State; their extent, location, and value.

N. Y. Eve. Post July 15.

GUARDS IN THE ADIRONACKS.

The Need of Protection from Fires Caused in a Spirit of Revenge.

A few days ago an advertisement was inserted in several papers of this city to the effect that 300 men were wanted to act as guards. Neither the destination of the men nor the object of their employment was stated. At the time it was surmised that the advertisement was inserted by the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, and that it was intended to send them to Homestead.

It would appear from an advertisement in the Adirondack Pioneer that the men are wanted by Dr. W. Seward Webb to fight fires and guard preserves recently acquired by him in the Adirondacks. The property is Neheaser Park which Dr. Webb bought about a year ago. The tract has excellent hunting and fishing, and for years has been regarded virtually as a public domain. The guides built cottages on it and private parties freely camped there. It is alleged that when Dr. Webb got possession of the tract he gave most stringent orders to keep guides and all others off the property. Notices to that effect were posted up. The guides assert that unnecessary severity has been employed. At any rate much bitter feeling has been stirred up. Forest fires have been frequent. It is said that threats have been made that the tract would be converted into a grazing ground. Dr. Webb's advertisement is regarded as proof that he fears the threats are being put into execution.

NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS.

The Need of Action to Prevent their Gradual and Unthrottled Destruction. To the Editor of the Herald. I thank you for your recent article on the destruction of the forests in the White mountain region. It is true that the recent serious encroachments are made "in the face and eyes of the New Hampshire forest commission," and the commission has no power whatever in the matter except to talk and write about it.

The act of the Legislature under which we were appointed directs us to examine existing conditions and report to the Legislature, and I have made much use of the press of the state and of the country as a means of appeal to the people for action. But the mountain forest lands in this state are not private property, and the title of the owners is as nearly absolute as the title to any private property in Massachusetts. While these forests are held by private owners there is no chance or ground for interference, by the forest commission or anybody else, to prevent the owners from using their property as they please. Hence, as I have said in the current issue of the Cosmopolitan, I think "the state of New Hampshire should resume possession of its mountain forest lands by the exercise of the right of eminent domain, paying, of course, a just price to the present owners. It should not cost much to reacquire title to the extensive tracts which were so wrongfully disposed of in 1867, considering that the price paid for them was almost exactly nothing per acre, and that the present owners have ever since been enjoying enormous revenues from the property of which they thus obtained possession."

Your admirable article suggests these considerations.

1. We have had much excellent writing on forestry subjects in this country during the last few years, especially since the establishment of Gifford's Forest, but interesting writing and talk about forestry cannot go on indefinitely, unless we make some advance in the way of the writing, however good, comes to be regarded as an end in itself, if nothing effective is to be done, a fatal element of anarchy will enter into the popular treatment of the subject which will soon empty it of all interest.

2. There is no reason to expect that anything effective will be done to preserve the forests of the White mountains if they are to remain private property. It is not in the least probable that the timber on any considerable areas will be cut "without the destruction of the younger growth." Your account of the operations in Carter Notch will, in all probability, apply to the whole region when the lumbermen have gone over it. "The white forest has been ruthlessly destroyed, to the great disadvantage of the town of Jackson as an attractive home for summer people." Your direct and incisive statement that "this concrete instance is very valuable. It ought to be repeated everywhere that the destruction of forest conditions in any portion of the White mountain region is a great disadvantage to our northern towns and to the whole state." The culmination of the summer resort business in New Hampshire is in sight. The run is coming gradually and surely. More and more of the whole region will be cut off, and reserved burned over, till in time there will be vast tracts of the mountain country of northern New Hampshire in which there will be no timber, or shade, or verdure, or springs of water. Our people are unwilling to think of the future, to recognize the conditions which will surround the children of the future. Yet without such foresight the permanence of what we value most in our civilization is impossible.

3. Any improvement of the situation, by any plan whatever, would require a seriousness of thought and discussion of which few signs have yet appeared among us. Our treatment of the forests expresses our national character. It is a feature of the stage of civilization to which we have reached. As a nation we are usually in such a state of self-satisfaction that we do not feel any very serious need of improvement. When it was expected that the World's fair would be held in New York I suggested to the chamber of commerce of that city that a model of the mountain region would be valuable. But the accurate description by newspaper writers of the escalation wrought by the timbermen, and by the fire which nearly always follows in their track, must be the chief means for bringing the subject to serious popular consideration. I shall be glad to receive suggestions from any source. The White mountain region is of great interest and value to the people of the whole country. As things are, we are going on steadily toward its complete destruction.

J. B. HARRISON, Secretary New Hampshire Forestry Commission, Franklin Falls, N. H., July 16, 1892.

THE METROPOLITAN PARK COMMISSION.

The Governor has made a good selection for the three members of the Metropolitan park commission, constituted under the act recently passed by the Legislature to inquire into the needs of the country around Boston, and to report to the next Legislature a plan for the creation of ample open spaces for public recreation. All are gentlemen excellently qualified to deal with this important problem. Hon. Charles Francis Adams of Quincy has had a long experience in dealing with public questions of a large nature; he has shown his practical interest in matters of this class by giving to his own city a beautiful tract of land for a public park, and it is to him that we are indebted for the valuable suggestion which gave to the Commonwealth avenue extension and to the Beacon street boulevard their admirable designs, with the innovation of a broad general driveway and ride separated from a narrow driveway by a reserved space of trees and turf. Mr. Philip A. Chase is chairman of the Lynn park commission, and to his active and sagacious work is due the establishment of that magnificent pleasure ground, the Lynn Woods. Mr. William B. de las Casas of Malden is a young man of energy and public spirit, and, like his fellow-members, will bring to the work liberal ideas and a cultivated taste. A report signed by these three gentlemen could hardly fail to have great weight with the Legislature and with the public.

That there is much need for an inquiry, such as will be undertaken by this commission, is evident by a comparison of the pleasure grounds within a radius of 12 miles of the City Hall, outside of Boston, and those within the same radius inside the city limits. While Boston itself is now fairly well supplied, the only pleasure grounds in the metropolitan region, outside the city limits, are the Lynn Woods and that portion of the Boston grand parkway system lying within the limits of Brookline. There are some important towns within the metropolitan region possessing not so much as a square foot of public pleasure ground. It is evident that the entire metropolitan district should be well provided with a wisely planned system of parks and other open spaces for public recreation, for the population is becoming a dense one in every direction around Boston, and the needs will soon be urgent. This fact was early recognized by the Boston park commission, for in its first report—an able document, written, we believe, by Mr. Charles H. Dalton—regret was expressed that the scope of the board did not extend beyond the city limits.

Among the features that will form the subject of investigation by the metropolitan park commission will probably be the creation of public domains at the Middlesex Fells and the Blue Hills, the preservation of so much as is possible of the margins of the Charles, Mystic and Neponset rivers, so as to assure to the public the perpetual enjoyment of the aquatic pleasures which they afford; also the shores of the various large ponds, lands by the seashore, and other notable points of interest. A plan that will secure these ends cannot fail to meet with the heartiest public approval.

PRESERVING NATURAL SCENERY.

The trustees of public reservations have taken an excellent step in giving their recently issued circular so general a scope. Throughout the state, in all parts, there are to be found persons deeply interested in the beautiful and attractive features of the landscape about them, and the important thing is to arouse these persons to an active participation in the work of the society, and so make that sentiment a strong force in the community. The circular just issued appeals to a wide public, and the result ought to be a marked increase of interest in the subjects under discussion.

There should be many responses to the question: "In your part of Massachusetts are there any beautiful beaches, bluffs, hill tops, ravines, groves, riverbanks, or roadsides?" The suggestion that it would be well to secure for the public the most interesting of these places before their beauty is destroyed, or they become fenced in for private gain or pleasure, cannot fail to meet the approval of thousands. The circular well says that owners of such places, by giving them into the keeping of the trustees of public reservations will enhance the value of adjacent real estate, while neighbors may thus profitably increase the attractiveness of their district. It is well stated that men and women of Massachusetts who have gained wealth within or without her borders can find no more acceptable way of benefiting their native land than by dedicating one or more of her places of beauty to the enjoyment of all forever. There can be no more fitting or enduring public monument than a beautiful pleasure ground dedicated forever to public use, and the many persons who cherish the intention or the hope of establishing a memorial to themselves can do no better than bear this fact in mind.

It would be very desirable if, for instance, some wealthy son of Gloucester should remember the fact that that city at present does not own a square foot of pleasure ground, with all its beautiful seacoast that thousands yearly come from all parts of the country to enjoy, and, therefore, should honor the approaching 250th anniversary of the settlement of the place, as Mr. Harrison has suggested, by giving to the city a public park, now so much needed.

A feature of the circular which deserves special attention is the request for descriptive letters, giving a clear account of the present extent and character of the public open spaces and public resorts of some portion of the state, together with the local opportunities for securing new reservations, and the advantages to be derived from the opening of the same. These accounts will be published in the next annual report, and several copies will be sent to those who thus aid in the work. This gives a strikingly good opportunity to call general attention to the attractions of special localities, and there is no better opportunity for many people who would like to give their holiday to work in behalf of some good cause. A peculiar zest can be given to one's vacation by exploring the region where one may chance to be spending it, with a view to describing its beautiful features for this purpose. The fact of being engaged in such a work would in itself cause one to enjoy and appreciate the beauties of nature as never before.



FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL
AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

50 State St. Boston.

2 August 1892.

My dear Sir:

As a member of this Board will you kindly cause the accompanying circular to be printed in your local papers and posted at such Post Offices, Railroad Stations, Summer Hotels, Club Houses or Libraries as you may choose.

Please also secure some letters from your neighborhood in response to the last paragraph of the circular. Your Committee hopes to make the next report a good advertisement of the attractiveness of our State as well as of the aims of this Board.

Yours very truly,
Charles Eliot

President.

HON. GEORGE F. HOAR,
Worcester.

Vice-President.

HON. WM. S. SHURTLEFF,
Springfield.

Treasurer.

GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH,
89 State St., Boston.

Secretary.

CHARLES ELIOT,
50 State St., Boston.



Standing Committee.

PHILIP A. CHASE,
Lynn.

HENRY P. WALCOTT,
Cambridge.

CHARLES S. SARGENT,
Brookline.

For the Purpose of Holding and Opening to the Public
Beautiful and Historical Places in Massachusetts.

BOSTON, August 1, 1892.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN :

In your part of Massachusetts are there any beautiful beaches, bluffs, hill-tops, ravines, groves, river-banks, or roadsides ?

Would it not be well to secure for the public the most interesting of these places before their beauty is destroyed or they become fenced in for private gain or pleasure ?

Owners of such places, by giving them into the keeping of the Trustees of Public Reservations, will enhance the value of adjacent real estate. Neighbors of such places, by giving them into the charge of the Trustees, may profitably increase the attractiveness of their district. Men and women of Massachusetts who have gained wealth within or without her borders can find no more acceptable way of benefiting their native land than by dedicating one or more of her places of beauty to the enjoyment of all forever.

The Trustees of Public Reservations have been chartered by the Commonwealth expressly to provide the admirers of any beautiful or historical spot in Massachusetts with a ready instrument for making that spot a reservation and for insuring its perpetual care. Whoever gives land or contributes money, whether for the purchase or the maintenance of any particular reservation, or for the general purposes of the Trustees, receives the annual report and is enrolled in the Board's books in accordance with the following By-law :—

OF FOUNDERS, LIFE ASSOCIATES, AND CONTRIBUTORS.

All persons from whom the corporation shall receive real or personal property to the value of one thousand dollars or more shall be permanently enrolled as Founders.

All persons not entitled to be enrolled as Founders, from whom the corporation shall receive real or personal property to the value of one hundred dollars or more, shall be enrolled during life as Life Associates.

All persons, societies, or corporations not entitled to be enrolled as Founders or Life Associates, from whom the corporation shall receive one or more dollars, shall be enrolled as Contributors for the year in which payment of such sum is made.

Two Founders, twenty Life Associates, and two hundred Contributors are already enrolled.

A copy of the first report of the Trustees, published in March, 1892, will be sent to any address upon request ; and several copies of the next report will be sent to all who will aid the work of the Board by writing for publication in the report a clear account of the present extent and character of the public open spaces and public resorts of some portion of the State, the local opportunities for securing new reservations, and the advantages to be derived from the opening of the same.

Please address all correspondence to

CHARLES ELIOT, *Secretary*,
50 State St., Room 50, Boston.

Amesbury Daily
Dec 16 1892

Greenfield Gazette

For a town of its size, age and beautiful location it seems very strange that there is no public park or common. Efforts have been made at different times to get the people interested in the purchase of some one of the many beautiful places within easy reach of the centre of the town, so that a public park might be secured. Bradbury's woods have been suggested and their natural attractions have been very glowingly depicted by writers in the daily and weekly papers. For some reason or other no steps have ever been taken towards the purchase of this or any other property, for these objects. All over the State and in fact throughout the country cities and towns can point with just pride, to a fine public park or to one in prospect. This sentiment is growing stronger each year and as the villages are growing to be towns and towns, cities, the houses and buildings are being crowded more closely together and the breathing places are fast being encroached upon. As the population increases there is a demand for a public park where the people can go and breathe the pure air and look upon nature in all of its naturalness. So great is this feeling that in many of the large cities like Lynn parks of hundreds of acres of land have been secured and will be forever kept free for the use of the public. Amesbury has many very beautiful places that would make as fine parks as can be found anywhere in this country. These places can be purchased today for nearly nominal sums compared to what they will cost in a few years from now when railroads cross and recross the town, building up our streets with houses and largely increasing the population. There has recently been organized under the laws of the State an organization for the purpose of holding and opening to the public beautiful and historical places in Massachusetts. When such places are secured the society assists in insuring for their perpetual care. Among the many places near the centre of the town within easy access, and most beautiful in scenery is what is known as Moody's woods. Could this property be secured it would make a very fine public park situated within reach of the people and would be greatly appreciated. We understand that several of our prominent citizens have been considering the advisability of having a public park made of Moody's woods and four have signified their willingness to give \$25 each provided the park can be secured. This makes a most excellent start and we hope that we may hear from others who are interested in seeing a part of our beautiful town reserved as a public park forever for the use of the people. Correspondence will be opened with the trustees of Public Reservations and through their assistance some definite steps may be taken in the matter.

Beautiful and Historical Places in Massachusetts.

The trustees of public reservations who have undertaken to procure and open to the public beautiful and historic places in the State have this week sent out the following circular:

In your part of Massachusetts are there any beautiful beaches, bluffs, hilltops, ravines, groves, river-banks or road-sides?

Would it not be well to secure for the public the most interesting of these places before their beauty is destroyed or they become fenced in for private gain or pleasure?

Owners of such places, by giving them into the keeping of the trustees of public reservations, will enhance the value of adjacent real estate. Neighbors of such places, by giving them into the charge of the trustees, may profitably increase the attractiveness of their district. Men and women of Massachusetts who have gained wealth within or without her borders can find no more acceptable way of benefiting their native land than by dedicating one or more of her places of beauty to the enjoyment of all forever.

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All persons from whom the corporation shall receive real or personal property to the value of one thousand dollars or more shall be permanently enrolled as founders.

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All persons, societies or corporations not entitled to be enrolled as founders or life associates, from whom the corporation shall receive one or more dollars, shall be enrolled as contributors for the year in which payment of such sum is made.

Two founders, twenty life associates and two hundred contributors are already enrolled.

A copy of the first report of the trustees, published in March, 1892, will be sent to any address upon request; and several copies of the next report will be sent to all who will aid the work of the board by writing for publication in the report a clear account of the present extent and character of the public open spaces and public resorts of some portion of the State, the local opportunities for securing new reservations and the advantages to be derived from the opening of the same.

Hon. Geo. F. Hoar is president of the trustees, Hon. W. S. Shurtleff of Springfield, vice-president, and Hon. Geo. Sheldon of Deerfield one of the trustees. Correspondence should be addressed to the secretary, Charles Eliot, at 50 State street, Room 50, Boston.

LYNN WOODS.

Banquet and Speeches Under the Trees in the "Forest."

Full Report of a Day Never to Be Forgotten in the Shoe Trade.

The President stated that a telegram informed him that the Governor could not return to the meetings, and that the Adjutant General could not leave the State House. He continued: "These gentlemen that have spoken this afternoon so much of Lynn, I think, have puffed up so many of the Lynn people, and made them weep from 250 to 400 pounds, that a good many of them have started for home. I am sorry if it has had that effect, although we have but one more speaker. Hon. Charles Francis Adams could not be with us today. Neither could Prof. N. S. Shaler. They were to speak on metropolitan parks. We have with us a son of a noble sire, and I don't doubt that he is the noble son of a noble sire, Charles Elliot, Esq., son of President Eliot of Harvard College, who is to speak on a subject that to a great many of you will undoubtedly be entirely new. I trust you will give him your undivided attention. Gentlemen, Charles Elliot, Esq., will speak on Public Reservations. Applause."

Charles Elliot, Esq.

Mr. President and Gentlemen: In the preliminary puff which this meeting received at the hands of the Boston Herald I read that President Eliot of Harvard College was to speak upon "Public Reservations." Accordingly I accepted my invitation to be present, hoping to hear something good upon a subject which interests me exceedingly. Imagine my feelings, of course, at finding myself called upon. It appears now that the Herald told one of those fibs which are never acknowledged for, and you will have to take me.

Your President has tried to alleviate your feelings by introducing me as the son of the President of Harvard College. I am his son, but I know that that is not why I am here to-day. It is simply because I am Secretary of a new institution in Massachusetts, called by the act which created this institution the Trustees of Public Reservations. Previous speakers—and if Mr. Shaler and Mr. Adams had been here they would have been among those I mean—have told us about the official machinery which the State of Massachusetts has set up of late for the purpose of investigating and thoroughly reporting upon our highways and our parks. The names of these Commissioners are printed on your programme of the day. They are to report to the next Legislature in all three cases. May these commissions give us reports which shall lead straight to action. These highway and park problems call for immediate action. It seems to me and to many others. As respects public open spaces, the time for action has, I may say, gone by already in many places. In many regions of our State it has already come and gone. For beside playgrounds and ordinary open squares and public gardens and such things, which can be had almost any place of land, what else do we need and want for public open spaces? We want places to which all of us may go to see and feel and be uplifted by the beauty and the glory of the natural world. The more close we are bound to our daily toil or business, the more need have we of that wonderful refreshment which the sight of the sea or the great woods or the broad hills brings to us. Now within the reach of all our large towns, and our growing villages, too, these places of specially refreshing power are being rapidly destroyed. Within the districts to be covered by the investigations of the Metropolitan Park Commission I have seen a dozen supremely delightful places wholly destroyed within the last few years. In these cases our opportunity for action has not only come but it has gone and gone forever. Meanwhile, another and only less distressing fate awaits or falls to such spots of beauty as escape the destroyer. They become enclosed for private gain or pleasure. You and I and all of us are shut out in order that one man may enjoy the beauty of this sea beach or this pond shore or this hill top or else that we may pay him for the privilege of viewing that which he has fenced in. For long can we afford to allow the finest of nature's pictures here in Massachusetts to be thus destroyed or inclosed?

Without stopping to consider the evil effects upon civilization, the woods, as I may say, to art and to morals and to religion which must follow this blotting out of beauty from the sur-

roundings of life, let me, since I am speaking to the business men, call your attention to the business aspect of this question. In the country and seaside districts of Massachusetts, the summer resort business is the best business of the year. Now the history of our summer resorts has been decidedly peculiar. Nantuxet over here once possessed large hotels. Newport was also a hotel town. Bar Harbor, in Maine, filled many huge hotels every year for a considerable period of years, but last year and this year the large hotels of that town entirely disappeared, and I very much doubt if they ever open again. Who wants to visit any resort where the seashore or such other scenery as there may be in the neighborhood is owned and occupied by private citizens who if they admit you to their lands, do so grudgingly or for a fee? It is evident that our hotel men and all people interested in the development of this great business of the summer resort, must go to work to preserve their goose of the golden egg. That is to say, the fine scenery in their neighborhood. Even in the case of towns of cottages, would not every estate owner be the richer if it were possible for him to have access at any time to every finest spot within his neighborhood? As a matter of business the proprietors and projectors of summer colonies ought to take account of this.

And now I simply want to have the pleasure of telling you that owing to the wisdom of the Legislature in 1891 we in Massachusetts are no longer compelled to wait for action by these official boards, these investigating boards, or for town action, for municipal action of any sort. We are no longer compelled to wait for such formal action in this matter of reserving open spaces. Through the instrumentality of this Board of Trustees of Public Reservations, composed of well-known men resident in all parts of Massachusetts, any man or woman or any company of people may dedicate any beautiful or historical spot in Massachusetts to the enjoyment of all forever. Here is a ready instrument by which the admirer of any particular spot in Massachusetts may make that spot a reservation and may provide for its perpetual care. Here is the tool by which our pleasure-resort people may save for all time their share of the golden egg, if they so choose. By giving wild, beautiful lands into the keeping of these Trustees, you will save yourselves, in the first place, the taxes upon it, and I should say perhaps in addition that whatever is given to these Trustees, is immediately exempted from taxation. By the act of the Legislature, whatever is thrown open, whatever lands are thrown open to the public by this Board of Trustees is, for the reason that it is open to the public, exempted from taxation.

I think I had better leave it to you, gentlemen, to think about that, and to see how it is likely to affect the future here in this neighborhood and in all parts of Massachusetts as soon as our people come to see the opportunities which the establishment of this institution presents. It is no longer possible for us to excuse ourselves from doing anything in this matter. We have had no end of talk and we have had no end of writing. The book stores are filled with books in praise of the beauty of nature and the picture galleries are full of pictures thereof. Meanwhile we are destroying and losing every day our real pictures which the Almighty painted, and we have no longer any excuse for that form of destruction in our midst. [Applause.]

THE MIDDLESEX FELS.

Medford Public Domain Club Reviving Interest in the Question.

At the time the Middlesex Fells question was first agitated, something like 10 years ago, the Medford Public Domain Club was organized to promote the work of acquiring that beautiful and picturesque region for a public forest, and a number of prominent people of the town took a hearty interest in the matter. Now that there appears to be a strong probability that the Metropolitan Park Commission will recommend practical steps for realizing the project, the citizens of Medford are again becoming alive to the important bearing which the establishment of so noble a public reservation will have upon their city.

A meeting of the Public Domain Club was held at the house of Mr. Henry W. Egelow on Forest street last Wednesday evening. Mr. Lorin L. Dame, the principal of the high school and the author of the splendid work on "Historic Elms and Other Trees of Massachusetts," was elected president to succeed the late Francis Brooks, and the son of the late president, who was also Mr. Dame's associate in the authorship of the work, Mr. Henry Brooks, was chosen vice-president. An appropriation from the funds of the club was made for publishing the appeals of the late Elmer Wright in favor of making the Middlesex Fells a public forest reservation.

The club will probably take a prominent part in arousing public sentiment in favor of the measure, which it is believed that the Metropolitan Park Commission will endorse to the coming Legislature.

PARKS ABOUT BOSTON.

The metropolitan park commission, appointed to investigate the question of providing open spaces for the cities and towns in the vicinity of Boston, and instructed to report to the next Legislature a plan for lying out such spaces, has taken room No. 408 in the Exchange building.

Hon. Charles Francis Adams is chairman of the commission, and the other members are Messrs. Philip A. Chase of Lynn and William B. De La Cassa of Malden. Mr. Sylvester Baxter has been appointed secretary. The commission will probably give a series of hearings, and a number of visits will be made to various points of interest in the neighborhood of Boston.

*Merald
Sept. 2, 1892*

Transcript.
30 Sept. '92

Herald.
30 Sept. '92

PARKS FOR GREATER BOSTON.

What the Metropolitan Commissioners Have Before Them—Historic Localities to Be Preserved.

From the rapid growth of public sentiment in favor of the preservation of beautiful places, and of additional public recreation grounds, it is seen that the establishment of a Metropolitan Park Commission for the area known as greater Boston is a grand idea. The limits of the territory are not defined, and the range of the investigations is left to the discretion of the commissioners; but it is probable that the inquiry undertaken will be sufficiently thorough to enable the powers that be to deal intelligently with all the important park problems that confront them. The commission, as is well known, is a board of investigation, appointed to look into the needs of the cities and towns in the vicinity of Boston and to report to the General Court next year some plan for providing for the people ample open spaces in the territory considered.

The members of the commission are admirably equipped for the work. They have been active in many recent projects for establishing public parks and preserving, for public use, places that have a special value from patriotic associations or intrinsic beauty. Among the features of the commission's investigation will be the reservation of magnificent woodland and dully areas, such as Middlesex Fells, the Blue Hills in Milton; points of picturesque or traditional interest, such as "Appleton's Pulpit," near Franker's Pond, Saurus; Beaver Brook, the Waverly Oaks in Waltham, Hemlock Glen at Newton Upper Falls, Echo Bridge, the broad expanses of salt marshes bordering their tidal estuaries; spaces by the seashore, securing to the public forever a right to take recreation by the water-side; lakes and ponds in the metropolitan region; the re-forestation of the beautiful islands in Boston harbor. Besides all the foregoing, a study will be made, and is being made, of the important question of sufficient breathing and playground spaces throughout all the territory in the suburbs.

A most conservative estimate places the population in the Metropolitan district within twenty-five years at 2,000,000. It is now more than one million. This territory, which is within a radius of eleven miles of the State House, will be covered by the investigations of the commission. Cut up into little municipalities as the territory is, without any interests in common, the inhabitants have not taken advantage of their opportunities, and as the population increases encroachments are made upon many charming landscape areas. There are many strikingly beautiful places whose landscape effects have been spoiled, but there is now an opportunity to deal comprehensively with the subject and to secure a permanent reservation of natural features which, as has been stated, many another city with a liberal and far-seeing policy would regard as of priceless value, did they exist in their neighborhood. Landscape effects created artificially cannot in any degree compare with natural scenery. In some large cities these effects have been made at great cost, but they are immensely inferior to scores of natural features existing in the neighborhood of Boston, which only need to be preserved to the use of the people forever by co-operation of the people with the commission.

In the Metropolitan system it is proposed to treat the Mystic, Charles, Saugus and Neponset rivers. People have little or no idea what advantages there are for public recreation places along the borders of these streams. The Back Bay Fens show what can be made of marsh land. Salt marshes are beautiful features in a landscape. With the removal of the unsightly spots which can be done at a cost disproportionate to the vast good that comes from the easy outlay, these passages are perpetuated. All the blues, so to speak, of the valleys, can be kept sweet with little trouble. Nothing of a contaminating nature should be permitted

to find lodgment there. Waterways are very important, and rivers once cleaned will remain so unless they become stagnant by clogging from the surplussage of sewage matter. Land on the borders of harbor, rivers and streams is always cheap, and these shores will be kept for the people, if the power of public sentiment can avail. Already have steps been taken to acquire and improve some of the waste places solely in the interest of separate communities, but small municipalities are apt to deal with such matters only in relation to their own locality.

It has been suggested in view of the acquisition of shore property by the wealthy, that people who desire to visit the water-side to see the surf or get a sniff of salt air, can only obtain it by permission of the owners or the payment of an admission fee. People are becoming alive to the fact that action of a definite nature must be taken in the near future, and if the Commission reports a plan covering the question thoroughly, the power of popular sentiment will surely effect its adoption.

In communities growing as rapidly as the suburbs of Boston there are matters requiring immediate attention; such as sewers, roads, schools, extension of water works, etc. These of course, take precedence to works of an ornamental character, as parks and recreation grounds are sometimes regarded. Where park improvements have been taken in hand in these places the results obtained usually present an unfavorable contrast to the comprehensive way in which the Municipal Government has dealt with the subject, artistically and practically. The Commission, in view of this fact, considers it desirable that the whole Metropolitan district be treated as one in the planning of a system of parks and open spaces.

Attention is again called to the importance of re-foresting the islands in the harbor by Mr. FitzGerald, superintendent of the western division of the Boston Waterworks. This matter has been considered since the desirability of a reforestation of the islands was suggested and urged by the Bostonian Society several years ago. An expense of about \$5000 a year for five years is the estimate of transforming the islands into places of great beauty.

The first trip made by the commissioners this summer was down the harbor, through Shirley Gut to Nahant, where carriages were taken to Lynn. In that city they were met by the Park Commissioners of Lynn and the selectmen of Swampscott. In Swampscott the visitors learned that it is proposed to purchase the land where the fish houses are located, on the main thoroughfare, and to lay out a plaza. From Swampscott the party drove to the magnificent forest park, thence to "Appleton's Pulpit" in Saugus.

The second trip of the commissioners was on the upper Charles River. At Riverside they were met by a committee of Waltham people and the mayor of the city, all of whom are interested in the work of the commission.

Last Saturday the third trip was made, and the board went to Hingham, where they were joined by the park commissioners of Weymouth and Quincy. The trip included an inspection of Dorchester Bay. Yesterday the commission inspected Mystic River, and Saturday Middlesex Fells will be visited.

Secretary Sylvester Baxter of the commission in receipt of the reports of park commissions of various cities and towns throughout the United States and from foreign countries. The reports of the commissions of Berlin, Paris and London are elaborate and interesting volumes, and contain much valuable information. The park laws and systems of Australia are excellent, and the annual documents of the Australian commissions are exhaustive reviews, filled with practical suggestions and methods. The Boston Metropolitan Commissioners are determined to look the ground over carefully, and are seeking all the information it is possible to obtain.

PARKS FOR ALL.

Plan of Metropolitan Commission.

Extent of Territory to Be Covered.

North and South Shores and the Harbor Islands.

Opportunities Along Charles River.

Splendid Sites in Valley of Mystic River.

Land Can Now Be Bought at Low Rates.

Making Efforts to Arouse Public Interest.

The new metropolitan park commission which was created by the last Legislature is actively prosecuting its work this fall. Under the terms of the act which created it, the commission is to consider the question of more open spaces for the use of the public in the vicinity of Boston and to report to the next Legislature.

Charles Francis Adams is chairman of the commission, and Philip A. Chase of Lynn and William B. de la Casas of Malden are the other members. Sylvester Baxter is secretary, and Charles Eliot, son of President Eliot of Harvard, is consulting landscape architect for the commission.

The commission has already made visits of inspection along the North shore and to Nahant beach, to the South shore and to the islands of the harbor, and to the Charles river from Riverside to Waltham, where it is proposed to establish a public park and pleasure ground, and also from Newton Upper Falls to Riverside. Everywhere it found abundant evidence of it.

opportunities which are open to the public to beautify the landscape at comparatively small expense before the land is occupied. In too many places, also, there is an indifference on the subject, which needs to be removed if the enterprise is to have strong popular support.

Territory to Be Covered.

The map which hangs in the commissioners' office in the Exchange building shows the extent of territory which they intend to cover in their labors. They are to confine their work to the vicinity of Boston, according to the terms of the act, but they are left wholly to their discretion as to the distance to which they may go in inspecting the vicinity.

They have decided to make it about 11 miles from the City Hall. The reason for taking this distance is that it includes the Charles river as far as its great curve at Newton Upper Falls, above which it once more curves again to the east and approaches Boston. This circle also just includes the Blue hills of Milton, Woburn hill in Waltham, and the pond in Woburn, concerning which ideas of improvement are entertained. In the other parts of the circle there is no special object which is just included by it, though about all of the Middlesex Fells falls within the distance.

The visits of inspection were begun in September, and the plan of the commission has been to make them in connection with the local officials.

Improvements at Nahant and Lynn.

The visit to Nahant beach was in company with the Lynn park commissioners and the Swampscott officials.

For a wonder, in such matters, Nahant beach is owned by the town, both parts of it, and this fact is regarded by the commission as very important and helpful in their effort to keep the shores of the harbor and of the adjacent towns open to the public. Most of the shore property has been taken up by private owners until it is nearly all so occupied, and it is almost impossible for the public to reach the beach without committing trespass upon the property of some individual who very likely will object to the presence of intruders. The Lynn park commissioners propose to take about 200 feet of beach at the foot of Nahant street, adjoining Nahant beach. This will add much to the advantages of the public there.

At the other end of the beach at Ocean street, near the boundary between Lynn and Swampscott, but mostly in Swampscott, there is a similar spot of possible benefit to the public which is now occupied by some fish houses and a hotel. It is in contemplation to take a portion of the beach here also. An esplanade will probably be created here, and it is possible that the Lynn park commissioners will take the entire beach.

While on this trip, the state commissioners drove through the Lynn woods to see what the Lynn park commissioners and water board have done jointly there. They have taken about 2000 acres of wild forest land, with artificial lakes, which will be kept for a water supply. The principal reason for taking so large a tract was to protect the purity of the water. This tract will readily be incorporated as a part of a suburban park system.

In the Town of Saugus

There is a beautiful site which the commissioners believe ought to be secured as a part of the park system, for it is of historic as well as of natural value. It is a pulpit shaped rock, called "Appleton's pulpit," because here a conspicuous member of the Appleton family addressed the assembled farmers in the time of that much hated royal governor, Edmund Andros, denouncing his tyranny and enunciating those eternal truths which were afterward formulated by Thomas Jefferson in

the Declaration of Independence. According to tradition, this was the first public utterance in this country of the principles of liberty which are now the constant watchwords of our nation. Hence the "pulpit" has immense historic value, though commercially it is not worth much.

Thomas Appleton erected a bronze tablet on the rock, commemorating its noble historic service. Members of the Appleton family have offered to buy the land for a public park for Saugus, in which town it is situated. But it is owned by a Scotchman who is not disposed to sell, and it thus has remained in his possession.

Saugus is rapidly growing out of its distinctly rural character into more of the temperament of a city, and it is hoped that the public spirit of its citizens may secure the permanent preservation of this memorable spot. If there were a metropolitan park commission, clothed by the state with the power of eminent domain, they could take the land, just as it is taken for other public uses. The owners would get a fair price and the public would get what can never be measured by money standards. It is said that if this rock should be taken by right of eminent domain, there are private funds which would pay the cost of the taking.

The commissioners have visited the

The Islands of the Harbor.

and the hope to see realized some time the plan of the Boston park commissioners to reclothe these islands with forest. According to the estimate made five years ago, this can be done successfully in the course of five years by the expenditure of only \$5000 a year. Considering what a beautiful transformation this would make this is thought to be a reasonable outlay. The islands were formerly wooded, but in modern times they have been practically bare of trees.

At the Echo bridge and the Glen at Newton Upper Falls, the commissioners on their recent visit found what one of the company says is one of the most beautiful spots in New England. This locality is in three municipalities, Newton, Needham and Wellesley. Added to the conservatism which is natural in a town which is not very close to city life, there is the added fact that these municipalities have no means of acting jointly for the preservation of the attraction. A permanent metropolitan park commission could supply the need.

The Charles River.

The sanitary conditions of the Charles river are said to demand the attention of scientific men, for a comprehensive plan is needed by which the amount of water in the river may be regulated. Within the past few years there has been a great deal of malaria in the different villages of Newton, which is said to come from the Charles river. If the river was under the supervision of a commission who would see that there was no exposure of mud flats or of any decaying vegetation which would be likely to foster malaria it would be a great benefit to the people of the city, beside adding to the attractions of the locality.

The stretch of the Charles river from Riverside to Waltham is regarded by the commissioners as affording opportunity for an unusually fine pleasure ground. It is said that this vicinity might become to Boston what the upper Thames is to London. The Charles is said to be fully as wide here as the Thames is where it is so freely utilized for the pleasure of London's people. Mr. Frederick Law Olmstead, who has made a study of the upper Thames this summer, says that he found 17,000 licensed pleasure crafts upon the river. It is well known that the Riverside bathhouses have been growing in popularity lately, and the conductors on the Boston & Albany road know that Saturday afternoons especially they must put on extra cars.

The Mystic valley is also comprehended in this scheme for open spaces in the vicinity of Boston. The lower part of the course of the river, where there is salt marsh along the banks, might make

A Very Beautiful Drive for Miles. while the upper part, as far as the city of Woburn, is capable of much improvement. Boston has rights on this water-course which would facilitate the construction of parks for the public enjoyment.

When the commissioners visited the South Shore they took a steam launch and went to Hingham, and then around the shore to Quincy. There is in this town an opportunity for taking advantage of a water front, as the Boston park department has done for South Boston. Several years ago Charles Francis Adams gave to Quincy what is now known as Merrymount Park, a fine extent of land running down to the shore, between Wollaston and the city proper, and there is opportunity for a beautiful extension of this.

The state commission is likely to consider also the question of public playgrounds for the younger generation, so that they may have some opportunity to disport themselves before everything passes under private ownership at so high a price that the city or town will not feel as if it could afford to buy. The vicinity of Boston is said to abound in delightful situations which ought to be preserved, so that the public may get the benefit of them. It is expected that the Charlesbank will be extended much farther up the valley of the Charles. Cambridge has already reserved Fresh pond and Boston has lately acquired Jamaica pond for public park purposes. It is hoped that there may be a still larger public reservation in the Middlesex Fells, and that something may be done to secure Blue Hill in Milton for the permanent enjoyment of the public. Wakefield has taken the shores of a beautiful pond for a public park.

Public Hearings to Be Given.

After the commissioners have finished their perambulations of the desirable localities in their 11-mile circuit, they expect to give public hearings to all interested parties. They have recently sent to other cities, at home and abroad, for information on the matter, and have just received from London a valuable pamphlet upon the parks and open spaces in that city.

This state commission is an outgrowth of the state commission which goes by the name of the trustees of public reservation, which was created by act of the Legislature in 1891, and whose existence is largely due to the efforts of Charles Eliot, above mentioned. He is a pupil of Frederick Law Olmstead, and is regarded as second only to his teacher in the art of landscape arrangement. Through his efforts and those of Mr. Baxter the present commission was created to consider the matter of open spaces in the vicinity of Boston. It is only a temporary commission, and its existence will close with the rendering of its report to the Legislature.

Provincetown
Dorchester.

Notice.

The Trustees of Public Reservations
SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
50 STATE ST., Boston, Oct. 17, 1892.

In accordance with Chapter 420 of the Acts of the Legislature of 1892 the Trustees of Public Reservations will give a Public Hearing in the Town Hall in Provincetown at 10 A. M. on Friday, October 28th, 1892, to all who may desire to set forth facts or make suggestions concerning the history and the natural history, the management and the improvement of the so-called Province Lands.

By order of the Standing Committee,
CHARLES ELIOT, Secretary.

The following letter has been received from the Secretary of the Trustees of Public Reservations:

MY DEAR SIR:—In spite of a polite request from Mr. Adams for a postponement of the hearing until after election, our committee finds itself compelled to fix Oct. 28th as the date. I send advertisements to the Cape papers by this same mail, and a notice to the Town Clerk of Provincetown. We are in hopes that the several aspects of the case of the Province Lands may be set forth with all necessary fullness on this day for which purpose we shall sit through the afternoon if necessary. We are not anxious for a large audience but we do want the facts and all possible suggestions.

Yours very truly,
CHARLES ELIOT.

of rapid transit. Recently this subject has been carefully and thoroughly investigated by a commission created by the Legislature of 1891. Its very able and suggestive report, with important plans and recommendations, was made to the Legislature of 1892, but so late in the session that it was deemed best to refer the matter to you. I commend it to your most careful consideration, in the earnest hope that your efforts will result in the solution of a problem which affects most seriously the convenience, happiness and welfare of many of our people. Cheap and rapid transit for the residents of the metropolitan district of Boston is no less important as a social and sanitary blessing than as an economic and industrial necessity. It would surely and effectively tend to dissipate the crowded centres of sickness, misery and vice which so readily gather in the hearts of our great cities. Make transit to the suburbs easy, swift and cheap, and the squalid tenement-houses of the city cannot compete as experience shows, with the attractions of a country home. Life then will be developed under conditions more favorable to physical health and sound morals, while the central city will be relieved of densely populated areas, where disease and crime may flourish. To the poor this will give more fresh air and sunlight; to the middle class, and to a cheaper cost of living, under healthier and happier conditions. The industrial gain from better transit is too apparent to need extended statements. It affords greater facility in the transaction of business, and its consequent extension; and to the whole community a saving of time and effort, with greater comfort and convenience. Street blockades in Boston, slow transit, insufficient accommodations, and the time lost on transit for business, are quite as much an annoyance and loss to the residents of the suburban cities and towns as to the residents of Boston. Because of this injury many municipalities are reluctant to accept their responsibility for its solution, it requires treatment sufficiently broad to cover the entire field, by an authority of greater command of action. Under existing conditions this can spring only from the State, but it could be sustained and enforced by the cooperation of all the municipalities interested. The time has fully come for action. Further delay only complicates the problem, and makes its solution more difficult and expensive.

Metropolitan Parks.

Among other metropolitan questions which may soon demand attention are those of parks, water supply and highways. Under the provisions of an act of last year, a Metropolitan Park Commission was appointed to consider the advisability of laying out ample open spaces for public use in the towns and cities of the vicinity of Boston. As required by the act, the commission will early in the present session report a comprehensive plan for laying out, acquiring and maintaining such open spaces. The subject is one of great and increasing public interest. With the opportunity thus to improve river basins, protect the sources of water supply from pollution, and guard the public health, as well as to furnish to a crowded population breathing spaces for exercise and recreation, the subject not merely affects the beauty and comfort of a locality and the happiness of its people, but becomes an essential factor in the well being and prosperity of a modern city. If anything is to be done, the sooner action is taken by proper authority the better. Ample reservations, such as the Middlesex Fells and the Blue Hill forest, can now be secured at reasonable cost. Unless secured now, these and other like facts are likely to be lost by occupation for other purposes, or later can be secured only at very great expense.

Metropolitan Water Supply.

The subject of a water supply for the metropolitan district of Boston, including by that term the territory within ten miles of the State House, may in the near future demand serious attention. The present population of the district is about nine hundred thousand. While some places within it have an excellent water supply sufficient for many years, yet I am informed by competent authority that the total available supply of pure water within reasonable distance is probably only enough for the consumption and use of a population of one million five hundred thousand, which number may be reached in fifteen years. In view of future necessities, it may seem to you prudent to make now preliminary investigations to determine the best sources of water supply for the entire metropolitan area.

Improvement of Highways.

The improvement of our highways is another subject which will require your consideration. This, of course, is largely a matter of local duty, under the control of local authority. But it is also of such general interest and importance that the State has just established a commission to consider the best and most practical method of construction and maintenance of highways, and what legislation is necessary for their improvement. The commission will report to you the results of its careful and thorough investigation. The existing need and demand for the improvement of our highways, and of more systematic, uniform methods in their construction and maintenance, require careful attention.

THE ADIRONDACK PARK.

Last year the Legislature passed an act which defined the limits of the proposed park and authorized sales of all State forest lands outside of those limits and, with the proceeds, the purchase of new lands within the limits. It was estimated that the State owned then about 900,000 acres, half of which was located in detached pieces around the edge of the forest and could be sold at a price per acre sufficient to buy a larger number of acres within the limits of the proposed park. This was enough so far as it goes, provided the sales and subsequent purchases are conducted on a business-like basis. But the trouble with this policy is that it puts the Government in the market as a buyer and seller, and opens the way to all kinds of impositions and frauds. While it must answer the temporary purpose of getting rid of lands useless for a forest preserve and acquiring other lands needed, so far as the proceeds of the sales will permit, it will not do for a permanent and exclusive State policy.

If it is the desire of the people that the State should absolutely own two or three million acres of the forest preserve, the lands should be acquired on the right of eminent domain. The operation should be comprehensive and decisive, and performed in the long run than the present policy of purchase by dribble.

If, on the other hand, the people are indifferent as to whether the ownership of the bulk of the great forest is in private persons or in the State, so long as the forest is preserved perpetually from destruction, then, by a new departure the purpose of preservation can probably be accomplished without any great expenditure of public money.

It is well known that vast tracts of the Adirondack forest are now owned by individuals or private associations and are used mainly or for purposes of recreation. These large private preserves, I venture to say, could be forever guarded against the danger of denudation by a sufficiently liberal contract between the owners and the State. Such contracts would serve the main purpose of the public preserve. These private owners at present are as much interested in the preservation of their tracts as the State could possibly be, and some of them, I know from personal acquaintance, would be willing to enter into an arrangement with the State whereby, in consideration of forest protection furnished by the State and exemption from State taxation, they and their grantees would refrain forever from making the timber except under certain conditions imposed by the State. I feel confident that hundreds of thousands of acres could thus be practically added to the State preserve at comparatively little expense. What might be necessary to buy outright could be bought under proper sales contracts. Such a policy, it seems to me, if it could be carried out, would give greater satisfaction to the people, for it would save large expense, and—what is worse—great personal annoyances.

If this suggestion should meet the approval of the Legislature the necessary legislation to carry it into effect should be enacted without delay, for each year's devastation of forests and the making more difficult the attainment of the State's object. With such legislation I recommend the reorganization of the Forest Commission. It does not seem to me wise that this should be a permanent commission as at present. I think that satisfactory results could be obtained were the Commission created for a fixed time and for the definite purpose of establishing the proposed park within that time. Energy, promptness, and intelligence are greatly needed. A special commission, created for a definite purpose would bring aspiration and pride to the performance of its great mission. The Commission should consist of at least five persons, nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. It should be composed of active, capable, and honest men, selected for their peculiar fitness to discharge this task creditably to themselves and to the State. After such a commission has completed its labors, its services should terminate, and the detail work of maintenance, oversight, and protection of the forests should be left to trustworthy and competent officers under the direction of the Comptroller or State Engineer, or under a commissioner of agriculture, should such an office be established. A Bureau of Forests, as a part of a well-organized department of agriculture, would be the most natural and most desirable disposition, and should accomplish much good, not merely in guarding the forest preserves, but in advancing the agricultural interests of the State.

The establishment of a great forest preserve could be made to pay all or a large part of its cost under intelligent and wise legislation and supervision. While the industry, and rather with benefit, the State could acquire considerable revenue by granting permission to fell trees above a certain diameter on State lands. Additional revenue could be obtained from leases of small parcels of land to individuals for the establishment of summer homes under proper regulations, as is provided in the existing statute.

I would also call the attention of the Legislature to needed amendments in the laws governing the conveyance of forest lands. A few Biner pretexts of one kind or another the State has lost nearly 100,000 acres of forest land since 1880 through these cancellations. The State having legitimately come into possession of large tracts of forest land, and through failure on the part of owners to pay taxes, it should not be exposed to the loss of this now valuable possession by technical defects in legislation or administration which are taken advantage of by unscrupulous speculators. Not another acre of State land should thus be yielded up. The present laws are defective, and should be promptly amended before there is any further loss of timbered land.

Governor Russell's Message August 22, 1892.

Metropolitan Questions.

Nor does this principle overlook the fact that there are public matters, affecting the interests of a number of communities, where necessary union of action can be accomplished only by the interposition of a superior authority. In such cases, in the absence of some comprehensive method of mutual action, State control is necessary. The questions are not local but metropolitan in their character, and the whole population affected must be considered and made one community for their successful solution. The tendency of our modern civilization is to build up clusters of communities around a central dominating city, each with its local needs and aspirations, but these often subordinate to its interests as a member of the group to which it belongs. This at present is the relation of Boston to the surrounding cities and towns, and may soon be the position of other fast-growing centres of population in this Commonwealth. It has led to metropolitan problems of great and pressing importance, which have been recognized and treated as proper subjects for State action, and therefore, so far as they are still unsolved, will demand your most careful consideration.

Metropolitan Sewerage.

The problem of proper sewerage for the metropolitan district along the Charles and Mystic rivers has been successfully met by the creation by the State of a metropolitan system now under construction.

Metropolitan Rapid Transit.

Of the metropolitan questions still unsettled, none is more important or pressing than that

THE SITUATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The great thing is to save the White mountain forests from any further destruction, but the vital question is, How is this to be done? There are two ways of reaching public opinion in New Hampshire. One is to stir up the farmers and the manufacturers, the persons who chiefly make public opinion, by going to their homes and neighborhoods and doing this work as thoroughly as the lumbermen like to cut down the forests. In due time this will be found to be the most permanent. It will be going to the sources of opinion and putting the seed in there. Another method is to induce the New Hampshire Legislature this winter to arrest the devastation of the forest by the strong hand of the law. The way to influence the Legislature is to make a personal canvass of the members, and have them instructed to act intelligently when this question comes up for discussion. All three of the forest commissioners are men of education and ability, and if they spend their time between now and the meeting of the Legislature in arousing public feeling where it will have most influence in directing public action, it will count the most for practical work.

We have been privately informed that the proposed desecration of the Pemigewasset wilderness can be arrested at once if the Legislature, or even private parties, are willing to pay the sum contracted for in cutting the lumber in this section. The private owners of this property are neither better nor worse than other men. They pay taxes on these lands, and naturally look for some way in which they can get a return for the money that they are paying out, and it is hard for them to look at the matter in the light of public interest. The \$6,000,000 paid annually to parties in the mountain region does not benefit them a penny, and it is a hardship to be prevented by public sentiment from making a dollar by the disposal of one's property as he thinks best. These citizens have rights which must be conceded. There can be no doubt that they would be glad to dispose of their forest lands at a fair valuation to the state. What they want is to get out whole, and this they have the right to demand. All this points to the need of such legislation that the forest lands can be sold to New Hampshire, and placed under such forestry laws that the state can derive from the judicious cutting of the timber returns that will pay the interest on the money advanced for this purpose, and also the expense of the supervision of the forests. This is practical and sensible, and we understand that this is in substance what the forestry commission has been elaborating as the thing to be done, but this commission has no driving power. It can present a scheme to the Legislature, but the railroad managers who are in league with the lumbermen can easily engage lawyers to serve as lobbyists and thwart the best schemes that can be devised for the right treatment of the forests. Then the Legislature meets only once in two years, and, if nothing is done by legislation this winter, the inroads into the forests within that time will be such that many parts of the White mountains will be

irretrievably ruined by the efforts of individual owners to make something out of their forest property.

Everything points to the necessity that the Legislature shall be approached at its coming session, and that its members shall be prepared by the discussion of the subject for intelligent and liberal action. It is for this reason that the HERALD has invited the free expression of opinion in its columns from all persons who have the right to speak in furtherance of the preservation of the forests. The western people begin to be as much concerned as New England people over the threatened destruction of these primeval retreats. They wish to come East in the hot weather and live in sight of real mountains with trees on them, and they will go to the "Rockies" if the White mountains are to be dismantled. We have taken this matter up for two reasons. One is that these mountains are the only retreat this side of the "Rockies" that interests the whole country. As a pleasure resort, they are the chief centre of New England. They are more and more the region which citizens from other parts of the United States wish to visit. They have a permanent attraction. The other is that they are intimately connected with the industrial life of our New England communities. It is not New Hampshire alone that is concerned, but Massachusetts as well. The people have to decide whether the White mountain forests shall be saved or not. The judicious words of eminent citizens, especially those living in New Hampshire, have great weight in this effort to rescue the forests from destruction, and, when they back up their words with their checks, they are doubly weighty in influencing opinion. The quicker these expressions are published the better it will be. It is the press that quickens and enforces what the forestry commission have to say to the people, and we trust that the local press in New Hampshire will not be behindhand in supporting the work which the HERALD is trying to do. The Manchester Union is mistaken in thinking that the White mountains belong exclusively to New Hampshire. The mountains belong, in a certain sense, to the nation, and the people of the nation will crowd the Legislature of New Hampshire to the point where inaction will be a disgrace, if prompt legislation is not introduced in order to preserve the scenery of the White hills. The people are waking up to this matter with unwonted earnestness in all part of the country.

WHITE MOUNTAIN FORESTS.

The Movement to Save Them from Destruction.

Conference, Preliminary to a Meeting Today, Held at the State House at Concord—Suggestions Made by the Friends of the Cause to Be Formulated.

[SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE BOSTON HERALD.]

CONCORD, N. H., Nov. 21, 1892. A conference preliminary to the public meeting to be held here tomorrow in the interest of the movement now in progress to preserve New Hampshire's forests was held at the State House tonight.

There were present, besides Hon. Joseph B. Walker, president of the state forestry commission, and Rev. J. B. Harrison, secretary of the same board, Senator Chandler and Edson C. Eastman of Concord, Gen. Simon G. Griffin of Keene, James F. Gove of Raymond, Rev. Julius H. Ward, S. H. Scudder, delegate from the Appalachian Club, Howell E. Lawrence, secretary of the Appalachian Club, and Richard M. Bradley of Boston.

Senator Chandler suggested that the success of the meeting tomorrow would depend, in a great measure upon the formulation of the work by the conference, and asked for suggestions.

Continuing, Mr. Chandler said he was not present to lament existing bad conditions, but to see if some means could be devised to improve them. He then read the four propositions recently sent by him to and published in the HERALD. "First," he said, "set a system of preservation upon the statute books, and have a commission authorized to accept donations of money and land," and to this he suggested it as better to arrange a series of propositions to be debated at the meeting tomorrow under a rule limiting speeches to five minutes.

Mr. Harrison had received no propositions but thought that state ownership of lands is important. The subject should be agitated before the people by public meetings and otherwise, and if there is no response to such efforts there can be little hope of success.

Senator Chandler said that Austin Corbin had offered to give \$50,000 toward a fund in aid of forest preservation. If \$200,000 should be raised for the purpose, Mr. Corbin, he said, had been invited to explain the work upon his Concord Mountain Park, and was expected to do so in a 20-minute speech in tomorrow's meeting. The national grant is also interesting, and will send a committee to participate in the deliberations.

Senator Chandler said that in 100 years, unless the destruction is checked, there will be no more wood upon our mountains than upon the country round about Jerusalem. He argued that the mountains should be surveyed as low as desirable upon their sides, and estimates of the cost of acquiring titles obtained. He thought that the state could take the lands by its right of eminent domain, and that this might be the more popular method.

Mr. Ward said that Prof. Shaler of Harvard College had expressed himself as opposed to the state ownership of land and a board subject to political control. He favored the appointment of a board of preservation of forests, independent of Massachusetts. Mr. Ward suggested that capitalists might be induced to bond the property of which control was sought, but Mr. Chandler thought such a plan would not meet the present need.

Mr. Bradley said that more money outside of New Hampshire than in the state was interested in the preservation of the forests. He suggested that a corporation might be organized to co-operate with the forestry commission, and encourage contributions in aid of the project.

This suggestion met with the general approval of the gentlemen present, and the proposition was discussed in extenso. Mr. Ward urged the necessity of adopting some means to see if the cutting of trees this winter cannot be arrested.

Mr. Lawrence thought that the forests could be made profitable to local destroyers, and Mr. Scudder asked what might be the effect of buying land by the association proposed. Would it be asked, he to induce other land owners to begin cutting trees upon their lands, in order to force a sale to the association? Would not it be better, he suggested, to follow the suggestion of Mr. Chandler, and make an appeal to the people. He expressed a wish that the forestry commission might be given authority to stop indiscriminate cutting at times.

Mr. Walker then read a series of propositions formulated by the meeting tomorrow to present to the forestry commission. The first had reference to getting a grant for a permanent forestry commission, the second related to a definition of its powers, and the third provided for the authority on the part of the state to purchase lands.

Senator Chandler moved, and it was accordingly voted, that Mr. Walker and Mr. Harrison formulate a series of propositions in a condensed form from those presented this evening, to be introduced under a five-minute rule at tomorrow's meeting.

Scrapbook page 92

AUSTIN CORBIN HAS A PLAN.

Tells How New Hampshire Can Save Its Forests.

He Also Describes His Own Immense Game Preserves at a Meeting Held Under the Auspices of the State Forestry Commission at Concord—Proposition Adopted.

(SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE BOSTON HERALD.)

CONCORD, N. H., Nov. 22, 1892. A public meeting, called by the state board of forestry to take some action in aid of the movement to preserve New Hampshire's forests, was held at the Senate chamber, in the State House, this forenoon.

Though limited in size, the audience was composed of many of the more prominent and influential men of the state who are directly interested in the forestry enterprise. Massachusetts was represented by Richard M. Bradley, Roswell Lawrence, Samuel H. Scudder, the two latter leading members of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and Rev. Julius H. Ward of Boston; New Hampshire by Senator Chandler, Gen. Simon G. Griffin of Keene, Gov.-elect Smith, Hon. George B. Chandler, ex-Senator Patterson, Hon. P. B. Cogswell and Joseph Barnard, and the national grange by James Draper of Massachusetts, W. C. Gifford of New York and W. H. Stinson of New Hampshire.

In calling the meeting to order, Hon. Joseph B. Walker, president of the Forestry commission, said that the commission had found itself unable to solve the problem presented to it, and asked for suggestions and propositions from gentlemen who had given the subject some consideration. He invited Senator Chandler to preside.

Upon assuming the chair that gentleman stated briefly the great interest that he felt in the movement.

Rev. J. B. Harrison was chosen secretary.

Mr. Stinson of the National grange presented to the meeting Mr. Draper, chairman of the committee sent to represent that body.

Mr. Draper assured the gentlemen assembled that the grange was heartily in sympathy with the work in progress, and would give all the aid it could thereto.

Senator Chandler extended a welcome to the representatives of the grange, and also the delegates of the Appalachian Mountain Club, who were presented by Mr. Scudder of Boston.

Mr. Gifford of New York, of the National grange committee, was introduced. He said that New York had found it necessary to adopt measures to protect the Adirondack regions and the watersheds of the state.

The Protection of the Forests was necessary to the preservation of the water supply, and to this end a system of wardenship had been put into operation to protect the forests against fires and marauding lumbermen.

He described briefly the methods in practice that had come under his observation, and tendered his own aid and that of others associated with him in the work undertaken in New Hampshire.

Senator Chandler then announced the order of business, and Secretary Morrison of the committee appointed last night to formulate propositions to be considered by the meeting, reported the following:

1. There shall be established a permanent forestry commission, to consist of two Republicans and two Democrats, who shall be appointed by the Governor and council for their special fitness or services in the commission, and for three years, one of whom shall be secretary of the commission and receive a salary. The other members shall receive no compensation for their services; but their necessary expenses, when engaged in the work of the commission, shall be paid.

2. It should be made the duty of the forestry commission to ascertain, as near as may be without an actual survey, the amount and location of mature timber now standing in the state, the rate at which it is being cut, what proportion of the same is being manufactured in New Hampshire, and what proportion is being exported in the log, and what section of the entire growth is removed, and on what only mature timber was cut.

3. A survey should be made, under the direction of the forestry commission, of the mountain tops, forests and sources of water supply throughout the state, the purpose being to designate the various tracts of land which might usefully be reserved as

Mounts in Parks or Preserves. and to specify their present condition and ownership and the estimated cost of acquiring the title of such tracts in whole and in suitable parts.

4. To prevent or to subdue forest fires, the selection of towns should be fire wardens in their respective towns, whose duty it should be, when a fire breaks out in the woods, to proceed to the site, with a sufficient force, and, if possible, extinguish it, at the expense of the town in which it occurs. In incorporated places the county commissioners should pay such fire wardens, and the expense incurred should be paid by the county.

5. The forestry commission should be authorized to purchase such tracts of land suitable for forest preserves as may be sold at auction for taxes, and to receive donations of money, and to control and manage all state lands in behalf of the state, and to make such other purchases and acquisitions as the Legislature may from time to time authorize.

6. The various towns and cities in the state should be authorized to establish public parks or forest preserves within their borders, by acquiring land sold for taxes or by donation or otherwise, as each town or city may direct.

7. This meeting welcomes and invokes the assistance, in the preservation of its forests, water sources and scenery of private public-spirited citizens and citizens residing in this state or other states, and that one or more associations of such citizens should be immediately organized to endeavor by all appropriate means to secure the wholesale clearing of forest lands and the indiscriminate cutting of trees on our mountain sides, and to promote such organizations, a committee of seven shall be appointed by the chairman of this meeting, after consultation with the forestry commission.

8. No shade trees in any highway should be cut by the owner of the land, except with the written consent of the public authorities, and such consent should not be given nor such trees be cut by the authorities themselves, in case the cutting is clearly required for the improvement of the highway for

The Purpose of Public Travel.

9. For the economical and most beneficial use of the state appropriations made for improving the mountain roads it is suggested that they should be placed in charge of the forestry commission, who shall designate the agents to make the repairs, and shall supervise the work.

10. It is now presented to the ruling Legislature a code of forestry laws, limiting and regulating the cutting of trees in the forests of our mountains and at the head waters of our streams.

The first proposition was taken up for debate.

Hon. Austin Corbin thought that the committee should consist of five members instead of the number suggested, with the Governor of the state as a member ex officio, and he made a motion to that effect, which was passed.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, the proposition was amended so that the term of only one member of the commission shall expire in the same year, and on motion of Hon. John D. Lyman or Exeter, that the term of each shall be four years.

The second proposition was adopted, on motion of Hon. George B. Chandler.

After the reading of the third proposition, Rev. Bishop Niles urged the necessity of immediate vigorous action to arrest the wicked destruction now going on, instances of which had come under his observation in the White mountains. These he described.

This was adopted, and proposition 4 was read.

Mr. Walker said that the solution of the forest fire problem had been difficult one; it had been conceded that the selectmen were the fittest officials to become fire wardens, and they had accordingly been named for these duties, a bill covering the matter was presented to the last Legislature, and by it returned to the next but

The Bill Had Become Lost.

Mr. George B. Chandler thought the expense of maintaining wardens might fall heavily on small towns, and Mr. Scudder asked if there could not be a penalty imposed upon towns which neglected the proposition.

The proposition was adopted, and so were 5 and 6, without debate.

After the reading of No. 7, Rev. Julius H. Ward said that, through the Boston Herald's efforts, he had already been contributed for the work in hand, and the \$5000 needed, he thought, could easily be secured. Action to arrest depredations on the forests should be inaugurated at once in the interest of natural scenery and the water supply.

Mr. Lawrence of the Appalachian Club declared that the club was much interested in the movement now being prosecuted. Many of its members have studied the subject of forestry, and it was their belief that a good income could be derived from forests without injury to them. The club did not object to work that will yield a profit if it does not permanently injure the forests, as in the case of work of some lumbermen in some places.

Mr. Scudder stated that the membership of the Appalachian Club reaches nearly 1000, and he desired its aid and support to the movement. Something, unquestionably, should be done. The Legislature should be applied to supply the broad plan,

and this should be supplemented by other work. The state should bear the heavier part of the burden, and it would seem to be desirable to have a salaried agent in every town to look after the forestry interest.

Nothing yet has been done under the charter of the New Hampshire Improvement Society, so any work can be started under it any time and carried

To Any Extent Desirable.

The seventh proposition was adopted. Ex-Senator Patterson asked who was to determine what trees should be cut down in the highways, as provided for in proposition eight.

Senator Chandler said it required the concurrence of the highway surveyors and the owner of property on which the trees stand to permit their being cut down.

Joseph Barnard asked if, under this proposition, he would be compelled to maintain trees. If so, he was opposed to its adoption.

Mr. Walker replied that in cities shade trees could not be cut down without permission of the authorities, and Gen. Griffin thought the same law applied to the country.

Bishop Niles thought that, if such a law was not in force, one should be enacted as soon as possible.

The proposition was adopted, as was No. 9. Upon the 10th proposition, Hon. Austin Corbin was asked to make a statement. In response, that gentleman said:

Some years ago I conceived the idea of preserving some of the best scenery that has been killed off, and bought 25,000 acres of land in Sullivan county. When it became known that I was buying, the price of the land went up, and I paid so that I paid about \$5 an acre. With the land, I purchased 60 or 70 buildings.

Of the land 6000 or 7000 acres is what is called the "open," the rest is wooded. There are, I think, some 40 miles of trout brooks, upon which there were formerly a number of mills, which have since fallen into disuse.

There are now some 250 black-tailed deer there. I am picking up moose as fast as I can get them, to add to the stock of 26 or 30, and have 35.

The Genuine American Bison.

The wildest of the animals in the park are the wild boars, of which I have seen nothing since I put them in. Foxes have multiplied greatly.

The park is inclosed with an eight-foot wire fence, and I have planted around its limits evergreen trees. These have not thrived as well as willows that I have grown from shoots, which in a few years will give me a screen.

All highways through the park were discontinued by the towns, but I made 10 or 15 miles of drives in the park that are composed of good roads as good as there are in the state. At every fourth milestone watering troughs have been erected, and the park has been thoroughly stocked.

I have a forester from Europe to care for the forests, which are extensive, and shall have only such wood cut as has become matured.

The park is very generally used by the public for pleasure driving, which is attended with no danger. No restriction is put upon visitors, except that they shall shoot no game nor carry firearms into it.

W. H. Post 193.

TO SAVE LOWELL'S ELMWOOD.

An Opportunity which Needs to be Improved Speedily—Organized Action Probably Soon.

Boston, February 9.

ON the Brattle Street side of the estate of James Russell Lowell, in Cambridge, which is known to the literary world by the name of "Elmwood," is said to be posted a sign, "To Let for House Lots." But it is quite possible, if not probable, that this estate will not be given up for building purposes, but will be kept intact as a memorial of the great poet. Prof. Charles Elliot Norton, Col. Thomas W. Higginson, and others of Cambridge, who were especially near to Mr. Lowell, are moving to save the estate, and it is said that a formal organization for the purpose will be soon arranged. There are about fifteen acres in the property. It fronts on Elmwood Avenue and has Brattle Street on the north and Mount Auburn Street on the south. In the rear to the west is a tall, stately row of pines which separates it from the next lot, which is used for the monumental and floral commercial purposes which are to be expected in the close vicinity of Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Not only is it desired that this property should be retained for the sake of Mr. Lowell's memory, but there is an added interest attaching to it, just as there is to the old Craigie house in Cambridge, where Longfellow lived, and where his family still reside, but which was also the headquarters of Washington in Revolutionary times, when he was in command of the American forces around Boston. The old house of Mr. Lowell is one of the best specimens of Colonial architecture and its surroundings make its situation most beautiful. Here was the home of Elbridge Gerry, Governor of Massachusetts, and here he was visited by a committee of 4,000 citizens of Boston when he had incurred the popular displeasure. This house and the old Craigie house are the two best specimens of the Colonial architecture that survive in this locality, and they are of historic importance on that account.

Besides that, the house stands now very much as Lowell left it. Many of the interior furnishings are kept religiously as he left them, especially his books. It is said to be the purpose of his daughter, the wife of ex-Congressman Edward Burnett of Southboro, to retain the property as long as she lives, but it is the thought of some that the place should be kept for the public, just as the homes of Shakspeare, Burns, Goethe, and Schiller are kept in the old countries. It is said that without the lot upon which the house stands, the property could probably be bought for about \$60,000, and that the price of the entire estate, house and all, would be about \$100,000. While this seems a large sum to raise for the purpose, it is possible that help may be had from the city of Cambridge. The city is just now considering the matter of a comprehensive system of parks and open spaces for the public, and it is proposed that the city shall appropriate a liberal sum toward the purchase of this property, thus making it easier for private contributors to raise the remainder. If this were done, the place would be kept for public use, but it would probably be put under the charge of the State Commission on Public Reservations, which has already done valuable service in preserving places of historical or artistic

value. In a few days it is probable that the friends and admirers of Lowell will be given an opportunity to do something material towards the establishment of a shrine which will be the object of many a pilgrimage, as is the case with the homes of the poets mentioned above.

This place is not far from the park opposite the Craigie House, which is the memorial of Longfellow. The two together will make this locality in Cambridge particularly notable. Gov. Russell has written a letter cordially expressing his sympathy with the proposed movement. His own house is quite near Elmwood.

LARDON.

Mr. Corbin submitted the following estimates which he had prepared: Two hundred thousand acres would give a tract of land 15 by 20 miles. Estimating the same at \$4 per acre, the total cost would be \$800,000. The fencing would cost \$75,000. The stocking with deer and fish \$25,000, interest for two years at 3 1/2 per cent, \$63,000, leaving for superintendence and maintenance \$37,000. The total investment would be \$1,000,000.

Having once acquired the title, I believe it would be wise to offer a lease not less than 90 years to some club or society, represented by responsible parties who would agree to pay a rental equivalent to the interest on the debt created for this purpose for the game and fish privileges, the state to reserve the right to cut all timber also the right of all citizens or travellers to drive through the park under such satisfactory regulations as will fully protect the lessees in their rights.

Under such an arrangement the state would own the timber, which would be

A Source of Great Profit.

and, by a judicious purchase of territory, may largely control the source of a considerable amount of water supply.

If the state does not want to purchase lands on its own account, let it charter a corporation to do it, provide for the condemnation of property and give the total ownership of the property to such corporation, at the same time reserving the rights of driving through the forest and make the further condition that no timber shall be cut except under the supervision of a state board of forestry, but which board must be paid by the state. This would enable the state to control a large water supply, and make a great attraction for visitors. The great value, as suggested, of the property if properly stocked, will be in the shooting and fishing.

In reply to a question by Senator Chandler, Mr. Corbin said that the state could go on and acquire other parks upon the same basis as that upon which its estimates were based.

With reference to the 10th proposition Mr. Ward asked if any immediate steps can be taken to arrest the cutting of trees in forests, and asked for Mr. Corbin's views as to practical methods.

Mr. Corbin said he could only see one way, and that to acquire absolute ownership of the land, as a man cannot be forbidden to cut timber on his own possessions.

Senator Chandler said that the police powers of the government were sufficient to accomplish the end when public sentiment demanded the

Enactment of Proper Laws.

George T. Crawford of Boston, whose summer home for 60 years has been in the mountains, said that under present conditions there is no such thing as permanently destroying the White mountain forests. In the Saco valley the forests have been cut and overrun with fire, as has the region about North Conway. In 1843 the lumbermen got into the forests between Plymouth and Woodstock in the valley, and yet the country is now beautifully wooded. The great slaughter of the forests began in 1855, and is going on now in the heart of the White mountain district. The original forest has entirely disappeared, but the readiness to summer business has not come. Its volume this year was greater than ever before. The cut-off wood is replaced by a more beautiful growth than was displaced. The fire fiend went over the Potash mountain years ago and burned the soil into ashes, but the land is now covered with a beautiful growth of birch and maple. None of the cleared land goes into farms. There is a greater acreage of woodland than there was 25 years ago.

Remarks were made by ex-Senator Patterson, Gen. Griffin, Hon. John D. Lyman, Governor-elect Smith and B. A. Kimball, and the 10th proposition was referred to the committee on revision.

This committee was announced by Senator Chandler as follows: Gov. Tuttle, Stillson Hutchins, B. A. Kimball, Alvah W. Sulloway, N. S. Shaler, Henry Higginson and Albert A. Pope.



FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC BEAUTIFUL
AND HISTORICAL PLACES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

*Secretary's Office.
728 Exchange Building, Boston.*

*The Standing Committee hereby gives notice that
the Annual Meeting of the corporation will be held in
accordance with the by-laws on Wednesday, January 25
1893, at 2.30 P.M. in the office of Mr. F.L. Ames, Ames Build-
ing, Boston.*

*For the Standing Committee
Charles Eliot, Secretary.*

January 20th 1893.

THE METROPOLITAN PARKS.

File 2210 Feb. 193.

First Hearing by the Joint Special Committee.

Value of Public Reservations as a Safeguard to Health and a Means of Attracting to Towns a Desirable Class of Citizens—Lyra Woods and the Middlesex Falls.

The joint special committee on public reservations gave the first hearing on the metropolitan park question at the State House yesterday. The special subject of the hearing being so much of the Governor's message as relates to metropolitan parks.

Mr. Walter C. Wright of Medford spoke of the great importance to civilization of reservations of natural landscape for the recreation of the public, and particularly of wild tracts of woodland like the Middlesex Falls. He called attention to the fact that portions of something like a thousand persons in Medford had been sent to the Legislature in favor of establishing a metropolitan park system which would include the Middlesex Falls.

Mr. Sylvester Baxter, the secretary of the Metropolitan park commission, explained that Hon. Charles Francis Adams, the chairman of the commission, was unable to attend the hearing on account of important business elsewhere, and that therefore he had been requested to represent the commission. There had been a great call for the reports of the commission, and the printed copies would probably be at the service of the Legislature early in the coming week, when there would be likely to be a large attendance at the hearings upon the subject. He explained certain features of the report of the commission, and of the bill presented in accordance therewith.

Mr. Sprague of Stoneham, the representative of that town in the Legislature, said that the people of his town had a particular interest in the subject on account of the large area which might be taken for the Middlesex Falls reservation. They would object to the taking of so large a portion of their territory as was represented on the map in the commission's report, but would favor the project if the taking were limited to a reasonable amount. He did not desire to see valuable taxable property thus taken, for it would injure the growth of the town.

Mr. Baxter explained that the reservations indicated on the map were simply suggestions; that all such questions would have to be left to a permanent committee, and that the commission would not be likely to take lands essential to the growth of a town because of its value for building purposes. He showed how the prospect of a community would be greatly promoted if property could be taken for a neighborhood, for a desirable class of population would be attracted. On the other hand, such wild, rocky and uneven lands as constituted the greater part of the Falls were unproductive, and the reservation of such land attracted a most undesirable class of inhabitants. There was no danger that an exorbitant amount of land in Stoneham would be taken under the bill, however, and the reservation area of the city had been taken for the Lyra woods. This land was unfit for building purposes, and the prospect of the entire city had been increased.

Mr. J. A. White, chairman of public reservations, said that he lived near the borders of Lyra woods and testified to the great advantages derived by a community from such a public forest in the Middlesex Falls in the summer, and thought it extremely desirable that the Falls should be preserved for public use. He spoke strongly in favor of carrying out the recommendations of the Metropolitan park commission, and of the Metropolitan park bill introduced by the commission.

Mr. Roosevelt B. Lawrence of Medford, the secretary of the Metropolitan park commission, said a hearing especially for the club, which would present important arguments in favor of the general question.

Mr. Joseph Carr of Chelsea, a member of that city's park commission, spoke of the importance of the question, and of the question. He thought that a reduction in the area available for building purposes in certain cities and towns was highly desirable. He spoke from the standpoint of an experienced city engineer, when he said that the Metropolitan park commission and Chelsea, for instance, it would be a good thing for the community to withdraw lands of a certain character from use for building purposes, and devote them forever to public use.

THE TIME FOR PARK MAKING.

Charles Francis Adams Urges Prompt Action.

Another Hearing Before the Committee on Public Reservations at the State House—Many Speakers Favor the Metropolitan Projects—Mr. Adams Speaks for the Commission.

There was a very large attendance at the hearing before the committee on public reservations in the third room at the State House yesterday morning on so much of the message as relates to the metropolitan parks.

Charles Francis Adams, the chairman of the metropolitan park commission, opened the hearing in an interesting address.

He first began a consideration of the objections which are always made when it is contemplated to invest any board or commission with great powers. It is immediately said that an irresponsible board is to be clothed with extraordinary powers, and that such danger is to be apprehended from the way in which they will use their authority. That complaint, said Mr. Adams, sounds with a good deal of monotone in my ears.

Already the objection has been made that if a new commission is created by the passage of this bill we propose, the commissioners will have it in their power to deprive a town of its entire taxable property. This assumption proceeds on the theory that the men appointed on the commission would be either fanatics or resolute. Such men would be curious out of place on a commission, but if such men were appointed, they might commit some irreparable act. But that is not a conceivable proposition. It is to be presumed that the men appointed by the Governor will be men of intelligence, character, and responsibility. No other assumption is possible.

Suppose a commission is appointed and it fails to perform its duties in a satisfactory manner, skill and prudence to carry out the provisions of the act in a manner acceptable to the public.

What great harm is to result? The Legislature has a power to amend the act, and the citizens of this Commonwealth, the persons who have advised the power conferred to them may be brought to

A Summary Account.

The humblest citizen has recourse to the grand inquest of the Commonwealth, and if it can be shown that a commission has acted arbitrarily or unconstitutionally, its powers may be speedily taken away. That is a sufficient answer to the argument that there will be no appeal from the acts of the commission.

But practical experience has shown that commissions do not exercise the powers given to them by the Legislature. On the other hand, to use the full power granted to them, they never dare to go as far as the public rights demand, on account of the cry that is raised by private interests.

Let us look at this question from a purely practical standpoint. We have had in the case of commissions we have heard in 25 years, you cannot point to one single case in which the public interests have been injured by the acts of a commission. I believe that in the vast majority of cases, I believe that every citizen who may

While it is true that the bill gives very considerable powers to the commission, it is equally true that it would be impossible to accomplish very much of importance unless it is given large powers. It is useless to make up this question, unless in a broad and statesmanlike way. It cannot be handled in any other way.

What we propose is that the plan to be considered shall be equal to the social and economic demands of the future.

We maintain that the commonwealth of Massachusetts, in common with the whole United States of America, is passing through a period of transition. That period began in 1830 or 1835, when the railroad system was inaugurated, and it will continue for 50 years to come.

The conditions of the present promise an entire reorganization of the social and economic conditions of our people. Those who live in the small cities and towns near Boston, the places that would be included in this

Metropolitan Park System.

can remember the great changes that have taken place in a lifetime. In the town where I live there was not a public conveyance before 1830. At that time the stage from Boston made two trips a week. All other means of conveyance was by private carriages. Within 10 miles of Boston we now have a population of 890,000, and in a short time this district will contain 1,500,000 inhabitants.

If we are to do anything for that population in the way of providing breathing places, there is no time so opportune for action as the present. How much cheaper it could have been done 10 or 20 years ago. A consideration of that point will enable us to judge of how much more it will cost to carry out the plan 10 years hence.

That this thing must be done is inevitable. The time is rapidly approaching

when all the territory within a mile of Boston will be taken as a dwelling place and a sleeping chamber. We must make adequate provision for the health, comfort and convenience of that great population of the future. Even now it is becoming impossible to enjoy the beauties of nature in the adjacent towns. When a boy in Quincy, I was privileged to travel over his whole territory. Even now, if a grove I could not enter; not a brook on whose banks I could not wander. Now the thing is completely changed. At every point someone meets the eye warning the pedestrian that he must not trespass on private property. It is fast coming to be the case that unless a man has the wealth to own private grounds, he is to be altogether excluded from the pleasure of visiting our woods and fields.

To remedy existing deficiencies—to provide in a large way for the population of the future—it is necessary to trust some one

To Carry Out Proposed Plans.

Nothing of this sort has ever been done unless by relying on the discretion, integrity and knowledge of agents in whose hands the necessary powers are placed.

In answer to interrogatories, Mr. Adams explained that the bill which his commission had reported calls for the appointment of a permanent commission and the advancement by the state of its credit to the extent of \$1,000,000, to enable the commission to begin operations.

The two principal tracts of land which it is proposed to acquire are the Middlesex Fells and the Blue Hills. In his opinion these tracts can be acquired for \$250,000. If the state is to take possession of them it should act promptly, as real estate dealers are advancing the advantage of the present agitation to acquire vested rights on the property which it is proposed to purchase. What can be purchased today for a small sum may be increased in value tenfold in a few years by the rapid increase of vested rights.

Mr. Sylvester Baxter, secretary of the commission, stated briefly some of the principal arguments advanced in the report of the commission for the establishment of a metropolitan park system.

He believed the cost of the system would be reduced 50 per cent. by private benefactions.

Already private individuals have expressed a willingness to donate something like a thousand acres of land.

This is an illustration, Mr. Baxter said, of the public interest in the matter.

Mr. John J. Kenning of Hyde Park said that incalculable damage was daily inflicted upon the coast.

Beautiful Land-cape Features

about Boston. He spoke of the remarkable attractiveness of the Muddy pond woods near Hyde Park, and said that nothing near London, Paris or Vienna could approach its charm. No landscape gardener would dare to do more than bow down to the beauty area in it there.

Mr. Ann of Winchester said that \$1,000,000 expended for these purposes would be nothing in comparison to the benefits received.

Hon. E. S. Converse of Malden heartily indorsed the report of the commission.

Mr. Francis Appleton of Lyndfield said that too much could not be done in this direction.

Mr. Stearns of the Waltham park commission said that the proposed legislation was what the people had long been needing.

Mr. M. F. Dwyer of Medford said that the Middlesex Fells was one of the grandest spots in Massachusetts, and the locality was also historic, because of its including the site of the first settlement of the Irish race in New England.

Mr. Nowell of Winchester said there was need of looking ahead to the demands of the future. It could not be denied that the tendency of the age was socialistic. The common people want this legislation and are bound to have it. This tendency should be wisely led, and good would come of it.

Ex-Mayor Benson of Chelsea spoke of the urgent needs of that city, the most densely populated in Massachusetts. Thirty thousand people were crowded upon 1000 acres, and it was important that something should be done at once to assure them the opportunities for out-door recreation that they need.

Mr. Stevens of the Waltham park commission urged prompt action in this matter, and pointed out the needs of his city in relation to the Charles river and Prospect Hill.

Mr. Colcord of Revere emphasized the importance of

Rescuing Revere Beach

from the present horrible condition of things there. It was easily accessible by transit facilities from all parts of the metropolitan district, and could be made a great public blessing if properly treated, and, at the same time, would add immensely to the prosperity of the town.

Ex-Mayor Porter of Quincy, a member of that city's park commission, spoke of the shore drive proposed for the extensive water front of Quincy, and dwelt on the important relation borne by the Blue hills to the water supply.

Remarks in favor of the commission's plan were also made by Representative Curtis of Revere, Mr. Nathaniel T. Kidder of the Milton park commission and president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and Mr. Carl N. Wheaton of Waltham.

The chairman of the committee asked any remonstrants present to rise and he would assign a day for them to be heard, but no one rose and the hearing was declared adjourned.

Next Tuesday morning a special hearing will be given to the Appalachian Club on the subject.

The plan is a result of a study made by out-door life as a whole in favor of the project. He spoke of the great benefit which would come to the common people, and above all, the poor, from the realization of the commission's plan.

Rev. Theodore F. Wright of Cambridge spoke of parks, especially hill tops, as a motive of public order, with some references to other cities. From the hill tops made all life different. The people were missing it every day that we let this matter go by.

Col. W. H. Higginson of Cambridge spoke of the benefits of out-door life. The growth of the Appalachian Club had shown that the American people were lovers of out-door life, and

Needed Ample Provision

to that end. The lands that were once open to all people to roam over in the neighborhood of Boston were now being snatched over and the public excluded.

Rare wild flowers and birds had now disappeared, and there had been a gradual banishing farther and farther in the country.

The situation here was such that the separate communities could not act together in obtaining the needed park system.

He instanced Norton's woods in Cambridge, which that city would not consider because it was close to Somerville and Somerville would get the benefit. He was strongly in favor of this plan and the commission's bill. It seemed absolutely necessary that this should be done by state action.

Prof. William H. Niles of the Institute of Technology spoke of the importance of preserving natural features of landscape as a means of educational work. In his instruction in geology and geography he found these features really essential to technical education.

Every year, for instance, he took his classes to the Middlesex Fells, as one of the Charles at Newton Upper Falls, as one of the most perfect examples of how a river breaks through a strong, rocky obstacle.

So with the seashore. Students who in early life had the advantage of contact with these natural features of landscape to read the best results in their training.

The preservation of these features would be a very great advantage to the educational work of the institute. It was as important in technical education as in business for young men to begin at the ball and work up, and they should begin with primitive nature.

With the present advantages about Boston, scholars and teachers could be brought into contact with these features, and these advantages should be made permanent.

He told of a Chicago young lady teacher who, with her class in hand, said she believed that she did not have any true conception of a hill, never having seen one, or of

A Stunning Stream

never having seen water flowing swiftly. Chicago might have its universities endowed with millions, but it could never give the educational advantages of New England, with its varied scenery.

Mayor Bennett of Cambridge spoke of the needs of his city. They had found that parks were useful as well as ornamental; next after sewerage and a water supply the most useful thing that could be furnished by the public.

The large tracts like the Blue Hills on the Middlesex Fells belonged to the entire community.

He said it was a question with his city whether it should take the Charles and wait for the Legislature to act in the premises.

He thought that the credit of the state would allow Cambridge to take land cheaper than any other city.

Prof. Edmunds of the Cambridge observatory, a former president of the club, said that the club was working on the American idea of securing open spaces and there, rather than upon the English one of preserving large tracts.

In his ramblings about the country he said he noticed that more and more people were being put up, more inclination to regard excursions as trespasses, and more disposition to mar choice bits of scenery.

Mr. Hastings of Cambridge spoke of the need of immediate action. Miss Ellen Wright, whose name he mentioned before the committee is given to the Legislature, was introduced by her brother, Mr. Walter C. Wright. Among other things she told of the number of other things of the Fells woods carried to the

Water Supply of That Region

URGING PARK RESERVATIONS.

Benefits of Breathing Places for the Masses.

Members of the Appalachian Club Before the Joint Committee at the State House—Plan of the Commissioners Favorably Reported Upon to the House.

The joint committee on public reservations gave a hearing to the Appalachian Club on so much of the Governor's message as relates to a metropolitan park system at the State House yesterday.

Hon. Charles Francis Adams, chairman of the metropolitan park commission, appeared in an official capacity, and cross-examined some of the witnesses.

There was a large attendance of ladies, and the sympathy in the movement was almost universal.

Prof. Charles E. Fay, president of the Appalachian Club, explained the connection of the club with the movement for metropolitan parks. It has a membership of nearly 600 in various parts of the country, but chiefly in the no reservation district of Boston.

Post, Mar. 3/02

THOSE PROVINCE LANDS.

To the Editor of the Post:

Sir—I notice in your report of the Senate business of yesterday the statement is made that the bill on the province lands, reported from the special joint committee on public reservations, provided for placing the said lands in the care of the harbor and land commissioners.

If you will examine the bill herewith inclosed (Senate document 268), you will find that not only the most valuable part of that property of the State is specially withheld from the custody of the harbor and land commissioners, but the bill, as a whole, is obscure, and leaves the future status of the valuable part of the said lands somewhat of a problem. Having had my mind on this subject for about four years, I think I understand the drift of the bill, viz., to divert an estate belonging to the people of the Commonwealth to private ownership.

Please publish this note and the bill in full, and thus give people at large an opportunity to judge for themselves.
THOMAS SMYTH,
484 Columbus avenue, March 29, 1898.

This is the Bill.

Section 1. The Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners shall have general care and supervision of so much of the province lands at Provincetown as lies north and west of a line beginning at the water of Provincetown harbor, running thence in a straight line through a point at the intersection of parallel of latitude north 42 degrees, 2 minutes,—with meridian of longitude west 70 degrees, 11 minutes, 4 seconds; thence in the same direction to a point at the intersection of parallel of latitude north 42 degrees, 5 minutes, 8 seconds, with meridian of longitude west 70 degrees, 12 minutes, 48 seconds; thence running from said point in a straight line to a point at the intersection of meridian of longitude west 70 degrees, 11 minutes, 23 seconds, with a straight line drawn from the second point through the third point to a point at the intersection of parallel of latitude north 42 degrees, 4 minutes, with meridian of longitude west 70 degrees, 9 minutes, 30 seconds; thence from said third point along the meridian of longitude west 70 degrees, 11 minutes, 23 seconds—to a point at the intersection of said meridian with parallel of latitude north 42 degrees, 3 minutes, 48 seconds; thence from said fourth point along said parallel to a point in the eastern boundary of the province lands.

Sec. 2. The said commissioners shall fix and mark the bounds of the province lands within their jurisdiction, shall establish regulations for the care thereof, shall annually appoint a superintendent thereof, and with the approval of the Governor and council shall fix the amount of his salary and the amount which may be expended by him in the protection and improvement of said lands.

Sec. 3. Chapter 218 of the Acts of the year 1869 and all other acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the first two sections of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. Section 3 of Chapter 19 of the Public Statutes, Chapter 261 of the Act of the year 1864, Chapter 144 of the Acts of the year 1886, so much of Section 11 of Chapter 196 of the Public Statutes, and all other acts or parts of acts which refer to the province lands at Provincetown, shall not hereafter apply to that portion of said province lands lying east and south of the line fixed in the first section of this act.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect the first day of June, in the year—

LABOR WILL FIGHT IT.

Opposition to the Diversion of Province Lands to Private Use.

The following letter, which is self-explanatory, has just been sent to the chairman of the Democratic state central committee:

Dear Sir: The plot to divert the valuable portion of the province lands in public trust estate belonging to the commonwealth for the use of all the people of the province to private use, was arranged in the Senate March 28 (Senate document 268) and the promoters of the scheme depend upon getting the signature of Gov. Russell.

This labor organizations have taken up the matter, and are making it a political issue. Any man or party that assists the promoters of this attempt to divert to private ownership this estate cannot count upon an improvement of their action. Respectfully,
Thomas Smyth,
J. J. Bishop, Chairman Legislative Committee, Knights of Labor

Mr. A. A. Perry of Somerville said that no matter before the Legislature was more important than the call for a metropolitan park commission. He said he had taken many men who had lived for years within a few miles of the Middlesex Fells, and what they saw was a revelation to them. There was nothing wilder or more beautiful in the White mountains. He had spent more time in the Fells during the past five years than at his business.

Mr. W. H. Cadan presented the committee with a large number of views of the harbor work done by boys in the Fells, and Mr. Wright raised a laugh by saying they should have been kept for Washington's birthday.

Prof. Edwin Start of Tufts College also spoke for the bill.

Mr. Dexter O. Malten was called upon as a probable renouveau. He said he did not object to the taking of some 60 acres of land owned by him in the Fells, but 20 acres more, near the city of Malten, he wanted to sell for house lots, and should like to have them left out of the reservations.

Mr. Rosewell B. Lawrence, secretary of the club, told of postal cards which he had sent. He said he had in that way received over 500 signatures to the petition. Of these 261 came from the metropolitan district of Boston; from Cambridge, 36; Newton, 40; Lynn, 20; Somerville, 11; Brookline, 15; representatives from 11 cities and 14 towns. Letters had come from all over the country.

A hearing will be given next Thursday morning on the subject of the three bills for improving parks; legislation recommended by the secretary of the metropolitan park commission.

The hearings on the main question were declared closed, and in the afternoon the committee reported the commissioners' bill favorably to the House.

OUR METROPOLITAN PARKS.

[From the Garden and Forest.]

While two years ago it would have seemed almost chimerical to expect favorable action upon such a far-seeing, enlightened and truly conservative proposition, public sentiment has now been so well developed by the educative forces at work, that it would really be surprising if the commission's recommendations were not agreed to. And, if the outcome proves what it should be, Boston will be fortunate in the most comprehensive dealing with the park question that any great city has yet been favored with. The work of this metropolitan board must be of great value to every important American city; it points out the way to deal with a great question in a broad and comprehensive manner; and it should be studied by every one interested in the growth and prosperity of urban populations.

Herald, Mar. 1.

THE PROVINCE LANDS.

The vexed question of the Province lands ought to be settled by the present Legislature. It is time that the people of Provincetown were given a better standing than that of squatters. The trustees of public reservations, who were requested to investigate the subject, have submitted an excellent report. Under the present conditions prevailing there the interests of both the commonwealth and the town suffer. By an absurd provision of the last legislation on the subject the custodian of the lands for the commonwealth is paid by the town, and the result is that his pay is so meagre that he cannot give any time to his duties and the lands are exposed to whatever depredations persons so disposed may choose to commit.

The bill recommended by the trustees places the lands in the charge of the proper authorities, the board of land and harbor commissioners, and the custodian is to be appointed by them and paid by the commonwealth. This would assure better protection of the true in-

terests of all concerned. Such legislation would do good so far as it goes, but something of a more positive nature is also needed.

If the suggestion made by the trustees in their report could be carried out, it would probably afford a satisfactory solution of the question. It is proposed to draw a line across the township which would separate the unoccupied lands from the settled portion, and cede all the latter to the town, which might deal with the occupiers as it saw fit; give them titles outright to their present holdings, or retain the title, if it chose, and collect taxes in the shape of rent. Indeed, here would be a fine missionary field for the disciples of Henry George, who might inaugurate a grand campaign for carrying into effect the single tax theory.

Under the suggested procedure the commonwealth would retain its title to the unoccupied lands—something like 4000 acres, we believe—and care for them in the way proposed by the bill submitted. These lands in their present condition are a menace to the town, and to the interests of the commonwealth and national government, as well, in one of the most important harbors of refuge on the Atlantic seaboard. Something must be done to stop the drifting of the gigantic sand dunes. That this can be successfully done by scientific tree-planting has been proven by experiments elsewhere under circumstances equally as difficult.

Mr. Robert Douglass of Waukegan, Ill., for instance, who has planted more trees than any other man in the United States, took in hand a considerable number of years ago a sand dune region on the shores of Lake Michigan, purchasing it for the sake of proving that not only could trees be successfully planted there, and the evil thus stopped, but be made remunerative. Time has fully justified him; his sand dunes are now recognizable as such no longer, but have become beautiful tree-covered hills, mantled with such a fine growth that he has been offered, and has refused, a very handsome figure for the property.

A peculiarity of these sand dunes is, that notwithstanding their arid appearance, they hold water like a sponge, so that in the driest weather the ground will be found moist a few inches below the surface. Therefore, when the drifting of the sand is once checked such trees as do not require a soil, like the pines, for instance, flourish well in such a locality. If the methods of Mr. Douglass should be adopted at the end of Cape Cod there can be no doubt that in the course of time the establishment of a beautiful forest growth all over the sand wastes could be effected, probably with a pecuniary return to the commonwealth and the conversion of this most interesting region into a very attractive spot. For experience has shown that the best of roads could be constructed among these hills over the sand at moderate expense, and the extraordinarily pure air of the place, as pure and bracing as in mid-ocean, would make this place a favorite resort in the summer.

THE NEED OF PARKS AND PLAY-GROUNDS.

The extraordinary and widespread interest now manifested in the establishment of public parks and other open spaces for pleasure purposes is by no means a result of an accidental turning of public attention that way as a consequence of agitation by enthusiastic individuals. It is an inevitable outgrowth in the development of our civilization; one of those steps in the advance of human society that are as wholly natural as that a plant should put forth buds, leaves, blossoms and bear fruit at certain stages in its growth.

Massachusetts, in the early part of this century, was made up of rural communities; the remote island town of Nantucket was the third place in population in the state, and one of the most urban in character. Today Massachusetts has become a commonwealth of cities, over two-thirds of her population dwelling under urban conditions.

One of these circumstances relates to public recreation. Mankind needs elbow room for healthy development, and where there was no difficulty in obtaining this under rural or rustic environment, when our race becomes massed in cities it is usually only by thoughtful planning that it is provided.

In every step in the growth of civilization the initiative is taken by individuals who are far sighted and capable of looking ahead. Were the time not ripe for the change, their words would fall on heedless ears.

One of the most important features of the open space question is its playground aspect; the need of ample room for the sport and exercise of the growing generation. Unless such facilities are plentifully provided, a healthy development of our city populations is impossible, and this means, of course, through the change that has taken place in our population, a degeneration in the character of the people of our entire state.

THE PLAYGROUND QUESTION.

The Subject Discussed in the Lynn and Quincy Park Reports.

From the Report of the Lynn Park Commission.

It is often asked "What shall we do with our boys?" In former times many of the fields and pastures were free to boys to roam over, and made broad playgrounds for them. Nahant was no man's land, open for all to fish from the rocks or play ball in its pastures; in short, a place for anybody to enjoy a holiday.

This condition of things has passed. Our boys and girls must be provided with something akin to it. A playground for children is as necessary as a schoolhouse in a densely settled town. Spaces of an acre or more should be acquired in the central part of the city. Meadow Park, when completed, will be sufficient for the eastern section. It was a fortunate condition that reserved this place in a district now thickly populated.

The pasture within the park limits, with the street and the railroad call-roads station can be adapted for the west end of the city.

It has always been the boast of Massachusetts that in many respects so far as the people are concerned, the towns of the commonwealth are in advance of those of other communities. However this may be generally, as respects playgrounds it is not the case.

Children have therefore been able to find the necessary space for their games, etc., on private property, which they have been permitted to use more or less freely. To certain extent this is still the case. It cannot much longer continue. The growth of population will forbid it. On the other hand, it is futile to suppose that the future school children of Quincy will grow up as they should unless some provision is made through which they can enjoy the out-of-door games which for all time have been the recreation and sight of the young.

The commissioners, therefore, recommend that immediate steps be taken to secure adequate play grounds of not less than four acres in extent, not in each of the several wards of the city, which grounds should be dedicated for all time to public recreation, especially that of children.

TO PRESERVE PUBLIC PARKS.

Movement on Foot to Organize a Defence League. A meeting was held yesterday afternoon in Chickering Hall for the purpose of considering a recommendation to form a "Massachusetts Park Defence League."

The call for the meeting was suggested at the second annual meeting, held March 17, 1893, of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution of Massachusetts, which embodied the following expression in a series of resolutions about the subject of preserving "Boston Common or Other Parks."

Whereas, experience has shown that nothing short of constitutional guarantees, incorporated in the fundamental law of the State, will adequately protect our parks against perpetual threats of destruction by interested parties, putting forward the spurious pretence of public improvement, and taking advantage by means of art and legislation and the lobby, therefore:

Resolved, that we recommend such steps as will defend all attacks upon Boston Common or other public parks and request, wherever they shall present the same, the adoption of the same steps by means of a "Massachusetts Park Defence League" or other organization.

Resolved, that we determine not to accept the Board of Managers to act as a committee to invite a meeting of distinguished citizens for the consideration of the recommendation, leaving all action upon it to the discretion of the meeting itself, when one is assembled.

Resolved, that, while deeming it inappropriate for our society to enter into prolonged discussion upon this subject, we yet conceive it to be entirely in accordance with the spirit of our constitution to render whatever patriotic assistance we can in behalf of the people of Massachusetts; and we therefore assume all expenses of any proposed meeting, under the sanction of the Board of Managers. It was under such auspices that 70

Representative Men.

of Boston gathered in Chickering Hall yesterday, and by their patriotic utterances called for a halt in the threatened closing up of Boston Common, which, to their minds, if permitted, would seriously endanger all parks or other public reservations now enjoyed by citizens throughout the state.

Mr. Francis E. Abbott of Cambridge called the meeting to order, stating its objects, and after an explanation of the Sons of the Revolution's part in it, resigned the meeting to the citizens of Boston in his concluding words. "It is left to you, citizens of Boston, to decide whether it is expedient to go further in the matter and consider the proposition to organize for the purpose of our revolution a formidable and radicalism of our beautiful and historic Common."

It was the sentiment to proceed to organization, and Col. Henry Adams was chosen chairman, Charles W. Elliot, Charles C. Smith and Edwin D. Mead were elected vice-presidents, and Samuel Arthur Bailey secretary.

Col. Allen recalled the olden times when he was a boy. The 50 acres had been bought only four years before the opening of the town, a mere village of only 600 souls. Now it was proposed to rob the citizens of Boston of that ground, in the midst of the city where it was most needed for the

Recreation of All.

But especially those unable to travel farther for play, rest or recreation. The men who now suggested taking a few feet, ten or more years. It is thought best to remove the menace by having a constitutional amendment.

Mr. Edwin D. Mead then read a series of resolutions embodying the following sentiment: "That the people of Massachusetts are the real proprietors of their parks, common and other public reservations; that such right cannot be taken away by state or town or city government without a flagrant misuse of powers conferred by the people on said government; that their more ardent; that should the sentiment of the people was really against the threatened act of spoliation, yet it would be necessary for the organized aggression, if not thoroughly organized; it was, therefore, the judgment of the meeting that the League had come to effectuate the sentiment in a powerful league for permanent protection of all the commons and parks of Massachusetts."

Mr. Mead then made a plea for a thorough organization. He didn't doubt the sincerity of many who had proposed plans of "raid" tactics, but thought other ways could be devised to obtain that end without ruthlessly despoiling and absolutely destroying the Common. He spoke in praise of the last report of the metropolitan park commission and the trustees of public reservations. It was humiliating, however, to see so small an amount of grounds given by Boston for breathing places as compared with cities in Europe.

Mr. Curtis Guild, Jr., said he had fought the idea of the stool pigeon of the Common since he had been a voter. Mr. George F. Upham favored an organization effected in such a manner and style as to command the respect and attention of those at the State House and in City Hall, so that they could not say it was but a movement of a few enthusiasts.

Mr. Curtis Guild, Sr., said this movement, to accomplish its results, must be a popular one. He advocated holding a popular meeting at his proper time in Faneuil Hall.

Mr. Sylvester Baxter gave an account of the advantages of parks and the amount of good Charlesbank had accomplished. The mere distance of our parks was not enough. The people should be taught to love them, and we should make them worthy of their love. He hoped the movement would result in something more than a defensive movement. He suggested that the committee to be appointed should include artists, and instances the Copyist square improvement as an example of what civic prizes could do.

Dr. William Everett made one of his characteristically fervent and stirring speeches, reminiscent and in advocacy of the preservation of not only the Common, but also of our other historic landmarks.

Mr. Curtis Guild, Jr., said that Mr. Curtis Guild, Sr.'s words were very timely.

The resolutions previously referred to were then unanimously adopted. The chairman was also by resolution authorized and requested to appoint a committee of five members, to be increased at his discretion so as to include among its members the chairman of the several later organizations, to draft a constitution for such a league as proposed by the Massachusetts Park Defence League and to report to another meeting in the near future, to be called by them at such time and place as they may judge most fitting. That committee, so far, includes Charles Carleton Coffin, Sidney Brooks, Everett, Henry F. Wallcut, E. Clark, Sylvester Baxter, William H. Ticknor, John Quinn, George F. Upham and Francis E. Abbott.

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The Great Timber Reserves.

During the past two years admirable and most successful efforts have been made for the preservation of the forests belonging to the United States. Yet so quietly has the work been done that few are yet familiar with its extent and importance.

The act of March 8, 1891, for repealing the old timber law, authorized the President to set apart as a reservation any public land wholly or in part covered with trees. It is through this simple provision, whose scope and prospective use may hardly have been appreciated at the time, that the beneficent task of the last four-and-twenty months has been accomplished. Secretary Noble employed with great zeal the powers it conferred, and President Harrison promptly confirmed with his signature what the Secretary recommended.

The first thing they did was to save from the lumberman's axe and the herder's fire two great tracts in Wyoming adjoining the east and south fronts of Yellowstone Park. The aggregate area of these belts is close upon 1,240,000 acres, and it includes the headwaters of great rivers, a fine breeding ground for elk and deer, and the picturesque scenery of the Absaroka range, all of which had long been wanted as additions and safeguards for Yellowstone Park, but through the scheming of a local railroad project could not be secured until the act of 1891 came to the rescue.

Several fine timber reservations were next established in Colorado, under this same statute authority. In El Paso county 183,323 acres were set apart as Pike's Peak reserve; in Douglas county 177,700 acres, as Plum Creek reserve; in Routt, Rio Blanco, Garfield, and Eagle counties, a fine area of 1,138,982 acres, the White River reserve. Turning to New Mexico, Secretary Noble formed the Pecos River reserve of 311,047 acres, and then in Utah, a splendid reservation of 1,930,000 acres, more than twice the size of Rhode Island, along the Grand Cañon of the Colorado, so securing the wooded borders of this stupendous chasm with its marvellous scenery.

But even more remarkable is what has been done in the Pacific States. Earlier in Mr. Harrison's Administration, Congress had created three new parks in California. Two of these, Grant and Sequoia, saved from destruction certain splendid groups of giant trees; the third, Yosemite National Park, is a valuable tract of more than 1,000,000 acres, which surrounds and protects Yosemite Valley, and is only second to the latter in the beauty and grandeur of its scenery. Since then, and indeed only a few weeks ago, the Sierra reservation, of over 4,000,000 acres, or more than the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined, has been set apart. It stretches southward along the mountain ranges, from the Yosemite Park, including Sequoia and Grant Parks. Within its limits are the loftiest mountains to be found anywhere in the United States outside of Alaska, magnificent cañons, like that of King's River, many valuable trees, and the sources of the water supply of the San Joaquin Valley, whose fertility has been created by irrigation, and on it is dependent for continuance.

Two other timber reservations have recently been formed in California, a little south of the Sierra reserve. They lie side by side, and cover the region from Los Angeles eastward to San Geronimo Pass, one called the San Gabriel, including nearly 1,600,000 acres, and the other, San Bernardino, 800,000. In Oregon a timber reserve of 142,000 acres, called the Bull Run, is set apart, while in the State of Washington there was to have been established, and very likely has been, the Pacific reserve, of about 1,000,000 acres, around Mount Rainier.

Here, then, we have an aggregate, including the tract last named, of about 12,000,000 acres of tree-growing lands, recovered and preserved by Executive action, within a space of two years, under the law of 1891. This means not only the saving of picturesque regions from destruction, but the preservation of the forest coverings of the watersheds from which regions otherwise arid and waste now derive fertility. It is a great and honorable work.

SAVING THE FORESTS.

The Law Creating a Forestry Commission in New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Legislature recently took an important step toward preserving the forests of that state by passing a law creating a permanent forestry commission. The bill as it passed the Legislature is as follows:

SECTION 1. There is hereby established a forestry commission, to consist of the governor, ex-officio, and four other members, two Republicans and two Democrats, who shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice of the council, for their several terms for service on this commission, and be classified in such manner that the office of one shall become vacant each year. One of said commissioners shall be elected by his associates secretary of the commission and receive a salary of \$1000 per annum. The other members shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties, as audited and allowed by the governor and council.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the forestry commission to investigate the extent and character of the original and secondary forests of the state, together with the amount and varieties of wood and timber growing thereon to ascertain, as near as the means at their command will allow, the annual removal of wood and timber therefrom and the disposition made of the same, its loss by consumption and manufacture, its loss by exportation in the logs, the different methods of lumbering pursued, and the effects thereon upon the timber supply, water power, scenery and climate of the state; the approximate amount of revenue annually received from the forests of the state; the damages done to them from time to time by forest fires, and any other important facts relating to forest interests which may seem to their knowledge. They shall also hold meetings from time to time in different parts of the state for the discussion of forestry subjects, and make an annual report to the governor and council, embracing such suggestions as to the commission seem important, 1000 copies of which shall be printed by the state.

SEC. 3. The selectmen of towns in this state are hereby constituted fire wardens of their several towns, whose duty it shall be to watch the forests, and, whenever a fire is observed therein, to immediately summon such assistance as they may deem necessary, or to order to the rescue of it, and, if possible, extinguish it. In regions where no town organizations exist the forestry commissioners are empowered to appoint such fire wardens. Five dollars on such persons as they may employ shall be paid for their services by the towns in which such fire wardens act, and in the absence of town organizations, by the county.

SEC. 4. Whenever any person or persons shall employ the necessary funds, or other means, so that no cost or expense shall accrue to the state, the forestry commission is hereby authorized to take any subject, and devote the same to the purpose of a public park. If a person cannot agree with the owners there, it shall be the duty of the forestry commission to exercise the powers of eminent domain, and the value shall be determined as in the case of lands taken for highways, with the same right of appeal and jury trial. On the payment of the value as finally determined, the lands so taken shall be vested in the state, and forever held for the purposes of a public park. The person receiving the money to buy and land shall, as at liberty to buy not more than 1000 acres of land, and otherwise improve the same under the direction of the forestry commission, and the tract shall as aforesaid be used to the use of the public.

SEC. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force upon its passage.

WHO WILL BUY NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS?

New Hampshire has finally found itself credit in the eyes of its own citizens and in the opinion of all those who like its delightful retreats and its mountain glory. It has not voted \$1,000,000 to purchase forest lands for the enjoyment of those who spend two or three months in its northern regions, but it has enacted a forestry law, largely the same as that which has been previously outlined in the *HERALD*, but with certain new features that, when carefully considered, will command general approval. If the state of New Hampshire does not vote money for the purchase of its forests, it has asserted its powers of eminent domain in the protection of those who may wish to purchase from private parties portions of the existing forest lands at fair prices. To have asserted this right, and to have backed it up with the voting of large or small sums of money for the repurchase of what were once state forest lands, would have been perhaps impossible in the present condition of

the New Hampshire people. They are not informed of the meaning and value of these lands to the extent that they are willing to enter into any comprehensive development of their forests under proper forestry conditions.

But in the absence of such legislation as many people would desire, they have placed it within the power of any individual who wishes to purchase one acre or a hundred or a thousand, to put his money in the hands of the permanent forestry commission, to obtain the best advice that the commission can give and to be able to expend that money to advantage, without being imposed upon. This is welcome and wise action. It enables the people who have talked loud about the duties of New Hampshire to show by their deeds how much they meant by their words. The outside public has been waiting for some action that would give them a chance, and now the New Hampshire Legislature has offered it to them in a loyal way, but it precludes in the outset any speculators or designing private parties from investing in these forest lands. The new law in that sense, like the present law in Massachusetts, authorizes the state to take and protect the gifts of land which are made by its own citizens or by the people of other states, and to build roads or paths over these domains, but forbids that they should ever again be used for private purposes. Mr. Austin Corbin, who has built a great park to hunt deer in, cannot buy the White mountains as a private reservation for himself and for his friends. The state stands as the protector of every person who desires to have the natural scenery of New Hampshire remain unimpaired, and it does not yet forbid the placing of these lands under such wise treatment according to forestry laws as shall be necessary for their best preservation and treatment.

The legislation is constructive, wholesome, and comprehensive. It does not compromise the state, nor does it put a burden needlessly upon those who desire to preserve the forests. The new law will give, it is to be hoped, universal satisfaction. It avoids legal, and it does not strike on Charybdis. It is as wise and gratifying a piece of work in the way of forestry treatment, under the known limitations of the subject, as could, perhaps, have been devised or enacted. Gov. Flower has succeeded in treating the Adirondack region in such a way that the New York Assembly has created a new and permanent commission, which look forward to the wisest and best treatment of that great reservation under the guidance of good forestry laws, and now the general public, interested in these great sections of the country, has the opportunity to come forward and do the generous and right thing.

If Mr. Corbin wishes to give \$50,000 to purchase forest lands at the head waters of the Connecticut, or at the sources of the Merrimac or the Saco, he is at liberty to do it under conditions which will gratify his pride and give him the certainty that a Corbin reserve will bear his name to posterity as one of the benefactors of the American people, and any other citizen, as generous as he has proposed to be, will find himself likewise honored, and the whole state of New Hampshire pledges its sacred honor to give him a fair showing, and to keep his memory even in the forests he has purchased. The public has been impatiently waiting for its opportunity; it has been unable to see heretofore a safe plan of action; but now the whole question has assumed such a shape that the wisest and best men in New Hampshire can be placed upon this new forestry commission, and the outside public can be assured that every interest that is sacred to them can be maintained with security, with permanence, and with the conviction that the state of New Hampshire has moved permanently and decidedly in the right direction. The *HERALD* has urged again and again that the public should buy these lands, and no legislation could have been devised, under all the circumstances, that better carries out what it has desired to accomplish than that expressed in the forestry bill that has this week been adopted by its Legislature.

Apr. 11 '93

PUBLIC BREATHING SPACES.

They Are Advocated at Annual Meeting of Revere Board of Trade.

The progressive citizens of Revere are deeply interested in the proposed metropolitan park system, particularly the plans recommended by the park commission to be carried out in that town, and last night the important question was considered before the Revere board of trade at the town hall, the occasion being the first annual meeting of the board.

On invitation of the board there were present Mr. Sylvester Baxter, secretary, and Mr. Philip A. Chase of Lynn, of the metropolitan park commission, and officers and members of the Winthrop Improvement Association. At the close of the addresses the election of officers took place and resulted in the choice of the same list elected at the recent organization of the board and previously published in the Herald.

Owing to the illness of Mr. Scott F. Bickford, president, Mr. H. T. Reed, vice-president, occupied the chair. Mr. Sylvester Baxter, the first speaker, gave an interesting account of the park commission and its report, and stated that one of the first places that occupied the attention of the commission was Revere Beach, the beautifying of which, if carried out as proposed, would benefit more than local interests and add largely to the assets of the town. He spoke of the mistake that had been made in erecting the shanties that now mar the beautiful shore, instead of taking advantage of the opportunity of putting up a more attractive class of buildings. He cited the lake front at Chicago in comparison, it not being farther removed from the city than Boston from Revere Beach.

He touched upon the plans outlined for the improvement of Mystic valley, particularly Snake river between Chelsea and Revere, which would be laid out, bring to Revere reputation and trade.

Mr. Philip A. Chase said he was present in the interest of the strong movement being made for open air places. He briefly and quietly explained how he carried out the plan which resulted in giving such a beautiful public pleasure park to the city of Lynn. He said it was unfortunate that possession was given to land at the beach to high water mark, and hoped the first step would be taken to improve the park.

He didn't believe in mountain tops and the waters being given into the control of private interests, and thought that where there was a will there would be found a way.

Representative Arthur B. Curtis of Revere spoke of some of the obstacles that had recently been brought forward, when, if passed, would not give the next commission the free and untrammelled rights they should have. He thought such a great comprehensive system for such a public purpose should be treated on a broad and liberal scale, and not be compelled to run one gauntlet after another.

Mr. A. W. Cobb, chairman of the park committee of the Winthrop Improvement Association, Mr. J. S. Ballou, the president of the association, and Mr. F. J. Moses of the same association followed with remarks pertinent to the subject.

The following resolution submitted by Mr. Cobb was adopted:

We, the citizens of Revere and Winthrop, together assembled, respectfully advocate the immediate passage of the metropolitan park and recreation measures for Boston and suburbs. We urge that these important measures are not intrusions on the principal of local self-government; that rather they prepare for a comprehensive and efficient system of local self-government; for the systematic, economical conduct of the affairs of the Massachusetts metropolis.

Metropolitan Park Commission.

The next debate proved of special interest. It was on the establishment of a metropolitan park commission.

Mr. Sprague of Stoneham moved to amend the provision that the commission should not take land by eminent domain without the concurrence of a majority of the local board of park commissioners where such a board existed, by adding a clause requiring the consent also of the board of selectmen in towns.

Mr. Bennett of Everett said that the amendment was a danger to the bill, which had been reported unanimously. Darling of Hyde Park favored the amendment.

He said it was a safeguard, and if the committee passed the bill with only that change it was fortunate.

Mr. O'Neil of Chicopee came forward as a strong advocate for the bill. He said it ought not to be subject to the caprices of the selectmen of these 30 towns. It should be framed like the metropolitan sewerage commission.

Mr. Miller of Wakefield urged the claims of the towns to "local self-government." If it was a good thing for Boston, it was a good thing for the towns in the suburbs. He favored the amendment.

Dr. Dodge of Natick admitted, after a dissertation on the bill, that he favored deferring its consideration to a later day.

Mr. Bessom of Lynn told of the rise of real estate in and around Boston, and said if these breathing places were not taken soon they would be lost forever.

Mr. Abbott of Watertown favored the bill and hoped to see it passed by a large majority.

Mr. Sprague of Stoneham said that there was only one man back of the bill, and he was backed by the Appalachian Club. He believed the cities and towns should have something to say about it.

Mr. Bennett, in closing for the bill, called attention to the fact that land could not be taken by eminent domain without the consent of the local board of park commissioners.

The amendment was rejected, and the bill was passed to a third reading by a strong vote.

FOR METROPOLITAN PARKS.

Remarkable Popularity of the Commissioners' Report.

Some Typical Expressions of Opinion Gathered from the Press of Boston, the Suburbs, and the Country at Large—"It Ought to Be Epoch-Making."

The necessity and advantages of setting aside suitable tracts of land for park purposes are recognized by all. The establishment of a metropolitan park district, under the control of suitable commissioners, would not interfere in any harmful way with present municipal functions, and it would secure benefits which are now altogether out of reach.

We advise every one of our readers to send to the metropolitan park commission for a copy of the report of that board. The commonwealth of Massachusetts has never before published such an attractive book. When people come to understand what we have at our doors in the way of natural beauty, they will not restrain themselves from exclaiming that the state shall preserve these things for the enjoyment of those who are to come after.

We commend this report to all legislators and to all public-spirited citizens of metropolitan districts the land over. It ought to be epoch making.

We certainly hope that the Legislature will establish such a commission in order that these plans so essential to the well-being of this great metropolitan district, may be carried out.

From the report, just made, it is evident that ability, faithfulness and rare energy have been combined in the commission, for without these qualities the report, now in the hands of the Legislature would be impossible. We certainly hope the Legislature will create the proposed commission and give it to the powers named in the bill.

[Architects and Building, New York.]

The scheme presented by the commission is quite comprehensive, and indicates a keen, far-sighted view of the subject. It seems to have given this question of an equal and fair distribution of the burdens of expense careful thought, and presents a well-considered plan that ought to be acceptable.

No more important subject has been brought to the attention of our legislators than this elaborate and comprehensive scheme for a metropolitan park system. It may well challenge consideration, not alone from our law makers, but the people whom they represent.

The metropolitan park scheme, as laid out in the report of the commission, looks to the greatest improvement of the conditions of life here in Boston which has ever been undertaken in a systematic manner.

It should be remembered that, if these localities are to be added to the park lands which already exist, much of Boston, it is well to set about acquiring them as soon as possible. Wealth and fashion are fast seizing upon the choicest spots in even our remoter suburban territory. The spaces which are really desirable and available now may eight or ten years hence be held at prohibitory terms.

Certainly it is true, as the report urges, that whatever is done must be done quickly. Every year the opportunities for securing these much needed breathing spaces are growing fewer and more costly. The subject deserves prompt consideration on the part of the public and the Legislature.

All hands up for the new park system. It is the "biggest thing out of doors" that has been broached for a long time. Ayr citizens of the state can do good work lobbying for the new metropolitan district. It means fresh air and plenty of elbow room for thousands.

It is a body of very practical men who have made the report, though they were luckily not above being touched by just enough of the spirit of enjoyment of a "dance on the green" to want to keep enough of the green to dance on. It is fortunate that the first report is so temperate.

If the natural grandeur of this tract [the Middlesex Fells] is not preserved as a public park, those who come after us will be deprived of a blessing which now lies easily within our power to hand down to them as a legacy of inestimable value.

A broad and comprehensive plan of park formation, in which a general community of interest in this regard is recognized.

If the outcome proves what it should be, Boston will be fortunate in the most comprehensive dealing with the park problem that any great city has yet been favored with. The work of this metropolitan board must be of great value to every important American city; it points out the way to deal with a great question in a broad and comprehensive manner; and it should be studied by every one interested in the growth and prosperity of urban populations.

FOR PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

Ways in Which the Society has Served the Public.

Facts Gleaned from the Board's Second Annual Report—Relative Standing of Bay State Municipalities in Area of Public Grounds—Open Spaces of the State.

The trustees of public reservations have already taken an important place among the societies organized for public purposes in this commonwealth, and have the potency of becoming one of the most valuable of our institutions.

The corporation was established by special charter to provide a real instrument by means of which any person or body of persons may insure the permanent preservation of any beautiful or historic place in Massachusetts.

The second annual report of the trustees, just out, shows how, in various ways the service of the board may be taken advantage of, says its report:

As to rivers and a variety of others will be found to include the giving of land into the care of the trustees. Some persons have sent to the trustees the addresses which are sent to the property of all pleasure resorts. Other gifts will spring from the desire to preserve some of the geological, botanical or archaeological wonders of the land.

Some will have their origin in the wish to hand down to posterity unimpaired these scenes which have been consecrated by the lives of artists, poets and persons of unusual gifts. Others have their purpose those who would give crowded population an opportunity to view the beauty of the far natural world.

The gift of the Virginia wood in Stoneham, a portion of the Middlesex Falls region, and comprising a fine woodland of 20 acres, is mentioned as having been occasioned by more than usual local equally honorable motives, it having been dedicated by Mrs. Fanny Foster Tudor to the memory of a daughter, in honor of whom it was named.

There can be no more enduring monument to a person than such a gift, and it is a significant circumstance that the first trust of the society should have been made with such a purpose—the first, it is to be hoped, of many.

Mrs. Tudor died in France before the knowledge of the acceptance of the gift could reach her. Mr. Roosevelt E. Lawrence, secretary of the Appalachian Club, with a few others, was helpful in

Collecting a Fund of \$2,000.

chiefly in Madford, Melrose and Malden, which enabled the gift to be accepted. The fund has been invested, and the income will be used for maintenance.

Continuing the report states: The collection of the facts regarding the present provisions of public open spaces, made by Mr. Barron in the second town last year, has been continued during the present year, and by means of a circular letter of inquiry addressed to all the city and town clerks.

It appears that the large areas of undeveloped or common lands, which once were to be found in most of the townships of the commonwealth, have all but entirely disappeared, except in the island of Nantucket, where there still remain at least 1,000 acres of unimproved common.

It is interesting to note that the parks and water-boat of the city of Lynn have lately referred to public reservations about 2,000 acres of woodland which once was a portion of the large kind.

It appears that the smaller commons which the first proprietors of townships almost invariably laid out as "grazing fields" and sites for "meeting houses" are still the only public open spaces of most of the townships of the state.

Some of these have been encroached upon, some have passed into the exclusive possession of the "first churches," some into the exclusive possession of the townships. Some are said to be still owned jointly by township and church.

Where the towns have come into possession they have frequently given the charge of the commons to village or township improvement associations. Only a few of the rural townships have acquired new public open spaces recently.

In Manchester public rights in certain sea beaches have been established, and a long strip of roadside woodland has been declared to be in the care of a Sheffield beautiful pine grove is held in trust by

five trustees. Georgetown has laid out this small space within 10 years. It is pointed out that it would be greatly for the advantage of the commonwealth if such persons as have really placed public libraries throughout the state would now turn their attention to the permanent preservation of those beautiful and historical places which so adorn and enrich the land.

The excellent tract which the general park act of 1882 has begun to produce in the cities of the state are alluded to. Gloucester and Everett are mentioned as possessing as yet no public recreation grounds, while the area in Fitchburg is so small that the city has 14,931 persons for such acre of such ground.

On the other hand, a majority of the cities now possess sufficient public acres to make the number of their

Inhabitants Per Acre

of public lands something under 500, which is a fairly good showing.

The relative standing of the cities is given in the following table:

Cities of Massachusetts.	Population 1890.	Acres of public land open space.	Inhabitants per acre of open space.
Lynn	50,727	2,094	27.1
Newford	22,628	47	47.7
Worcester	84,653	1,581	53.6
Natick	13,815	149	74.2
W. Roxbury	22,628	79	142.0
Quincy	10,723	112	149.3
Boston	448,477	1,350	307.4
Waltham	23,707	28	328.5
Woburn	18,409	34	365.2
Pittsfield	17,281	46	399.0
Fauconville	10,000	25	400.0
Lowell	27,000	159	472.6
Haverhill	27,412	30	456.8
Easton	10,000	22	454.5
Newburyport	18,947	23	806.2
Livermore	14,634	17	811.7
Salmon	20,800	25	832.0
Somerville	40,152	45	892.3
Fall River	74,308	80	928.9
Malden	22,628	27	1,111.8
Northampton	14,930	6	2,488.2
Hartford	30,257	8	3,782.8
New Bedford	18,409	5	3,681.8
Chelsea	27,000	7	3,857.1
Camden	14,930	4	3,732.5
Taunton	22,628	6	3,771.3
Providence	27,057	1.5	11,501.3
Everett	11,000
Albion	11,000

The report recapitulates the several ways in which those who may desire to establish public reservations may now proceed, as follows:

First, a gift of land may be made to the town in which the land lies, provided the town will accept the gift by vote.

Second, a gift of land for "park purposes" may be made to any town or city which has accepted the park act of 1882, with the consent of the park commission (either of that of the state). Moreover, by raising a public opinion which will vote money for the use of the park commissions, these commissions may be led to exercise their power to purchase lands, if necessary, to condemn lands within the limits of their respective towns and cities.

Third, land may be given, or purchased and taken over, into the charge of the trustees of public reservations, a body not influenced by any of the considerations which necessarily attend the purchase or selection of lands offered to towns and cities. For example, the trustees would not, as some towns have done, reject a gift because the land was found to be remote from the wharves or upon the boundary of the next town, (even though said of no account to this board, which has only the interests of the whole state at heart. Let the towns and cities of the commonwealth buy and assume the charge of as many public recreational places as they may, and there will still remain many acres of commons where the powers of trusteeship which have been granted to this board will prove useful and indeed invaluable.

The part taken by the society in initiating the movement to establish a metropolitan park commission, with power to ignore the local boundaries, which otherwise hamper the existing park boards—a movement which has just been crowned with success—is briefly mentioned, and also the special investigation of the Province Lands at Provincetown, undertaken by the society at the request of the Legislature.

Especially valuable public material of information, made public for the first time, is appended B, exhibiting statistics of the public open spaces of all Massachusetts.

The various cities and towns, taken in all, are arranged in alphabetical order, with the facts concerning each concisely given. These facts are of valuable historical and sociological interest. They throw much light on the origin of the various public holdings throughout the commonwealth. Some of these, such as the commons and public landings, date back to the earliest colonial days and others, such as training belts, originate in military usage.

AN HISTORIC SITE.

A Movement to Preserve the Birthplace of the First American White Child.

(Special Despatch to The Evening Post.)

RALEIGH, N. C., May 18.—A movement originating with the North Carolina residents of Baltimore has been started to purchase the tract of land on Roanoke Island, N. C., where the first English settlement was made in the United States. The tract embraces 250 acres and covers the remains of Raleigh's Fort, the birthplace of Virginia Dare, the first white child born in this country. The object is to preserve the property because of its historic value.

To this end a company is forming with two hundred shares of stock at \$25 a share. An option on the property at \$1,500 has been secured for six months. The surplus of the capital stock will be used to protect the property. No subscription will be binding unless one hundred shares are taken. When it is considered how laudable the object is and the small amount required, those interested in the formation of the plan feel assured that the necessary number of shares will be speedily subscribed. Any one willing to take a share can send his name to Prof. E. Graham Daves, 831 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Md.

A committee appointed by the Maryland Historical Society to gather information about an old stone building known as "The Garrison," situated on the McDonough estate two miles from Pikesville and ten miles from Baltimore, report in favor of its preservation as a relic of the French and Indian and the Revolutionary wars. The old fort, for such it was, appears to have been built about the year 1693. It is of stone, twenty feet by fifty feet, with massive walls pierced here and there for musketry. Heavy oak posts and beams or sills show the great strength of the structure. Its walls are now whitewashed, and the interior is coated with a dark brown kalsomine. On a map of Baltimore dated in the year 1755 the building is marked as "The Garrison." Historical search would seem to warrant the belief that it was one of three forts built by the Council of Maryland in 1693 or early in 1695, during the war with France that followed the accession of William and Mary and extended to the American colonies. The site of the other forts was in Anne Arundel and Charles Counties. At that time the Indians were constantly menacing the settlers of the colony. In a report made by Capt. John Oldham, who commanded "The Garrison" in 1695, it is stated that the nearest log-house was distant ten miles. Oldham described the exact location of the fort, and the Historical Society's Committee, comparing the distances laid down with landmarks of the present day, concluded that there could be no doubt that the old building examined by them was "The Garrison" commanded by Oldham. At about the time of Braddock's defeat in 1755 it was occupied by the colonial troops. There appears to be no evidence that it figured in any engagement during the great wars, but there can be no doubt it is the oldest fort in Maryland, and it will be the business of the Historical Society, which was formed about fifty years ago, to connect "The Garrison," if it deserves the honor, with the events of the last century and the concluding years of the seventeenth. Unfortunately, no organized effort was made, previous to the formation of the society, to preserve any but legislative and ecclesiastical records.

Signs of Barbarism.

To THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:

SIR: If I remember rightly, a penalty was decreed by the New York Legislature several years ago against all vandals who should thereafter disgrace the rocks or other natural scenery of the State by putting advertisements upon them.

I should be pleased to have you print the text of this law, if not too long; for such publication might perhaps prompt the officers who are charged with enforcing the law to do their duty in the flagrant case to which I now call attention.

The noble mountain which guards the west bank of the Hudson, just above West Point—that historic mountain where the big bonfires blazed in token of Washington's proclamation to our army at Newburg that the war for Independence had been won—has lately been desecrated by the paint-brush of some human microbe who presumes thus to advertise his pills.

If punishment could be made to fit the crime, it might be a suitable object-lesson to have this unspeakably contemptible "proprietor" transfixed upon the self-same rock. Such a spectacle could hardly be more revolting than the one by which he now insults the travelling public, while it might serve better than the present law in deterring others from perpetrating similar outrages.

Unless the existing penalty be promptly exacted, however, and the offensive inscription be obliterated, the public will soon discover that a voyage up the lordly Hudson is no more restful to the eyes than an inspection of the pictorial atrocities which are plastered over the elevated railroad stations.

A MASSACHUSETTS YANKEE.

WASHINGTON SQUARE, MAY 21.

Chapter 223 of the Laws of 1865 provides as follows:

Any person who shall paint or print upon, or in any other manner place upon or affix to any stone or rock, not a part of a building, or upon or to any bridge or tree, any word, letter, character, or device standing, referring to, or advertising, or intended to state, refer to, or advertise, the sale or manufacture of any property or article, profession, business, exhibition, amusement, or place of amusement, or other thing, and any person who shall directly or indirectly cause any such act to be done, or shall aid therein, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall, for each and every such offense, be punished by a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

WATERTOWN.

The Watertown Town Improvement Association last evening requested Charles F. Jackson, the treasurer, to purchase trees and set them out upon request and change to individuals who call for them; Dr. B. F. Travenport was requested to investigate the condition of the banks along the Charles River, and report at the next meeting as to their preservation for public parks and other purposes; Mr. Charles A. Stevens was requested to communicate with the city engineer of Boston in reference to the extension of the boulevard from Bollenough's pond to Boyd's and Cook's ponds in Watertown; Charles Jackson was requested to look up the town lands.

The society during the past three years has caused 270 shade trees to be planted on the streets of the town, and have to beautify the school yards with small heterogeneous plants with an admission of light to the school room, or with the play upon the grounds by waving shade trees which in years to come will make an appreciable return from the tax of the assessment. The society claims that the acceptance of the gift of the shade trees to come under the provisions of the act which provides that the town shall have the right to remove such trees and the proceeds therefrom.

shade trees have already been set out in the north side of the high school grounds. The society does not limit its work of improvement to the setting out of trees. The members are striving diligently to have the town appropriate money for the laying out of the school park on Main street. Through efforts of the society the town has appropriated a sum for grading and erecting a curbing about the Soldiers' monument, and the work is to begin at once under the direction of Isaac E. Patton post 8, G. A. R.

The object is to convert to have the town to have a park on a vacant lot of land on the south side of the river, which is at present used as a dumping ground. The land is near the Waterway dam, and the society proposes that the park be called "Pleasant Park," naming "in" the neighborhood of which Waterway. The society also thinks there should be a park in the neighborhood of the Common street cemetery, within whose inclosure stood the meeting house of revolutionary times. The name proposed for this park is that of the old revolutionary hero, Warren.

The society asks that all co-operate in improving the town by keeping the lawns neatly mowed and all lawns to grow removed.

The Watertown Musical Association held a meeting in the town hall last evening, and voted to organize the association another year.

In the ladies' secret, this evening, William Cain was found by a firing force shot from a revolver in the Union Market House last Sunday afternoon. The police claim that Cain was intoxicated at the time. The killer in charge said that Cain fired three shots at him, and his narrowly escaped being killed.

Of late years the custom of giving warranty deeds to lots and tracts in the Massachusetts reservation, known as the Province Lands, in Provincetown has grown up among the inhabitants, although inherently title is in the Commonwealth. If there is any revenue derivable from these lands it would seem to belong to Provincetown, and into the town's treasury it will go in future if a bill now before the Legislature, providing that the Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners shall have the care and supervision of the Province Lands in order to improve them, becomes law. Their history, by the way, is interesting.

Originally known as the "Cape Lands," they were bought of the Indians in 1671 by the Government of Plymouth Colony for the use of the people in common as a "fishing right." For some time after the acquisition they yielded a revenue which was devoted to schools, pensions, etc. In 1692, by the charter of William and Mary, the lands and "fishing right" passed into the possession of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. In 1727 the "Cape Lands," on petition of the occupants, became the town of Provincetown, the Province of Massachusetts Bay still retaining title in them. One clause in the act of incorporation provided "that no person or persons be hindered or obstructed in building such wharves, stages, workhouses and flakes, and other things as shall be necessary for the salting, keeping, and packing their fish, or in cutting down and taking such trees and other materials growing on said Province Lands as shall be needful for that purpose, or in any sort of fishing, whaling, or getting of bait at the said Cape, but that the same be held in common, as heretofore, with all the privileges and advantages thereunto in anywise belonging." The Commonwealth has always asserted the right of title as vested in the Province of Massachusetts Bay. Now the occupants of the lands ask to have their holdings confirmed to them in fee simple by the Legislature, but in this they are vigorously opposed by other citizens of Provincetown, who contend that all the Province Lands should be leased, the improvements on the land to be treated as personal property, the rents collected by the town and used to carry on the town government, and to protect and improve the reservation.

TOPICAL. COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. CHAPTER 407. AN ACT to establish a Metropolitan Park Commission.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:—

SECTION 1. The governor, by and with the consent of the council, shall appoint five persons, who shall constitute a board to be known as the Metropolitan Park Commission. The members of this board shall hold office respectively for the term of one year, two years, three years, four years, and five years, beginning with the first Monday in May, in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-three, and annually thereafter, until the expiration of the term of office of each commissioner; to hold office for the term of five years, beginning with the first Monday in May in the year of his appointment; and if any vacancy occurs in said board by resignation or otherwise, the governor shall, in like manner, appoint a commissioner for the residue of the term in which the vacancy occurs, and may also remove any commissioner. The members of said board shall serve without compensation, except their travelling and other necessary expenses shall be allowed and paid; and no person employed by the board shall be a member thereof.

SECT 2. Said board shall annually choose one of its members chairman, and may from time to time appoint a secretary, and such other employees as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; it may determine the duties and compensation of such employees, receive the same, and make all reasonable rules and regulations. Said board shall have a suitable office, where its minutes, reports, and records and accounts shall be kept, subject to public inspection at such times as the board may determine. On or before the second Wednesday in December in each year, said board shall make a report of its proceedings to the general court, together with a full statement of its receipts and disbursements; said report shall be numbered as one of the series of public documents and four thousand copies thereof shall be printed annually.

SECT 3. The powers of said board shall extend to and may be exercised in the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Manchester, North Andover, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham and Woburn, and in the towns of Arlington, Belmont, Braintree, Brookline, Cambridge, Dedham, Dover, Hingham, Hull, Hyde Park, Melrose, Milton, Nahant, Needham, Revere, Saugus, Stoneham, Swampscott, Wakefield, Watertown, Weymouth, Weymouth, Weymouth, Winchester and Winthrop; which cities and towns shall constitute the Metropolitan Parks District.

SECT 4. Said board shall have power to acquire, maintain and make available to the inhabitants of said district open spaces for exercise and recreation, and to this end, acting as far as may be in consultation with the proper local boards, shall be authorized to take, in fee or otherwise, in the name and for the benefit of the Commonwealth, by purchase, gift, devise or eminent domain, lands and rights in land for public open spaces within said district, and to take bonds for the conveyance thereof; and to preserve and care for such public reservations, and also, in the discretion of said board, and subject to the terms as it may approve, such other open spaces within said district as may be entrusted, given or devised to said board or to the Commonwealth, by the United States, or by cities, towns, corporations or individuals, for the general purposes of this act, or for any one or more of such purposes, as the donor may designate; provided, however, that no private property taken for the purpose of this act shall be taken under the right of eminent domain without the concurrence of a majority of the board, and of the board of park commissioners, if any, of the city or town in which such property is situated; provided further, that no land shall be taken by the right of eminent domain in that part of the city of Medford known as the Middlesex Falls, southerly of a line drawn from the easterly base of Pine Hill, northwesterly through the southern end of the dam of the south reservoir of the town of Woburn, to the easterly boundary of said Falls, nor southerly of a line drawn from said Falls, east to the eastern boundary of said Falls, and said board shall not take by purchase or right of eminent domain, under this act, any land or other property to be annexed to any of the areas in the aggregate, with land or other property previously taken by purchase or eminent domain, hereunder, ninety per centum of the total amount appropriated by any legislature or contributed by individuals or corporations for that purpose; and provided further, that nothing in this act shall be construed to limit existing rights of any city or town in relation to water purposes, or in any way obstruct their taking of such rights. In obedience of the powers herein granted, said board may employ a suitable police force, make rules and regulations for the government and use of the lands and reservations under their care, and for breaches thereof, and penalties not exceeding twenty dollars for one offence, to be imposed by any court of competent jurisdiction.

Herald July 6.

from and by general may do all acts needed for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to and imposed upon said board by the terms of this act. Said board shall also have power to expend such funds, whether principal or income, as may be given in trust as provided for in section five.

SECT. 5. The treasurer and receiver general of the Commonwealth is hereby authorized and empowered, with the approval of the board of directors, to receive and hold in trust for the Commonwealth, except from taxation, any grant or devise of lands or rights in land, and any gift or bequest of money or other personal property made for the purposes of this act, and shall preserve and invest the proceeds thereof in notes or bonds secured by good and sufficient mortgage or other securities. Said trust property shall be known as the Metropolitan Parks Trust Fund and shall be used and expended under the direction of the metropolitan park commission, and subject to its orders.

SECT. 6. Any city or town within said district, or any local board of such city or town, with the latter's consent, is hereby authorized and empowered to transfer the care and control of any open spaces located within the metropolitan park commission, upon such terms and for such period as may be mutually agreed upon; or to enter into an agreement with said commission for the care and preservation of open spaces within or adjacent to such city or town, and the metropolitan park commission may in like manner transfer the care and control of any open space controlled by it to any local board of a city or town within the said district with the consent of such city or town upon such terms and for such period as may be mutually agreed upon.

SECT. 7. Said board shall estimate and determine as nearly as may be all damages sustained by any person or corporation by the taking of land, or any right therein, under this act; but any one aggrieved by such determination of the board may appeal such damages as assessed by a jury of the superior court, in the same manner as is provided by law with respect to damages sustained by reason of the laying out of water, or of a trial dam, and increased beyond the award of the board the aggrieved party shall recover costs, otherwise stated, and shall pay no costs, and costs shall be taxed as in civil cases; but no suit for such damages shall be brought after the expiration of two years from the date of the recording of the taking, as required by the following section.

SECT. 8. Within sixty days after any land, or right therein, is acquired or taken under this act, the board shall file and cause to be recorded in the proper registry of deeds, a description thereof sufficiently accurate for its identification, with a statement of the purpose for which the same is acquired or taken, which description shall be signed by a majority of said board.

SECT. 9. To meet the expenses incurred under the provisions of this act the treasurer and receiver general shall, with the approval of the governor and council, issue scrip or certificates of debt, and such scrip or certificates of debt shall be issued as interest-bearing bonds or with interest coupons attached, and shall bear interest not exceeding four per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually on the first days of January and July in each year. Such scrip or certificates of debt shall be designated on the face as the Metropolitan Parks Loan; shall be countersigned by the governor, and shall be deemed a pledge of the faith and credit of the Commonwealth, and the principal and interest shall be paid at the times specified therein in gold coin, of the United States; and said scrip or certificates of debt shall be sold and disposed of at public auction or in such other mode and at such times and prices, and in such amounts and at such rates of interest, not exceeding the rate above specified, as the governor and council shall deem best. The treasurer and receiver general shall, on issuing any of said scrip or certificates of debt, establish a sinking fund, and appropriation an amount to be paid thereon each year sufficient with its accumulations to extinguish the debt at maturity. Any premium realized on the sale of said scrip or certificates of debt shall be applied to the payment of the interest on said loan as it accrues.

SECT. 10. The supreme judicial court sitting in equity shall, on application of said board and after notice to each of the cities and towns hereinbefore named, appoint three commissioners, who shall not be residents of such cities or towns, who shall, after due notice and hearing, and in such manner as they shall deem just and equitable, determine the proportion in which each of such cities and towns shall annually pay money into the treasury of the Commonwealth, for the term of five years next following the year of the first issue of said scrip or certificates, to meet the interest and sinking fund requirements for each of said years, as estimated by the treasurer of the Commonwealth, and to meet the expenses of preservation and necessary care of said public reservations, as

estimated by said board and certified to said treasurer, and any deficiency in the amount previously paid in, as found by said treasurer, and shall return their award into said court; and when said award shall have been accepted

by said court the same shall be a final and conclusive adjudication of all matters herein provided for to said commissioners, and shall be binding on all parties. Said commissioners shall fix and return the proportion to be paid by the city of Boston for the first period of five years, at fifty per cent. of the whole. Before the expiration of said term of five years, and every five years thereafter, three commissioners, who shall not be residents of any of the cities or towns constituting the metropolitan parks district, shall again be appointed as aforesaid, who shall in such manner as they deem just and equitable determine the proportion in which each of said cities and towns shall annually pay money into the treasury of the Commonwealth as aforesaid, for the next succeeding term of five years, together with any deficiency in the amount previously paid in, as found by said treasurer, and shall return their award into said court; and when said award shall have been accepted by said court the same shall be a final and conclusive adjudication of all matters herein provided for to said commissioners and shall be binding on all parties; provided, that no assessment shall be levied for the purposes of this act in any one year upon any city or town in excess of a sum equal to one half mill on the dollar of the valuation thereof.

SECT. 11. The metropolitan park commission shall annually estimate the expenses of preservation and necessary care of said public reservations for the ensuing year, and certify the same to the treasurer, who shall apportion said expenses in the manner provided in the following section; provided, however, that such expenses shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars during the first year nor exceed the sum of twenty thousand dollars during any succeeding year.

SECT. 12. The amount of money required each year from each city and town of the metropolitan parks district to meet the interest and sinking fund requirements and expenses aforesaid for each year, and deficiency, if any, shall be estimated by the treasurer of the Commonwealth in accordance with the proportion determined as aforesaid, and shall be included in and made a part of the sum charged to such city or town, and be assessed upon it in the apportionment and assessment of its annual state tax; and said treasurer shall in each year notify each city and town of the amount of such assessment, and the same shall be paid by the city or town into the treasury of the Commonwealth at the time required for the payment and as a part of its state tax.

SECT. 13. The supreme judicial court shall have jurisdiction in equity to enforce the provisions of this act, and shall fix and determine the compensation of all commissioners appointed by said court under the provisions aforesaid.

SECT. 14. This act shall take effect upon its passage.
Approved June 3, 1893.

Manuscript written

THE LISTENER.

Some misapprehension has arisen as to the present status of the trustees of public reservations. Their status will not be in any way affected by the passage of the metropolitan park act of the last session of the Legislature except in so far as the park board may perform, for the neighborhood of Boston, a function which some people may have expected of the trustees of public reservations. The trustees are not and never have been a "society," it was never expected or intended that they should purchase lands out of their own funds, nor was it supposed that they would acquire many spaces for the public use. The board was established and will continue to exist as a trustees board simply—that is, a body of well-known and trusted citizens into whose care people interested in the preservation of beautiful and historic places may with confidence consign such places, either by purchasing and giving them, by devoting them by will, or by gathering subscriptions for use in purchasing and then giving. The trustees of public reservations stand precisely in the position of the trustees of the Art Museum. They are empowered to care for such spots as may be given them. One beautiful spot, the Virginia Woods, has come into their care, and it is known that two or three others are coming by will.

PUT THEM TO USE!

An impression appears to have become somewhat prevalent that the new metropolitan park act, by providing the means for the establishment of public open spaces in the neighborhood of Boston, has made the trustees of public reservations superfluous. It should, therefore, be said that this is an entirely erroneous conception. The metropolitan park commission will have jurisdiction only in the metropolitan parks district, which comprises twelve cities and twenty-five towns that may be said to make up the "Greater Boston." Having the power of eminent domain and being provided with \$1,000,000 for the purpose, the commission should be able very effectively to secure the reservation for public use and enjoyment of many beautiful and desirable tracts, the saving of which could not be effected by any other means.

While within the metropolitan district there may, therefore, not be an extensive field for the trustees of public reservations as there would have been had they not very wisely been instrumental toward securing a more effective means, there remains a sphere for usefulness as wide as could be desired, for it extends throughout Massachusetts. The board constitutes a body of well known and public spirited men who are ready to lend their services as trustees of treasures of landscape and historic interest, just as the trustees of the Museum of Fine Arts stand ready to take charge of treasures of their kind, likewise solely for the public benefit. As the services of the latter have been so appreciated that precious objects amounting in value to untold sums have been given into their keeping, so it would seem that the objects for which the trustees of public reservations were incorporated, only need to become generally known in order to make them of service in the care and protection of beautiful and historic places. There are opportunities for such work in all parts of the state; in sections where, for instance, there are no park commissioners to take charge of things like these, or where local public sentiment is not alive to the value of features that may be precious in the eyes of the entire Commonwealth.

For instance, there are many opportunities for using the board by owners of pleasure resorts, railway companies possessed of attractive scenery, hotel proprietors, village improvement societies, and all bodies of persons for whom the permanent preservation of river banks, pond sides, beaches, ravines, hilltops, and the like, means the fostering of the goose of the golden egg. A realization of the direct value of these things is becoming widespread, and many such bodies will hereafter be glad to advertise that they pass through, or have in their neighborhood, public reservations that will retain their attractiveness for all time. There are many landscape passages of great charm—such as strips of land along roadsides, or along rivers between roads or railways—that are deemed of priceless worth by hundreds of persons familiar with them, which could easily be secured for a few hundred dollars and preserved forever. Visitors to summer resorts could hardly find a better field for effort than in work of this kind. Private theatricals, a dance or a lawn party would often be sufficient to accomplish the object desired.

the Post
The British Parliament has before it a bill to prohibit advertisements in public places in rural districts, with elaborate provision for the protection of pillars, posts, gates, fences, walls, hoardings, trees, "or any other thing whatsoever," that is visible to any person on any "highway, main road, footpath, bridle-path, railroad, canal, navigable river, or any place open to the public." That this particular bill has small chance of success at the tag end of a momentous session does not detract from its interest as a sign of the times. It is one of many proofs that the slow-moving Briton has passed beyond the letter-to-the-Times stage of protest. Among the amendatory clauses, now under consideration, to the act regulating the powers of the Thames embankment commissioners, is one which authorizes the conservators to "prohibit and regulate the exhibition of advertisements and placards . . . or advertising . . . in any form, on the river . . . or on its banks." The year 1898 also saw the formation of a "national society for checking the abuses of public advertising," with 600 enthusiastic members. Branches of this society in the provincial towns are the next announced step on the programme. The association aims so to arouse and crystallize public opinion that 1894 may not pass without the accomplishment of an act of Parliament that will give the deathblow to present advertising abuses. The initial step towards such much-needed legislation, for both town and country, has been already taken. Mr. Edmund Boulnois, M.P., acting in concert with the National Society, has ready the draft of a general bill, to be called the "advertisements regulation act," which will empower all "local authorities" throughout Great Britain and Ireland to regulate advertising, to charge a public fee for the privilege, with a fine (not more than \$25 for each offence, and of \$10 a day for every day during which the offence is continued after conviction) for disregard of the law, and with absolute exclusion of any kind or sort of advertisement, or of "advertisement stations" from any "arable land or pasture land, woodland, garden, public park, common, inland or tidal water, foreshore, or any part of the same, . . . or upon any tree, rock (or any part of the soil) . . . or at any railroad station distant more than 200 yards (!) from the nearest booking-office." Provision is also to be made for the removal of advertisements and "sky-signs"—beyond the reasonable and necessary professional or business signs attached to buildings—from streets, commons, and other public places. In a word, the British public proposes to control and reform a very potent and insidious phase of public education.

Herald, 6 Aug '93.
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

It is now about two years since the trustees of public reservations were incorporated as an instrument for securing the preservation of beautiful and historical places. Although the society has as yet received but one trust of the kind, its work in other directions has been such as amply to justify the efforts that called it into existence. Two of its most important services have been the prominent part which it took in bringing about the establishment of the metropolitan park commission and in the investigation of the province lands, the latter promising to result in the speedy settlement of a long vexed question, although perhaps not entirely in the way that might have been wished.

The second annual report of the trustees, just out, has a value equal to the first, which contained the results of Mr. J. B. Harrison's important investigations of the shore towns of Massachusetts in relation to their public holdings, and a compilation of the laws of the commonwealth concerning open spaces. The present report continues the work begun by Mr. Harrison, and presents a large amount of facts about the present provision of open spaces throughout the state. A valuable table, for instance, exhibits the relative standing of the cities of the state in this respect. It is notable that Lynn stands first, both in the matter of absolute area and in the amount of public open space in comparison to the population, having 2054 acres, with 27.1 inhabitants per acre. Boston comes second with 1456 acres, and 307.4 inhabitants to the acre. Third comes Worcester, with 1364 acres and 62 inhabitants per acre. Worcester's large acreage chiefly proceeds from the city's great park at Lake Quinsigamond, and that of Lynn from the magnificent Lynn Woods. These three cities are the only ones that rise above the figure of a thousand acres.

Of course, a large acreage to the population does not tell the full tale of the value of a city's public grounds, for the matter of distribution is of prime importance. For instance, Boston's public grounds are fairly well distributed. Washington is the only large city in this country that surpasses us in this respect. Worcester's public grounds are also very well distributed, although, for the most part, not so well designed as they should be.

Lynn, on the other hand, needs to supplement her beautiful old Common and her grand public forest with a better distribution of smaller areas for playground purposes, and a beginning has been made in Meadow Park and the new Ocean side terrace. Again, the city of Medford is made to rank second in the number of acres to the population by its ownership of 232 acres in the Middlesex Fells for water supply purposes—a valuable possession, and of great future recreative utility—but the city needs a larger area of playground space, well distributed through the various sections.

At the point of acreage of open space, Springfield ranks fourth, with 359 acres, and, with 123 inhabitants to the acre, her relative rank is fifth, Marlboro taking the fourth place with 186 acres and 74.2 inhabitants per acre. At the other end of the scale stand Gloucester, and Everett, with no public grounds whatever, while Fitchburg, with only 1½ acres, Chicopee with 2½ acres and Taunton with 3 acres, are not much better off.

A very interesting feature of the report is the appendix giving the statistics relating to open spaces in the cities and towns of Massachusetts. Probably no such work as this has ever been attempted before in any state of the Union, and the result is the presentation of a notable array of important facts concerning the public open spaces throughout the state—their origin, their history and their present conditions. The exhibit is unexpectedly gratifying. While much remains to be desired, a widespread and growing interest in the subject is shown. Many of these public holdings are of ancient origin, some dating back to the time when the parochial and political governments were identical, and the town common was the site of the "meeting house," where the citizens gathered for the consideration of both religious and secular affairs. To this day in not a few places the proprietorship of these commons is divided between the church and the town, and in some cases the title is in dispute between them. It is but a few years since the rights of the old church in the Worcester Common were acquired by the city and the venerable edifice removed from the spot.

These statistics show that the general park act has been taken advantage of to a wide extent, and park commissions for the care of public grounds have been created in many places. In many other towns the care of the public grounds has been delegated to local "improvement societies," under the law which authorizes such action.

In thus going beyond the primary purpose for which the society was organized, and having a care for the broader and more general aspects of public holdings in their relation to the people of Massachusetts, the trustees of public reservations have performed a valuable service, and their example deserves imitation in other states.

See back page
If the unusual powers of this board were widely understood, it is probable that gifts would come more quickly, particularly from persons and corporations who hope to make money out of special points of scenery. By giving the places of attraction into the keeping of this board, the railroads or hotels which profit from them can permanently preserve the scenes of the golden age, and save themselves the expense of maintaining and the tax on the lands in question. Strips of land between railroads and highways and streams or ponds, rough crags or points of view near villages, ravines, sea-bluffs, beaches and all sorts of places of this kind might, with profit to the neighbors of these attractions, be consigned to this board; and so, prominently, might historic spots, besides having their general patriotic and educational value, also be made sources of profit to their neighbors. It will not be at all strange if the time comes when hotels will be eager to advertise themselves as near such and such a public reservation, and railroads, acting on the

profitable principle which already leads some of them to embellish their grounds, may come to saving, in this easy way, strips of verdure along their lines. Strips along country roads are already being talked of seriously in several places. The Board of Trustees of Public Reservations has decidedly an important function to perform in connection with projects such as these.

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The second annual report of the trustees brings out some exceedingly interesting facts about public spaces, particularly with regard to the proportion of parks and open grounds to population in the cities of the State. Lynn, as everybody knows, has the largest area of public space in proportion to population of all the cities in the State, as well as absolutely the largest such space. Medford, since the purchase of her water reserve on Spot Pond, comes next; and Boston is seventh on the list. Some of our cities are poor in this respect to an alarming extent. Chelsea has but five acres of public open space, Taunton but three, Chicopee but two and a half, Fitchburg and Brockton but one and a half, and Everett and Gloucester absolutely none at all. In Gloucester there are upwards of 25,000 people without a foot of public park. Of course, the people of most of these places have the benefit of a good deal of private land which they may roam over, but their freedom on such spaces is precarious, and every year shuts them out from more and more of such private lands. Eventually they will be shut out from them all. And then their people may sit on their door steps, or walk in the road, and be told by the policeman to move on.

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The report has got together a great many interesting items of information through its systematic inquiries made as to the public open spaces in every town and city in the State. Nearly every town has a space which it calls "the Common," but generally this is an extremely small space—an eighth or a quarter of an acre, or such a matter. Nantucket, great among the towns of Massachusetts in many respects, leads in the matter of "Commons," with at least one thousand acres of still undivided common land. Fitchburg rejoices in two Commons, an "upper" and a "lower," but the former consists of one-third of an acre and the latter of one-quarter, and is "flanked b' backs on one side and teamsters' carts on the other;" and Fitchburg's only other open space is Monument square, consisting of one-half an acre—"a treeless waste, with a soldiers' monument in the centre." Unless the Fitchburg soldiers' monument is better than the average, this work of art only serves to make it the more a desert. Northampton has several very small parks or squares, but "the Cathedral Woods, which were once the pride of Northampton, were felled by their owner a few years ago." This is an example of what will become of beautiful spots, if public action or private munificence does not intervene to protect them. On the other hand, an example of what may be done to save historic or beautiful sites is afforded in the town of Bedford, where the spot where Captain Jonathan Wilson marshalled the town's minute-men for Concord fight has been set apart by the town and dedicated to the captain's memory, and where Mr. Dudley L. Pickman permits public access to the Brother Rocks—two large boulders on the east bank of Concord River, in beautiful scenery, whence Governor Winthrop and Lieutenant Governor Dudley selected their farms in 1638.

THE AGE OF DISFIGUREMENT.

The world is ruled by the shopkeeper, and the shopkeeper's handiest weapon is advertisement. In his determination to make himself notorious he is quite as shameless as the professional beauty or the Labor candidate. As no impudence is too high, so no artifice is too low for his ambition. An he could, he would turn the British Army into sandwich men, and from a bear pit change the House of Commons to the sounding-board of his praises. But there are some achievements forbidden even to him, and as he is not permitted to obscure the sky with his signs, so also certain public edifices are still sacred. Meanwhile, he makes the most of his advantages, and, not content with destroying the suburbs, he has extended his deprecations to the quiet country-side which but a few years since knew neither his nostrums nor himself.

It is for wise men to devise some means whereby the greed and vulgarity of the advertiser may be fittingly punished. Upon one point all are agreed. Moorland and plain, riverside and mountains, may now for ever be defaced by the announcement—in letters three feet high—that Somebody's Kat. Poleson will kill Cate. If we are willing to tolerate these endless outrages upon propriety, we may as well hand over all the exquisite waste places of our land to the Yankee dollar-hunter. Legislation is imperatively demanded. The question of urban advertisement stands apart. We are not all agreed thereupon, and the pedants of the Academy, who are for austerity at any price, will be encouraged to the peril of our cities. But concerning rural advertisement discussion is at an end. Why should not an independent member—some intrepid saviour of society—redeem a worse than barren session by forcing a measure through Parliament? Let him insist that no advertisement shall on any pretence be permitted to meet the traveller's eye on any side five miles out of London. Let him denounce the miserable soap-boiler team and verge enough for his monstrous swagger, and a swinging tax might be relied upon to do the rest—or fill the exchequer. The sky-sign is approaching the period of eternal banishment. Let us join hands in beating the countryside of defacing announcements. Then only one question will remain for settlement—the decoration of our streets. And then perhaps we can do no more than pray for a chastened taste and a larger freedom of design.—[National Observer.

PROPOSALS FOR MASSACHUSETTS STATE BONDS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
BOSTON, March 20, 1894.

The undersigned will receive sealed proposals at this office until 12 o'clock (noon) of Wednesday, April 26th, 1894, for the purchase of the following described interest bonds, to be issued in pieces of \$1000 or multiples thereof, authorized by Chapter 407, Acts of 1893:

\$1,000,000

METROPOLITAN PARKS LOAN,

Payable January 1st, 1894, bearing interest at the rate of 3½ per cent per annum, payable semi-annually on the first days of January and July, 1894, and interest payable in gold coin of the United States at the office of the Treasurer in Boston.

The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals.
HENRY M. PHILLIPS, Treasurer.
SW&ap (23) md 54

STATE CREDIT HIGH.

One Million Metropolitan Parks—A 3½ Per Cent Loan Awarded on a 3½ Per Cent Basis, Which Means a Premium of \$85,350.

State Treasurer Phillips at noon today opened sealed proposals for the \$1,000,000 Metropolitan Parks loan, registered bonds, authorized by chapter 407 of the acts of 1893, payable Jan. 1, 1894, bearing interest at the rate of 3½ per cent per annum, and payable semi-annually Jan. 1 and July 1, principal and interest payable in gold. The entire loan was awarded to the New York Life Insurance Company at \$108,635 over \$100, which places a 3½ per cent loan on a 3½ per cent basis, and gives to the Commonwealth a premium of \$85,350. The following is a complete list of the bidders and bids:

New York Life Ins. Co., N. Y.	\$108,635
Blair & Co., N. Y.	107,212
Lee, Higginson & Co., and N. W. Harris & Co., Boston	107,18
E. H. Collins & Sons, Boston	106,780
Third Nat. Bank, Boston, and Farnam & Co., N. Y.	106,76
W. J. Quinlan, N. Y.	106,75
Ridder, Parobly & Co., Boston	106,578
H. J. Day & Co., Boston	106,440
Berman American Investment Co., N. Y.	106,25
Blake Bros. & Co., Boston	106,25
Morgan & Bartlett, N. Y.	106,61
Knott, Lobb & Co., N. Y.	106,125
German-American Investment Co., N. Y.	106,015
Daniel A. Moran & Co., N. Y., for \$800,000	105,95
E. Morrison, N. Y., for \$200,000	105,95
Franklin Savings Bank, Boston, \$50,000	105,

Approved the supplementary Boulevard Bill.

At the meeting of the Park Commissioners of the cities along the North Shore, at Everett Tuesday, the commissioners present approved unanimously the supplementary boulevard bill introduced into the Legislature by Representative Wellman of Malden. A committee was appointed, consisting of the chairman and secretary and one from each board represented, with Medford, and Alderman Witt of East Boston and E. W. Fashoe of Charlestown, to prepare a plan of parks and boulevards to be carried out by the cooperation of the municipalities represented and the Metropolitan Park Commission. Great interest was shown in the meeting in the reports concerning the different pieces of plans and work accomplished, which showed very plainly that Boston is destined to be surrounded by beautiful parks and drives, as there was manifested no disposition to hold back the needed funds.

Mrs. Henry Whitman will give a reception on Monday, April 16, in her studio on Boylston street, to Dr. Weir Mitchell of Philadelphia. Dr. Mitchell is the distinguished specialist, whose reputation is world-wide. He is also a clever author and poet. He is giving readings in the large cities, and the proceeds will be devoted to the preservation of Roanoke Island, N. C., where in 1884 the first footprint of the English race on this continent was imprinted, and where, three years later, the first American child was born. A tract of about 240 acres, including these historic remains, is now for sale, and it is proposed to raise \$15,000, incorporate a stock company and preserve from further decay Raleigh's Fort.

TO CHECK THE ABUSES OF ADVERTISING.

The society for checking the abuses of public advertising is now fairly in the saddle. It has its agent in the press. No. 1 of A Beautiful World has seen the light. The society's main object is to prevent the spread of ugliness by checking the abuse of the public poster. It is to be kept out of the green fields and country lanes, and from the banks of rivers by whose falls melodious birds sing madrigals. A Beautiful World, on the other hand, is to promote the spread of beauty by showing us where its possibilities lie in our public life. The two together are complementary of each other, as parts of a perfect whole. The new magazine begins well. On its first page Mr. Alfred Austin asks at some length, in the metrical manner—

"Is nothing sacred then? nor grove, nor mead,
Nor silent pool, nor solitary lane?"

The society asks for public aid "in sweeping the painted boards from the meadows, in unfastening the enamelled plates from the gables, in reducing the canopies of the railway stations to some sort of order, and in keeping hoardings within rational limits of size." It will in due time seek legislative aid, and its "legal sub-committee" has already prepared a draft bill which is as searching as schemes written for introduction to Parliament are apt to be. Meeting hotel proprietors, greengrocers, railway directors and, for some mysterious reason, "olimen" are to be reasoned with by members of the society in their private capacity. The endeavor to use this method with the United Bill Stickers' Association has not been altogether successful. The bill stickers are at present decidedly impatient, and they scout the notion that the attempt to "harass a legitimate and useful business" can be consistent with the society's expressed desire "to live in peace with all men." [London Daily News.

THE CHIEF LESSON OF THE WORLD'S FAIR.

It seems to us that the Columbian exhibition will fail to teach its most valuable lesson if its effect upon the actions of the people of this country is confined to deductions drawn from the exhibits made inside of the walls of the various buildings. All who return from this great exhibition report themselves as astonished beyond expression at the artistic beauty of the buildings and grounds, and the utility that has characterized the planning, the construction and management of the entire enterprise. Here is a "white city," as it is called, built upon a location which had no natural advantages, except that it was a flat tract of land bordering upon the water; and yet from these not altogether promising conditions has been evolved a wonderfully beautiful temporary city, so laid out as to blend water and land happily together, to have the buildings in size and location well adapted to their surroundings, with means of transportation to all points provided by elevated railroads and by steamboats, and yet, under such conditions as to in no way interfere with the artistic attractiveness of the entire scheme. This is not a city to be looked at as a model which cannot be touched, but is built to be daily occupied by hundreds of thousands of people, and to so stand the wear and tear as to be at the end an object for admiration.

Now, as we said above, it seems to us that the construction of such a city as this is an object lesson which the American people, to go no farther, would be excessively foolish if they failed to learn. A Bostonian who paid a visit to the Columbian fair grounds last fall, when asked by his accompanying Chicago friends what he thought of the then unfinished enterprise, said to his inquirers that he would recommend that they make arrangements to burn down their own city and employ the men who had constructed the exhibition grounds and buildings to put up a new one for them. This jest suggests the thought that we are now endeavoring to enforce that it is possible to have our cities built as gracefully, artistically and attractively as the "white city" on Lake Michigan.

It is true that where a great city has been built up in the haphazard fashion which characterizes nearly all American municipalities, it would be exceedingly difficult and expensive to make the radical changes needed to bring it quickly into line with an artistic conception of what the city might be. If the peninsula of Boston and the land surrounding it were turned over to Mr. Fred Law Olmstead, and those who have been his coworkers in the Columbian exhibition, in the manner in which it was when Blackstone invited Winthrop and his associates to settle here, one can faintly imagine what a wonderfully beautiful city these men would make of it, for the hilly peninsula, the broad inland lagoons, the rivers "widening to meet the bay," the forest-covered islands of the harbor, would all lend themselves to treatment in a way entirely impossible at Jackson Park, Chicago. Under such conditions, we could have in Boston a city the like of which was never seen before, and one that, if

rs inquire

into the expediency of the plan. It is highly expedient, he said, that the matter be taken up as soon as possible, as each succeeding year adds to the expense of an improvement that must inevitably be made.

Wilbur F. Powers, secretary of the Hyde Park commission, said that it was impossible for towns acting individually to accomplish the necessary reforms. Local influence and ideas were valuable, but the cooperation of all towns in the district was necessary to carry out the project in the comprehensive manner desired. If Hyde Park as a distinct town were to expend money in the improvement of approaches to the city, without securing the assistance of Milton and Dedham, it would be merely throwing money away. Each town needs the aid of the towns to which it is immediately adjacent. He said that the park commissioners had taken the Blue Hills and the Middlesex Fells for park purposes, but that they were practically of little value to the great mass of the people, until proper roads to them had been constructed. He suggested the commissioners might investigate the subject and report to the present Legislature.

Ex-Congressman E. D. Hayden of Woburn said that the city was entirely in accord with the plan. In addition to the advantages which would accrue by an opening up of the parks to the public, it would serve to educate the people in the development of property and roads. Forrest C. Manchester of Winchester, of the Park Commission of that town, remarked that there were many arguments in favor of the plan. In the metropolitan parks district there are twelve cities and twenty-four towns, with a population of 900,000, nearly forty per cent of the total population of the State. In a few years the population of the cities and towns in the territory will be 2,000,000. When that time comes the people will feel more than they do today the congestion in the most thickly settled districts. On the north side of Boston, from the Charles to the ocean, there is not one decent approach to the city, and rapidly all the vacant land is being taken for the development of numerous schemes. The great trouble arises from the fact that former generations built the roads too narrow, not anticipating the marvellous growth of the country. What is desired now is that the State shall exercise the right of eminent domain and acquire such land as is necessary to the proper carrying-out of the plan under consideration. There are the Lynn Woods, the Middlesex Fells, the Blue Hills and Muddy Pond woods which have been reserved for park purposes, yet they are not enjoyed to the extent that they would be were they provided with proper approaches. There are three rivers, the Neponset, the Charles and Mystic, streams of rare beauty, and within the district are numerous small lakes and ponds. Then there are scenes of surpassing beauty, and these should be opened up and rendered accessible so that they may be enjoyed by the whole people. With a system of roadways and boulevards such as is contemplated the result would be beyond realization.

S. Woodbury of Revere said that the majority of citizens confined in large cities sought relief from the summer heat and oppression at the sea-shore, and naturally flocked to Revere in large numbers, but not to such an extent as they would were the town supplied with suitable boulevards. The fare to the city is but five cents, and this was an inducement that could not be over-estimated to the poor people, when a trip down the harbor means an expense of from twenty-five to fifty cents. Most of the streets in the town are forty feet in width, but there are a few which are sixty feet wide. If the Metropolitan Park Commission would assist the town in developing its thoroughfares, not only the town, but all the cities and towns in the district, would be benefited to an untold extent.

TO MAKE MOUNTAIN PARKS.

New York Park Commission Advises Issue of \$3,000,000 in Bonds.
(Special Dispatch to the Boston Herald.)

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 24, 1894. The new state forest commission today submitted a special report to the Legislature strongly favoring the issue of \$3,000,000 in bonds to purchase lands. In it the commission says, in part: "The department would urge the importance and necessity of providing means for an extensive purchase of lands within the Adirondacks and Catskill forests. On the preservation of our forests depend the water supply of our rivers and canals, the motive power of great manufacturing interests, the price-ess benefits conferred by our forest sanctuaries, the many delightful places of refuge from the summer heat of cities, and the existence of our fish and game. But, above all, on the present and future depends that great factor in our political economy, our future timber supply."

"The great forest of northern New York covers an area of 15,500,000 acres. The Adirondacks park or proposed reservation includes 2,807,760 acres. The difference in area, 781,043 acres, between the entire forest and that of the proposed reservation represents scattered or isolated tracts of woodland which could not well be included within the park line. The state owns 751,450 acres in the Adirondack forest, of which 501,000 acres are situated within the lines of the reservation."

"We desire to call your attention to the necessity for some action in regard to the Catskill forests. The wooded area of the Catskill forests in size is fully three-fifths that of the Adirondacks, there being more than 2,200,000 acres of contiguous forests in Ulster, Delaware and Sullivan counties. Within this territory the state owns 49,332 acres, principally in Ulster county. These holdings are in scattered lots and should be made a solid tract by the purchase of additional lands in order that they can be brought under some systematic management."

"We believe that it would be well to acquire 100,000 acres in the immediate vicinity of lands mentioned. Its summer population far exceeds that of the Adirondacks."

A bill carrying out the above recommendations accompanies the report. It authorizes the state comptroller to issue \$3,000,000 in bonds and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent, one-twentieth of the bonds to be paid each year after issue, June 1, next, being named as the date of issue. They shall be sold by the comptroller as fast as needed, at not less than par, and the proceeds shall mainly be devoted to purchasing lands for the state park. Sixty thousand acres are authorized by the bill to be purchased in the Catskills out of the proceeds of the bonds, at a price not exceeding \$1.50 an acre.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Metropolitan Boulevards—The Unemployed—The Law of Attachments—Telephone Taxation—Reports of Committees and Other Business.

STATE HOUSE, Friday, March 2.

All the cities and towns within a radius of ten miles from Boston were either directly or indirectly represented before the Committee on Cities, this morning, in support of a bill which provides that the Metropolitan Park Commission be authorized to consider the expediency of laying out a comprehensive system of roadways and boulevards between Boston and the other towns in the Metropolitan parks district. Senator Lawrence of Medford informed the committee that the mayor of that city was unavoidably absent, but that he had expressed himself as entirely in sympathy with the measure. The citizens of Medford are quite unanimously in favor of an investigation along the lines suggested, believing that good would not only result to the city, but to all cities and towns concerned in the proposed improvement.

Ex-Governor Brackett appeared as a citizen of Arlington to track a favorable report upon the bill. The importance of the contemplated work was generally recognized, and was recognized thirty years ago. There could be no valid objection to the bill, since it only provides that the Metropolitan Park Commission

there were not others built in imitation of it, would draw visitors to it from all ends of the earth.

Of course all this is impossible. We Bostonians have made our bed, and to a certain extent must lie in it, but it is open to other cities, those that are hereafter to be great centres of population, to profit by our experience and our lost opportunities, and, before they commit themselves to the dreary and ugly formalities which surround most modern cities, employ the services of competent landscape engineers to lay out the broad lines in accordance with which their future city is to be constructed. The expense of a plan is not an insuperable obstacle. It is the cost of execution which is the most serious problem, and there is reason for believing that the cost of building a usefully arranged and beautiful city is not appreciably greater than the cost of building an ugly and badly arranged one.

What is needed is the laying down at the first of certain broad general lines which must be observed in all building and street construction, and, by degrees, through the observance of these, a wonderfully attractive and well arranged town or city would gradually come into existence. We do not doubt that, even in Boston, if plans were prepared for the sensible, and at the same time artistic, treatment of our entire municipality, and it was arranged that all new construction should be made to conform to this rule, our descendants in one or two generations from this time would rise up and call us blessed on account of our forethought; that is, they would reap the benefits of our wise preparation, just as we are reaping the results of the unwise and shortsighted policy of our ancestors.

But all places in and round Boston are not built up in the way that requires destruction to take place before new construction can begin, and it may be seriously asked whether there is not room in these places to benefit by the skill that has been so wonderfully displayed at Chicago. Suppose Mr. Olmstead were asked to lay out the suburban wards of Boston in accordance with his judgment of what these should be when they are built up, as in a few years more they will be, by a more or less dense population. He might in this way duplicate the work performed by the board of survey, but he would doubtless approach the problem from a different point of view. Or to give a distinct field, suppose he were to take his own town of Brookline, which two generations from now will be a densely settled section, and lay out a plan for its artistic upbuilding. There is not much doubt that its acceptance by the town and the compulsory observance of its requirements in all new construction would in a very few years make of Brookline a residential district, the attractiveness of which it would be difficult to overestimate, having, as it would soon have, a world-wide reputation.

We have merely referred to these concrete cases as illustrations. The Columbian exhibition has afforded peculiar demonstration of the inestimable advantage of construction in accordance with the requirements of intelligent and thoroughly informed landscape engineers, while that, with such a proof before our

THE RUIN OF TRENTON FALLS.

One of the loveliest spots in the state of New York is the falls of Kaayahora, to use its Indian name, meaning "leaping water," but more commonly designated as Trenton Falls. A few miles north of Utica, and easily reached from the great tourist route of the New York Central, it has been a favorite of discriminating travellers since first brought to notice by the Rev. Daniel Sherman, who built the first hotel near the place. Mr. Sherman was a Congregational minister settled at Mansfield Centre, Conn., but having adopted the tenets of the Unitarians when their conflict with the old church began, was obliged to leave his charge, and became the pastor of the first Unitarian church in the state of New York in the village of Trenton. After leaving his charge, Mr. Sherman opened an hospitable inn, called the "Rural Resort," and after his death the part of cultivated host was taken by his son-in-law, Mr. Moore. The latter appreciated thoroughly what such a resort should be, and while he maintained every convenience for seeing the falls, which consist of a series of cataracts having great diversity of interest, he never allowed the charms of nature to be despoiled by the handiwork of man. With an almost worshipful reverence, the primeval forest was left untouched, and under giant trees one could follow for nearly a mile the course of the rushing waters. The spot was a favorite resort of Irving; Willis gave to it some of the productions of his graceful pen; George William Curtis called it "the summer dream of rest," and Fanny Kemble was moved by this

Child of a thousand rapid-running rills to a poem of singular beauty. Not tremendous, like Niagara, in which the beautiful is lost in the sublime, Trenton Falls has that combination of beauty with grandeur which inspires while it subdues. It is one of the precious things of the Empire State, to be cherished and preserved in its native glory, like Niagara, the Adirondacks, Ausable Chasm, and Watkins Glen, for the benefit and uplifting of generations yet to be. But at last comes the ruthless hand of the destroyer, of him to whom spiritual power is as nothing compared with material gain. Not long ago a bridge was thrown over the chasm near the upper fall to carry Seward Webb's Adirondack railroad, a piece of consummate vandalism which will hand down the names of its perpetrators to an infamy increasing as the ages get to value the things of the spirit above the things of the flesh.

This is not all. Discouraged, perhaps by this desecration of the place, Mrs. Moore, who is the daughter of Mr. Sherman and the very aged widow of the last proprietor, entered into an alleged agreement with Messrs. Fottibone & Jenkins of Connecticut, by which she agreed to give them the sole right to use the water of two of the falls, with the right of way for the erection of a suitable dam and plant, with the declared object of furnishing the city of Utica with electric power. The consideration of the lease, if it should be executed in pursuance of the agreement, was to be \$1,000 a year, but the execution of the lease has been resisted in the courts by Mrs. Moore, who claims that it was only an option. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court has just decided against her, and it would seem that the doom of the beautiful Kaayahora is sealed. Are the people of Utica entirely sunk in lives so sordid that they do not rise to prevent these outrages, or have they risen and failed?

The remedy is in the Legislature, which should rescind this jewel of the state by condemnation to public use, relocate the railroad, and regulate the application of the water for power, if this must needs be carried out at all. The civilized world to-day rejoices in the regeneration of Niagara by the joint action of Canada and New York. What shall it profit man if millions are spent, as is the case to-day, for the beautiful when shown upon canvas, and there is lost meanwhile the very soul of Nature in places where she attains her divinest expression and touches her worshippers with a potency beyond all art—
(Springfield, Pa.)

NIAGARA FALLS DEFAACEMENT.

Opposition of the Reservation Commissioners to a Bill Allowing a Car Line Across the Gorge.

The Commissioners of the State Reservation are strongly opposed to the bill passed in the state Senate, incorporating the Niagara River Tramway Company, which is said to be backed by prominent capitalists in this city, Western New York, and in Canada, the plan being to stretch a cable railway across the gorge at the edge of the Horse Shoe and American Falls from shore to shore. They say they had no intimation of its preparation.

"The injury to the scenery," said one of them to-day, "would be as great as the chance for such a company to coin money. It is the worst of many attempts to spoil the scenery of the falls. I do not even know whether the bill was printed. It has been our experience before that bills have been introduced and almost passed, which would have allowed serious injury to our reservation, without being printed. We have to be constantly on the guard against such measures.

"A measure, bill No. 1263, was introduced March 13, to incorporate the Niagara, Lockport, and Ontario Power Company, which was harmless with the exception of one sentence, which allowed them to draw off water two miles above the falls, *ad libitum*. If this sort of thing continued, in a few years there would not be any water running over the falls. We instructed the attorney-general to oppose the bill, but do not know where the measure stands at present."

For nearly a century the old blockhouse in Pittsburgh known as Boquet's redoubt, famous during the Revolution, was surrounded by tenements so as to be invisible from the streets in the neighborhood. It was reached by a small and unseamy alley from Fort Street and was occupied by a family of squatters. A Mrs. Schenley, who owned the blockhouse and a row of small brick houses extending out to Fort Street, recently gave the ground on which they all stand to the Daughters of the American Revolution. The squatters have been evicted from the redoubt, the brick houses, which were old and dilapidated, have been razed, and the relic is to be appropriately preserved. The ground around the blockhouse will be levelled and sodded, concrete walks will be laid, a pretty iron fence will surround the small park, and a fountain will probably play in the yard fronting on Fort Street. There will doubtless be a small fee for admission to the blockhouse to defray the expenses of maintenance. Inside there will be a museum of colonial relics.

The battle of San Jacinto is a theme of which a Texas audience never wearies, and the state newspapers are constantly narrating the valor of Houston's little army on the field where they avenged the massacre of the Alamo. Nevertheless the preservation of the historic spot has not appealed powerfully to Texans, and it has remained for a society known as the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to save it from neglect. In a circular addressed to the women of the state they say that the society will hold a bazaar in November next to raise funds for the improvement of the battle-field. To this bazaar each town and city will be invited to send a table of articles to sell. "Some years ago, by personal subscription," says the circular, "a small marble shaft was erected to mark the spot where those who fell in that memorable battle were buried. Is it not a disgrace to us that we have so long permitted stock to wander at large over the graves of those who fell to make Texas free? Our chapter, named after the famous battle, has been given charge of the ten acres owned by the state. Though few in number, we have done what we could towards caring for the sacred spot, by having weeds, briars, and brush cleared away, and prohibiting the use of it as a public burial-ground. To fence, build a monument, and beautify the place, is our desire and aim."

OUR FOREST RESERVATIONS.

Sylvester Baxter, Before the Horticultural Society, Talks of the Future of Great Public Pleasure Grounds.

Sylvester Baxter, formerly secretary of the Metropolitan Park Commission, addressed the Massachusetts Horticultural Society this forenoon on the "Metropolitan Park System." Mr. Baxter began by saying that the realization of a series of metropolitan parks for Boston within three years of the time when the first definite suggestion to that end was made, furnishes one of the most striking instances of the remarkable responsiveness of public sentiment under modern conditions when the right chord happens to be struck at the right moment. After speaking of the formation of the temporary and permanent Metropolitan Park Commission and the changes in public sentiment under other circumstances which made these possible, he briefly considered the general park movement in the United States—in which the establishment of the Metropolitan Park Commission here forms one of the most notable events. This movement had its origin in the impulse given by Frederick Law Olmsted, who found his opportunity in Central Park, New York. In Boston the movement did not make itself felt until considerably later than in other cities of similar rank. The great reason for this lay in the exceptional beauty of the suburbs of this city. A very important factor in promoting a widespread interest in the scenes about Boston may be found in the efforts made by Eliza Wright and others for the recognition of the beauties of the Merrimack, which led to the enactment of the Public Forest Law in 1882. Another was the organization of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The example set by the latter in the establishment of "Lynn Woods" had a powerful effect in stimulating interest, not only around Boston, but in many parts of the State.

A very important advance was that made in the incorporation, in 1891, of the Trustees of Public Reservations, whose leading spirit was Charles Eliot, the most brilliant pupil of Mr. Olmsted and now his associate in business. In response to a suggestion made by the lecturer, these trustees were organized, and finally resulted in the creation of the Metropolitan Park Commission. The metropolitan park system, which is the object of the commission, extends, comprising the twelve cities of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Newton, Quincy, South Scituate, Waltham and Winthrop, and the twelve towns of Arlington, Belmont, Braintree, Brockline, Canton, Dedham, Dover, Hingham, Hull, Hyde Park, Milton, Needham Heights, Norwood, Roslindale, Swampscott, Weymouth, Waterbury, Wellesley, Weymouth, Weymouth, Weymouth and Weymouth. By the census of 1890 these communities contained a population of more than 888,000, or nearly forty per cent of the population of the State.

The scope of the commission comprises not only the establishment of great public reservations and the preservation of natural features of exceptional beauty but the restoration, so far as possible, of the seashore in the neighborhood of Boston to a condition whereby the public may freely enjoy the privileges of access to the salt water. Improving the natural water courses of the district in a way that will make them beautiful and valuable features of the region, is placed of the instances that they have been allowed to become; preserving the charms of the various beautiful ponds that form a notable feature of our suburban landscape; and establishing convenient and agreeable means of communication in the shape of boulevards or parkways, between the dense populations of the metropolitan area and the various reservations established for their benefit.

Before any positive steps could be taken in the way of establishing any of the public open spaces contemplated, a large amount of preliminary work was necessary. In the first instance the landscape architect had to give a certain fixity to the conditions of the localities for naturally his judgment would guide the commission in its determinations, and the question of the proper bounds, which must be secured upon before the necessary surveys could be made, had to be decided. It is very desirable that the boundary of a reservation for public use should follow the lines of a road, for the sake of accessibility and of enabling the owners of adjacent property to take the best advantage of the benefits afforded by the neighborhood of a public domain. Therefore lines have to be followed which would give a road of easy grades and agreeable conditions. This is a task not easy to accomplish, but the work has been successfully pursued. The proper studies have been made, the necessary surveys have been finished, the concurrence of the local park boards required by the law has been obtained, and already the Beaver Brook Reservation, the Blue Hills Reservation, and the Middlesex Falls Reservation have become public domain in the order of their mention.

The name "reservations" has been applied to these public holdings rather than that of park for good reasons. It will be years before any elaborate form of improvement will be in order for these places, either as justifiable by the resources at command or demanded for the uses of the public. These uses, while they will naturally be considerable in the near future, will for a long time to come be perfectly consonant with their maintenance in their present condition, as for the most part they are wildernesses. They will need little care beyond that of protection against wanton injury, and of access by simple roads similar to those which have been constructed at a remarkably low price in the Lynn woods; therefore, it is better that they should be regarded as public reservations, held for improvement as future occasion may demand. The word park, moreover, is a term that has been subject to great abuse. Its meaning has been stretched to cover such diverse things as a race track, a collection of artillery, of army wagons, and even a common-law city street.

Here in Boston we have only just got rid of the name as applied to a street, Chester Park, upon a large portion of which there was not a single tree or even a blade of grass. The term is convenient as a general designation for public pleasure grounds of all descriptions, and its application in this way may now be regarded as legitimate. In strictly speaking, the name properly belongs only to a large class of pleasure grounds, of which our own Franklin Park may be regarded as a conspicuous example. A landscape is park-like in character when it consists of a country more or less open and interspersed with trees, standing singly or in groups. Beaver Brook Reservation, for instance, is composed of groups of grand old oaks and other trees, is generally park-like, and might properly be called a park. It seems best, in the specific use of the term, to avoid its application, as far as possible, to any pleasure ground which is not really park-like, as, for instance, a public garden or a city square. The other kind of reservations of a forest character, like those just established by the Metropolitan Park Commission.

Mr. Baxter went on to speak more fully of the reservations already secured. This was done with regard to the Beaver Brook Reservation, lately acquired by the purchase of the Elias Athias of Belmont and her son Edwin F. Atkins, chairman of the Belmont Park Commission, who had paid \$12,000 for this purpose. This reservation of sixty acres comprises the lovely pastoral landscape with the remarkable formation, originating in the glacial period, of a long, narrow, low, saddle ridge, running out from the shoulder of Belmont Hill close by, and losing itself in the meadow country of the other hand, which flows along its side on its way to the Charles. Upon the slopes of this ridge grow the famous Beaver Brook oaks, the largest of which are the finest of their kind in the United States. They have been described and photographed in the "Typical Elms and Other Trees of Massachusetts," and in "Wood and By-Ways of New England." The oldest are estimated to be at least a thousand years old.

The Blue Hills Reservation has an extent of four thousand acres, comprising practically the entire mountain-like range of the Blue Hills, and was described by Mr. Charles Eliot as "a vast range as any king would be proud to call his own, a public forest possessing a vastly finer scenery than any of the great public parks of Paris can show, a recreation ground far surpassing in its refreshing value even London's Kew Forest." The Blue Hills are the highest points of land near the ocean from Mount Agamentic in southern Maine, along the entire Atlantic and Gulf coasts southward. The highest summit is 635 feet above the sea level, and being open to the ocean, the altitude counts for its full value and gives the range a really mountain-like appearance. The reservation includes every prominent summit and a beautiful pond. These hills have a special historic interest from the fact that they gave our famous Commonwealth its name—Massachusetts—meaning in the Algonquin tongue, "the place of the great hills."

The taking made by the commission at the Middlesex Falls is about sixteen hundred acres, but something like the same area of land and water had already been taken for water supply and park purposes by the surrounding counties, the entire extent of public domain here amounts to more than thirty-two hundred acres, including Spot Pond and the two beautiful great basins of the Winchester water supply that look like natural lakes, together with three smaller ponds. On the eastern margin is a beautiful cove, and the grand cliffs and rocks give character to the region. The woods are mostly of recent growth but in the rocky sections, there are some noble trees of white pine and hemlock.

Considering for a moment the future development of the great wilderness reservations we may view it somewhat in this wise: The efforts will be to maintain the aspects of an absolutely wild country, modified only by such means as are essential to make it accessible for the public, with good simple roads of easy grades, and pleasant footpaths and drives penetrating its depths; with bridges from prominent vantage points established here and there; with refectories at convenient points, and possibly good hotels

where people may go for a sojourn amid natural scenes to which the condition of these localities will contribute to the ideal charm. The growth of the forest will be encouraged by the best precautions against fire that can be devised, together with the adoption of a system of scientific forest administration, which can be made available for the country at large in the practical example of these reservations. The roads will be waterly covered by stately woods, penetrated by pleasant roads winding through the valleys and along the slopes, which will be framed in foliage. Winding to the summits of the hills, these roads

will at such points command broad and pleasing prospects. These great natural pleasure grounds will be accessible from all directions, by the pleasantest of ways, on carriages, bicycles and horseback riders, while steam and electric railways will furnish transportation for holiday throngs. We shall see Iverness Beach—and ultimately, it is hoped, Nantucket also—clear of the present unsightly encumbrances; the splendid curves of shining sands unprotected from wind and a wide ocean-side road running along the crest and bordered by stately structures which will be pleasing to look on and to inhabit. The connections to Lynn and its beautiful woods, as well as by the fine old Parkways of Lynn Commission, with the shops of the old Swampscott. With its streams running clear and unpolluted and with green and pleasant banks, with its bay-side and ocean-side reaches free and beautiful, with its playgrounds and blooming, tasteful gardens, its miles of charming drives, its thousands of acres of parks and public woodlands, the greatest Boston of the future of a happy, intelligent and truly prosperous people, will then be a city worthier than ever of fame.

PROMOTING THE BEAUTIFUL.

The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Good Citizenship to Stimulate the Public Mind upon Beauty in Conspicuous Places.

Boston, April 18.

SOMETHING new in the line of public entertainment and instruction will be given by the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Good Citizenship in the form of a course of lectures in the Old South Church. As a new departure in the line of public entertainment this has a concern for other places also. The main thought back of the lectures is in line with what has been talked about for over a year by some of the artists and architects of the city—the need, duty, and profit of a distinct effort to secure more attention to the beautiful on the part of the city in its corporate capacity and on the part of the citizens in their private relations. There will be six lectures on Monday and Thursday evenings, beginning April 23 and ending May 10. The first of them will be by Prof. Edward S. Morse of Salem upon "The Lesson of the White City," and will dwell upon the impression upon the taste of the entire nation which was made by the buildings of the Chicago Fair. There was a city in which the buildings were put under the supervision of men of trained taste, with a genius for the beautiful in architecture. Hence, the argument is, public supervision should be more thorough over the erection of dwellings and business buildings. The best architectural talent should be secured, and, as it is put, it should be as much of a violation of the law for a man to offend the public taste by an architectural monstrosity as it now is for him to endanger the public health and offend the eye by putting garbage in the street.

This idea is followed out in the second lecture, which will be by the artist, C. Howard Walker, upon "Boards of Beauty." Following this will come Edmund Hudson's lecture upon "Municipal Art," in which will be brought out how much has been done in the chief cities of Europe in way of public adornment, especially in Vienna, Berlin, and Paris. Mention will also be made of the beauty of ancient Athens to show that the old Greeks, as well as the modern Europeans, had higher ideals than we of America of beauty in public places.

"Art Museums and the People" will be the subject of Ernest F. Fenolosa, and the advance step which will be suggested in this lecture is that art museums for the public ought to be established as frequently and as freely as public libraries. Instances of what ought to become far more common are found in the gifts of the Fairbanks at St. Johnsbury, Vt., and in the art museum at Norwich, Ct. Following this will come the Englishman, Percival Chubb, who will tell about "Art in the Public Schools," as illustrated in Birmingham, Manchester, and other English cities which are ahead of anything we have in this country. To close the list will come the lecture of the Rev. Charles C. Ames upon "Boston—the City of God." Probably this is with the idea that Boston will be as good as heaven. If the above suggestions are carried out, or if they may refer to the present high regard for their native city which Bostonians are supposed to entertain,

Sp. 1911

THE ABUSE OF ADVERTISING.

The second annual meeting of the Association which has successfully maintained its existence under the burden of the title the National Society for Checking the Abuse of Public Advertising, was held yesterday at the Society of Arts, Mr. A. Waterhouse, A.R.A., in the chair. No report was presented, but a paper by the hon. secretary, Mr. Richardson Evans, setting forth the aims of the Society, and the lines on which action should be taken, was distributed.

Mr. WATERHOUSE, in opening the proceedings, expressed the deepest regret at the death of Lord Leighton, who, although prevented by his engagements and ill health from taking part in the work of the Society, had expressed the warmest sympathy with its objects. Mr. Ralford had stated recently that much had been done within the past 50 years to promote the moral and physical well-being of the nation. That was true, but was it not almost time that something was done to preserve if not increase the amenities of life? The community ought to guard jealously the natural beauties of the country, to foster a desire for decorum and beauty in their surroundings, and to keep even towns free from the many sights and sounds that now degrade them. The smoke-fog, the unsightly sky signs, the enormous and gaudy posters, the shrieks of newswomen (worse in northern towns than in London), the confounding repetitions of enamelled plates at railway stations, and countless other evils indulged in with a selfish disregard of the feelings of others, were an abuse of English liberty, and with all of them the Society would do battle, and as far as possible endeavour to remove. At present, however, they must confine themselves to the abuse of advertising. They had not been able to do much, but he believed that they had already influenced a large amount of public opinion, and that was the most fruitful work in which they could engage. If they could show that offensively advertised goods were not necessarily better or cheaper for the process they would have done something, and if they could open the eyes of customers and advertisers to the selfishness that characterised the system they would do more. They could not expect to do it in a year, but with patience and determination they might succeed. He regretted the silliness of legislators in the matter, with honourable exceptions like Mr. Bryce and Mr. Boninini, but when public opinion was brought to bear upon them they would recognise the importance of the subject. (Cheers.)

Mr. H. EVANS announced that letters expressing regret for absence and sympathy with the movement had been received from Mr. Bryce (who was ill), Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Lecky, M.P., Mr. Arnold-Forster, M.P., Sir Edward Clarke (who promised to help in Parliament), Sir J. Hutton, Mrs. Fawcett, Sir Frederick Pollock, the Post Laureate who did it wrong to make life miserable, Mr. Procter, Mr. Briton Riviere, Sir W. Hunter, Sir W. Conway, Sir Arthur Blomfield, Mr. Hamo Thornycroft, and others.

Sir LEVEL GRIFFIN moved a resolution affirming that it was a national interest to protect rural scenery from unnecessary disfigurement and to maintain dignity and propriety in the aspect of towns. He maintained that it was a national disgrace that such a resolution should have to be moved and that such a Society should have any reason for existence. The abuse of advertising was exercising a disastrous effect on literature and art. It was a new thing, but unfortunately the public had become accustomed to it. It had been imported from America, and we had taken the view to the national honour and dignity that it was our own. The truth was there was very little desire in the country for art or beauty, and the Legislature ought to interfere. Unfortunately the bulk of our legislators were the greatest Philistines of all. (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr. WILLIAM MORRIS seconded the motion, which had his entire sympathy, but at the same time he felt bound to put in a word for the farmers, who but for these advertisements would often be unable to pay their rent. Towns could take care of themselves, because municipalities had large powers. The farmer belonged to the enormous bosom and quivered it as our own. The best thing to do was to influence the pocket and to convince advertisers that this sort of advertising did not pay in the end.

The resolution was carried unanimously. Mr. RICHMOND, R.A., moved the second resolution approving the Rural Advertisements Bill, introduced by Mr. Boulden in 1894 and 1895, and commenting it to the good will of the new House of Commons. He urged that the Legislature should absolutely forbid the nuisance, if farmers could not live by the produce of their farms they should go to the Colonies, or wait for the happy time when Free Trade might be abolished, and then they would do better. (Laughter.)

Mr. CRACKENTHORPE, Q.C., seconded the motion in a humorous address, and it was carried unanimously. The report and accounts having been taken as read and adopted, a vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

THE OPEN SPACE OF METROPOLITAN BOSTON.

Accounts of the important additions which the London county council continues to make to the already enormous extent of public open space in and about the British metropolis testify to the weight attached to the possession of ample recreation grounds as a necessity in the proper equipment of a modern municipality. This suggests a glance at the great change which has come over Boston in this respect in recent years: a change which assures it the position of one of the best provided cities in the world in the area and character of its pleasure grounds.

This is evident from the fact that the amount of public open space in the metropolitan park district, held by or for the various municipalities composing it, now amounts to the astonishing figure of more than 13,500 acres, in round numbers. The creation of the metropolitan park commission is responsible for considerably more than one-half of this amount, the work of that commission having added something like 7700 acres to the public domain, while about 5781 acres are in the hands of the various municipalities.

This division is not wholly accurate, for the aerial takings by the metropolitan park commission amount to about 1000 acres less than the figure given. At the Blue Hills about 4000 acres have been taken; at the Stony Brook reservation about 300 acres; at Beaver Brook nearly 60 acres, and at the Middlesex Fells about 1600 acres. But at the latter about the same area had already been taken by the surrounding municipalities for water supply and other purposes, and the action of the metropolitan commission has unified the various holdings, bringing them together as one grand public reservation of about 3200 acres, under a common administration.

The city of Boston itself holds about 1000 acres of public grounds within its limits, numbering altogether 67 parks, squares, playgrounds, etc. Of these 14, comprising 3302 acres, belong to the park department, and the rest, for the most part minor spaces of a few acres, are controlled by the department of public grounds. Upon the map of the metropolitan district prepared for the preliminary metropolitan park commission there appear 106 open spaces of all kinds, but some of these are without the district and some are national government reservations.

The city of Lynn exceeds the city of Boston in the area of its public holdings. This is due to the Lynn Woods, a recreation ground of essentially metropolitan character, although created wholly by local public spirit. It is remarkable that one-third of the entire territory of Lynn has become public open space—a proportion that makes the area in the entire metropolitan district dedicated to such uses, great as the total is, insignificant in comparison.

Among the local holdings are reckoned the extensive water reserves of Brookline and Newton along the Charles river in Newton, Needham and Dedham, amounting to a total of 750 acres. Only little of this is at present available for recreative use, being mostly swampy meadow or morass. But it has a potential value in this respect, and is important for protecting the river banks from disfigurement.

It will naturally be asked, Why, with so much public ground already, is there still for adding to the area? A careful consideration of the problem will show that for the same reason that London is constantly adding to its open space, so here the simple mass of public holdings does not express the degree to which the want is met. It is important that such space should be well distributed and that the various recreative and sanitary needs of the community must be supplied. In Boston itself there is a fairly good distribution of such spaces, though considerable remains to be done. In the remainder of metropolitan Boston the distribution is very uneven. Cambridge, for instance, has lately taken comprehensive steps to make up its deficiency. On the other hand, wealthy towns like Milton and Swampscott have no local public grounds whatever, and relatively poor municipalities like Everett, Hyde Park, Revere, Saugus and Winthrop are likewise deficient. If water area not included within public grounds, but bordered by them, were also estimated, the total showing would be greatly increased, as in the case of the Charles river at Cambridge and Lake Quannapowit at Wakefield.

In the way of great metropolitan grounds we now have four noble public forests, and ultimately another should be established to the westward, including Prospect Hill in Waltham. The improvement of Charles river and the reservation of Revere beach are assured. But there is still much to do, and it is evident that both the metropolitan and the local park commissions will be kept busy for some years to come.

THE NATIONAL PARKS.

Efforts of Secretary Smith for Their Protection—Trespassers in California. Special Dispatch to The Evening Post.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—Secretary Hoke Smith is taking especial pains to guard the national parks and forest reservations from unlawful intrusion and injury. Last spring he caused a large number of notices to be printed on conspicuous cloth sheets and posted on the trees in the reservations in such places that no person entering the reservations could fail to see them, warning the public "that these lands are set apart and reserved as a forest reservation by proclamation of the President of the United States, under authority of the act of Congress of March 3, 1891." The notice continues:

This reservation is made for the benefit of the adjoining communities, being created to maintain a permanent supply of water for irrigation and of wood for local use by a national protection of the timber thereon.

All persons are hereby warned not to settle upon, occupy, or use any of these lands for agricultural, prospective, mining, or other business purposes, nor to cut, remove, or use any of the timber, grass, or other natural product thereof, except under such regulations as may be hereafter prescribed.

No person shall start or kindle, or allow to be started or kindled, any fire in the timber, grass, or undergrowth on these lands, or commit any other waste thereon; and the driving, feeding, grazing, pasturing, or herding of cattle, sheep, or other live stock within this reservation is strictly prohibited.

Bona-fide settlers having properly initiated their claims prior to the withdrawal of the lands for said reservation, and actual owners of lands within the reserve, may pass to or from their claims or property, but will not be allowed to occupy or use lands within the reservation outside of their claims, nor to use, damage, or destroy any timber or other natural product of such lands.

Any person violating these regulations will be prosecuted for trespass, and will be held responsible peculiarly for any waste or damage, whether done intentionally or caused by neglect. All law-abiding citizens are requested to report any cases of trespass upon said forest reserve that may come to their knowledge, and to assist in the prosecution of such trespassers.

Not long ago Capt. James Farker of the Fourth Cavalry, who is in charge as acting superintendent of the Sequoia and Gen. Grant National Parks, volunteered to make a tour of the parks and reservations in California with a few of his men, and see how the law was being carried out. He found that not less than 500,000 sheep were pastured on this national property, and that they had done damage which threatened to be irreparable. The big pine trees were the only things which had escaped their ravages. They had eaten all the herbage, and even girdled the smaller deciduous trees of their bark. They would have eaten the pine bark also, but that it was too tough for them to nibble. So completely had they stripped the parks and reserves of everything which could be used for fodder that it was often difficult, when out of reach of farms and ranches where feed was stored, for the troopers to get enough for their horses to subsist upon.

The disposition of the people who have committed this outrage is shown by the fact that they have torn down Secretary Smith's printed notices. The tacks with which they were fastened to the trees are often still in the bark, with evidences that the cloth was deliberately torn down.

Information of these performances, with such particulars as could be collected, has been sent to the Department of Justice, and district attorneys and marshals in the states where the parks and reservations are situated will be notified to prosecute all offenders to the full extent of the law. Secretary Smith is bound to break up at any cost this form of defiance of government authority.

TO APPORTION THE PARK COSTS.

Names of Commissioners Selected and Recommended to the Supreme Court.

There was a meeting of counsel for the cities and towns included in the metropolitan park district in the Supreme Court today. They had come together to agree upon the names of three persons to be suggested to the Supreme Court next Tuesday for appointment as commissioners under the act establishing the park system, to apportion the per cent of the total cost of purchase and maintenance of the reservations and boulevards, to each of the cities and towns. Thirty out of thirty-seven of the cities and towns were represented, and City Solicitor Slocum of Newton was chosen chairman, and Felix Rackemann, secretary. The Park Commissioners who have selected the various reservation sites were given the power to expend \$1,000,000 for that purpose, and also authorized to expend \$500,000 for the construction of boulevards.

The action of the meeting was a recommendation to the Supreme Court for the appointment of Hon. William C. Endicott of Salem, ex-Judge R. Rockwood Hoar of Concord and Hon. C. W. Clifford of New Bedford as the three commissioners, and the further suggestion that in case of the inability of any of the said three to act the name of either Judge H. P. Harriman of Barnstable or of Judge E. H. Bennett be substituted.

These three commissioners will hold their office for a term of five years at the end of which time new commissioners will be appointed. The statute provides that the commissioners shall not be a resident of any of the cities or towns comprised in the district.

City Solicitor Bailor of Boston was present at the meeting but stated that he did not care to take any part in the voting.

FIXING THE PARK COSTS.

Special Commissioners Meet for the First Time.

A Six Months' Postponement Asked by Most of the Cities.

Argument by Felix Rackemann on Park Acts.

Hon. W. C. Endicott of Salem, Hon. C. W. Clifford of New Bedford and H. P. Harriman of Barnstable, as commissioners appointed by the Supreme Court to fix the cost per cent for the next five years for each of the thirty-six cities and towns included in the Metropolitan Park district, today met for the first time in the new court house.

Most of the municipalities were represented by counsel. The cities and towns included in the park system are Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Newton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, Arlington, Belmont, Braintree, Brookline, Canton, Dedham, Dover, Hingham, Hull, Hyde Park, Melrose, Milton, Needham, Nahant, Revere, Saugus, Stoneham, Swampscott, Wakefield, Water-town, Weston, Weymouth, Winchester and Walthrop.

The hearing today was taken up by an opening statement from Felix Rackemann, counsel for the Park Commissioners, and by several requests from counsel for the municipalities who asked for a postponement of the hearings for three or six months, so that more satisfactory information as to what has and will be done by the Park Commissioners can be obtained to enable the present commission to arrive at a just and equitable proportionment of the cost to the several cities and towns for the next five years.

Mr. Rackemann said—"The questions here arise primarily under the act passed in 1893 and known as chapter 407. This commission is appointed under the tenth section of this act and it is to fix a proportion or scale which shall hold for five years without any variation. By the ninth section of this act the governor and council are authorized to issue scrip up to a total of \$1,000,000 for a term of forty years, and the treasurer and receiver general is to establish a sinking fund, through the medium of which the debt will be extinguished at maturity.

Section 11 provides for the annual expenses of the commission in the matter of care and preservation of the park properties, and limits the amount of those expenditures to \$10,000 for the first year and \$20,000 annually thereafter. This section, however, is repealed by chapter 509 of the year 1894, and a new section substituted, with no limitation on the amount of the annual expense for care and preservation.

The objects as stated in the act are "to acquire, maintain, and make available to the inhabitants of said district, open spaces for exercise and recreation." Before considering in detail the provisions of Chapter 407 of the year 1893 it will perhaps be well to call attention to certain other acts necessarily involved in this hearing. Chapter 239 of the year 1894 authorizes the Metropolitan Park Board to connect any road, parkway, or other open space with any part of the cities or towns of the Metropolitan park district under its jurisdiction, by a suitable roadway or boulevard, and for this purpose to exercise rights of eminent domain. This act may be called the boulevard act and under it the treasurer and receiver general, with the approval of the governor and council, were authorized to issue scrip to an amount not exceeding \$500,000, running forty years, to meet the expenses incurred under it. This appropriation is, of course, in addition to the \$1,000,000 provided by the park act of 1893.

Section 8 of the boulevard act provides that the commissioners appointed under the park act of 1893 shall also determine the proportion in which each of the cities and towns of the district shall annually pay money to the Commonwealth to meet one-half the requirements of the boulevard act, the other half being borne by the Commonwealth. This commission has therefore a direct additional duty under the boulevard act.

Next comes the act of 1894, chapter 483, which we shall call the Revere Beach act. This statute authorizes the Park Commission to take the location of the Revere Beach & Lynn Railroad Company and all the property in the vicinity. By section 4 of this act section 9 of the park act of 1893 is amended so as to make \$1,500,000 available to the Metropolitan Park Commissioners for the purposes mentioned in the park act and the acts additional and amendatory thereto.

Next comes the act of 1894, chapter 509, which we shall call the Charles River act, authorizing the expenditure of \$300,000 more for the purpose of acquiring and making available under the park act open spaces along the Charles River between Essex-street bridge at Cottage Farm and the source of the river. This act further provides that sections 6, 10, 11 and 12 of the park act shall apply as far as applicable to this act.

"This commission is in such manner as they may deem just and equitable" to determine the proportion in which each of the several cities and towns in the district shall annually pay money into the treasury of the Commonwealth for the term of five years next following the year of the first issue of scrip, which is 1894, to meet the expenses and charges under the park act, the boulevard act, the Revere Beach act and the Charles River act.

"Under these various acts it will be seen that it will be necessary to determine two proportions. The park act provides that this commission shall fix and return the proportion to be paid by the city of Boston for the period of five years at fifty per cent of the whole. This provision affects the park act, which authorizes the expenditure of \$1,000,000, the Revere Beach act the expenditure of \$500,000, and the Charles River act, \$300,000. But the boulevard act,

under the provisions of which this commission must fix a proportion, charges the cities and towns with one-half only of the costs and expenses, and does not fix the proportion which Boston is to pay at all. Under this last-named act the State is required to bear fifty per cent of the cost and expenses.

"The first thing to be determined, therefore, is the manner in which this commission shall deem it just and equitable to determine these two proportions. There are certain considerations that may properly be presented upon this matter. The proportions now to be fixed are to remain unchanged for five years. The report of this commission when accepted by the Supreme Court is final and binding. Certain conditions exist today which may be wholly different next year or thereafter. Under the park act certain lands have been taken. Under the boulevard, Revere Beach and Charles River acts nothing has been finally done.

"Neither the future action nor the probabilities of future action of the Metropolitan Park Commission can be stated, if for no other reason than because the park act provides that no taking by eminent domain can be made without the approval of the Park Commissioners of any of the cities or towns in which such property taken is situated. The proportions to be fixed are the proportions in which each of the several cities and towns shall during a period of five years contribute to meet.

"1. The original cost of the park system generally, including Revere Beach, if taken, for which the Legislature has thus far appropriated \$1,500,000.

"2. The original cost of such park areas as may be located on the Charles River, for which there has been appropriated \$300,000.

"3. The original cost of such boulevards as may be laid out under the Boulevard Act for which the Legislature has appropriated \$500,000.

"4. All the general office and running expenses of the commission.

"5. The expenses of preservation and necessary care of the whole park system.

"6. The expenses of the preservation and necessary care of the boulevards as established.

"7. The amounts, if any, recovered as damages for accidents on such boulevards such amounts under the boulevard act being expenses.

"8. The expenses of the preservation and necessary care of such tracts of land as by individuals or associations may be donated for State park purposes, and the preservation and necessary care of such tracts as may be put

under the authority and control of the Metropolitan Park Commission by any local park boards within the district, a considerable amount of land being at present so held.

"Under this state of things the matter before this board is, therefore, full of complications which did not characterize the questions before the commission in the Metropolitan Sewer matter. The scope and range are much broader in the present case. Here only a part of the work is done, only a part of the expenditure made, and when and where further work will be done and further expenditures made, if any, cannot be determined or known at present. No one can tell what the annual expenses of the Metropolitan Park system will be, and under the law as amended no legislative limit is made. Certain action has been taken under the original Park act, and a certain portion of the \$1,000,000 thereby appropriated has been spent."

"The Park Commission, desiring to stand absolutely impartial in the matter as between the several cities and towns interested, purposely avoids the statement of any facts or details until this commission shall have indicated the course to be followed."

City Solicitor Bowman of Somerville asked for a postponement of the time for hearing for three or six months. He thought that the present time was altogether too premature as the plan and intentions of the Park Commission were not yet known to themselves.

"I do not know how the city by the laying out of boulevards is to be benefited. As matters now stand we have nothing to argue upon, and the delay asked for will not harm anybody, as the time for levying yearly taxes in the cities and towns has gone by for 1894 and the next tax levying time will be next year."

Mr. Rackemann replied that it was doubtful if the Park Commission could render any better assistance upon their details at the end of the continuance asked for by counsel.

H. E. Fales for Dover, Hon. Asa French for Braintree, Hon. J. O. Burdett for Hingham and Hon. C. A. Williams for Brookline and Judge Ely for Dedham, all asked for a postponement. Theonion Judge Endicott, chairman of the commission, announced that the hearings would open Nov. 14.

31 Aug. '94.

A report which has just been made by the trustees of public reservations in Massachusetts, a body created by the Legislature three years ago, contains some interesting information. For instance, a list of donors of parks and reservations in Massachusetts during the last 24 years is given. It runs as far back as the earliest colonial times. The first gift for public uses was that in 1689 of Thomas

Smith, who deeded to the town of Wenham three-quarters of an acre "for a training-place." It is stated that the original proprietors or "commoners" of the following-named townships, among others, also set apart lands for training-fields, which have survived as public reservations to the present day: Boston, Cambridge, Dighton, Harvard, Hingham, Littleton, Lynn, Manchester, Methuen, Newbury, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Rowley, Salem, Sandisfield, Shrewsbury, Taunton, and Wilbraham. The report says that Massachusetts has a great wealth of beautiful natural scenery and many historical and archaeological sites, such as Indian camps and graves, border forts and colonial landmarks. The public is reminded that the trustees have been empowered by the Legislature to assume the legal title to tracts of land bequeathed or given for park purposes, and afterwards to preserve, lay out, and beautify the same.

HOW TO SAVE THE PALISADES.

The destruction of the Palisades goes on. Dynamite is tearing away vast masses of the noble cliff whose beauty and color have made the fames of the lower Hudson. The land along the river here, and consequently the rocks too, are private property, and there is no legal reason why the owners may not blow up the landscape if they wish to do so. But there is no reason on earth why the matter should not be taken up by the State of New Jersey. If New Jersey will pass an act which will permit New York to help acquire them, there can be no doubt that money, either by State or city grant, or by private subscription, would come from the New York side of the Hudson to aid in rescuing the Palisades for dedication to the permanent use and enjoyment of the people. In an editorial article, Garden and Forest calls upon the State most interested to take those steps which will enable New York to help save the Palisades.

The Massachusetts plan of acquiring beautiful and historical places to be held for the good of the people is recognized to be the simplest and most practicable. The trustees of our society exist as a continuous body to receive land for public reservation as gifts and to receive also donations of money to aid in purchase of these places. New Jersey owes to the Union some legislative action in regard to the Palisades. She has no right to permit one of her most beautiful natural endowments to be wiped from the face of the earth because of negligence or delay. There is enough public spirit in the State and it should be exercised speedily in this matter. New York people would be found ready to help, from a sentiment for the beautiful and for interest, from the need of keeping attractive the water-way to the beauties of the upper Hudson. The illustrations of destruction in Harper's Weekly are fortunately accompanied by the announcement that the conscience of New Jersey is aroused.

SAVING LAND FOR THE PEOPLE.

The Report on the Public Holdings of Massachusetts.

The third annual report of the trustees of public reservations in Massachusetts shows that the prevailing financial depression has prevented that body from receiving any new trusts during the past year, and confines itself, therefore, to drawing attention to the gradual encroachments of private owners upon commons, shores and other property which ought to be protected by the towns to which they belong, and preserved for the use and pleasure of the people.

It also shows that the example of the Massachusetts society has attracted attention in England, and that in October, 1893, an article was published in the English Spectator descriptive of the powers and purposes of the "Massachusetts Trustees of Public Reservations," followed by several letters indicating a desire for the establishment in the mother country of an organization endowed with powers similar to those possessed by the board here. One of these letters suggests that it would be quite as much to the purpose for the British Government to expend money in buying natural scenery as to spend thousands in purchasing pictures for the National Gallery, and that if there were a body furnished with an annual grant and empowered to purchase property of national interest, it could often acquire places of note at a moderate cost. This letter further states that the waterfall of Lodore was in October advertised for sale, that Snowdon had been in the market shortly before, and it represents that fine scenery is apt to go at extraordinarily low prices from its having no agricultural value, as it is usually mountainous and wild, and worth little or nothing to the farmer.

In December an American newspaper paragraph reported the organization in England of "The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty," with the Duke of Westminster, Lord Dufferin, Lord Rosebery, Sir Frederic Leighton, Professor Huxley, Miss Octavia Hill and other persons distinguished in art, letters or practical affairs, as members of its provisional committee, for the purpose of acting as general trustee for lands given or intended for the use and enjoyment of the nation at large. The function of the trust is to accept from private owners of property gifts which can only be made when there is a perpetual guardian and administrator, and it will be incorporated under the joint stock companies act, and endowed with special privileges in consideration of its responsibilities. The standing committee of the Massachusetts Board suggests, apropos of this action, that though Massachusetts possesses no such rich historical treasures as are to be found in England, "she still does possess great wealth of beautiful, though now threatened, natural scenery, and an interesting though rapidly disappearing, store of archaeological and historical sites, such as Indian camps and graves, border forts and colonial or literary landmarks," which ought to be acquired. A preliminary but incomplete list is annexed to the report of those who have given lands for public reservations in Massachusetts up to this time, showing that since the formation of the society in 1891 it has received bequests from more than eighty-four donors, a most encouraging exhibition of the public spirit which animates individuals in the Bay State. The fact that eighteen of the early settlements in Massachusetts set apart "training-fields," which have survived as public reservations until the present day, shows the wise forethought of the founders of those towns, a forethought which we trust will be shared by those who now have the opportunity to acquire property at a small cost for the benefit of the future population.

Some of the trusts given to the original board have now passed over to its offspring, the Metropolitan Park Commission, which body, endowed with a right of eminent domain, and equipped with a million dollars to work with, has been engaged in securing great forest reservations in the Blue Hills and the Middlesex Park, and it is understood that a large part of Revere Beach will also be obtained by it. This commission, with the Hon. Charles Francis Adams at its head, has by its extended powers been able to accomplish what the trustees of public reservations could only suggest. Outside of the range of the Metropolitan district the latter board is the only ready instrument through which the admirers of any beautiful and historic spot can provide for its preservation and perpetual care where there is no existing local park commission.

Many towns are unwilling to accept bequests, so that it is of great use to the public to have a legal opportunity to bestow property which the owners or would-be purchasers desire to safely convey for the general benefit of a community which may be too short-sighted to avail itself of a gift. It was only with great reluctance that Plymouth could be induced to accept the generous gift from Mr. Nathaniel Morton and others, of the park which is now its pride, but for which this year it has refused to make any appropriation. A similar difficulty was experienced in Lynn, and as it takes years sometimes to educate a community it is fortunate that during the process there is a protector of the property at hand.

The report on the shore towns of Massachusetts, compiled by Mr. H. B. Hastings, the agent of the society, is a melancholy chapter of public lands sacrificed and public rights neglected and lost. In former volumes of Garden and Forest a full account of the public holdings along the shores of the State was given, together with the history of the steps by which a large portion of them has passed under private corporate control, so that they have been fenced away from the beach and only permitted to enjoy the companionship of the sea by inference or for a fee. The story, as revised up to the present time in this report, is one of an inheritance squandered through lack of appreciation of its value. Of course the condition is worse to-day than it was then, but it is to be hoped that it will not be so hereafter.

MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HOLDINGS.

The interesting and valuable reports of the trustees of public reservations are in themselves sufficient to justify the existence of that body. The third annual report is worthy of its two predecessors. The service of such an institution to the world at large is even a better measure of its usefulness than its service in the more limited field for which it was specifically designed. And that the world service of our Massachusetts organization has already been very great is shown in the fact that within less than a year its example has caused the formation of a similar body in England, called "The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest," with objects and methods precisely the same as those of its prototype, and with a support so powerful that it can hardly fail to be of immense value in securing the preservation of many of the scenes of natural beauty and historic interest in which that country is so rich.

A special feature of this year's document is a report upon the extent and condition of public holdings in the shore towns of Massachusetts in 1893, prepared by Mr. H. B. Hastings, whose careful work has added considerable information to that gathered by Mr. J. B. Harrison in his investigation of the subject under similar auspices. In certain ways the conditions here exhibited are exasperatingly unsatisfactory. The sordid spirit of land grabbing, the avicious, not to say hezigh, appropriation of valuable public holdings, as set forth in Mr. Hastings' report, presents a sorry picture. In contrast with this appears the far-sighted and public-spirited action of many persons who have given lands for public use, some of them as far back as the early days of Massachusetts in the seventeenth century, as shown in the preliminary list of donors for such purposes, which the trustees, by a happy thought, have included in their report as a roll of honor for the encouragement of future givers for like purposes. But, unfortunately, the unflinching regard for the public good thus shown has too often been vitiated by individual selfishness, aided by public indifference. For instance, in Salisbury, an abutter many years ago planted a row of apple trees in the training field, and when in time his fence needed repairing he made the repairs outside the apple trees, so that now his title is undisturbed. The story is practically the same on all sides. In Ipswich, a town so charming in scenery as to be a favorite resort for landscape painters, Mr. Hastings was told that there was formerly considerable public land, but that it had been lost through the indifference—or, possibly, through the complacency—of town officials years ago. The town accepted the park set to secure a part of Great Neck for public use, but the stupid opposition of a few influential citizens, who feared an increase in their tax bills, put a damper on the project. They did not consider the gain in property that would surely come from natural attractiveness permanently assured.

Gloucester and Rockport have lost more than half of the twenty-four public landings originally held; barefooted encroachments still continue, and fear of lawsuits prevent city and town officials from protecting the public in its rights. This official cowardice and malfeasance is very largely the cause of similar public loss all alongshore in Massachusetts. Cape Ann is such a favorite summer resort, and so much money is spent there by summer visitors, that it is most short-sighted to permit the right of access to the shore to be diminished and the attractiveness of the coast to be correspondingly marred.

Along the South Shore corresponding discouraging conditions too often prevail. Mr. Hastings reports that, save in two or three localities, there is such indifference regarding shore rights that one is almost inclined to believe it were better for the coastal to pass from the present holders to those who will appreciate it more. But the disposition of the new owners to insist so strongly on their legal rights would make this undesirable. "The average city man," says Mr. Hastings, "who has owned little or no land at home seems to take a particular delight in putting up trespass signs the moment he gets the deed to his new estate."

The main reason for this indifference doubtless lies in the fact that the shore is so common, so much a part of everybody's life, that it is regarded by the average rustic person as of no particular account. But it is now becoming of very great account, and in nearly all the shore towns there is danger that the public good will be sacrificed to private interests.

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27 Oct 1914

Proposed Change of Tracks of the Narrow Gauge.

There was a conference between Charles Francis Adams and Philip A. Chase of the Metropolitan Park Commission and the selectmen of the town of Revere, yesterday, regarding the change in the location of the tracks of the Boston, Revere Beach & Lynn Railroad, which will have to be moved back to make room for the proposed boulevard along the beach. It is proposed to carry the railroad from its present location, running off to the east beyond the Brouilbin estate, between the Beachmont and Crescent Beach stations, and in the rear of the present Crescent Beach station, to the old disused road of the Boston & Maine Railroad, running by Oak Island and the Point of Pines. This will necessitate the building of three bridges in the town of Winthrop, as the selectmen are determined that no train shall cross at grade. These bridges will be at Shirley and Crescent avenues and Revere street.

STATE AND CITY PARKS JOINED.

Mount Bellevue in West Roxbury Becomes the Connecting Link.

The first connecting link between the metropolitan public reservations and the city of Boston park system has been forged. By the taking of land by the Metropolitan Park Commission on and around Mount Bellevue, the site of the West Roxbury sandpiper, which is to become the West Roxbury parkway, the Stony Brook reservation of the Metropolitan system is connected with the Arnold Arboretum of the city system. This new West Roxbury trail begins at Laugeage street on the south, and sweeps around Mount Bellevue, which is bounded on the east by Washington street, and extends northward in a narrowing silt to Weld street, thus crossing the West Roxbury branch of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad near Central station. From Weld street the Boston Park Commission has taken the land intervening—about sixty acres—necessary to connect with the Arboretum.

The Stony Brook reservation of the Metropolitan system includes 285 acres in Hyde Park and 190 acres in Boston, a total of 475 acres. The new West Roxbury Parkway contains about 210 acres. Eventually the Blue Hill reservation will be connected with the city system, so that the park system, both State and municipal, lying on the south side of Boston, will practically be made one.

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TO MAKE A BASIS FOR PARK WORK.

Topographical Survey of the Blue Hills and Middlesex Fells Reservations to be Made by the Park Commissioners.

A careful topographical survey of the Blue Hills and Middlesex Fells reservations will soon be begun by the Metropolitan Park Commissioners. The survey will serve for a basis for park work in the future. Bids have been advertised for, and will be awarded at the next meeting of the board, and work on the survey will be begun as soon as possible after that, probably in two or three weeks, as it is the desire of the board to get it done as soon as possible. The work will take a great deal of time, and it is not likely to be completed within three years. There are about four thousand acres in the Blue Hills reservation and about three thousand in Middlesex Fells. The idea of the survey is not with regard to any particular branch of park work but merely to have the whole section under the care of the commission, accurately laid out, and its characteristics in detail determined by them, in order to serve as a basis for the general plan of work on which they are to proceed. A survey of the Beaver Brook and Stony Brook reservations has already been made, so that when the present one is completed the commissioners will know all about the ups and downs and ins and outs of all the land under their care.

A WORD IN SEASON.

To the Editor of the Transcript: I presume there are many of your readers to whom it would be as much of a surprise as it was to myself to find what a lovely bit of wild scenery the Metropolitan Park Commissioners have just acquired within so few miles of the crowded city.

The beautiful little tarn called Muddy Pond, which is the head-waters of the troublesome Stony Brook, might, if one for a moment forgot that it is surrounded by oaks instead of spruces and birch, be, for loneliness and absence of civilized surroundings, a lake in the Adirondacks or the Maine woods. And the change of setting, especially at the present season, is by no means to its disadvantage, but gives an air of cheerfulness not always to be found among the gloomy evergreens. Not a house is visible from its banks, and hardly a trace of any human use having been made of it except a few decaying planks of a former ice-house.

Now, Mr. Editor, is not this the time to plead for simplicity of treatment of this little jewel with its splendid setting of rocky, oak-covered hillsides? I do not know what may be the designs of the Metropolitan Commissioners, but judging from the work of their predecessors, the Boston Park Commissioners, is there not reason to dread that the wilderness may be too much tamed and this bit of nature be surrounded with gravelled sidewalks, and its edges, beneath the swamp lonesuckles and red-berried black alders, fortified by a stone retaining wall? If it stays as it is, the boys will undoubtedly get their feet wet, and perhaps higher up, but that is what boys' feet and ponds are for.

If our parks, and especially the Metropolitan parks, are to do the most real good to our people, it is not to be by finishing a place where the prosperous citizen may drive out his family on a Sunday afternoon behind his sleek horses, pleasant and even edifying as this process may be, but by giving a place where everybody can go and even get lost, enough to give him some training in finding his own way out.

I must confess to some sympathy with the boy bred in the city who has never had an opportunity to get into real woods, and who does the best he can toward a life of adventure by stealing fruit and stoning squirrels. It sounds very mean! but the impulse which drives the hoodlum and the gutter-snipe to these nefarious practices, I believe to be exactly the same which brings the wealthy Englishman to our prairies to exterminate our bison, or takes our own citizens in luxurious palace cars to kill off the few remaining wild sheep of the Rockies. It is neither cruelty nor covetousness in either case but a healthy love of adventure.

I hope a place will be left where ragged boys can go and whence the other boys can come home ragged, without disturbing private property and without being told to "keep off the grass."

The present style of the Boston parks is certainly very beautiful in its way; perhaps it is the very best way in that place; but let the outer circle like the Middlesex Fells, Blue Hills and the smaller reservation I have just spoken of be left to nature as far as is consistent with even a moderate degree of accessibility. It seems to me that the treatment of Jamaica Pond is a conspicuous example of what it is desirable to avoid at Muddy Pond, and indeed of many others, as Houghton's near Blue Hill, to say nothing of Jamaica Pond itself, where it is already done.

Perhaps my fears are groundless in the present case, but in view of what is still happening, they are not entirely imaginary.

I write as a lover of the wild woods when I can get to them and at all times as a *wood lover*. R. T. E.

THE LISTENER.

The Historical Pilgrims this week seemed to make very little impression on the general public. We are accustomed here in Boston to being extensively pilgrimaged. Every Bostonian naturally feels, since he that is born here has no need to be born again, that Boston is a holy city, worthy to be deemed the Mecca of the Western world; and to the inhabitants of Mecca an additional caravan or two of pilgrims makes little difference. In the summer time, particularly, when Western people of New England birth or inheritance are always making pious vacation visits to the capital city of the land of their fathers, we are accustomed to see interested people, chiefly ladies wearing a pleasing educational air standing about eventually in Faneuil Hall, or filing patiently up the steps that lead to Bunker Hill Monument. The new thing about this Philadelphia pilgrimage has been the attempt which seems to go with it to engraft a little historical eight-age-upon our general system of education. This Pædagogian idea, brought out strongly in Mr. Peabody's poem in the *Transcript*, is worthy of all encouragement. The development of this idea would make Boston an educational city to a still greater extent than it is at present.

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By the way, one excellent Boston Idea—though really it originated, if the Listener remembers rightly, in the brain of a public-spirited gentleman of Lynn, Mr. Philip A. Chase—has gone beyond the ocean and been taken up in London, where a number of titled and untitled persons, all of excellent position, have organized a trust for the purpose of acquiring the title to historic sites and scenes of natural beauty and interest. The new trust seems to be modelled very closely after the similar body which has been chartered under the laws of this Commonwealth. The Listener notices the name of Mr. Walter Crane among the promoters of the English movement; and he would not be greatly surprised if the whole plan, so far as it applies to England, had been due to the suggestion of Mr. Crane, who doubtless was interested in the Massachusetts movement when he was here. The Listener is glad to see the English trust getting under way, because it may stimulate home interest in our own affair of the kind—which has not, it should be borne in mind, been at all supplanted by the Metropolitan Park Commission, though that branch has done for the immediate neighborhood of Boston what the trust might eventually have done.

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The English have proceeded in the formation of another much-needed association—the National Society for Checking the Abuses of Public Advertising. This society held its second annual meeting in London the other day, Sir Frederick Leighton, who was unable to be present, wrote to the meeting, "Nobody can resent more warmly than I do the vulgar bluntness of feeling which leads men to deface, or to defile themselves by the defiling of, the charms of rural scenery with staring advertisements. I include those who lead themselves to this barbarism; for the tradesman who pushes in this manner his pill, his plaster, or his nostrum is not more blameworthy, but indeed less, than he who hires out his meadow or his copse for such a purpose, and earns a pittance at the cost of so much offence." The annual report of the society showed that it had succeeded in making the regulation of spectacular advertisements a public question, and noted, as one result of the agitation, the fact that Lord Rosebery had deplored at a public banquet the growing danger to English landscapes. Mr. Fawcett declared that unless a check were put upon this increasing evil, the public might expect to see a sky-sign on Skid-daw and a pill advertisement on the dome of St. Paul's.

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We are at least as badly off in this respect as they are in England, and in quite as dire need of the effect of such an agitation as the English society has been conducting. Our landscapes—and especially those in view from the windows of railway trains—are spoiled in every direction. Even the neighborhood of Niagara has not wholly escaped; though fortunately the reservation of the shores immediately about the cataract prevents the actual display of staring advertisements there. Meantime, so far as the country at large is concerned, the evil increases. We have our national and our State flags protected by law from abuse for advertising purposes; and this protection is probably not more effective than a defence of beautiful scenery against such profanation.

THAT CHARLES RIVER DAM.

Two Ex-Governors Attend a Hearing Upon Its Construction, Given by the Harbor and Land Commissioners—The Session Cut Short by an Adjournment to Oct. 18.

A hearing upon the construction of a dam and lock in the tidal basin of the Charles River was given in the Green Room at the State House, at ten o'clock this morning, by the Harbor and Land Commissioners. The board was directed by the last Legislature to inquire into the plan as proposed in the report of the Metropolitan Park Commission and the State Board of Health, sitting as a joint board, with special reference to interference with tide-water and its effect upon the harbor of Boston, and to report upon the matter to the next General Court. A fair attendance was present when the hearing was opened with Chairman Woodward Emery as the presiding officer. Commissioners Howland and Baker were also present. An array of prominent men sat at the table for counsel as representatives of the various interests involved in the matter before the board. Ex-Governors John D. Long and William E. Russell and John T. Wheelwright appeared for the remonstrants, and Representative Abbott of Watertown for persons favoring the scheme, including more particularly the selectmen of Watertown.

Mr. Abbott first addressed the board, stating that he appeared in advocacy of the plan upon sanitary grounds and in the interests of real-estate owners. He had nothing to say with regard to the interference with tide-water and the effect upon Boston harbor. He was not prepared, however, to produce witnesses at the hearing, but would do so at a later session.

Clinton White, on behalf of L. G. Burnham, the president of the Boston Associated Board of Trade, said that the association intended to hold a meeting on Oct. 8, at which some action would be taken upon the question of the proposed dam and lock, and therefore he requested the commissioners to postpone the hearing until after that date. Chairman Emery replied that as the board wished to make as much progress as possible in the matter, it would proceed with the hearing as far as it could at this session. Ex-Governors Long and Russell stated that so far as they were concerned an adjournment would be acceptable, although they were prepared to proceed; but they did not see how any special headway could be made under the circumstances. The chairman urged that the board wished at least to make a beginning. Then City Solicitor Slocum of Newton stated that he had only just received a notice and had no instructions upon which to proceed, and President Burnham of the Associated Board of Trade, who had come in during the discussion, said that while he could not speak positively for the board, he thought it likely that a committee would be appointed to attend the hearings of the commissioners, and it would consequently be desirable to postpone the hearing to another date.

"There seems," said Chairman Emery, with a smile, "to be such a unanimity of opinion in favor of adjournment that the board is hardly disposed to hold out longer against the request. There is, however, one class who have not been heard from, namely, those persons who have come from a distance and wish to be heard now, as they would find it inconvenient to come again. If there are any such here, they will be listened to now." No one responded, but W. U. Lawson of Newton said that there was an evident misunderstanding on the part of citizens of Newton as to the scope of the hearing. They thought that it was upon the sanitary question of the effect of the dam and lock upon Boston harbor, and not the question of the actual building of the dam, which was to be discussed.

Chairman Emery, in reply, repeated what he had already said in answer to an inquiry from ex-Governor Long, that he thought the language of the act was broad enough to cover the whole question of the building of the dam and of its effect upon the river and harbor from a sanitary point of view. The hearing was then adjourned to Thursday, Oct. 18, at 10 A. M.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Office of the Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners, 65 Bowdoin St., Boston.
September 13, 1894.

PROPOSED DAM AND LOCK IN CHARLES RIVER.

This board was directed by chapter 85 of the resolves of 1894 to "inquire into the construction of a dam and lock in the tidal basin of Charles River, as proposed in the report of the Metropolitan Park Commission and the State Board of Health, sitting as a joint board, with special reference to interference with tide water and its effect upon the harbor of Boston," and to report to the next General Court.

Notice is hereby given that the board will give a public hearing to all persons interested, whether for or against the construction of such dam and lock, at the Green Room in the State House, on

Wednesday, the 3d Day of October, 1894,

At 10 o'clock, A. M.

For the Board, **WOODWARD EMERY, Chairman**
s 15, 18, 21, 26, o 2 [5]

Arguments in Favor of Damming the Charles River.

Speeches in favor of the proposed damming of the Charles were made at the October meeting of the Cambridge Club, which was held at one of our last night. Dr. H. P. Watson, chairman of the Board of Health, was the first speaker. He referred to the nuisance in the neighborhood of the Watertown Arsenal, which, he said, was so great that people there could not expect to stand it. "Much of the sewage which is taken out by the tide," said Dr. Watson, "is thrown back again on the flats and left there when the tide returns. A dam in the vicinity of Craigie's Bridge would have a sufficient flow back to flood these flats and keep the water continually at a point about two and one-half feet below the highest water mark, obviating the present unpleasant odors."

CHARLES RIVER DAM OPPOSED.

Ex-Governors Long and Russell and Colonel Wheelwright Place Experts on the Witness-Stand to Prove that the Scheme Should Not be Carried Out.

A large number of interested people were present in the Green Room at the State House, this morning, at the continued hearing before the Harbor and Land Commissioners concerning the dam and lock in the Charles River. The remonstrants, represented by ex-Governors Long and Russell and Colonel Wheelwright, were heard today, the interests of the advocates of the scheme being looked after by City Solicitor Slocum of Newton and Representative Abbott of Watertown. Chairman Woodward Emery presided. Colonel Wheelwright opened for the remonstrants. He said—

I desire this board to know that the parties for whom we appear here wish it understood that they are residents on both sides of the Charles River, or are commercial interests in that river. We are not all remonstrants, technically speaking. What we want is that this board should wisely consider the questions at issue here. We do not want to be understood as hindering any improvement. On the contrary, we are warmly disposed toward any reasonable plan for beautifying the Charles, which will not, at the same time, limit the use of the river as a waterway in reaching the trade of the city. There are present today a number of experts on sanitary real estate and commercial interests, so to speak. The report of the joint board, yet to be made, is in my hands, and I have consulted with it.

Colonel Wheelwright then called Henry A. Marinden of the United States Coast Survey. Mr. Marinden said that he had been in the survey since 1883. His chief experience had been in New York harbor, on the Delaware River, and also on the Mississippi at the mouth of the river, where about \$1,000,000 had been expended in dredging. Colonel Wheelwright asked, "If tidal reservoirs are blocked up in harbors, how does it affect the wharves?" Mr. Marinden, "Deposits form on the piles and remaining there, become an injury to the structure."

Q. If a channel is obstructed, is it difficult to dredge it? A. I should say it was.

Q. What would be the effect on the basin above the dam? A. There would be a tendency to shoal the basin above unless materials could be kept out of it.

In reply to further questions the witness said, "The effect below the dam in the harbor would be injured, because the scouring would be interfered with and disturbed. Then you have cut off the tide water, and it would affect the depth. Freezing would be greater below the dam. The current being more sluggish, it would freeze more readily. The expense of dredging would depend largely on the size of the basin."

Mr. Abbott: "Do you think the outlet in the Mississippi compare at all with this plan of the Charles?" Mr. Marinden: "Not exactly; except as the comparison might be applied to any stream that is obstructed."

Q. If there is any time in the tide when the ebbs is greatest? A. Yes; the last of the ebb."

Q. "If the waters of the dam were let out by gates, would the effect be good?" A. Yes, if they were let out just at the right time."

Mr. Marinden continued that the greatest amount of silt would be made about slack water, but it would be practically all the time. In answer to further question by Representative Abbott, Mr. Marinden said that if the dam were erected, there would be less occasion but there would be deposits. There would not be the deposit of silt in the harbor from erosion as now. To Mr. Slocum the witness said that a strong current would hold the silt in suspension more than a weak one would. There were some harbors which have no streams emptying into them like Gloucester and Marblehead, and there is no shoaling in them.

Mr. Slocum—How about Boston harbor, if the Charles was cut off, as compared to Gloucester and Marblehead? Mr. Marinden—There would be shoaling from severance and erosion of the shores.

Governor Russell—With the proposed change, would the ebb tide be affected more than the flood? Mr. Marinden—The ebb would be more affected.

Q. If the people of South Boston are now complaining of sewage, which is brought back into the harbor from Moon Island, would not the condition of affairs be aggravated by this change? A. Yes, I think it would.

The witness stated that the conditions in Boston harbor are good as to the prevention of shoaling, and could be so preserved if the restrictions as to dumping from vessels were enforced. Governor Russell told the witness that the proposed basin contained 2,000,000 gallons of water. "Do you think this would have any effect in scouring the harbor?" he asked. "I doubt if it would have any material effect," was the reply. In answer to Chairman Emery, Mr. Marinden insisted that the velocity of the current ought not to be decreased.

The next witness was Professor Dwight Porter, who has taught at the Institute of Technology for eleven years; for seven years by day and sanitary engineering. Mr. Porter said that he had examined the Charles River recently and also two years ago, and had read the report of the joint board advocating the lock and dam. He was of the opinion that such a construction would have an unfavorable effect.

In the first place, it was a bad general policy to create a basin of comparatively stagnant fresh water which would contain a deposit of sewage. The Charles River basin had always been made a part of the sewerage system. The effect of putting sewage into a basin, after it was dammed, would be to make the condition of affairs more offensive than at present. After some further testimony, the hearing was adjourned to tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.

DAM AND LOCK OPPOSED.

More Remonstrants Against the Charles River Plan.

Harbor and Land Commissioners Hear Fresh Objections.

Only a comparatively few people were present in the Green Room at the State House this morning when the hearing upon the advisability of a dam and lock in the Charles River was resumed before the Harbor and Land Commissioners. Chairman Woodward Emery presided as usual, and the same array of counsel was present as heretofore—ex-Governors Long and Russell and Colonel Wheelwright for the remonstrants, and Representative Abbott of Watertown for the people favoring the plan proposed in the report of the joint board.

Professor Dwight Porter of the Institute of Technology resumed his testimony, and in response to a request from Representative Abbott, gave in detail the records of the rainfall in this neighborhood in recent years, as shown in the records of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, the United States Weather Bureau and other sources, upon which he based the conclusions that there would be from twenty to thirty days in the year during which the overflows from heavy storms would run into the Charles River, and about twelve days in which house sewage tributary to the Charles River basin would be discharged in the basin, owing to the storm overflows. The witness further gave the fullest details regarding his observations about the volume of surface rain-water and house sewage that escaped into the sewers and overflowed into the river. Under cross-examination, Professor Porter said that the conditions with regard to storm overflows and house sewage carried into the river basin, to which he had referred, were considered in connection with the completion of the metropolitan sewerage system—a system which it was calculated would be completed in about thirty years from the time at which it was planned. The witness then gave his observations upon the grade of ground water in wells in different parts of the city along or near the Beacon-street waterfront. He did not think that the sewage deposited on the narrow flats along the Beacon-street waterfront at low tide would be injurious. A number of questions were asked the witness by the chairman and counsel on both sides regarding the sanitary effect of an open basin as compared with a closed one, the comparative grades of ground water and the river level, and the points raised by a consideration of those questions. The witness remained firm in his opinion that the building of a dam at the point selected would be injurious to the wholesomeness of the river basin and its neighborhood.

L. G. Burnham, the president of the Associated Board of Trade, appeared as a remonstrant against the proposed dam both as a citizen living on the banks of the river and as a representative of various coal interests on the river. He stated that a committee of the Associated Board of Trade was now making a careful investigation of the whole matter, and would make a report upon the subject to the commissioners before the hearings were closed. He represented a committee of the Coal Club, which included about all the coal shippers of Boston and its vicinity, and they were opposed to the closing of the Charles River by a dam. Such an obstruction would interfere seriously with their business in several ways.

F. H. Visus said that he appeared for Henry M. Whitney and himself, to remonstrate against a dam being placed at the point suggested. If the dam were to be built at all, he thought that it would better be placed about where the West Boston bridge is now situated, as favoring the building of a dam at this point. The witness told about the work of the Charles River Embankment Company, which was now building and filling in the flats on the Cambridge side of the Charles River below the Harvard Bridge. It would in all have been completed about eighty acres of flats when its work was finished. In his opinion the building of a dam was not essential to the improvement of the river for park purposes.

The hearing was adjourned at this point to tomorrow at 10 A. M.

INJURIOUS EFFECT OF A DAM.

More Experts Testify Against the Charles River Scheme Before the Harbor and Land Commissioners.

A still smaller attendance even than yesterday was noticeable this morning at the continued hearing upon the Charles River dam and lock before the Harbor and Land Commissioners in the Green Room at the State House. It was nearly twenty minutes past ten o'clock before Chairman Woodward Emery called for order, and Colonel John T. Wheelwright, for the remonstrants, called Dr. Henry J. Barnes of this city to the witness chair.

Dr. Barnes testified that he lives on the south side of Beacon street and has given his attention to sewerage questions since 1881. He has studied sanitary science in Europe and elsewhere and has written and spoken on the subject. The whole matter of the improvement of the Charles River basin had been considered by him. He was opposed to converting a tidal basin into a stagnant fresh-water basin with uncertain currents instead of the present steady, uniform current. He estimated that the overflow of sewage from the surrounding territory could not be less than 200,000,000 gallons in every twenty-four hours. This might be diluted, but such a dilution did not diminish the volume of sewage, the volume was there and had to escape into the basin whenever the capacity of the sewers was exceeded. The chief danger to be apprehended from a still water basin was the stagnation of the water. The currents of rivers and estuaries are very misleading, and he was sure that, if the basin were completely enclosed, a large part of it would be in complete stagnation. This would inevitably tend to increase the decomposition of vegetable growth in the river as well as the sewage which might overflow into the basin whenever the rainfalls were greater than the capacity of the sewers. The capacity of the sewers is one-quarter of an inch of rainfall in every twenty-four hours, and in 1898 there were forty-three occasions on which the rainfall was more than one-quarter of an inch in twenty-four hours. The decomposition of vegetable matter in the still water would, in warm weather, create a murky atmosphere and the insect growth would also increase and become more of a pest.

Another point on which the witness was inclined to lay considerable stress was the fact that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to flush the Back Bay Pass so as to maintain a proper sanitary condition there, if the Back Bay were enclosed and the flow of tide-water stopped. The witness did not see how, if a dam were built, the current of the river could be kept in motion with sufficient swiftness to carry away the overflow sewage running into it, and there would inevitably be parts of the river where the flow would not be fast at all and there would be the danger of unsanitary conditions. These conditions would be more likely to exist at the sides of the river, where the flow of sewage is continually going on. To the chairman's question about the advisability of building a dam in the river, about Cottage Farm, Dr. Barnes said that so far as he knew, there would be nothing objectionable in that, if the discharge of sewage above that point into the river were discontinued.

The next witness called was Henry L. Whitney, an assistant in the United States Coast Survey. He said that the bridges across the Charles River were far from scientifically constructed and offered a serious obstruction not only to navigation but the tidal flow of the river. If a solid dam were built across the river, he believed that it would revolutionize the whole system of tidal movement; there would be dead water and eddies; shoals would form, and the outcome he thought could not but be injurious. The witness gave a detailed description, in connection with two charts of Boston Harbor and the Charles River, introduced by Colonel Wheelwright, of the changes in the bridges and other obstructions about the river and harbor, from 1850 to 1898. Mr. Whitney also explained how the scour of the tide, which was greatest at about low water, served to maintain the depth of the river channel. He maintained that a tidal current moving through the channel was necessary to keep it in proper condition. With regard to other similar harbors and estuaries the witness was of the opinion that a dam in any one of them would be an injury, just as it would in the Charles River.

J. A. Hinton of Cambridge said that he was a real-estate and appeared to protest against a dam as another interference with the commercial interests of the river. He declared that no obstructions whatever should be allowed in the river to interfere with its navigability.

The hearing was adjourned to next Wednesday at 10 A. M.

26 Oct 1904
NEWTON CITIZENS FAVOR THE DAM.

They Discuss the Plans for the Charles River Improvement and Also the Grade Crossing Question. 28 Oct

There were about two hundred persons present in Eliot Hall at Newton, last evening at the meeting held under the auspices of the Garden City Improvement Association, to consider the four questions of the proposed dam in the Charles River, the separation of grades along the line of the Boston & Albany Railroad in Newton, the proposed widening of Washington street, and the taking of land therefor, and the granting of franchises to street-railroad companies to cross the tracks of the Albany road at grade. Only the grade crossings and Charles River improvements were considered, however, the discussion of the other problems being reserved for another meeting.

After the meeting had been called to order by President F. A. Dowson, L. E. T. Green was chosen temporary chairman, and then E. B. Haskell spoke about the contemplated Charles River improvements. He thought that it would be a difficult matter to carry out the plan of the Metropolitan Park Commission. There was little question of the sanitary or esthetic benefits that would result from the adoption of the plan for damming the Charles. The chief opposition came from the land owners on Beacon street. Ex-City Engineer Noyes of Newton was certain that no shoaling of the harbor would result from the construction of the proposed dam. The sanitary condition of the district would undoubtedly be improved. He was anxious that the plan would eventually be carried out. W. V. Lawson said that almost all of Wards 11 and 7 of Boston had been taken from the Charles River basin, yet the soundings of the harbor were the same as in 1777. No serious interference, but a benefit to navigation, would result from the construction of the dam. None of the arguments against the improvement were unanswerable. Resolutions were adopted by the meeting endorsing the general plan of the commission.

John F. Langford reviewed the entire grade-crossing question as regards Newton. He spoke of the unfair treatment of the interests of the city by the last Legislature, and of the influence which the Boston & Albany Railroad had in the Senate. He believed that the grade-crossing matter should be made an issue in the coming municipal campaign, and urged immediate action work in behalf of the plan for damming of the tracks. J. N. Bacon and T. B. Fitzpatrick urged the necessity of immediate action in the matter. After voting to instruct the committee on railroads to make a recommendation in regard to action upon this subject, the meeting adjourned to Nov. 8.

Health officers discuss New Legislation.

Around the banquet table at the Colonial Clubhouse in Cambridge, yesterday afternoon, about forty representative health officers from different parts of the State gathered for the quarterly meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Boards of Health. Dr. S. H. Durgin of Boston presided. Mayor Baneroff of Cambridge was the first speaker. He called attention to the progress now being made in sanitation and thought that the people of Massachusetts cities are beginning to learn the importance of keeping clean in the large sense. In consideration of the subject of death certificates, Dr. William Y. Fox of Taunton, who read a paper on this subject, said that a large proportion of certificates give the cause of death too carelessly or in too general terms. In that way the certificates are made practically worthless. He suggested as remedies, wide discussion of the matter and stricter legislation. Dr. S. W. Abbott, secretary of the State Board of Health, gave as the reasons for the existence of death certificates, a reliable record of death, the prevention of crime and the interpretation of the defects of medical practice and the control of preventable diseases. After some further discussion a resolution was passed asking for a new law giving the secretary of state power to prescribe terms for causes of death and uniform certificates, and giving local boards authority to demand the verdict of the medical examiner in all doubtful cases. A paper was read on the legislation needed to increase the powers of local boards during epidemics, and the question of granting certificates to children, who had been out of school on account of infectious diseases was considered. A resolution was adopted approving of the plan of the Park Commissioners in regard to damming the Charles River. 28 Oct

27 Oct
DAMMING CHARLES RIVER.

To the Editor of the Transcript: Mr. Charles Eliot has presented in your paper a plan for a dam across the Charles River at Craigie's bridge and it is certainly well that the attention of the people of Boston should be called to the scheme which is on foot.

Twice in every twenty-four hours during the hot months, from June to October, the Charles River basin is filled with cold, salt ocean water, changed with every tide. The south and southwest winds blowing over this mass carry its refreshing coolness over the whole North end, keeping down its temperature by many degrees. If any body doubts this let them take a stand on West Boston bridge or on the Charles River embankment on a hot August afternoon or evening when the tide is high. I know that experienced physicians have expressed themselves strongly as to the importance of this influence upon the health of the city.

It is deliberately proposed to shut out this element, and replace it by a fresh water lake, fed by the Charles river, heated in its course by the fierce glare of the sun, and changed in the worst season once in fifteen days, and in the driest once in eighty-two days. The report of the joint commission is obliged to admit, after medical investigation, that no epidemic disease can be traced to the river as it is even with the sewage which is poured into it. Can they guarantee as much for the new conditions which they propose? They admit that they cannot but say that with the new metropolitan sewer it will be all right. Why will not the gain be just as great with the river as it is? But they do not half state the case. It is admitted, I believe, that the worst malarial effects are produced by stirring up the infectious soil. New dredges have been engaged for the last five years in pumping up the whole bottom of the river basin and spreading it over hundreds of adjoining acres exposed to the heat of the sun. Yet so nobly has this tidal stream stood by us that no evil result has followed—although Newton on the fresh water part of the river has been suffering severely from malarial distemper during this summer.

The commissioners refer to the Alster basin at Hamburg. But the Alster is and always was a fresh water stream simply dug out and enlarged. The Thames embankment did not shut out the tide, it only made it more swift. I do not believe that an instance can be shown in the world of a city, which having the advantage of a tidal flow, has deliberately shut it out and substituted a fresh water lake. The commission dwell upon the advantage of having the basin always available for boating. I appeal to anybody who has a tenth of my experience in both plans, whether one hour of boating on the lower basin at high tide in August, is not worth a week of boating in the flat, lifeless atmosphere of the stretch of river between Riverside and Waldham, notwithstanding the exquisite beauty of the surroundings.

It is to be noted that the change once made can never be recalled, as a few years would so transform the banks of the river above Cottage Farm as to render a return to the present state of tide water impossible. Suppose this new and half stagnant fresh water basin should develop malaria and even typhus at the North End of Boston—and no man living can say that it will not—the only remedy would be dredging, probably worse than the disease, or letting in salt water at somebody's discretion, in both cases on the well known principle of shutting the stable door after the steed is stolen. A highway has been built to Manchester in England at a cost of \$150,000,000. Probably nobody imagined that within a year from its opening the 400,000 people dwelling near it would be thrown into a state of panic because it is so offensive, while the newspapers seriously discussed whether the queen ought to have been allowed to take the risk of going to the public opening. The warning is significant.

But if the case is so plain why should the dam be proposed? The answer is simple. Above the bridge at Cottage Farm there are hundreds of acres of marsh land, flooded by the highest tides, and therefore unavailable, unsightly, offensive, and even unhealthy. To fill this land above high tide—says the commission report—would cost \$2,000,000. A dam at Craigie's bridge which would keep the water permanently three feet below the present High-tide water level and render these marshes available at a cost of \$600,000—and the report ingeniously adds that this action would also facilitate the problem of grade crossings for the city of Cambridge and the Boston & Albany Railroad. Not seeing their way to the extra million and a half, the patriotic citizens of Cambridge and the enthusiasts for a Riverside park propose to strain their, and by sacrificing the interest of Boston. It is remarkable that at the hearing before the land and harbor commission not one single person appeared on behalf of the plan from Boston. Every advocate spoke for the region above Cottage Farm.

If you explain this little scheme to Boston people, you will be met with a laugh and "Of course that will not be done." Let them not be too sure. The promoters are pushing it with the most determined energy by newspaper puffs and public addresses. They procured from the last legislature an order to the land and harbor commission to consider the subject and to give public hearings; and they are preparing to go at the next legislature with the full power of the lobby. If the citizens of Boston indulge in too much apathy they may wake up to find the dam an accomplished fact, with consequences which they will appreciate better a few years hence.

From considerations of space, I have not referred to the effects of such a dam upon Boston harbor—a subject important enough to deserve separate treatment.

GABRIEL BRADFORD,

Boston, Oct. 23, 1904.

27 Oct
ANOTHER FILLING.

To the Editor of the Transcript: In the Transcript of Oct. 20, 1904, an individual pleads for the acquittal of a view of the Charles River. Were the people who once lived on Pleasant street ever paid for the view taken from them by the filling in of the Back Bay marsh and buildings? If the value of land is increased by the improvements along the Charles River, may not the people who sail on the Charles River get damages for looking on the hideous man-made walls of the houses and inhaling the deadly odors that come from the manure pits and stables along the Charles River bank in 1804? A. E.

MALARIA WOULD RESULT.

Colonel Waring on the Charles River Dam.

Interesting Argument at the Hearing This Morning.

The Harbor and Land Commissioners continued the hearing on the proposed lock and dam in the Charles River this morning. Ex-Governor Russell called Colonel Waring of Newport, who continued his testimony, and submitted an elaborate argument against the proposed change in the Charles. Colonel Waring summed up his objections as follows:

"The changing of the Charles River from a salt water to a fresh water stream would greatly aggravate all malarious conditions. While such a change might lose its bad effect on health in a couple of years or so, the fact that the maintaining of the new basin would require the occasional admission of salt water would cause a constant recurrence of malarial conditions. The present salt marshes are free from malarial taint, because kept salt, and because their absorbed water is in constant movement. Under the plan proposed the marshes would lose the protection of salt water flooding, and their ground water would be stagnant, a condition favorable to malaria. The marshes adjacent to these swamps now reasonably well drained, and so kept in fine condition, would become water-logged and favorable sites for malaria. Should it become advisable to dig in and drain any part of the salt marshes for park purposes, this can be more completely done under present conditions. Under the proposed plan such reclamation would be impossible without artificial pumping. The contemplated walling in of the borders of the river would destroy the great chain of the present marsh shore, and would substitute a prosaic, expressionless and crooked shore line utterly devoid of interest. The destruction of the marshes themselves would remove a natural function of great beauty for which no artificial substitute would be a fair compensation. The exclusion of the great tide, which twice a day takes Boston in its arms, would remove the source of refreshment which keeps the river clean and wholesome, and the inevitable, constant deficiency incident to the life of a great population about it would make it a noxious and foul smelling pool, especially at the season when it is of the greatest importance to have it in its best condition. The proposed pool will undoubtedly become polluted and made offensive by the growth of algae and other minute organisms often found in water. This may be prevented by the proposed admission of salt water from time to time, but there is ample evidence that this will of itself aggravate the malarial conditions. The proposed plan involves the abolition of currents, which greatly delay the formation of ice in Boston harbor, and will cause the estuary itself to freeze earlier and to remain frozen later in the spring. Great care will be needed to prevent the inundation of the banks of the river during floods, which are now allowed to flow harmlessly away with the tide.

"According to the landscape architects, and they are undoubtedly right, all parts of the bed of the pool and river not submerged to a depth of eight feet will be subject to an undesirable growth of water plants. It is conceded that there is already a steady progress of malaria in the valley of the Charles and that this region is already more than tainted with malaria. The sources of this malaria may be completely removed if the regular flow of the tide is not materially interfered with, but if the water is to be held at anything like the height contemplated they cannot be removed. The case is very well stated by the landscape architect to the Metropolitan Park Commission when he says the larger water courses with salt and fresh water cannot be safely meddled with. It is only when the tide is out of the Mystic and the Charles rivers that extensive areas of natural and artificial lowlands can be drained of storm waters; if these natural outlets were filled up these areas, with all their streets and houses would inevitably become swampy. This is true not only as to surface water, but even more so as to the more dangerous subsoil water. The case of the Alster basin at Hamburg has little relation to the conditions here. The Elbe at that point is a freshwater stream; pollution is completely excluded from the Alster, and the mean temperature of both air and water is much lower than that of the Charles River, so much lower as to make it no guide as to the conditions of the much more pollutable and warmer water here."

GABRIEL BRADFORD,

Boston, Oct. 23, 1904.

Uses of the Charles

A Consideration of the Question: "What are the Highest and Best Uses to which the Charles River Can Be Put?"

In his admirable report upon the development of the Charles River to its highest usefulness, Mr. Charles Eliot introduces the subject by saying: "The problem presented by the existence of the channel, flats and marshes of Charles river in the heart of the metropolitan district of Boston has long been the subject of public discussion; and although this discussion has been thus far almost barren of results, it has at least served to familiarize the metropolitan community with the nature of the river and the history of its pollution and defacement."

The final highest use of the Charles river is, indeed, an interesting and important subject for discussion. The "barren results" of the past have been significant, and extending as they have through a whole century, the lessons are clear enough for those who will learn. It would be an excellent plan if the people of this community would raise the question and discuss it to its conclusion: In the development of this metropolitan district what are the highest and best uses to which the Charles River can be put?

The Davenport's, Makepeaces, Hills and Masons of the early years of this century answered this question by attempting to show that, at least as far as Cambridge was concerned, the river was by nature intended to be a commercial stream. We know the dismal ending of this venture. The vision of a great commercial mart springing up suddenly around the ditch quays of Cambridgeport and the untold wealth which would accrue therefrom, was never realized and the only relic to-day is the name "port," which is regarded by the people hereabout as an historic joke. The theory that the natural use of the Charles is to float commerce, has not been proven after a century of effort, and to-day it can be shown that the river is hardly more suited for commercial purposes than it is suited to turn spindles. In proportion to the population, the river commerce is probably not so great now as it was before the War of 1812.

The theory that the river has great usefulness in promoting manufactures, has also entertained, although it never much profited this community. A walk along the river banks at the present time, and a search for the factories which are not there, would be a sufficient answer to this theory. In certain parts of the river valley, immense industries have grown up and are now flourishing; but the river has not been a factor in this prosperity. The Grand Junction railroad has created or promoted more industrial activity in this community, since the Civil War, than the river has ever created since it was named the Charles.

All this is evident to anyone who sails up the river and views the shores. It cannot properly be called either an industrial or a commercial stream; neither business houses nor factories flourish along its banks. From the business point of view there is not a more forlorn sight in all Eastern Massachusetts. Abandoned wharves, crumbling and rotting; dilapidated buildings through which moan the river winds; unclean stables, dreary tenement houses, with long stretches of mud flats and marshes covered with the refuse of the city. These are the fruits of the theory that the river must be kept sacred to commerce and manufactures. As though in sheer despair at ever finding the proper use of the Charles, Cambridge has literally turned its back upon the river.

What, then, is the true and highest use to which the Charles may be put? Is it not the aesthetic and health-giving character of our river which is of most value and which should be most carefully cultivated? Is there not a use to which beauty may be put in this community, which will yield larger dividends, even from a financial point of view, than can possibly come from coasting vessels and small factories?

History cannot show that any city ever made a mistake in cultivating the beautiful in art or nature. Painting, sculpture and the Groves of the Academy, attracted to ancient Athens all that was best in Greece. Her schools were crowded, her marts of trade enriched, because she arrayed herself like a queen in her beauty. So it was with Florence and the free Medieval cities, and so is it to-day preeminently with Paris whose drives and parks and splendors of art, have attracted the wealth of the four quarters of the globe to herself. Beauty attracts culture and refinement, wealth and plenty. The history of the park movement in every American city shows this. Park cities are centers to which money tends. Thousands of people establish their residences in such cities because of the added pleasures of life, and of the opportunities to display their wealth in finely situated houses, and in rich equipages upon the park driveways. One hundred residences established along the Cambridge river bank, each family spending ten thousand dollars a year in the maintenance of their households, with servants, carriages, liveries, etc., would amount to a distribution of one million dollars annually in this community. How long must the winter winds beat upon the forsaken sheds, and the summer sun pour upon the treeless, bare and filthy marshes of the Cambridge river banks, to make an equal contribution to the city's wealth?

Travellers whose words compel our attention, tell us that our river has natural beauties beyond almost any other urban river in the world. Nature has omitted nothing from the perfect design of a quiet river flowing through marshes from the hills to the sea. It is the mistaken theories and misguided thrift of our people which has veiled the beauties of nature, until a generation has grown up, whose only knowledge of the Charles is of its stench.

In order to reclaim the beauties of the river and develop it to its highest use, it is necessary that the titles of the individual proprietors of the banks should be extinguished. Individual and corporate ownership has proven itself powerless to realize the ideal treatment of the river. Nothing less than the municipality can achieve it. A half-dozen torpid owners of unproductive marshes might defeat the desires of the whole metropolitan district, were the matter left to private effort. The river bank must again become common land, and this, as far as Cambridge is concerned, is now almost entirely the condition of the lands along the river.

Never was there a wiser expenditure of municipal money or a more intelligent planning for the city's development. If timid people take alarm because the work of a generation is laid out rather than, following the usual course, the work of a single year or a few months only is planned, they must be assured that it is only in this way that modern cities can fulfill their mission and build economically. True economy does not consist in doing nothing, nor, always, in doing but little. To quote Edmund Burke: "Parsimony is not economy. Expense, and great expense, may be an essential part in true economy, which is a distributive virtue, and consists not in saving but in selection. Parsimony requires no providence, no sagacity, no power of combination, no comparison, no judgment. Mere instinct, and that not an instinct of the noblest kind, may produce this false economy in perfection. The other economy has larger views. It demands a discriminating judgment, and a fair, sagacious mind."

And when the true economy of "larger views" prevails in the treatment of the Charles river, its highest uses will be realized. Then the property owners on Beacon street will not maintain a river road which would be a disgrace to Rehoboth or Cranbury Centre and boast, as of a virtue, that "the city had never expended one dollar upon it." Neither upon

the Cambridge side will there be any land within three-quarters of a mile of the City Hall whose highest and only use is to produce

marsh hay at two dollars the acre, as is now the case. When the true economy comes, such rural economics on both sides of the river will disappear. Instead, there will be a picture of landscape and watercolor with a wealth of beauty which no man has yet adequately described in words. The best of New England will be attracted to it. The work will be final, for in mankind the sensibility and perception of loveliness end but with life, and when once the highest use of the river is attained it will not be suffered to descend to lower uses again. It will stand through generations a beautiful thing. When the names of its beautifiers have become a legend, its beautiful lines will be unbroken, the shadows of the trees along its banks will be as fresh as on the first day they leaves saw the sun, the air will be as pure and the waters will ripple and laugh with the old and young of that far-away day who will sport upon its bosom.

Then, foolish indeed, if remembered at all, will seem the words of those of this generation who argue that the river should be left as at present.

GEORGE R. COOK.

Cambridge Aldermen Favor the Charles River Dam

A communication was received from the Cambridge Park Commissioners at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen of that city, last evening, asking that the city solicitor be requested to appear before the Harbor and Land Commissioners to favor the building of such a dam across the Charles River as will best promote the interests of Cambridge. The request of the commissioners was adopted.

Both branches of the City Council gave a hearing on the widening of Boylston street. It is proposed to widen the street from forty to seventy feet, at a cost of \$75,000. The widening has been under consideration a year. The street is an important avenue, running from Harvard square to the Charles River Parkway and Soldiers' Field. At the approach from Harvard square the street is now forty feet and at Winthrop square fifty feet wide. A number of citizens spoke in favor of the widening, although they differed as to which side the land should be taken from. President Eliot of Harvard said that the street should be made seventy-five or eighty feet wide. He believed the widening should be made in the main on the east side. He urged that Winthrop square be not touched, as it was a breathing place for the poor. The hearing was adjourned to next Tuesday evening.

WORD OF CAUTION

It is announced that the Associated Board of Trade will at its meeting this evening listen to a report from a committee appointed to investigate the improvement of Charles River proposed by the Metropolitan Park Commission and the State Board of Health. The problem to come before the meeting is full of difficulties for laymen, and particularly for such as have not made a special study of it.

The State Board of Health, including Dr. Walcott, one of the most famous of sanitarians, and H. F. Mills, one of the most famous of engineers, pronounces the river as it exists a public nuisance, and suggests as a remedy a dam to serve the double purpose of keeping out the high tides and keeping the river at a nearly constant level. What layman feels himself competent to gainsay this board on such a question?

The thoroughly competent engineer employed by the joint commission argues and gives many reasons for his opinion that a dam built where and as he has proposed will enhance land values by freeing the marshes from flooding and effect other improvements in the drainage of the river lowlands in ways which only engineers are able fully to understand. What layman can safely contradict him?

The Metropolitan Park Commission points to the fact that public and semi-public agencies, such as the Boston and Cambridge park commissions, the United States Arsenal, Cambridge Cemetery and Harvard College, already control or have authority to construct public promenades covering nine miles out of the total of sixteen miles of river bank between Craigie Bridge and Watertown, and add that public opinion expressed by the Legislature has directed the commission to lay for the public as many more miles as can be had for the sum of three hundred thousand dollars. It thus appears that the scant two miles of frontage possessed by the Albany Railroad, and the Brookline Gas Company and the Abattoir will soon be about all that will remain to "commerce." After waiting some two centuries for commerce and industry to take possession the community is now tired of waiting and demands that the river shall be put to use as a park. As population has thickened near the river the stronger has this demand become. Thus "Charlesbank" took the place of stone, coal and lumber yards. Thus the Boston shore up to Cottage Farm waits only the completion of still more necessary park works to see a public promenade along its whole length. Thus Cambridge has acquired "The Front" near Craigie Bridge and all the shore from West Boston Bridge up to Mt. Auburn street, it being understood that coal will continue to be delivered at a few points by passing it above or beneath the grade of the projected promenade.

The next question to meet is, how shall these miles of public shore be made available for public use and enjoyment? Must they eventually be walled like Charlesbank by sea walls sixteen feet high, at a cost of millions? Behold, says the Metropolitan Commission, the dam recommended by the Board of Health as a sanitary measure, and by engineers as an engineering measure, will save the community most of this vast expense. If the river is kept nearly at constant level a wall five feet high will answer every purpose in those parts of the banks where any wall at all is necessary, while elsewhere trees and shrubs may clothe the river's edge as they do the margins of naturally fresh streams. In short, if the dam is built, the community which demands a river park will sooner obtain a far more agreeable park at very much less expense than it can ever obtain if the dam is not built.

One thing is certain, we do not want to listen either to selfish private interests or to careless ignorance on such questions. Neither high-priced attorneys lobbying at the State House or speaking at dinners arranged for the purpose ought to be allowed to affect questions of civil engineering and broad public welfare. To ordinary mortals it seems as if protesting Beacon street will act most mistakenly, even from its own point of view, if it attempts to dictate, especially as against the expert and scientific finding of the commission, composed as it is of able and distinguished men who would lead their names to nothing either heedlessly or unjustly proposed.

As to the effect of the proposed dam upon the harbor, that is another point upon which only high-minded expert testimony is worth anything. It is said that even if the dam should cause some shoaling the financial economies and the benefits to real estate to result from the dam will be much more than sufficient to warrant the continuous employment of a dredge. However this may be, it is obvious at a glance that the Board of Trade will pass an interesting evening! It is equally evident that the members of the board will do well to refrain from hastily taking sides lest they too soon wake to find themselves on the wrong side.

ADVOCATES OF A DAM HEARD.

Opponents of the Proposed Charles River Improvement Close Their Case, and the Friends of the Scheme Begin Introducing Testimony in Rebuttal.

At the State House this morning the opposition to the proposed lock and dam in the Charles River was continued. Chairman Woodward Emery and Commissioners Howland and Baker came in early and awaited the advent of counsel. The latter soon put in an appearance. Ex-Governor Russell and Colonel John T. Wheelwright fought the proposed scheme without ex-Governor Lons, who was absent today. At the other end of the table were Representative Abbott of Watertown, City Solicitor Slocum of Newton, and a new comer, G. A. A. Fovey, city solicitor of Cambridge, who appeared for the advocates of the lock and dam. The remonstrants, who have been presenting their side for about three weeks, rested their case today, and it is evident that the rebuttal, which was begun at this session, will be a long and sharp one.

When Chairman Emery called the hearing to order this morning, Colonel Wheelwright read a statement which proved to be a final one for the remonstrants. In it he reviewed the decisions of the harbor and land commissions for the past fifteen years, which, he claimed, were protests against any such change as is now contemplated. Further he quoted the opinions of United States experts, engineers and students of the problem, and submitted extracts from the various acts passed by successive Legislatures. The opponents of the scheme then rested their case.

Representative Abbott said that he would first call Frederic P. Stearns, engineer of the State Board of Health. Mr. Stearns wrote the report submitted to the Legislature last year by the joint board, consisting of the Metropolitan Park Commission and the State Board of Health, recommending the construction of the lock and dam. Ex-Governor Russell objected at this point. He thought it a rather irregular method of procedure and decidedly prejudicial to his case. He did not object, however, to Mr. Stearns' testimony being put in. City Solicitor Slocum said that it was merely in the nature of a rebuttal. Mr. Stearns was then called. Colonel Waring, the expert from Newport, who testified the other day against the proposed dam, took a seat beside ex-Governor Russell and followed Mr. Stearns closely. The colonel made copious notes, and he will probably be put on the stand again later.

Mr. Stearns was questioned by Representative Abbott about his findings as embodied in his report. The witness stated that he had given much time to a study of the Charles River and had reached his conclusions after many years of experience. He said that while the tidal part of the river is at present in an unsanitary condition, it is, nevertheless, in a much better condition than it would be, if it were not for the great amount of sea water which enters the river at every tide to dilute the sewage. It is obvious, therefore, that if a dam were to be constructed, which would prevent the entrance of sea water before the sewage is diverted into the metropolitan sewer, the condition of the river would be more unsanitary than at present, because the amount of inland water is too small to dilute the great amount of sewage now entering the basin to a sufficient extent to make it inoffensive. When, however, the sewage is diverted, so that none will enter the river except the very limited amount of diluted sewage which will overflow into it during heavy rains, the conditions will be entirely changed. The basin, to be formed will contain 3,300,000,000 gallons of water, and with the average flow of the river this will be replaced once in fifteen days; during the drier seasons of the year it will be replaced about once in eighty-two days; and during the high flow of the river, in the spring of the year, about once a week. At all times during the year the flow of inland water will be sufficiently large to prevent water in the basin from becoming objectionable through the decomposition of organic matter. "The sewage deposits," said the witness, "now on the flats and shores of the tidal part of the river, will disappear quite rapidly through the agency of the currents, aided by the action of the waves and of floating ice, and by composition. The proposed lock will permit the passage at low tide of vessels drawing ten feet, and at high tide of vessels drawing eighteen feet of water. Improvement will not only prevent the flooding of the marshes, but by draining them and substituting fresh water for salt, will change their character considerably so that they may be used for park and many other purposes with little improvement.

Representative Abbott—Could the marsh lands be drained by dikes and tide-gates in such a way as to be made suitable for building purposes?

Mr. Stearns—think it would be quite impossible.

"They should not be used," he continued, "as sites for dwellings unless they are filled to the height now required by law, because the proposed improvement will not materially change the level of ground water." In relation to present parks and to the proposed park improvements along the river, he said that the existing improvements along the river are the Charlesbank and the Back Bay Fens. The maintenance of a full basin is obviously favorable to the Charlesbank, and the conditions of the Back Bay Fens will also be more favorable, because the water will become fresh instead of brackish, and will not rise as high in the event of heavy freshets, as under existing conditions.

BASIN FOR GREAT WAR SHIPS.

Movement on Foot to Establish One in Charles River.

When Not in Active Service the Vessels of the Navy Could Be Stationed Therein at a Great Saving of Expense—Proposition Indorsed by Naval Engineers.

During the recent hearing before the board of harbor commissioners relative to the improvement of the Charles river the fact was developed that there is a movement on foot to establish in the Charles river a fresh water basin for the reception of large steel warships and torpedo boats, when they are not in active service and are laid up in readiness for duty.

In times of peace there is little need for the maintenance, in full commission, of the huge battleships and other armored vessels and also torpedo boats, as the ordinary pacific duties of a navy can be performed satisfactorily by the smaller cruisers and gunboats, which are comparatively inexpensive to maintain. The larger vessels and torpedo boats referred to are essentially for war, and until such a threatment it is the proposed policy of the navy department to keep them, in charge of a few caretakers, at some navy yard, where they will be kept in good order and not sent to sea, except for certain annual periods of exercise.

Exposure to salt water, however, results in excessive fouling of steel bottoms, producing "pitting" and loss of speed. To avoid this, fresh water basins are desirable, and it is for the purpose of locating one of these at Boston that the present proposal has been made.

The suggestion originated with Mr. A. M. Mattice of Cambridge, formerly an engineer officer of the navy. It has occurred to Mr. Mattice that the basin can be readily formed, in case the recommendations of the joint commission for the improvement of the Charles river should be adopted. Among these recommendations is that a dam be built across the Charles river, 300 feet above Craigie's bridge. This would substantially deepen the river above that point, and, with improvements suggested for the shore, would, according to Mr. Mattice, provide an excellent refuge for all the ships in the United States navy. The chief labor in providing for this would be a slight widening of the draws in the lower bridges and in the lock of the proposed dam to admit the passage of vessels of great beam.

This scheme has received strong approval from Chief Constructor Hobbs and Engineer-in-Chief Melville of the navy, from both of whom Mr. Mattice has received letters indorsing his plan. In Mr. Hobbs' letter the following passages occur:

"The benefit to the naval service of a commodious and accessible fresh water basin for laying up steel ships when out of commission would be great and undeniable. * * * It is highly important that these storage basins should have the following qualities: First, they should be near to, and easily accessible from, both a coal-burning and a coal-burning station and the sea; second, they should be located in a position where their successful defense in time of war would be certain; and third, they should have a constant depth of water sufficient to insure their being always well clear of the bottom."

The fresh water basin formed by the proposed dam will fulfill the condition required for a reserve basin for such vessels as are able to pass through the draws and lock, and will be of great benefit to the navy.

Mr. Mattice speaks even more strongly. He says:

"Personally, I think it a grand thing, for if the locks are made large enough to take our cruisers and battleships, it will form a most excellent fresh water basin for such craft in securing their good preservation at all times. Its value is not altogether one-sided either, for the formation of such a basin would insure the insurance of Boston always of a formidable vessel, either of the battleship or monitor type, which could not but be of great service in time of emergency. Furthermore, making Boston the rendezvous for ships out of commission would necessarily leave a great deal of money there which otherwise would be spent somewhere else."

This, however, is merely the Boston side of the affair. What appeals to me personally in the matter is the fact of having such a fresh water basin to lay the ships up in, and one situated so near large engine building establishments; and, for the sake of the navy, I hope the scheme will be carried out. For I know of nothing that has been brought to my attention in recent years which, from a military standpoint, could be more advantageous to the navy.

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It is not generally known that at the Charlestown Navy Yard there is a fine modern plant of new ship repairing machinery, and the proximity of this to the basin would be of great advantage. Before this basin can be established, of course, the plan must be approved by the board of harbor commissioners and be provided for by the state Legislature. The army engineers, too, must approve of it, as to them will fall the task of dredging the channel and widening the draws.

Mr. Mattice points out in strong terms the benefits the basin would confer, not only upon Boston, locally, but upon the navy, and therefore upon the country at large. In case the plans of the joint board on the improvement of the Charles prove acceptable, the additional expense incurred by Mr. Mattice's proposed modifications would be comparatively slight.

A Herald reporter had an interesting conversation, yesterday, with Mr. Mattice on the subject of the proposed basin, and in the course of it Mr. Mattice said:

"It might be thought, at first sight, that the expense of widening the draws through the various bridges, necessary to make the basin available for the larger naval vessels might be a serious matter. It can be easily shown, however, that there are other advantages to be derived, which would more than pay for the cost of this work, entirely outside of the question of the naval use of the basin, from the Charles river bridge to the Craigie bridge the only part of the river of use to commerce is that through the draws. The remainder of the river is of use only to allow the ebb and flow of the tides of the basin to take place without too swift a current. Having built the dam and so removed the tidal flow, the river becomes of no use except where needed for the passage of vessels.

"Now, let us suppose a new series of wide draws to be built. Let a continuous closed channel be made, from Charles river bridge to Craigie bridge, with sheet piling at the sides, like a ferry slip, so that vessels can go through the more easily. Let the channel be of such width as may be found necessary, say even 90 or 100 feet. Now let bulkheads be built up near the Charles river and Craigie bridges, and fill in the river between these points, except in the channel before mentioned, leaving also a channel connecting with Miller's river.

"A great part of this newly-made land could be turned over to the railroad companies on terms which would at least repay them for the filling in and building of new draws. This would greatly increase their now limited terminal facilities, and be of immense benefit to them, as well as to the city. Some of the land could also be used to increase the highway accommodations from Boston to Charlestown and Cambridge without the expenditures of large sums for new bridges. Still another part would be useful in connection with rapid transit roads, and the remainder could be sold for various trade purposes.

"The existing wharfrage between Charles river bridge and Craigie bridge is inconsiderable and could be fully made up by wharfrage gained across the present river, just north of Charles river bridge. The material for filling in this land would come from the fresh water basin by hydraulic dredging, thus taking the material from a place where it is not wanted and putting it where it will be of use, and that, too, at comparatively small expense.

"The filling in of this land would permit the railroad companies to so arrange their tracks and draws that trains need never be delayed by an open draw. A branch track could be arranged at such a distance below (or above, if more convenient) the main line that if the draw in the latter were open to admit a vessel the draw in the former could be closed and could be used by trains. The two draws could be easily arranged to interlock, with the switches controlled from the signal tower, so that trains would always have a clear track."

THE CHARLES RIVER BASIN.

The hearing on the Charles river basin has been interesting, as illustrative of the entirely divergent and conflicting opinions which able men can arrive at when arguing from an agreed upon statement of facts. If we are to trust one side to this discussion, the damming of Charles river in the way proposed will have the effect of converting it into a beautiful water basin, which, by a relatively small outlay, can be charmingly surrounded, and be a perpetual delight and embellishment to the centre of our metropolitan district. This immense improvement, according to these authorities, can be made without detriment to any interest—that is, with loss to no interest which has a right to public recognition.

The other side assure us that if this change is made, it will convert the basin of Charles river into a veritable plague spot, a stagnant and putrefying pool for the reception and retention of the sewage and drainage of the surrounding district; that the newly made lands in the vicinity of the basin will be changed from healthy into unhealthy districts, in consequence of the high level at which the water will be kept, while the obstruction to the tide that the dam will offer will inevitably lead to the filling up of the channels of the harbor and their constant freezing over in winter through the absence of existing tide currents.

These are the two pictures that have been painted by the skilful hands of special pleaders, and to the average citizen, who can have no scientific knowledge, one statement is quite as good as the other. It may be said that those who urge the construction of the dam and the formation of a basin represent in the main the public interests and the public desire to have the Charles river made an attractive feature in our metropolitan development, and that those who are opposing the project are in the main the representatives of special interests, who believe that these would suffer if such a change was made. On general principles, it may be said that the evidence of the former would command greater weight before a court of law—that is, the former would be much more likely to be disinterested than the latter. On the other hand, it may be said that those who would change the existing condition of affairs, and would in this way bring about an innovation, have thrown upon them the burden of proof of showing that the change which they suggest is of sufficient advantage to much more than outweigh its possible objections.

It seems to us that sufficient evidence has been presented to warrant the land and harbor commissioners in asking for a postponement of action. One side or the other in this contention must be in the wrong; and, although the propositions presented are somewhat novel, they cannot be so entirely beyond the range of engineering facts as to make impossible a reasonably definite conclusion. It seems to us that the matter is of sufficient importance to justify the land and harbor commissioners in requesting authority from the Legislature to appoint a board of three entirely disinterested civil engineers, chosen from outside of the state, and even if one or more of them was chosen from outside the country it might be of advantage, these to examine the subject in all of its details, and report whether, in their opinion, the plan proposed would be likely to result in the serious loss and disadvantage which it is alleged its realization would occasion.

METROPOLITAN PARKS.

Hearing on Apportionment of Cost of System.

Commissioners Sharply Criticised by Counsel.

A preliminary hearing by ex-Secretary of War Endicott, C. W. Clifford of New Bedford and Judge H. P. Harriman of Barnstable, commissioners to apportion the cost of the metropolitan park system among the thirty-seven cities and towns in the eastern part of the Commonwealth, was given to representatives of the municipalities affected at the court house this forenoon. There was a large attendance of lawyers and the meeting was a decidedly lively one, the members of the Metropolitan Park Commission coming in for a good deal of sharp criticism from many of the lawyers and being as warmly defended by others. Under the statute, the commissioners who sat today are to apportion the cost of the work for the first five years, of which one year has about expired, and the amount to be apportioned is \$1,000,000 for parks and \$300,000 for boulevards, although, in case the boulevards are not constructed, their cost may not be assessed at present. The hearing followed a preliminary character, and developed the fact that there are two parties that will be heard. One represents towns and cities which are directly affected by the park system; the other party favors an apportionment based on the valuation of the municipalities. The other party represents towns and cities indirectly benefited, and it believes that the commissioners should, in apportioning the cost, consider minutely the benefits sustained by a town or city, and act accordingly.

City Solicitor Bowman of Somerville, and H. F. Fales, representing the town of Dover, were the principal critics of the park commissioners, and insisted that the latter ought, before anything is done, to tell the people what they propose to do as well as what they have done. Moorfield Story, representing the town of Milton, opened what proved to be a long discussion by saying that in his opinion the park commissioners should produce plans showing what has been done, and estimates as to what amount it is necessary to raise. Mr. Fales thought if a pretty good proceeding for the towns and cities to be called upon to come in and address the commissioners without knowing anything about the facts in the case.

F. Rackemann, who represents the park commission, said that he wished to correct an impression that seemed to prevail that the park commissioners are not ready to give information and it will not be necessary to pass any orders directed to them. Mr. Story thought the question before the commissioners one not free from embarrassment. The question of assessing the cost, in the case of lands taken, is not difficult, but in the matter of boulevards, which are not yet laid out, the question presents many difficulties. One now knows where they are to be.

Mr. Bowman said, "The present hearing finds everybody just where all were last July. No one knows what the Park Commissioners have decided upon in the matter of boulevards, and they will not tell what their intentions are. Some of the towns to be assessed have no part of the parks within their limits, and no way of getting to them except by private conveyance. There are no boulevards connecting these municipalities with the parks, and the Park Commissioners refuse to say whether there are to be any, or, if there are to be boulevards, where they are to be located. Who knows the benefit that will accrue to such a city or town from the system? In my opinion the apportionment should be based on the benefit derived. At present the park system does not benefit Cambridge or Somerville, being from two and one-half to three miles from the city limits of these places.

We cannot get a word out of the commissioners as to what they propose to do. They say to us when we go to them that if they should map out a line of boulevards and publish it, the price of land would go up, and the cost of the park system would be enormously increased. What we ask is not the exact routes, but the general idea. To all this the reply is, 'We have nothing to say; we have no plans; we don't know whether we shall have any boulevards.' I protest against Somerville being called upon to pay anything upon such a vague statement. We want to know something about what we are saying for."

City Solicitor Ludden of Waltham did not think it material what the future intentions of the Park Commissioners were. The commissioners who apportion the cost were to pass only on what had been done. Mr. Ludden said that Waltham would protest against the Park Commissioners telling what they intend to do.

C. A. Williams, for the town of Brookline, thought that the Park Commissioners had been subjected to a great deal of undue criticism. Their work is necessarily of slow growth. The work of apportionment would undoubtedly be easier, were the labors of the Park Commissioners concluded, but that is not and cannot be the case, and the present commissioners cannot assess the cost upon the work as a whole. Mr. Williams agreed with Mr. Ludden that there should be no consideration as to future work, but he felt that the Park Commissioners should furnish evidence of what they had done.

B. F. Hayes, for the town of Medford, thought the system a benefit to the entire district which is to pay the cost. F. S. Heselgrave, for Melrose, considered the park system a great benefit for all of "Greater Boston," and he favored an apportionment based on the valuation of the various municipalities. Mr. Cook, for the town of Weymouth, considered that the commission ought to consider the benefits resulting to every community from the park system; he could not see where his town is benefited in the least by it. Frank Sweeter, for Stoneham, favored considering the benefit derived, as did J. O. Burdett, who represented Hull. W. S. Slocum, city solicitor of Newton, said that the commissioners should first find out what has been done, and then hear evidence on which to determine the method to be adopted in apportioning the cost. Mr. Bowman wanted an assurance of fair treatment from the Park Commissioners.

To this Mr. Rackemann replied that, if it were deemed wise to have the Park Commissioners come forward and take an oath to treat fairly the towns and cities affected by their labors, he could assure the gentleman from Somerville that they would do that, but when it comes to presenting plans for future action they decline. The Park Commissioners now have before them many plans for boulevards in Middlesex, Suffolk and Norfolk counties; people are zoning in every day, presenting new ideas. Mr. Bowman himself having come forward and made suggestions as to the proper route for the Middlesex boulevard. Nothing has yet been decided upon and the Park Commissioners themselves do not know what they will do.

Mr. Bowman reiterated that the remarks of Mr. Rackemann furnished an object lesson of the way in which the Park Commissioners treat people who come in to make inquiries. They give assurances of fair treatment but furnish no information. Can it be that the Park Commissioners, after existing so long, have no idea or plans as to what they intend to do? Mr. Rackemann replied that the Park Commissioners have plenty of ideas, but have come to no decision, as yet.

Mr. Fales, for the town of Dover, protested that the people of the towns are entitled to know what is being done, and what it is to be done with the money they are called upon to pay. The citizens in town meetings will want to discuss the subject, and desire information which it is their right to have. The Park Commissioners should be obliged to tell within what general limits they intend to operate. It is too plain for argument that the intent of the law is that the apportionment is to be

determined upon something besides arbitrary rules. The commission, in apportioning the cost, should consider the character of the town to be assessed and the occupation of the people. A farming town should not be assessed on the same basis as a manufacturing community. Of course a place which has a park within its own limits desires the basis to be on the valuation, and not the benefit derived. The commissioners, before apportioning the cost, should be informed what the Park Commissioners intend to do in the next five years. Judge Asa Fernald, for the town of Braintree, said that there is a practical, as well as a poetic, side to this question, and the people are entitled to know not only what has been done, but what in a general sense is to be done. The scheme may cost many millions, no one knows how much, and the people have a right to say something about it.

Mr. Rackemann said, "I wish it to be understood that the Park Commissioners are not a party to the present proceedings, and, inasmuch as they have no interest in it. They have a work to do under the law, and will do it. They only come before the commissioners out of respect for the commission, and because they wish, in a friendly spirit, to do all they can to assist the Commissioners in ascertaining the road, but they do not consider that they are under any obligations to come forward."

After consultation, the commissioners announced that, as the principal question appeared to be the matter of justly and equitably determining the method of apportioning the cost of the work, and as the commissioners could not in advance state what the basis of apportionment should be, it had been decided, in view of the statement of the Park Commissioners that the latter were ready to furnish all needed information, to hear first the Park Commissioners, and, after that, such competent evidence as the parties interested might see fit to offer. As the commissioners have no power to compel attendance of witnesses, the parties must produce their evidence. On all questions of the admissibility of evidence, the commissioners will rule as the questions arise. The hearing will be further decided to give the first hearing to the cities and towns named, and then to the towns and cities named in the order in which they are named in the act.

IN THE NEW ROADS.

If any members of the Metropolitan Park Commission went over the new roads laid out in the Middlesex Fells yesterday they must have rejoiced with an exceeding great joy over Nature's gorgeous approval of their work. It is pleasant enough to drive over any of the old roads of Middlesex in fine autumn weather, with the brilliant coloring of trees and bushes to lend their enchantment at a little distance, but to plunge into the very heart and mystery and glow of autumn color it is necessary to know one or half a dozen of those new narrow, winding, natural-seeming roads in the Fells where the flaming oaks press close to either side of the way, yet not so close that horses may not swiftly meet and pass as the comfortable family loads familiar in that region drive comfortably on in carriages. These new roads which people of Medford and Melrose and Winchester and Malden are finding out with delight are like old wood-roads, in the fashion of their winding towards their destined ends. They have the apparent spontaneity of necessity and use, all the natural grace of paths made by man for his service, of ancient usage. But the boxes beside the way now and then marked "Park Commission" show how cunningly tools have fashioned these pleasure ways; and a shining white wreath bent down for a railing as a little bridge crossing reveals the touch of art that lets nature in. The cold, dark, mysterious wood-pools, *mares du diable*, remain, yet are transferred into lakes less unknown, more in accord with the clear pleasure and satisfaction of realizing that all these wonderful woodland ways are now the inalienable property of the Commonwealth. It has taken a long time for public sentiment to reach a degree of appreciation of "unimproved" and natural beauty sufficient to justify the State in possessing the Middlesex Fells. But prater is cheap which should attempt to meet the success of what has been done in opening these new possessions to the public. Looking from the shore at the blue brilliant sea and rolling vigorously in a splendid surf bring vastly two differing emotions. A business-like contemplative approval of the work of the Park Commission is different also from an invigorating dash through the bright October waves of these most charming wilds. And all are good, for why should not the spirit of mortal be proud of any satisfactory experience?

To Succeed Mr. Endicott.

Judge Motion of the Supreme Court has appointed George F. Richardson of Lowell a commissioner to apportion the cost of the metropolitan park system among the thirty-seven towns and cities interested, in place of Hon. W. C. Endicott resigned.

Hearing Before the Special Commissioners to Determine How Much Each Town Shall Pay.

A special hearing by the commissioners to apportion the cost of the metropolitan park system, among the thirty-six towns and cities interested, was given at the Court House today. This was the first formal hearing, inasmuch as the proceedings last month were of an informal character. Hon. George F. Richardson, who has been appointed to succeed Judge Endicott, sat with Messrs. Clifford and Harrison this morning, and was chairman of the commission.

F. Raackemann, counsel for the Park Commissioners, exhibited a map showing the location and area of lands taken thus far, and also those for which the commissioners have been given control, care and custody. Referring to the plan, Mr. Raackemann showed that the total takings thus far are: Blue Hill reservation, 3953 acres; Middlesex Fells, 1583 acres; Beaver Brook, 48 1/2 acres; Stony Brook reservation, 476 acres; West Roxbury park system, 156 acres. To this to be added the 950 acres under the control of the commission in Middlesex. The approximate areas of land taken from each city and town are: Blue Hill reservation, Milton 1314 acres, Quincy 2530, Canton 109; Middlesex Fells, Medford 392, Malden 61, Stoneham 668, Melrose 205, Winchester 287; Stony Brook, Hyde Park 285, Boston 190; West Roxbury Parkway, Boston 190; Beaver Brook reservation, Waltham 32 1/2, Belmont 16. The expenditures of the commissioners for Nov. 15, 1894, have been: Blue Hill reservation, land \$154,287, labor \$21,580, Miscellaneous 14,199; Middlesex Fells, land \$70,379, labor \$19,321, miscellaneous \$8616; Beaver Brook, land \$11,000, labor \$2133, miscellaneous \$3834; Stony Brook, land (approximately) \$34,918; labor \$447, miscellaneous \$1732; general expenses, surveys \$862; care and maintenance \$16,800, miscellaneous \$864. Of the special appropriation of \$10,000 made in 1893 for expenses of the board, all but \$600 has been expended, a draft has further been made on the State treasury for \$327,940. On Blue Hill reservation 3000 of the 3953 acres have been paid for; in Middlesex Fells 197 acres out of 1583; in Beaver Brook, 13 of 48 1/2; Stony Brook, 30 out of 47 1/2; the West Roxbury parkway about 200,000 feet is paid for, the cost being \$26,918.

Hon. Charles Francis Adams of the Park Commissioners said that the Commissioners felt that the problem before them was beset with difficulties, the success of the movement depending on the temper of the people and the legislation which may be enacted. The Commissioners have declined to commit the Commonwealth to any scheme the cost of which cannot be estimated. They have gone step by step, so that what has been done is complete. All that remains is to pay the bills. Mr. Adams emphasized the fact that the Commissioners cannot tell what their future plans are to be.

At the conclusion of Mr. Adams' statement, J. O. Burdett, representing the town of Hull, asked Mr. Adams a question intended to bring out an answer which would show something of the future intentions of the commissioners. Objection to the question was made by C. A. Williams, representing the town of Brookline. A long discussion followed, for the decision on the question was supposed to settle the basis on which the commissioners would proceed in apportioning the cost of the park system.

The commissioners ruled that questions as to the probable future contentions of the Park Commissioners were admissible. Chairman Richardson said the commission believed it would be unwise to compel the Park Commissioners to reveal their plans, for that might result in raising the price of certain pieces of land that the commissioners desire to purchase.

At one o'clock the hearing adjourned until two o'clock on Tuesday.

NO MORE HEARINGS AT PRESENT.

Charles Francis Adams Makes an Important Suggestion in Regard to Metropolitan Parks.

Charles Francis Adams made an important statement today before the commissioners appointed to apportion the cost of the Metropolitan Park system, the result of which was that the hearing came to an abrupt termination, being postponed to the last Saturday in April, unless a special meeting is called by the commissioners. After considerable opposition had come from counsel for towns and cities, claiming to be unbenefited by the system, against the commissioners' taking into consideration future benefits to accrue to such cities and towns, Mr. Adams said he would make a suggestion. Inasmuch as by the first of May the Park Commissioners will have their plans sufficiently advanced to enable them to see where the entire appropriation will be expended, he would suggest a continuance until that time. Mr. Adams, continuing, said that the original appropriation was \$1,000,000; there was a special appropriation of \$600,000 for Revere Beach improvement, \$200,000 for the Charles River basin and \$600,000 for the boulevard system. The Park Commissioners feel that they can now safely say that the original appropriation will be used in paying for the reservations and matters connected therewith; the matter of the Charles River basin and the boulevards will also be settled definitely by May 1. The Revere Beach matter, so one presenting many difficult problems, so that the commissioners feel it necessary to apply to the Legislature for additional legislation. It is hardly probable that a settlement will be made at present, but in six months' time it can be definitely told what will be done.

Mr. Adams' suggestion met with favor and was adopted by the commissioners, who stated that the adjournment would be to the last Saturday in April.

A Plea for Fort Mackinac.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:

SIR: In the press of the political campaign the great public is letting go quite unobserved an important order recently issued from Washington. Among the nine forts or posts abandoned at the suggestion of Gen. Schofield some, no doubt, have long outlived their practical utility, and are, aesthetically, of little interest. One, however, Fort Mackinac, on an island in the straits which connect Lake Huron with Lake Michigan, is conspicuous for its history and its singular beauty. Everybody who reads Parkman must be familiar with it. The present fort, a successor to the Michilimackinac of Indian times, was built in 1788, and has been occupied continuously ever since by English or American soldiery.

I suppose it is useless to protest, merely because it is picturesque, against its final abandonment. But some of us who have seen a bit of the world and know how the picturesque is turned to profitable account in other lands, may at least suggest to our Western cousins that a complete surrender of their beautiful fort into the hands of vandals will be equivalent to the actual loss of money. A large part of the island of Mackinac was set aside in 1875 for a national park. Let the people of Michigan induce Congress to include the old fort, too. This is no idle matter for those who desire the preservation on this continent of remains that make it interesting and in time shall make it sacred.

A TRAVELLER.

New York, Sept. 11, 1894.

THE \$500,000 "UNEMPLOYED" FUND.

Park Commission Cannot Utilize It Until Next Spring.

The Metropolitan Park Commission will be unable to distribute the \$500,000 committed to its care for the benefit of the unemployed until next spring. The fact is stated in anticipation of a demand to know what has been done with the fund. The question has been asked on several occasions, and members of the commission have no hesitation in vouchsafing information on the subject. An idea appears to obtain in some quarters that the money was appropriated solely for the purpose of relieving distress, quite regardless of the manner in which it was expended. This impression, obviously, is an erroneous one. The question of giving aid to the unemployed is a secondary consideration, as the action of the Legislature is interpreted by those who were mainly instrumental in securing the appropriation. No matter how or when the money is disbursed, the men engaged upon the work will be selected from the ranks of the idle.

The Park Commission has given the subject earnest consideration, but is extremely cautious in committing the metropolitan district to any plan which might merit criticism. It is for this reason that it finds it impossible immediately to proceed in carrying out its plans. The main project under consideration is the linking of the Middlesex Fells with the Blue Hill reservation by means of a boulevard. This, as is apparent, is a work of considerable magnitude. The commission has had numerous surveys made to determine the most feasible plan to adopt, and while this has practically been settled, that is not all there is to decide. The commission is seeking the material cooperation of cities and towns which will be directly benefited by the construction of the proposed boulevard.

It is the opinion of members of the board that it is better to make haste slowly, when by such action considerable money additional to the sum appropriated by the Legislature may be contributed. The board has received several propositions, which it now has under advisement. As the matter stands it is likely that such towns and cities as make the most satisfactory offers will derive the most benefit from the improvement. This course will be followed for several reasons. The appropriation spread out over such a large area as the metropolitan district would soon be exhausted, while no permanent good would result. To assure enduring benefit, the commission has determined to select some particular section or work for improvement. If it decides to construct a section

Hills and Middlesex Fells, it will undoubtedly construct it through such places as are willing to give the most assistance to the furtherance of the plan.

Engineers have been at work making surveys between the Middlesex Fells and the Lynn woods, and have selected a picturesque driveway, which, by the expenditure of considerable money, would make an ideal road between these twoylvan retreats. The work will not be undertaken for the present, however, for the reason that the commission feels it incumbent upon it to make improvements in the more densely populated sections in Malden, Medford, Everett and Somerville, for instance. The idea of the commission is to devise some plan that will be equitable, for as the expense is borne by all cities and towns within the metropolitan district, it is necessary, to avoid complaints, to make improvements as general as possible. By next spring the commission will have decided just what to do, and the work, with the favoring weather conditions, will be pushed rapidly forward.

Yosemite Valley of To-day.

The annual report of Mr. Galen Clark, the venerable guardian of the Yosemite Valley, just made to the commission in charge of that region, strongly urges that work be done to make the surface of the valley more presentable. As he has known the valley almost from the time that it has been visited by white men (he was the discoverer of the Mariposa big trees), he speaks with much authority. Here is what he says:

My first visit to Yosemite was in the summer of 1855. At that time there was no undergrowth of young trees to obstruct clear open views in any part of the valley from one side of the Merced River across to the base of the opposite wall. The area of clear open meadow ground, with abundance of luxuriant native grasses and flowering plants, was at least four times as large as at the present time. The valley had then been exclusively under the care and management of the Indians, probably for many centuries. Their policy of management for their own protection and self-interest, as told by some of the survivors who were boys when the valley was first visited by whites in 1821, was to annually start fires in the dry season of the year and let them spread over the whole valley, to kill the young trees just sprouted and keep the forest groves open and clear of all underbrush, so as to have no obscure thickets for a hiding-place, or an ambush for any invading hostile foe, and to have clear grounds for hunting and gathering acorns.

When the fires did not thoroughly burn over the moist meadows, all the young willows and cottonwoods were pulled up by hand. Prepared acorns were as much an article of food with the Indians as the cereals are with the more civilized races. In order to get the necessary supply early in the season, before ripe enough to fall, the ends of the branches of the oak trees were pruned off to get the acorns, thus keeping the branches well cut back and not subject to being broken down by heavy snows in the winter and the trees badly figured, as in the case since that practice has been stopped. Thus, probably solely for self-protection and utility purposes, the Indians for hundreds of years had cared for and preserved the Yosemite Valley in that unique and aesthetic condition which, with the sublime grandeur of its entire environment, so impressed early pioneer visitors at first sight from Inspiration Point, with overwhelming emotions of amazement, veneration, and awe.

Since Yosemite has been under the care of the state of California it was for many years the policy of its managers to protect the valley as much as possible from the ravages of fires and to preserve all the young trees from destruction. This constant vigilant care for the preservation of Yosemite has resulted in the whole valley being overrun with dense thickets of young forest trees, shrubbery, and underbrush, and an accumulation of a vast amount of highly combustible material, which, in the event of accidental fires, is a fearful menace to the safety of property and the beauty of the landscape scenery. Every young pine and cottonwood tree in Yosemite less than forty feet in height has sprouted and grown from the seed within the last thirty years. Many of the former finest views in Yosemite are now so much obscured by the growth of trees that it is impossible for photographers to reproduce their former finest work until the trees and underbrush are cut away.

In 1896, when Professor J. D. Whitney, State Geologist, made a segregated tabulated map of the floor of the valley, there were 750 acres of meadow ground. Since then the forest-growth has so far encroached upon the borders of the meadow-land that there is not one-fourth of that amount, and what there is left is becoming so thickly covered with young willows and cottonwoods of four or five years' growth that there are really not fifty acres of clear ground in Yosemite except such as has been under very recent cultivation. During the seasons of 1891 and 1892 men were employed to thin out some of the thickets of young pines and cedars and clear up the old logs and combustible matter in order to be able to more readily control destructive fires when accidentally started. One hundred and fifty acres were in this way partially reclaimed at an average expense of \$20 an acre. It is of the utmost importance that this kind of work should be continued from year to year until the whole valley is reclaimed from a strewn and abandoned and retained in some degree to its original condition.

NOTES OF NEW YORK.

Legislation for the Palisades—One Protective Bill Passed, Another Pending—A New Method in Labor Controversies—Mr. Samuel Spencer's Dealings With the Employees of the Southern Railway—"Samson and Delilah."

(Regular Correspondence of the Transcript.)

New York, Feb. 14.

The Legislature of New Jersey, with unusual promptitude for such bodies, has passed nearly by unanimous vote, a bill that promises in some measure to save the Palisades from further spoliation by blasting. In his message to the two houses, it may be recalled, Governor Werts reminded them that the quarrying of the bluff for road material was chiefly profitable because of the ready means of transportation that the Hudson at its foot afforded. On the strip of land between the base of the cliff and the river the quarrymen have set up their crushers and along it built their piers. Now, by virtue of its riparian rights, the State owns all the adjoining land under water between high and low water mark, and control of it is vested in the Riparian Commission, which may grant the privilege of building wharves over it. Such grants, however, are restricted to the owners of adjoining lands on the shore; and two or three of the smaller quarrying concerns have received them and legally built their piers. Others, it is said, have no rightful claim to the riparian lands which they have preempted, though no steps seem to be in contemplation to oust them. Be that as it may, the new law henceforth forbids the commission to make any grant of these lands "unless there be inserted in the lease, grant or conveyance such terms, conditions, restrictions and limitations as will, so far as possible, forever thereafter preserve unbroken the uniformity and continuity of the Palisades; and also, as far as possible, prevent the lands leased from being in any way used or devoted to injurious or destructive work against the Palisades," or in connection with it, or in encouragement of it. This prohibition, suggested in substance by Governor Werts himself, is designed in general to put an end to the blasting of the wall of the cliff (and yet to leave the quarrymen free to utilize the loose trap-rock at its base), and in particular to check a quarrying company that has already applied to the Riparian Commission for grants, and that is planning blastings on even a larger scale than those of last summer. In all probability the governor will sign the new act today; it takes effect at once; the Riparian Commissioners have been waiting for it, and thus the prospective blasters are sure to be amenable to its requirements.

Much good as this law, strictly and sympathetically enforced, promises to do, it makes no provision for the purchase, by condemnation, of the parts of the Palisades themselves already in the legal possession of the quarrymen, or for the making of the cliff into a State park. The governor's message showed that he was conscious of the advantage of such comprehensive procedure, while he feared its great cost. Many of the legislators profess to share his objection to large expenditure, so that the bill establishing a commission with the powers necessary to such an undertaking has found small favor. If its advocates prevail at all, they will probably be constrained to accept some temporary measure, authorizing a commission indeed, but for the present limiting its expenditure and directing it to inquire into the nature and cost of the project, rather than actively to pursue it. While the far-sighted believe that only by such park-making can the Palisades be effectually and permanently preserved, public opinion has scarcely caught up with them. As the practical unanimity of the Legislature in the passage of the riparian act indicated, it is aroused over the salvation of the cliff; but to it and to a Legislature that is loud in professions of economy, the making of a State park along the Hudson still seems a costly and somewhat chimerical scheme, the advantages of which only a small part of New Jersey would enjoy.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, February 20.

THE NATURAL SCENERY PROTECTION BILL PASSED.

In the Senate this morning the bill creating a commission to protect the natural scenery of the state, such as Niagara and the Palisades, and putting the land in charge of a commission, was passed. The persons named in the measure are: William H. Webb, Samuel D. Babcock, John M. Francis, A. H. Green, C. A. Dana, Oswald Ottendorfer, Chauncey M. Depew, Horace Porter, William Allen Butler, Mornay Williams, George J. Haven, Elbridge T. Gerry, Walter S. Logan, Henry E. Howland, Edward P. Hatch, William L. Ball, James M. Taylor, J. Hatfield Robb, Elizabeth K. Wright, Alexander E. Orr, William M. Everts, Wager Swaney, Charles R. Miller, Frederick W. Devoe, Elbridge S. Spaulding, Frederick S. Yallahadze, Thomas V. Weloh, S. Van Bunselaer Criger, Frederick J. de Peyster, Morgan Dix, John A. Stewart, Charles C. Beaman, Francis Vinton Greene, Peter A. Potter, M. D. Raymond, Geo. N. Lawrence, Benjamin F. Tracy, Augustus Frank, Charles Z. Lincoln, John Hudson Peck, Sherman S. Rogers, William Hamilton Harris, Lewis Cass Ledyard, Alexander B. Crown, John Dodge, Robert L. Fryer, J. S. T. Stranahan, Samuel Parsons, Jr., Charles A. Hawley, Henry E. Gregory, Frederick D. Tappan, Henry J. Cockingham, Henry Durfee, H. Walter Webb.

ARIZONA'S PETRIFIED TREES.

An Appeal to Congress for the Preservation of a Forest Tract.

WASHINGTON, February 19.—A memorial from the Legislative Assembly of Arizona has been presented to Congress requesting that the lands covered by the petrified forest be withdrawn from entry until the desirability of making a public park of it can be settled. The lands are in Apache County, are ten miles square, and, according to the memorials, are covered by trunks of trees, some of which measure over 500 feet in length and from 7 to 10 feet in diameter. The Legislature represents that "ruthless curiosity-seekers are destroying these huge trees and logs by blasting them in places in search of crystals, which are found in the centre of many of them, while car-loads of the limbs and smaller pieces are being shipped away to be ground up for various purposes." The park, or "chalcodony forest," is annually visited by hundreds of scientific men and travellers from every state. "To make it a public park would preserve the trust from vandalism and injure no one, as there are no settlers upon it."

James 4 Mar. 25

Mar. 25.

4. THE METROPOLITAN PARKS.

The second annual report of the metropolitan park commission is full of valuable information concerning the important work of that board. The extent of that work is to a degree indicated by the fact that already, within less than two years, land for public recreation has been taken to the amount of 6070 acres, while a total of nearly 7800 acres is under the control of the commission.

Since the passage of the act creating the board and giving it a million dollars with which to begin its work additional responsibilities have been laid upon it, not of its own seeking. The conservative spirit which the commission has shown in dealing with these new responsibilities gives evidence that it is well worthy of the trust. Beside the establishment of the several important reservations which constituted its first work—the great ones of the Middlesex Fells, the Blue Hills and the Stony Brook Woods, with the connecting West Roxbury Parkway, and the small reservation at Beaver Brook in Waltham and Belmont—the commission has been given additional funds of \$1,300,000 with which to undertake the suggested improvements at Revere Beach and on Charles river, and to enter upon the creation of a metropolitan boulevard and parkway system.

The Revere Beach improvement, the commission finds, will demand double the amount provided for the purpose. But as the only ocean-side feature of the projected metropolitan system and a resort for multitudes within a comparatively few minutes of the heart of Boston, it would be well worth the expenditure of the million dollars required. A good point is made in calling attention to the fact that three public edifices in Boston alone have each recently cost from two to five times the amount needed for this purpose.

The commission is also very positive as to the great value of the proposed improvement of the Charles river basin from the point of view of public use and enjoyment, bringing as it would to the doors of the city opportunities for aquatic recreation which now have to be sought in the distant suburbs.

A matter of extraordinary importance is that of the proposed boulevards and parkways. These are needed, not only for giving access from the densely populated sections to the new metropolitan reservations, but to afford convenient and pleasant lines of communication between Boston and the various suburbs. Some of the most important sections of the metropolitan district are suffering from inadequate and congested lines of main highway communication. This is a need that must be met for the proper development and intelligent growth of metropolitan Boston. This commission offers the only instrumentality at present available for such a work, and experience elsewhere indicates that it is the most appropriate agency. Such lines of boulevards and parkways would form the broad basis and the main arteries in a metropolitan street plan, which might be scientifically and comprehensively laid out in detail through a metropolitan board of survey—a plan which would prevent enormous burdens for the future by checking the evil of the present haphazard and shortsighted methods of speculative real estate interests.

While such a boulevard and parkway system is demanded, there is no occasion for entering upon its immediate creation, except in certain particulars. But if the lines of such improvements could be determined now many advantageous routes might now be availed of which very soon will otherwise be made impossible; if this wise course were taken local improvements would be made in conformity with such lines, and the system might be gradually and economically carried out as occasion arose. By giving the commission a power for this purpose similar to that of the Boston board of survey the desired end could be easily achieved.

In the choice of the parkway and boulevard work to be entered upon under the act of last year the commission has acted wisely—the beginning of a northern boulevard to the Middlesex Fells in Medford and Malden, the southern boulevard to the Blue Hills, in continuation of Blue Hill avenue, and the beginning of the Mystic valley parkway along the Aberjona river and Mystic pond. To make a proper connection with the northern boulevard through Cambridge and Somerville is a serious question. The solution suggested by the landscape architects—to use for the purpose the present location of the Lowell railroad between Cambridge street in Somerville and Craigie bridge—has much to commend it, for the purchase of the old McLean asylum grounds by the Boston & Maine provides convenient means for relocating the railroad.

The landscape architects, Messrs. Olmsted, Olmsted & Elliot, submit a report which is a valuable contribution to the art and science of park design and construction. Concerning the required reservations they discuss the determination of the boundaries, the exploration of the lands, and the work that needs to be done. They give some sound advice concerning the acquisition of proposed reservations and give careful attention to the subject of metropolitan parkways, which they regard as a matter of great importance. They recommend two main parkways or boulevards connecting Boston with the Middlesex Fells and the Blue Hills, respectively, the latter continuing the Blue Hill avenue boulevard from the Neponset river to near the centre of the range at Cranman's Pond. The boulevard to the Fells, through Cambridge and Somerville, and from Broadway Park in Somerville by way of Medford and Malden, with branches to Pine Hill and Bear's Den Hill in the Fells, involves difficult questions by reason of the difficulty of getting across the maze of city streets in Cambridge and Somerville. They believe, however, that a practicable and sufficiently suitable and well placed passage through the difficult region would be obtained if the present location of the Lowell railroad, between Cambridge street, Somerville, and Charles river at Craigie bridge could be acquired and devoted, with adjacent lands, to the purpose in view. Now that the railroads use one station and own the old McLean asylum grounds, there seems to be no good reason why the Lowell tracks should not join the Fitchburg tracks on the northern side of the Charles river basin and its public banks with one after another of the main highways of East Cambridge and Somerville, and afford the outgoing cities and towns the inlet to the great city which they sorely need. From Charles river to the crossing of the Fitchburg railroad is half a mile; from the Fitchburg railroad to Cambridge street, Somerville, is half a mile, and from Cambridge street to Central Hill Park, by a line adjacent to the railroad, but well above it, another half mile. At Central Hill Park, the last of the great radial highways would be tapped, and the new trunk line avenue might end. From Central Hill Park to Broadway Park and the beginning of the proposed Fells parkway is only a third of a mile. Thus it appears that the relief of the northwestern suburbs in this particular is perhaps not quite as desperate an undertaking as it has commonly been supposed to be.

Hearing on the Middlesex Fells Parkway.

A special hearing was given by the Metropolitan Park Commissioners in Malden City Hall last night on the Middlesex Fells Parkway. The Metropolitan Park Commissioners submitted to the City Council for concurrence the plan for a boulevard or parkway from the "Bear's Den" entrance of the Middlesex Fells to Highland avenue, at Sawyer street, thence to and through Auburn court and street to Savin street, thence to Prospect street, thence through Fellmore park to Pleasant street, at Murray street, nearly opposite the Catholic church. Street Commissioner Cox moved that the sense of the meeting be that the City Government appropriate \$10,000 for the improvement and for the purchase of the land wanted, and it was carried unanimously. There were no restraints.

Adams spoke for the Dam. C. S. was not called on. C. S. spoke against inadequate esplanade in rear of Beacon St. being called up by Market St.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

THE COMMITTEE ON METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS.

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, March 15, 1888.

The Committee on Metropolitan Affairs will give a hearing to parties interested in so much of Governor's Address as relates to Charles River Dam.

Also, so much of the report of Harbor and Land Commissioners as relates to Charles River Dam.

Also, resolve (House 593) instructing the Harbor and Land Commissioners to make report relative to the showings which have taken place in Boston harbor since 1863.

Also, petition for Eplahades on south side of Charles River; at Room No. 132, State House, on WEDNESDAY, March 20, at 10 o'clock A. M.

H. L. BOUTWELL, Chairman. GEORGE F. SANFORD, Clerk of the Committee. St. Feb 18

Charles River Dam. The Committee on Metropolitan Affairs reported no legislation necessary in the matter of the Charles River dam. Mr. Dallinger of the House dissents.

CHARLES RIVER DAM.

Metropolitan Affairs—Leave to withdraw on the petition of George O. Shattuck and another for legislation authorizing the construction of an esplanade on the southerly side of the Charles River.

Matters relating to the Charles River dam were discussed before the Committee on Metropolitan Affairs at the State House this morning. Among those present were ex-Governor Russell, Mayor Curtis, Charles Francis Adams, Lewis F. Dabney, H. L. Harding, George O. Shattuck and John T. Wheelwright.

Mr. Adams addressed the committee on the report of the Harbor Commissioners relating to the Charles River dam. So far as the report relates to the dam, he is opposed to it, for the reason that the river is much too narrow at the place proposed. He is heartily in favor of the construction of a park.

Dr. Wolcott of the State Board of Health said it is the duty of the Commonwealth to settle the question of the effect of a dam on Boston Harbor. It is a very simple matter, from an engineering point of view, as well as from any other. He suggested that a commission be appointed to confer with the National Government in regard to the matter.

Ex-Governor Russell said that the question as to what effect a dam would have on Boston harbor is not a new one. It has been considered by both State and national commissioners for sixty years. Investigation by the most competent experts have been made and their reports are in print. Their opinion has always been that a dam should not be constructed.

No one appeared in support of the recommendations of the commission, and the hearing closed. Ex-Governor Russell, representing certain commercial and residential interests associated with Mr. Wheelwright and Mayor Curtis, are opposed to the proposition.

The hearing on the bill providing for the building of an esplanade on the south side of Charles River was then opened. The proposition is to improve the banks from the Union Boat-house to the Charlesgate.

Colonel Wheelwright, representing the abutters, and Mr. Dabney favored the bill. One-half of the expense is to be met by the abutters and the other by the city of Boston. The matter of time of beginning improvement, the manner in which it should be done and the apportioning of the expense should be left to the discretion of the Park Commissioners, Mr. Dabney thought.

Mayor Curtis introduced Charles W. Elliot, landscape architect, who said there appeared to be no popular demand for the improvements. He thought the development of the basin should wait. He thinks there should be no haste in making park improvements as proposed.

Mayor Curtis opposed the bill and thought it should be killed at once rather than referred to the next general court. The burden of expense now incurred from the construction and maintenance of parks in Boston is already too heavy. No further expenditures should be made for park purposes. I think this is the general opinion of taxpayers. Money will have to be borrowed for the construction of such a park as proposed, and this will necessitate the increase of the tax rate.

Although the bill is not mandatory, it gives the city power to borrow \$500,000, and it will not be a great while after it becomes a law that there will be a demand that such a sum be borrowed.

Mr. Adams of the Park Commissioners is in favor of widening and cleaning out the basin and the building of another row of houses on the banks of the river.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE PROPOSED CHARLES RIVER DAM.

To the Editor of the Transcript: A few days ago I had occasion to appear before the Joint Legislative Committee on the Metropolitan District in relation to the proposed Charles River dam. The various reports which appeared in the newspapers of what I then said were curiously incoherent—almost exactly misrepresenting the tenor of my remarks. Under ordinary circumstances, this would be a matter of little consequence; but, as it so happened that I then appeared officially, representing the Board of Metropolitan Park Commissioners, what I was reported to have said not only put me, but also my colleagues, and especially Mr. Richards of Watertown, in a false position. It, therefore, is perhaps proper to set forth what I said at the hearing more clearly and more accurately than appeared in the newspaper reports, especially as the matter discussed interests a great many people.

The scheme of a dam across the mouth of the Charles River at or near Craigie's Bridge, thus converting the space above the bridge from a tidal into a level water basin, was first broached in the joint report of the Board of Health and Metropolitan Park Commissioners submitted to the Legislature a year since. At the time this report was prepared and submitted, I, though then chairman of the Board of Metropolitan Park Commissioners, chanced to be in Europe. Accordingly, I was not consulted in regard to it nor did I sign it.

I stated to the Committee on the Metropolitan District Wednesday last that, had I been in the country, it was probable I might not have signed the joint report above referred to, in so far as it recommended filling in for some five hundred feet behind the present Beacon street houses, and the erection of another line of houses on the land thus made, facing what was left of the river, but behind the row of houses now standing on the north side of Beacon street, and between them and the river.

On this point I concurred in the conclusions reached by the Park Commissioners of Cambridge in their excellent report recently published, rather than in those set forth in the joint report of the Board of Health and Metropolitan Park Commission of a year ago. Charles River at the point in question is already less wide than it should be. To take an additional five hundred feet off what still remains, it seems to me, would, from the Park point of view, be a serious error. It would inflict very considerable injury on the occupants of the north side of Beacon street with no compensating benefit, so far as the public is concerned; while it would reduce the lower Charles almost to canal dimensions.

Apart from this, I stated that I entirely and heartily concurred in the joint report of 1894, so far as the dam and level water basin were concerned. From the Park point of view—and that view alone was I there to represent, appearing as I did officially—there seemed to be no two sides to the question. The proposed dam afforded an opportunity for the successful treatment, at the least possible cost, and with the greatest regulating benefit to the public, of the Charles River problem from Craigie's Bridge to falls at Watertown. Moreover, this scheme, and this alone, gave an opportunity for what might be called "an all-the-year-round pleasure ground." The other reservations which the Metropolitan Park Commission has secured,—the Blue Hills and the Middlesex Fells,—though important, are at a considerable distance from the centre of population, and moreover are practically shut up at least one-half of the year. The Revere Beach, which it is proposed to acquire, is also important, but it is an ocean pleasure drive which would be used not more than four or five months in the year at the outside.

Could the Charles River, between the Watertown dam and Craigie's Bridge, be converted into a level water basin, it would yield more than a level water recreation than the Blue Hills, the Fells and the beach combined, for it would be nearer home and equally used in summer and winter. In the summer it would be a bit of Venice, covered with pleasure craft of every description; and in the winter, black with skaters, it would be suggestive of Amsterdam; the scene, in fact, of a prolonged winter carnival.

Anyone who, during the past season, has been out to Jamaica Pond, or up to Riverside, above the Watertown dam, can bear witness to the demand which exists for proper opportunities at winter sports. Our own ponds in the Middlesex Fells reservation have also been crowded. Converting the Charles River from its present foul condition as a tidewater dock to a level water basin would, in addition to all this, afford an opportunity for the park treatment of the shores of the river from Charles street up to the Watertown dam, through Boston, Brighton, Cambridge and Watertown, at the lowest possible cost and with the best possible results; converting them from pestilent marshes into a continuous garden.

The water composing the river, almost perfectly fresh, would then stand at an absolutely permanent level, between two and three feet lower than the average high tide. The basin would admit of constant flushing from the ocean, and in winter could at any time be flooded so as to secure a surface for the skaters' use.

Were the thing once done, not only could the Riverside in the summer, and Jamaica Pond in winter, be brought down from where they are now to the back of Beacon street and Charles street to the infinite enjoyment of the multitude, but an improvement would be worked of such a character that those now dwelling upon the north side of Beacon street, once they had learned to appreciate it, would hold up their hands in astonishment that the thing had ever been delayed so long, much more, that they had stood in the way of it.

Under these circumstances, speaking as a park commissioner, and representing in that matter my colleagues, as well as our landscape architects and engineers, I appeared before the committee as a most earnest advocate of the proposed dam, and consequent level-water basin above it.

The purport of my remarks, probably from my own faults of expression, was unfortunately not thus understood by the reporters who were present, and they represented me as opposing what I was there to advocate.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

To the Editor of the Transcript: Will you kindly permit me to correct (so far as I can) certain prevalent reports of the two hearings on the subject of the Charles River dam, which were had before the Metropolitan Affairs Committee at the State House recently? Chairman Adams of the Metropolitan Park Commission spoke for the proposed dam, not against it. Chairman Walcott of the State Board of Health also spoke for the dam, and suggested that the question of the effect of a dam upon the harbor be investigated by a competent technical commission. The committee, finding no definite bill before it, then declared the hearing on the question of the dam closed, and reported "no legislation necessary."

A hearing on the petition of certain residents of Beacon street for an "esplanade," adjacent to the alley was then opened. Messrs. Dabney and Wheelwright spoke in support of the petition. Mayor Curtis introduced the undersigned, who urged that the treatment of this shore of the basin had better wait until it can be treated handsomely. At present the interior parks of Boston need all the obtainable money. The great open space of the basin is at least secure. It cannot be consumed by house-builders. The undersigned did not suggest that the dam ought to wait—the word "dam" was not uttered by him. Mayor Curtis opposed the petition on financial grounds. The hearing then closed and the report was "leave to withdraw."

CHARLES ELIOT.

Brookline, Mass.

DRAWBRIDGE A NUISANCE.

Arguments for a Plan for a New Charlestown Bridge.

Largely Attended Hearing on the Subject.

A hearing was given by the legislative Committee on Metropolitan Affairs today on the bill introduced by T. J. Donovan of this city, providing that the bridge across Charles River which the Boston Transit Commission is authorized by chapter 548 of the Acts of 1894 to build, shall be so built as to be not less than twenty-four feet above ordinary high water mark and to be not less than fifteen feet above the surface of Causeway street, and to be not less than fifteen feet above the tracks on the Charlestown side of the river. The bill providing that the commission may construct the bridge without a draw was also considered.

There was a large attendance of gentlemen interested in the transit problem, among them being Chairman Crocker, A. C. Burrage, Hon. Thomas J. Gargan, Charles H. Dalton and Secretary Beal of the Transit Commission; ex-Governor Russell, Everett Torrey, Hon. George H. Gamman (president of the Charlestown Improvement Association), Thomas Doane, Horace G. Allen, H. L. Harding and Corporation Counsel Bailey.

Mr. Bailey said that the city of Boston wished to say nothing in relation to the two bills mentioned, but would discuss a third bill, which was also considered, which provides that the governor, in behalf of the Commonwealth, memorialize Congress for authority to permit bridges to be built over Charles River above the Charles River bridge, with or without draws therein, as the General Court may in its discretion determine.

Chairman Crocker stated that the act of last year required the Transit Commission to construct a bridge over the Charles River, and the question arose as to whether it should be with or without a draw. Hearings on this question were given, and it was the vote of the commission that it should be a high-level bridge without a draw, but subject to the approval of the secretary of war, provided the consent of the United States Government can be obtained. Mr. Crocker stated that the comfort, necessities and public convenience of a population in Boston and its vicinity, now numbering 980,000 people, require that locomotion and transit shall be as safe, unimpeded and unobstructed as possible. A fair and reasonable estimate of the population of Boston and vicinity in the year 1920 places it at 1,320,420. The present system of bridges with draws, causing innumerable delays to passengers on foot and in electric cars and other vehicles, is a nuisance; twenty-five years hence it will be an intolerable nuisance. The estimated number of persons crossing the bridge in this year is 28,900,000 to 31,000,000, all of whom were subject to delays which are to accommodate vessels passing through the bridge. Twenty-five per cent of these vessels go no farther than the basin between Charles River and Warren bridges. The property now held by riparian owners on the Charles River, and used for wharf purposes, has been much diminished by the appropriation by cities and towns of large tracts bordering on the banks for park purposes, as will be seen by reference to blue print prepared by the city engineer of Boston.

Progressive men interested in the navigation of Charles River believe that navigation would be less obstructed, and people owing wharf property would be better served if all the draws were closed, with arches wide enough for barges to pass through, not less than twenty-four feet between high water mark and the top of centre arches of the bridges.

He further stated that Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea and Revere have passed resolutions favoring a drawless bridge and of sufficient height to allow of free passage of tow-barges and other mastless craft.

Historical

The law contemplates a bridge with a draw, in his opinion, and a drawless bridge cannot be built without the consent of the Legislature and the War Department. The building of a drawless bridge will be conducive to the general public good and though certain wharf and other business interests may be injured the net result will be beneficial.

Council Bailey here interjected that the basis of the action that may be taken by the War Department will be the action of the Legislature.

In answer to ex-Governor Russell who represented certain business interests, Mr. Crocker said that the commission had never considered the question of recompense for injury that may be done property owners and business interests by taking land or by stopping the passage of masted vessels by building a drawless bridge. It is a question as to whether they would have the legal right to recompense for damages. Mr. Russell thought it would be but fair that a clause be put in the bill providing for the settlement for damages.

Mr. Crocker then pointed out that it is hoped that work on the bridge may be begun by spring, if legislation does not interfere. If the action of Congress is waited for, the commencement of the building may be delayed a year or even two years. If the whole question lies only with the War Department for settlement, it may be that work can be begun in the spring.

Mr. Russell then brought up the point that the Navy Department is now considering the question of constructing a fresh water basin above the bridge, and Mr. Crocker said that the drawless bridge would be fatal to the building and use of the basin and for the purposes intended. But he thought the War and Navy Departments would, after considering the two questions jointly, dispose of them in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. Bailey stated that he was not prepared to state that Boston is in favor of a drawless bridge.

It was stated that the Cambridge City Council had favored the drawless bridge at a meeting at which the question was railroad through. The Cambridge Board of Trade is opposed to a drawless bridge, also the Citizens' Trade Association and has asked the Cambridge City Council to rescind its action.

Alderman Fresho, D. A. Buckley, Hon. George H. Gammana, Thomas Deane and N. W. Ladd spoke in favor of a drawless bridge. The statement that the Cambridge City Council had not properly considered the matter was denied.

Mr. Allen was the first to argue for the restraints, when he said, represented large business interests along the river. The construction of a drawless bridge will cause the absolute prohibition of marine traffic up the river. A drawless bridge is not a necessity, notwithstanding the argument of public convenience. Of course, the people of Charlestown are desirous of obtaining all possible in the way of unobstructed travel, but public sentiment should not be weighed equally with the question of public good and necessity. Although the commission advocates a drawless bridge, it does not say that a bridge with a draw could not be constructed so as to answer the purposes of the people just as well as a bridge without a draw. A double-deck bridge has been advocated and plans for such are now in the possession of the commission, and it would answer the same purposes as a drawless bridge. It has been said that the matter of traffic of masted craft is of but little importance as regards the Charles River. This is a mistake. The number of vessels that go up the river in a year is not the vital point. It is what they carry. In 1894 \$6,500,000 worth of property was conveyed up the Charles River and twenty-seven per cent of all the coal that came into Boston found entrance at that source. The closing of the bridge will cut out a large part of the sailing vessels that might find their way up the river, and if the height is to be only 24 feet even more traffic will be stopped. It is not right to put a barrier upon the entrance of the river without justification.

In closing, Mr. Allen in referring to the bill asking that Congress be memorialized said that he did not think the State Legislature should make itself ridiculous by asking the United States Government for power to take action in regard to navigable waters within its borders. He added that the drawless bridge is strongly opposed by a large number of men prominent in business matters.

Ex-Governor Russell said that he represented the Cambridge Electric Light Company, the Cambridge Gas Light Company, Richardson & Bacon and other interests, all of which are very much in opposition to the drawless bridge.

He stated that gentlemen were present who although not wishing to take the time of the committee would be recorded as after having had uninterrupted use of the river for years are now strongly opposed to the obstruction of its navigation.

Although this question has been under discussion for many years, this is the first time that a proposition has been made to close the navigation of the river by closing one of the bridges which span it. All legislation, municipal, State and national, has been in just the opposite direction. The advancement of navigation in the river and the rights of the owners of property and others concerned in business depending on proper navigation have always been considered. He felt confident that the committee would not settle the matter by the weight of public sentiment, but by what the public necessity demands.

Figures were read showing the extent of the commercial use of the river.

Reference was made to the large tracts of improved lands upon the banks of the river which will soon be built up, the material for which must come up the river. As business has increased on the river in the past, so will it continue to increase in the future.

The dimensions of some of the barges used in the transportation of coal will call for a higher bridge than the one proposed.

The public convenience will be greatly benefited by a bridge with a draw for the reason that the bridges up the river will not have to be opened so often as they would in the case of a drawless bridge.

The building of a drawless bridge would be very expensive to the city of Boston for many reasons and a delay to the whole project of a new bridge which is greatly needed will be caused if it is necessary to wait for Congress to pass upon the question of a drawless bridge.

Congressman Conner Bailey spoke on the bill providing that Congress be appealed to, saying that although the river lies within the limits of the city of Boston, Boston has not the control of it, a fact which is to be deplored. It is time that Boston should have control of the river. The State should have jurisdiction of its own internal waters, and when that is secured all other questions can be disposed of at will.

Everett Torrey is opposed to any legislation in regard to the Charles River bridge.

The hearing closed.

Within the last year Mr. Edward F. Scaries has made three handsome gifts to the town of Great Barrington. The first, an extensive piece of property lying at the east bank of the Massachusetts River and which is to be reserved for a public park; the second, another tract of several acres in the same locality, which he has dedicated to the exclusive use of the ladies for a "picnic ground" and the third, a tract of about one acre, to be known as the "Edwin Field," situated by a bend in the river, which he will have laid out for the athletic sports of the town.

ANOTHER BRIDGE CONTEMPLATED.

Boston and Cambridge to be Connected by Again Spanning the Charles River.

Committees representing the city governments of Boston and Cambridge appointed to consider the matter of a new bridge between these cities made a tour of inspection along the banks of the Charles River yesterday to find a desirable location. The exact locality on the Cambridge side will undoubtedly be in the vicinity of what is familiarly known as the old State Magazine building, so that the bridge will connect with Magazine street. Two sites were visited on the Boston side; one running from St. Paul street and the other from Pleasant street, Brookline, beginning at Commonwealth avenue. President Fairbairn of the Cambridge Board of Aldermen presided at the meeting at the City Hall. It was voted that the city engineers of both cities prepare plans and give an estimate of the cost of constructing the bridge. It was also voted to invite the Brookline selectmen to the next meeting, which will be held at the Boston City Hall next Wednesday evening at 7.30. It was the unanimous opinion of the committees that the town of Brookline should interest itself in the project, as it will be materially benefited by the new bridge.

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Gov. Monroe has signed the act incorporating a number of prominent citizens of this city and state as "trustees of scenic and historic places and objects," with the power of holding, purchasing, and taking real and personal estate not to exceed \$1,000,000 in value. He also approved the act providing for the use in this city of diphtheria anti-toxins and other anti-toxins.

THE PRESERVATION OF THE PALLSADES.

A great agitation on this subject has been started in New York. The beautiful wooded cliffs which form the west banks of the Hudson, opposite the city, and extend far up the river, are falling a prey to vandal hands. The perpendicular rocks, one of the most famous pieces of American scenery, have unfortunately been found valuable for paving-stones. So the unsentimental Jerseyman have set up quarries along the cliffs and are converting nature's splendid scenery into pieces of rocky desolation.

The people of New York city, appalled by this blighting work, and disturbed by the thundering blasts occurring night and day just across the river, have raised a unanimous voice of protest. But the citizens of New York cannot stop it, for it is out of the city limits. The state cannot interfere, because it is likewise beyond her domain, which ends in the middle of the river channel. It all rests with New Jersey, and New Jersey does not care. What is scenery to New Yorkers is simply a rocky bluff in the eyes of the practical Jerseyman. They have no interest in the preservation of scenery for their neighbors to gaze on.

But a compromise has been reached by which the states of New York and New Jersey have each appointed a commission of three men to investigate the extent of the depredations, estimate the value of the narrow strip of land on the west bank of the Hudson which includes the Pallsades, and report on the advisability of the United States government purchasing this as a national reserve, as in the case of Yellowstone and Yosemite. This could then be made into a most beautiful park and arboretum. It would also afford a commanding site for a military post and fort, for which there is no other good location to be found in the vicinity of New York.—(Boston Post, June 23.)

Co-operation of New Jersey—Activity of the Commissioners and the Destructive Contractors.

Gov. Werts of New Jersey has fulfilled his promise to recommend in a special message to the New Jersey Legislature the appointment of a commission to cooperate with the Commissioners of this state with a view to securing the acquisition of the Pallsades of the Hudson River by the United States government and their conversion into a national park. The New York Commission has already devoted considerable attention to the subject and the acquisition of data necessary for the proper presentation of the case to the national government. The mutilators of the Pallsades are also acting promptly and energetically. The New York firm of contractors which last winter began stripping the face of the cliffs opposite Riverdale are now applying to the Riparian Commissioners of New Jersey for a lease of additional water frontage on the Pallsades. A law which was passed by the New Jersey Legislature on February 19, 1895, requires the Riparian Commissioners to insert in any lease of lands adjacent to or in front of the Pallsades such restrictions as will so far as is possible preserve unbroken the uniformity and continuity of the Pallsades, but this does not appear to be sufficient to protect the slope between the vertical wall of basalt and the banks of the river.

Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect, who is now in town upon private concerns, has once more reminded New York of the danger that threatens the Palisades, which, though they be on the Jersey shore of the Hudson, are really a part of the environs of the city. "They are," he says truly, "one of the critical points in the vicinity of New York, which the public should have free access to, and which should not be possessed by private property-owners. They will in time become a place of great magnificence. The view down the Narrows from there is something wonderful, and the view of the city is also fine. As the city grows farther northward, the need of the Palisades being set apart will become more apparent. The building of the North River bridge affords another reason for acquiring the Palisades before it is too late. It is a shame to the city of New York that so beautiful a work of nature should be given over to quarrymen, when paving stones can be obtained just as cheaply elsewhere. The blasting should be stopped at once."

All this is timely spoken and with the weight that Mr. Olmsted's high repute in his art carries. Unfortunately, however, there is little understanding of the quarrying that now for a year and more has been going forward on the Palisades. The trap rock, which in part composes them, is an abundant and readily saleable material for the macadamizing of roads, and contractors, little heeded, are making the most of their opportunity. The Palisades are comparatively inaccessible from New York and little sought by the people whose half-holiday and Sunday pleasure-seeking would make them familiar with the damage already wrought there. It is not New Yorkers but travellers that salt most up and down the Hudson and rightfully exult the beauty of the Jersey shore. The town hears of the quarrying only on occasions, when some especially large blast is attempted, as on St. Patrick's day of last year. Then it is apt to be more impressed by the engineering achievement than by the damage done to the plateau as a fore-ordained park. If there is any stirring of public spirit at such vandalism, the sinners are quick to affirm that they are acting within their legal rights and that, in proportion to the whole extent of the Palisades, they are doing little harm. Few go to see that appearances scarcely confirm their words, and, as the phrase is, the incident closes.

Yet in such matters it is oftentimes the first step toward destruction that costs, and the worth of the Palisades as a park lies more in the future than in the present. Across the river, as Mr. Olmsted says, New York is steadily growing beside them, with the promise of greater and swifter growth when, sooner or later, the projected rapid-transit railways are built. The Jersey suburbs are pressing toward them, and in time, if a bridge is opened across the Hudson, access to them will grow easy, and their beauties gain their just appreciation at home. Were it more accessible, the plateau might already have been given over to private residences. With ready communication such occupancy is nearly certain, and not all owners will, like the late William Walter Phelps, make their estates there practically a public park. Moreover, whatever should be done for the protection of the Palisades, the influence of New York, if the public spirit of those who can understand their peril, should weaken, can be only moral. Part of our boasted "Greater New York" as they really are, they lie wholly within the limits of New Jersey, and its people and its Legislature must act for their preservation—the more if, as it has been suggested, the State should make a park of the plateau, as New York has done with Niagara and certain districts in the Adirondacks. In truth, so long as travellers journey to New York as to the chief city of America, the protection of the Palisades at least remotely concerns the whole country and New England above all.

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Work of the Association for the Preservation of Scenic and Historical Places and Objects.

A PARK AT FORT WASHINGTON

Monuments and Parks to Mark the Stirring Scenes of Revolutionary Times—Memorials to Men Who Died for Their Country.

The Association for the Preservation of Scenic and Historic Places and Objects, through its president, Andrew H. Green, is making strenuous efforts to acquire lands at Fort George for a public park, to be known as Fort George Park. It is to be commemorative of the battle of Harlem Heights in 1776, which, historians agree, had an influence upon the revolutionary struggle altogether out of proportion to its importance as an engagement.

The existence of this association is due mainly to the public spirit and artistic taste of Mr. Green, whose conspicuous public service has been devoted to the preservation of historic places and the adornment of picturesque spots in New York State. It is an outgrowth of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and was recently organized under the Incorporation Law with the following trustees: Andrew H. Green, Gen. Horace Porter, John M. Francis, of Troy; Henry E. Howland, William H. Webb, William Allen Butler, Moray Williams, Edward P. Hatch, Walter S. Logan, Samuel Babcock, Charles A. Dana, Chauncey M. Depew, Oswald Ottendorfer, George G. Haven and Elbridge T. Gerry. Mr. Green is president, John M. Francis, vice-president; Edward P. Hatch, treasurer, and John Winfield Scott, secretary.

In a memorial to the Legislature presenting a bill designed to give force and effect to the purposes of the association Mr. Green described its objects. Calling attention to the fact that the ends sought to be accomplished make no demands upon the treasury, but, on the contrary, are in the direction of economy rather than of expenditure, the memorial also mentions the fact that within the State's domain, from Montauk to Chautauqua, and from the Atlantic to the St. Lawrence, are numerous places memorable by conflicts during the half century of the French and Indian wars, and by the more recent conflicts of the revolution. While patriotic sentiments and traditions still keep alive the memory of these events, the visible evidences that are an essential aid in their preservation for coming generations are fast disappearing.

Of more peaceful scenes, the memorial says the State comprises within its boundaries a remarkably varied topography, comprehending landscapes of world-wide celebrity, as well as localities of deep interest and peculiar beauty. Areas of primitive natural beauty are being seized upon for private uses and for profitable enterprises that may exclude the public from their enjoyment. This is especially the case in the vicinity of the large cities.

The object of the association is to rescue from the grasp of private speculation and to preserve for public enjoyment objects of historic value, localities where patriotic struggles have taken place, where peculiar natural scenery exists, and spots made interesting by association with illustrious persons. To this end legislative authority was asked for continuing the organization with the following powers:

1. To acquire, hold, maintain, improve and administer historic places and objects and picturesque areas of natural beauty.
2. To receive by devise, or other conveyance, such places, areas and objects in fee, or upon such trusts as may be agreed upon by the donors and the association.
3. To accept, hold and administer such lands and other property as may from time to time be intrusted to its care by the State.
4. To act jointly or otherwise with such persons as may be appointed by other States for the attainment of like purposes or objects for which this association was designed, whenever those purposes and objects can only be secured by the joint action of two States, or when the subject of such action lies within the jurisdiction of two States.
5. From time to time to report to the Legislature by bill or otherwise such recommendations and suggestions as are pertinent to the objects of the association.

PUBLIC RESERVATION TRUSTEES
Held a Meeting in Northampton City Hall—Attendance Rather Light.

A meeting was held in the Northampton city hall last night under the auspices of the trustees of the Public reservation association. Senator Hoar, president of the society, presided. There was a very small attendance, due to the storm which lately visited the city, and to the excessive heat. Prof. H. M. Tyler of Smith College called the meeting to order and spoke of the visit of the Appalachian club, and on behalf of the citizens of the Meadow city welcomed them to the valley. The introductory Senator George F. Hoar, who was absent, made an appropriate reference. The oratorical senator explained the aims of the association and spoke of the necessity of preserving objects of historic value and places of beauty. He spoke of the character of the citizens of Massachusetts and their love of traditions, and remarked the fast disappearance of historic places before the march of modern improvement. He spoke of the scenes of natural beauty of the Connecticut valley and eulogized the grandeur of the Berkshire hills, with their legends and great men. Producing a small rock, a relic from Olympus, he facetiously spoke of the mythical tales of which this relic gave testimony. He spoke of the educational advantages to be derived from following the aims of the association. In speaking of the great men of the valley he gave what he styled an American classic—a long quotation from Jonathan Edwards' touching sublimity and beauty in nature and its analogizing divine providence, and of their tokens of the perfect truth and God's perfect love and benignity.

He then introduced Charles Elliot, chairman of standing committee. Mr. Elliot gave a summary of the work of the association, previous to which he made mention of the various national parks, forest reservations and national military parks. He remarked that the movement had its rise in the crowded cities by the longing and desire of people to obtain some public park which could be visited. It had acquired more than that, for with it came the wish to visit historic places. He mentioned such places and also many public parks. He told of the establishment of the association and of its primary objects. Senator Hoar introduced P. A. Chase, who spoke of the rise and development of the public reservations in Lynn. Judge Shurtleff of this city was the next speaker and gave an interesting talk on road-side trees and what can be done to protect them. He thought an effort should be made to preserve the important trees. He eulogized the trees, speaking of them as being offsprings of earth and heaven. He remarked on the way Europeans conserve their forest lands at public expense, and contrasted it with the thoughtlessness of American destroyers of forests. He gave a quite long explanation and read extracts from public statutes in regard to preservation of objects of ornament, trees, shrubs, statues, etc., on public and private grounds. He made an earnest plea for active interest in the work of not only holding and carrying out the statute, but by taking advantage of the "opportunity of eminent domain." The following trustees of the association were present: Charles Elliot of Lynn, John Woodbury, secretary, P. A. Chase of Lynn, George Chase of North Andover, George Wigglesworth of Milton, E. B. Bly of Wrentham, Henry L. Parker of Worcester, Cl. Saupper Clarke of Northampton, and D. Fitzgerald of Brookline. There were many members of the Appalachian club present, and a few people from other towns. 1263

PUBLIC RESERVATIONS

Senator Hoar Presides at a Meeting in Northampton.

ADDRESS BY JUDGE SHURTLEFF

The Appalachian Club Present in a Body—Trustees of the Reservation Association Well Represented.

Northampton, May 31. — The audience that gathered at city hall last evening at the meeting of the trustees of public reservations was small, but appreciative. The Appalachian club, which is making its headquarters in Northampton and spending a few days studying the forms of nature on the neighboring mountains, was present.

The following is the list of the trustees present: Senator Hoar, president of the board; Judge Shurtleff, vice president; and P. A. Chase, George Chase, George Wieglesworth, J. E. Greene, H. S. Parks, Christopher Clark, Desnoes Fitzgerald, John Woodbury, Charles Elliot.

Professor H. N. Tyler welcomed the guests and in a few brief remarks introduced Senator G. F. Hoar, who presided over the meeting. The latter said in part: "I am in the condition St. Paul was, one of the least of the apostles but hardly worthy to be called one of them. That is my position on this board of trustees. He spoke of how the emblems that marked the graves of the pilgrims and Puritans had been destroyed and now the old Hancock house of Boston had given away to the dwellings of the modern merchant, and how in like manner the beautiful forests had been turned into cities. He paid high tribute to the Connecticut Valley and the Berkshire hills. Of the former he said: "There is not a more beautiful valley on the face of the earth than that of the Connecticut," and of the latter, "There is not a mountain this side of Arcadia more scenic than those of Berkshire county." He closed by reading a passage from a work of Jonathan Edwards, which was written in Northampton. He was followed by several of the board who gave interesting talks on the different phases of their work.

Judge Shurtleff then gave the principal address of the evening. He said in part:

"And God saw everything he had made, and behold it was very good. So it is said in Genesis, at the end of the chronicle of the six days; but it is noticeable that the comment does not appear to have been repeated after the inspection of the being whom he created for the world he had made, or for whom that world was created."

Everything was good. Not one unrighteous thing had been created for the human beings that were to be.

It is strange that they for whom all these things that were made in the world were made, should care more for things that those that needed attention; and strange too, that these beings for whom tidings wisdom, and the it reverently said and heard, infinite good taste had been exercised, in order that their abode should be perfect in every respect, should be the only thing of his creation that, from the beginning to the present, have persisted in marring and destroying His work.

There is profound truth in the old saying: "God made the country, man made the town." For some inscrutable reason He tolerates the town, as for some unknown reason He permits others evils, while with unchanging love He cherishes the country and with unvarying patience, year after year—indeed moment after moment—causes His beneficent forces to repair the ravages which man, in such an insipid way persists in making on earth, and to restore or repossess the treasures which man is constantly summing—so continually recasting that, despite man's unrelenting attempts upon Mother Nature she restores always from these ruffianly assaults.

God made the more beautiful inanimate things than His trees. They are the titans of two worlds, Earth and Air, with their wide spreading roots clinging to the one, their equably far reaching arms stretched out to the other. Like the true Christian, who, loving the world still longs for Heaven, drawing into themselves the vitalizing forces from the hidden reservoirs and secret springs beneath the surface, and absorbing the unspoken but potent fields of the air, that folds them about in an embrace that knows no lessening, they are the favorite offspring of Earth and Heaven. And captured by the breeze and beloved of the birds they are, if left unmarrred, unmolested, uninterfered with by man, the most beautiful of all created, material, inanimate things, and so close to the human, that every man and beast, and birds all to abandon earth, it would not seem uninhabited, if they, its trees, were left.

Yet man destroys no other thing of God's creation so recklessly and so unnecessarily. "A hatchet whistled for half an hour by the hard of a greedy axwielder, may destroy a half century's work of God upon an oak, unnecessarily if not wantonly; for it is deplorable if it was in the divine plan that a tree should ever be hewn down; and doubtless if man had remained in Paradise, not one would have been destroyed, except by decay, which by its existence as a force really recreates that which it seems to destroy."

"But curiosity and gain-seeking led man away from the minute he was born in, and for which he was created, to other climes remote from sun-warmed paradise, where artificial heat was essential to existence; hence the slaughter of the trees for fires. Now that man has stayed in that too-given domestic, as he has the ax and the sawmill to provide him with shelter."

No mention is made in Genesis, or subsequently of Queen Anne cottages, or even of log cabins in "the shade" ways and leaf-curtained bowers of Paradise.

"But man did not remain. He migrated. Pushed on by necessity, which is really greed in man's nature, he wandered away to less salubrious lands; hence again the slaughter of the trees for shelter, and it is to be feared that the ax will still be laid at the foot of the tree. Hill and woods are wasted and all the forests fall, unless stayed by the hand of providence, or the mandate of some law of the millennium of wise Architecture."

For much of this slaughter, in our climate, there is some excuse; but not for all of it. For some of it there is not only no excuse, no need, but there is reason for the opposite. Certainly, for the sake of our streams and our loveliest valleys, there must be conserving of the forest lands. All of our adult countrymen have now, I fancy, been "to Europe" and therefore must have observed with what stern care the people of the continent of Europe conserve their woods. One has only to traverse the Black Forest to perceive this. There, growth is kept even with destruction or decay. There a year that sees a section denuded of its wood, sees the growth of the next section supplying the growth of the year, thoughtful only for ourselves and our present needs and desires, how down without resetting; careless that every year we are the worse for it, unaware that our grandchildren may suffer severely for it.

It is comforting, however, to know that science and experience alike is warning the people of the danger and that efforts are being made to check this wasteful, culpable extravagance.

"But, strange as it has been and is that this extravagance should have been and does still prevail, it is stranger still that we should be so cruel to ourselves as to hew down, burn and saw up our natural sanctuaries, so surely needed, so very useful to our own country ways."

"It would seem that even selfish regard for our own comfort and health, and that of our hearts is unable to say nothing of our enjoyment of pleasant drives, and fair woodland views, would deter us from so silly a sacrifice to greed."

"Thoughts like these have aroused some of us to action. Four people are not all unrighteous, and some unrighteous have gathered here today have associated themselves in order to be the allies of that providence which planned that man's physical environment should be beautiful, beautiful, delightful to every sense."

"It is only for the purpose of saving a few words upon this crisis, that this homing of America, this American we have brought upon ourselves that I am upon this platform tonight."

"It is not a very subject. For many years there have been on our Atlantic coast provisions for supplying the wants by their design and accident in our ornamental and shade trees. And lately many aesthetic and prudent persons have so forcibly and persistently presented the importance of preserving our valuable forest forests to the

whole man who go unheeded in the east, where the climate alone directs the aim of the proper rising point; that statutes have been enacted and in many cases appealed for stating no punishing the needless slaughter and for replacing the remains of our past productivity and for economy. It only approves of the legislation to join with its efforts in enforcing these provisions."

"At this point in the address Judge Shurtleff quoted a number of sections from the public statutes relative to landscape protection. "So it appears that the framers of our public laws recognized that the aesthetic as well as the useful and protective and profitable had claim to their attention, for it is to be observed, and it is meaningful, that they included "ornamental" with shade trees, and therefore it has been admitted that the preservation of the beautiful is of public interest and benefit, and by affixing a penalty, it is declared, and by subsequent action in the courts, it is determined that the destruction of the beautiful in this regard at least, is a crime for penalties only follow offences. Penalties may be recovered by suit for trespass and private torts, but penalties are only imposed upon public offences."

"Now, there is probably no one present who cannot aid in the carrying out the purposes of these acts to a complete accomplishment of their beneficent ends. It is probable that each person here can influence the officers in the government of his city or town or village, in enforcing in enforcing these laws, and alertly in availing themselves of their provisions. Every one of us can across enthusiasm and energy that shall heed action in some other one or more of our fellow townsmen, and through them our whole community."

Let each consider him or herself a committee of one to "see to" this matter. Let us persist and insist by entreaties, by argument, with prayers if necessary, and we swear it unaccomplishable otherwise and labor with, and labor if need be, all our mayors, our aldermen, our selectmen, our road commissioners, our neighbors, everybody who can help to take hold of this matter and "see to it."

"The air is burdened by unsightly "Amens." But Amens, though good as encouragers, are not efficient. Action will be. "But there is a step in further advance to be taken. And some of us can perhaps set an example as well as present an argument in favor of that step."

"The statutes and laws which have been quoted are well enough as far as they go, but they do not go far enough. Not can they? For they cannot invade personal rights unless by the screen of the right of eminent domain, more largely than would seem advisable perhaps."

"They cannot provide that whenever a forest owner along a highway changes his woodland arable or pasture land he shall leave a proper reasonable belt of trees alongside the roadway, upon his own land, so that the road may not be deprived of shade and the wayside view of beauty. But we can do it, if we are woodland roadside men, and our neighbors who are such owners may be persuaded to do it."

To effect this, after or with the enforcement of the quoted acts, is the duty of the day. Let us all address ourselves to it, and with other or alone, circumvent our woodland ways and finding out where work may be needed and action taken, direct the attention of the improvement societies of our towns or villages to the subject and object, and arouse such feeling and create such a public opinion by meetings or otherwise, as will convince the wayside woodland owner that he can be a public benefactor and at the same time benefit himself by sparing the shade or ornamental trees along his road in fringe with beauty the road that would otherwise be a waste way."

"It will not be a hard task to effect this. Many land owners now adopt the practice of so fringing roadways. It should be universal, and we can almost assure that in many cases where the country has been done, it has been through thoughtlessness. "The beauty, the utility and the future profit of such a plan seems so plain to be seen and expected, that one could hardly fear failure in advocating it. But there is no time to lose. Every day there is danger that damage may be done that half a century will not repair. If every man and woman here present will give a little time and energy to this beneficent object, it will be accomplished. The man who plants a tree in a proper place is a benefactor prospectively. He who leaves one in its natural, proper place is a benefactor instantly."

Every recent visitor will corroborate this view. The surface of the valley is so unimpaired as to be unattractive, and the visitor must look upward at the precipices in order to see something to admire. One cause of the unattractive condition of the valley is that it has become the custom of certain critics to raise the cry of "vandalism" whenever any clearing up has been attempted. The valley is remote from the large cities in which the critics find their mouthpieces, and its practical care-takers who dwell there too seldom gain a hearing. It would be ridiculous to turn the valley into a Central Park, but there is no reason why all parts of it should not be made attractive in a natural way.

Harold - 10 July 95

Mass., 1 Aug. '95
Mainly but not all by G.R.

TO THE RESCUE.

THE METROPOLITAN PARK APPORTIONMENT.

The apportionment of the interest, sinking fund and maintenance charges for the metropolitan park system among the various municipalities of the metropolitan district, just made by the special commission appointed by the supreme court for the purpose, is probably as equitable a distribution as could be looked for in a problem so complicated in its various bearings. And the cost is distributed among so many different communities that the burden does not fall heavily upon any of them. The total amount involved is \$2,800,000. Of this sum \$500,000 was authorized by the boulevard act of 1891, under which one-half of the charges are to be borne by the municipalities of the metropolitan district, while the other half is met by the commonwealth. As to the remaining \$2,300,000, authorized by the Legislatures of 1893, 1894 and 1895, 50 per cent. of the charges for the first five years are borne by the city of Boston, and the other half is apportioned among the other municipalities of the district.

In making their apportionment, the commissioners have proceeded on the basis of valuation and population, together with a consideration of special benefits received and of damages sustained. The proportion of local populations to the total metropolitan population and of local valuations to the gross metropolitan valuation furnished certain percentages for the comparison. Another basis was established by grouping certain municipalities that are particularly benefited by certain improvements. Allowance has also been made for losses sustained through the withdrawal of lands from taxation, and likewise in the case of public open spaces already established by local action. Two separate apportionments have been made—one under the various acts by which the loans amounting to \$2,300,000 were advanced by the commonwealth, the other under the boulevard act.

How light the charges upon the several municipalities may be seen from a glance at those apportioned to a few that are specially benefited by certain reservations. The Middlesex Falls reservation, for example, lies in Malden, Melrose, Stoneham, Medford and Winchester. The percentage of Malden, however, is but a little more than .028, of Melrose .013, of Stoneham .005, of Medford .012, and of Winchester .0035. Hyde Park, which contains about half the Stony Brook woods, and is close to the Blue Hills, is charged with but a little over .015, and the percentage to rich Milton is only a fraction over .010.

Certain outlying municipalities were included in the metropolitan parks district merely for landscape considerations, and the possibility that something might eventually be done there. The charges upon these are merely nominal. That for Hull, for example, is but a bit more than .0009, and for rustic Dover .0004 and a fraction. Even for wealthy little Weston, which benefits very materially from the improvement of the Charles river, and which raised something of a rumpus at the time of the original legislation, for fear of ruinous charges, the apportionment, in exact figures, is only .00155260.

Under the boulevard act, the apportionment to Boston is slightly over 40 per cent., while to municipalities so directly benefited as Malden, Medford and Winchester, the charges are, in round numbers, respectively, only .073, .08 and .025. At the end of every five years there is to be a new apportionment, when the changes in valuation and population will effect readjustments more or less marked.

Massachusetts is becoming a land of crowded towns. Electric railroads are rapidly extending far and wide, modern suburbs are continually springing up in unexpected places, and no thought being taken for the fitting or beautiful arrangement of these necessary houses and roads, the uglification of the Commonwealth proceeds at a rapid rate. It is in August, when we take our vacations, that this increasing ugliness is most forcibly impressed upon us. We find it rampant, even far away from towns. The shadowy grove of lofty trees, where we have been refreshed in times past, has been felled. A quarry has been opened in the gateway of our one fine ravine. A once beautiful road leading through a wood of beech and hemlock has been completely despoiled of its shade and its charm. Even the two great pines which so happily framed far Monadnock have been "haunted to the mill."

It is little, indeed, that any of us can do to help towns to grow beautifully instead of monstrously, but surely we can and ought to do something to save a few of the fairest spots of our respective vacation neighborhoods. And what happier occupation can be found for a hot summer day? Here is a crag which, dotted with cedars and wild roses, overhangs the highway and commands a view down the length of the lake. Possibly you can suggest to the present owner that this rock, which is of no real use to him, is valuable to the users of the highway, both in aspect and for prospect, and that a gift thereof to the trustees of public reservations would be an act of public spirit. Probably you can, in any event, induce the present owner to agree to sell his crag for a named price, provided you can hand him the money on or before a certain day. This will give you a chance to look up the state of your bank account or to ask your friends or fellow-boarders for help, and when you have the money in hand, you can cause the deed of the land to be drawn so as to place the custody thereof in yourself or the trustees, as you see fit. It may please you to make a collection of such far from costly "natural pictures" to be perhaps transferred to the care of the trustees by your will. At least two Massachusetts gentlemen are already possessors of remarkable collections of this kind and one can but envy them the blessings which coming generations will certainly call down upon them.

In all parts of New England this work of rescue needs now to be attempted in earnest. In Massachusetts it is facilitated by the existence of the trustees of public reservations, a company of well-known citizens especially chartered by the General Court for the express purpose of holding in trust and free of taxes such beautiful, historical or otherwise interesting spots as individuals or bodies of subscribers may place in their care. The secretary of this Board of Trustees is Mr. John Woodbury, Exchange Building, Boston, who will send copies of the annual reports to all who may ask for them. The charge of a large tract of land can hardly be accepted by the trustees unless a proportionately large endowment or maintenance fund accompanies the gift of real estate. On the other hand, there are, in all parts of Massachusetts, many parcels of land generally considered worthless, or almost worthless, which, if transferred to the trustees, would stand in need of no paid care-taker, and so of no endowment. Such are those narrow strips which are so often found between a highway and a brook, lake or salt creek, or between a road and the summit of the adjacent cliff. The map of Massachusetts ought to be strangled all over with narrow public reservations of this type. Who will secure the greatest number of the most beautiful spots or strips this summer?

PRESERVING THE PALISADES.

It is high time that Congress took a hand in the preservation of the Palisades of the Hudson. It is an insult to the whole country that one of the most superbly picturesque and historic regions of the East should be chipped and chomped and blasted to pieces for sake of the stone in such a land as ours. It was confidently expected that the Legislature of New Jersey would take the matter in hand and preserve by State action the portion which is most the prey of quartermen. But lobbyists and property holders so preyed upon the suspicious of legislators from West and South Jersey that these fearful countrymen came to believe that the bill for the preservation of the Palisades was merely a scheme for legislators of North Jersey to create a monopoly for quartermen already on the ground.

Congress has shown a bigger and broader spirit, less penny-wise and dollar-foolish, in the preservation of the National Park of Yosemite, and of other great reservations. If the Palisades were on the Charles, Massachusetts would whisk them under State protection so quickly that the quartermen would be obliged to fly in all directions at once. Massachusetts and every other State in the Union is interested for all reasons of sentiment and plain horse sense in demanding Federal protection for the Palisades.

Governor Wertz of New Jersey appears to be convinced that the feeble bill which was passed restricting riparian rights on the Hudson is about all that can be expected of New Jersey to stop the blasting of the Palisades which goes on. He was asked by a Times reporter if he believed it necessary for the National Government to save the Palisades and he answered, "Yes. I think that an appropriation will have to be made to secure these historic rocks, and that there will have to be made a national fortification, for, of course, it is well understood that the Government could not condemn them unless for some definite government use. They would have to be condemned so as to come within the constitutional requirements. I do not think that any scheme which contemplates great assistance from the State of New Jersey is feasible, for I doubt whether it would be possible to secure enough general sentiment throughout the State to insure the passage of any one or a series of acts that would enable the commission to get control of this valuable water front."

The State geologist, Mr. Smock, said that the Geological Survey had only prepared an accurate map of the Palisades and stopped there. "It was the intention of the Geological Survey," he said, "to secure some information out of which would grow some suggestions bearing on the difficulties that now confront the people of the two States, but the governor anticipated that action by causing to be prepared, after a number of conferences, the bill providing for the insertion of restrictions in all riparian grants for that part of the Hudson water front. The Geological Department did not move any further, waiting to see the result of the legislation that had been secured, and is now waiting on the conclusions of the joint commissions that are engaged in securing information on the subject. It is, however, probable that some suggestions will be made in connection with the subject in the forthcoming report of the State Geological Survey."

Something must be done, and done at once, to avert national action. Has neither New York nor New Jersey a woman to lead, as Mrs. Hemingway led in saving the Old South Church when utilitarianism threatened this bulwark of patriotism? Women are usually first at the sepulchre when any attempt is made to bury noble ideals or high aspirations of things really worth preserving for the blessing of mankind. Apart from the picturesque beauty which has lent the Hudson world-wide fame, its history belongs to the country.

The old military road from the ferry below the village, through the dells of the Palisades to Fort Lee, N. J., may still be traced in the old wood road, east of the point where the boulevard crosses the State line. Washington's spring, which lies to the left of the road to the landing, is of interest as being the one used by the little force stationed on the slanting road below, to wash the movements of the British fleet when they were expected from New York on their way to West Point.

Nearly the whole territory of Englewood is concerned in the events of the Revolution. The raid on Fort Lee in November, 1776, brought terror and alarm to all the inhabitants in this section. Lord Cornwallis crossed the Hudson to Closter Landing on Nov. 18, 1776, and thence moved down the valley through the present territory of Englewood to Fort Lee. Battalion after battalion of a subjugating army left only destruction and disaster in its path. Ridgefield is the first township in Bergen County which the traveller orders in passing up the Palisades. His first impressions are much like those of Henry Hudson in speaking of a wider extent of country, "A very good land to fall in with and a pleasant land to see."

The origin of the name is most interesting. When the first French explorer sailed along that massive bulwark of trap-rock, now called the Palisades, rising on the west side of the Grande River to varying altitudes from 200 to

London Standard 26 Dec.

The War on the Palisades.

To THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:
SIR: In your issue of November 4 you state that "J. J. & P. P. Treanor's stone-crushers across the river from Hastings have orders on hand for more than 700 tons of their product daily for some time to come." Do you and your readers realize that the noblest part of the Palisades are to be mutilated to that extent for an indefinite period? The blasting to day from those quarries and from those opposite Riverdale has been simply frightful. Every house in Yonkers has been shaken. H.

YONKERS, November 5.

The Destruction of the Palisades.

To THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:
SIR: I am glad to see some one has sounded again in your columns a note of alarm as to the continued destruction of the Palisades. Is not the subject abundantly worthy of the attention and efforts of the Chamber of Commerce? I wish its members would at their convenience drive the length of the Boulevard Lafayette and notice that the great yawning gap opposite Fort Washington Point is already conspicuous, alike in itself and by contrast with its surroundings, for nearly the whole distance. If nothing is done to arrest the growth of such deformities, what is to become of the Palisades? Will not future generations justly and bitterly reproach this one if the destruction which should never have begun shall be allowed to continue? The Chamber of Commerce has nobly proven its possession of the ability, experience, means and disposition to do great and disinterested things for the general good. If the subject were really brought home to its members, so that they should have a vivid realization of the irreparable evil that is being wrought, it is hard to believe they would not only act with characteristic effectiveness, but also with that promptness which the crisis so imperatively demands; for this is nothing less than a crisis in the life of the Palisades. X.

NEW YORK, November 5.

A Proposed State Park.

ALBANY, Feb. 25.—A bill will be introduced in the legislature to convert lands in the town of Caldwell, at Lake George, including the historic sites of old Fort George and Fort William Henry, into a public park, to revert to the custody of the State Association for the Preservation of Scenic and Historic Places and Objects.

PRESERVATION OF THE PALISADES.

Favorable Outlook of the Commission's Work.

J. James R. Cross, a member of the Palisades Commission of the state of New York and New Jersey, makes the following statement concerning the efforts of the commission:

"The joint commission of the states of New York and New Jersey to secure the Palisades of the Hudson against further mutilation and to procure their purchase by the United States government as a military park and reservation, feel greatly encouraged in their work by the favorable expression of sentiment of the press and the public, not only in the states immediately affected, but in all parts of the United States. In the New York Legislature a bill providing for the cession of the land in the state of New York to the United States on condition of its acquiring title to the same has passed the Senate and it is expected will pass the Assembly in a few days. In the New Jersey Legislature a similar bill was introduced on the first day of the session, and there is every reason to anticipate its prompt passage. In the House of Representatives a bill authorizing the purchase by the national government of the two thousand acres between the Hudson River and the Boulevard has been introduced by B. F. Fairchild and referred to the committee on military affairs, which there is reason to believe, will report the same favorably.

"The whole situation appears so favorable to the success of the undertaking that the few quarrymen who are engaged in the work of mutilation of the water-front, and the half-dozen or so occupants of desirable residences on the Palisades, have become greatly alarmed and are making serious misrepresentations of the matter to both associations and individuals who have become interested in the success of the movement. At a recent meeting of the Art Federation, an entirely incorrect statement was made by an interested member to the effect that the whole movement was a fake, and that there was no expectation on the part of those who were promoting the measure that the desired legislation could be obtained. This statement is entirely without foundation. The quarrymen also are spreading abroad the report that the whole scheme is merely an effort on the part of the quarrymen of Rockland County to drive the owners of the quarries on the Palisades out of the business. Notwithstanding these silly and malignant falsehoods, the friends and admirers of the Palisades are confident that the proposed laws will be enacted during the present session of the two Legislatures and of Congress, and that the mutilation of this magnificent work of nature will be effectually stopped."

In the new number of "A Beautiful World"

—the occasional journal of the Society for Checking the Abuses of Public Advertising—there is at least one paper which will be read with interest, even by those who have no very lively faith in the precise mission which the Society has undertaken. Under the heading "Public Parks and Reservations in the State of Massachusetts," an account is given of the display of public spirit by which, at Boston, "splendid tracts of woodland have already been secured, to be, for all time, a piece of sylvan retreat for the toilers of the busy town." The movement was initiated by the Appalachian Mountain Club—the Alpine Club of New England—which, in 1890, prepared "a scheme for facilitating the preservation and dedication to public enjoyment of such sections and sites in Massachusetts as possess either uncommon beauty or historical interest." The primary idea appears, in fact, to have been to provide a permanent machinery for effecting what in England is done, or, as generally happens, fails to be done, by spasmodic protest, as successive spots of picturesque or romantic worth are endangered. We do not presume to anticipate the decision of the Charity Commissioners in the matter of the Trinity Almshouses, but it must strike those who have watched cases of the kind, that, as a rule, the appeal on aesthetic grounds must fail, for the simple reason that the authority which has to pronounce judgment is under a Departmental obligation to think of interests quite apart from those of Taste. If a place ought to be preserved as a public monument, there should be external means for saving it, without damage to the equitable rights of those immediately concerned in having it demolished. Such was the view enforced in Massachusetts, where—the year after the adoption of the scheme of the Appalachian Club—an Act was passed by the State Legislature incorporating "the Trustees of Public Reservations." This body received, in the first days of its existence, several donations, which should suggest imitation in this country. "A gentleman expressed his desire to purchase one of the finest groves near Boston, and to give it into the keeping of the Board, in memory of a young man who loved all natural beauty with uncommon ardour." On this the Trustees well remark, "Is not a religiously-guarded living landscape a finer monument than any ordinary work in marble or stained glass?" It may not be superfluous to remark that if anyone in Great Britain desires to follow this example, the National Trust—over which the Duke of Westminster presides—exists for the very purpose of guaranteeing the reverent keeping of all places that may be dedicated by private or corporate generosity to the service of the community. But the people of Massachusetts were not content to wait for sporadic benevolence, or the chances of fitful effort. While taking reasonable steps to protect against encroachment open spaces to which the public had a just claim, the Legislature placed considerable sums at the disposal of a Board of Metropolitan Park Commissioners, for the purpose of acquiring and consolidating large tracts. The result (as shown in a Report issued this year) has been to secure, within the Metropolitan area, over six thousand acres of almost primitively beautiful woods and moors. The work, which was one of great difficulty, has been carried out with admirable judgment; and it is explained that "the design has been to preserve in the greatest degree possible the natural wildness, while insuring protection against fire." Thus, in a parallelogram about twenty miles in length, of which the City forms the centre, there lie east and west these delightful reservations, while the river in the middle, as it spreads out into the harbour, is being developed into what the Board happily call a Water Park. At Beaver Brook, the charm (we read) springs chiefly from what lies close at hand, the ponds, the cascade, the rushing brook, the open pasture, and veteran oaks. At Stony Brook the eye is drawn away to the Blue Hills, which present themselves from various surprising and delightful points of view. In the Hills themselves are several striking passes and defiles, but it is the vast blue distance—a distance bare of ocean and there of forest—which tends to attract attention. "Not the least fascinating part of the proposals considered," remarks the writer of the article, was that for connecting the reservations with the heart of the town by wooded avenues. Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches—to say nothing of Wimbledon Common and Hampstead Heath—must not be forgotten by the Londoner who contemplates the great deeds of the Boston folk. But there is quite enough in the recital to stimulate emulation.

REVERE BEACH AS A PARK.

When the work of bringing Revere Beach within the Metropolitan Park system shall have been completed, the people of Boston and vicinity will have almost at their doors a beautiful seashore parkway, unique not only in character but as a possession of the public. We do not recall as part of any public park system four miles of beautiful beach, and we doubt if any enterprise exactly similar to that now under way has been undertaken by any State or municipality in laying out public recreation grounds. It has been announced that the Metropolitan Park Commissioners will endeavor to bring Revere Beach to what it was, presumably restoring it to its condition before it became crowded with cheap shanties and unsightly cottages, until "the ridge," the most picturesque natural feature of the locality, was almost hidden from sight.

To bring the beach back to the condition in which its beauty was most readily apparent is beyond the art of the most skilful of designers, and would involve not alone the removal of the buildings that encumber the ridge but the destruction of flourishing settlements made up of pretty and well-kept houses, the dwellings of a permanent population. The great charm of Revere Beach in "the old times," and not so many years back either, was found when it was a lonely stretch of sands miles in length, with lonely hills keeping company with it for part of its way, and marshes bordering the ridge from the point where the upland terminated. There were few hotels on the beach then, just enough of them to accentuate its loneliness. On cloudy days, or days of dim autumnal light when the hills about Wintthrop took on a purple hue, the beach was a delight to the artist, especially if the great area of the marshes burned red or yellow with the peculiar plant they bear. The Wintthrop Hills are now covered with buildings, Beachmont is where once was an unbroken elevation of green; Crescent Beach village has climbed the steep acivity this once bore but a single dwelling.

The marshes are the only features that are as they were. The great change began little more than twenty years ago when the Revere Beach Railroad was opened, and which very wisely was allowed to take possession of the ridge from which it is now preparing to remove to leave room for the parkway and boulevard. The railroad has rendered a great public service in opening this vast breathing-space to the people of the crowded city, and its promoters are not to be censured because they sought and obtained a location that was at once the most practicable from the engineer's point of view, and the most attractive from the passenger's. The location was the work of the authorities who had power to give it, and who acted in the days before the "park idea" had taken shape.

The town of Revere has been censured by many thoughtless people because it did not take some action towards keeping the beach clear of the shanties that have been allowed to disfigure it, but it must be borne in mind that this town had no authority to regulate the architecture of buildings put up on land not belonging to it in its corporate capacity. The fate that overtook Revere Beach is the fate that is likely to come to any beach when it is hit by a great boom such as was the development of the nearer North Shore which began about twenty years ago. The time may have come then when the State should have stepped in to preserve tracts of great natural beauty for the public, but the idea had not. Now that the idea has not only come but has firmly entered into public policy, we may hope to see Revere Beach become a beautiful pleasure ground, and neither very great expense nor labor is required to give it that character.

WHAT THE ELECTRIC AND THE BICYCLE GIVE US.

Hon. Charles Francis Adams announced last night his conviction that as "some not remote time" the Charles River will be made as beautiful and serviceable and free from malaria in Boston as it is at Riverside. The time is certainly nearing when the City of the Three Hills will be no longer mortified by a Beacon-street back-alley where, by every right of charm, there should be a Charles River Front. Lovely as the Arno, and in the sight of the travelled Bostonian lover, illumed with more brilliant and broader sunset glories, will be the future of the river and the esplanade now proposed for the river when this "beautiful living water park" is brought to the doors of Boston. It was wise to speak of all this at the Real Estate dinner. The men present combine business and pleasure in their outlook, and they, like the rest of the world, perceive that the tide of taste is towards nature, and that a tree where a dry pond may hide or water where a naked mud-plunge has an increasing market value.

It was a hearty tribute of appreciation to the work of Elzar Wright which Mr. Adams paid. The preparation of the past for the accomplishment of the present and the possibility of the future was great and unquestioned. The voice of the prophet crying aloud continually in the Middlesex Falls was answered at last in the State obtaining ownership not only of those romantic hills and dales and ponds, but of the magnificent Blue Hill reservation of four thousand acres and of beach and gorge and country woodlands beyond the richest dreams of any imagination which twenty years ago might have grasped the notion of a fitting setting for "beautiful Boston." But the scenery sense has been developing all the time in legislators as well as in other people. When therefore the commission, composed of men who appreciated practically and aesthetically, with culture and with common sense, what might be done, asked the Legislature for a million and a half of money for their large plans, the appropriation was made with a readiness that Mr. Adams confesses startled him.

The truth is that there is a new world opened to the masses of men and women in the cities and big towns by the electric trolley roads and the use of bicycles. These new vehicles are causing a revolution in our development, Mr. Adams thinks, which in the next fifty years will far surpass that of the last fifty years. These parks are only the beginning of the great new departure in making accessible new tracts of suburbs. It would not have been possible to use the people's money for such an appropriation until in the fulness of time the people had been led by broad-track train or by swift-flying pedals into a personal participation in the joy of their proud inheritance.

In Mr. Adams's phrase the "humanizing and educational" effects of the bicycle and the trolley are only just beginning to make themselves felt, but they are exceeding potent, and the future will know this even better than the past.

PLAN FOR PARKS IS COMPLETE.

Hon. Charles Francis Adams Tells the Real Estate Men all About It—Park System Also Discussed at the Dinner of the Paint and Oil Club. 15 Nov

Boston parks and the way in which the plans for their development have come into their present state of completion were pretty thoroughly discussed in this city last evening. They were, in the first place, the main topic for consideration by the ninety real estate men who gathered at the dinner of the Boston Real Estate Exchange at the Exchange Club, and Hon. Charles Francis Adams, formerly chairman of the Metropolitan Park Commission, was chosen to deliver the principal address. The dinner took up the time from six until eight. Then President Porter began the speaking with a few remarks in regard to the affairs of the exchange, after which he read some interesting advertisements illustrative of the methods employed by one real estate dealer in this city in the period from 1850 to 1890. Mr. Porter also referred to the wharfage facilities of the city, and expressed the opinion that the shipping, mercantile, and real estate interests here would be better served if the land taken on the water-front for park purposes could be restored for use as wharves.

When Mr. Adams was introduced he first described the work of the Park Commissioners in acquiring and laying out the lands. Then he said, in part:

"The scheme is now complete. It only remains to develop it; and, while it was matured in all its outlines in the short period of two years, its development will take a century. There is one thing you cannot do—you cannot greatly hurry nature. But in this matter of parks it is necessary to project one's self into the future. There are two forces at work, the humanizing and educational effects of which are only beginning to make themselves felt. And, as the years go on, they will especially make themselves felt in working out the development and the good results of that park and public reservation system of which I have spoken. I shall not live to see this, but my children will. One of these is that system of suburban electric communication so recently begun, but with which all are familiar. The second of these great influences is one the very mention of which by me on this occasion as a thing of such importance will, I fancy, excite a feeling of surprise and perhaps of ridicule in the minds of many. I refer to the bicycle. So far as electric communication is concerned, its influence on the park system, and the influence of the park system upon it, is not yet measured. The day will come when the Middlesex Fells, or Haverlock Grove, the Waverley Oaks or the Blue Hills, will be as accessible through electricity to the crowded dwellers in the heart of the city of Boston as Dorchester, Newton, Cambridge and Somerville now are.

"Not so the bicycle. The influence of that on the park system and on the highways is just beginning to make itself felt, and in my judgment it will go far. A few years ago the enjoyment of country and country roads was a privilege confined to the few—the wealthy. Today it is enjoyed by those who never dreamed of enjoying it before. To the mass of our population a holiday was then a day rather of fatigue and boredom than of enjoyment, for lack of the usual occupation. It is different now. There are now thousands of people in this city, tied to desk or counter, who from one week's end to the other are counting upon the coming of Saturday and the enjoyment of Sunday in the beautiful country which was formerly to them a sealed book. But our local park system is to my mind not yet completed. One feature of it remains to be developed. We have these great outside reservations, covering thousands of acres, but during five months of the year they are practically closed, but there has been lying unimproved under our eyes and hands one water park the size of which I question whether the world can show, the development of which would cost a comparative trifle, and yet would be a source of unending enjoyment to thousands not only during the summer, but also during the winter, and, indeed, through the whole twelve months of the year. I refer to the basin of the Charles."

Mr. Adams closed with a number of speculations as to the changes to be looked for during coming years. Brief speeches were made by Chairman Hodges of the Boston Park Commission, Chairman Dalton of the Boston Transit Commission, and others.

The park system was also brought up for consideration at the dinner of the Paint and Oil Club at the Parker House, where forty members listened to an address by General Francis A. Walker. General Walker made a strong plea for sufficient appropriations to maintain the parks properly. It is regrettable, he said, for the city to expend millions in the construction of parks and parkways and then to allow them to be ruined for the lack of a few thousand dollars. The speaker dwelt on the difficulty of obtaining money from the city government for the proper maintenance of the parks and parkways, and said the estimates prepared by the commission were always much too low for the real necessities, and yet they were invariably cut down from twenty to forty per cent. He blamed no one. He only stated the fact. The parkways were suffering for want of care, and the public parks were not properly policed.

William de Las Casas, chairman of the Metropolitan Park Commission, told what that board had done and hoped to do, dwelling particularly on the relation of the metropolitan park system to the city of Boston.

CHARLES RIVER DAM.

Why It Is Opposed by Riparian Owners on Beacon Street.

The committee appointed to protect Charles River basin and to investigate as to the drainage of the riparian estates on the northerly side of Beacon street has made a report in which it is claimed that chief points contended for by the remonstrants of the scheme for the construction of a dam across the Charles River are supported by weighty evidence. These points are:

"1. That the district affected could be neither properly drained nor sewered if the water in the river were to remain at grade 8; for the ground water could not be reduced to a level sufficiently low for health in the lowlands, whereby malarial conditions would be promoted, nor could the same be properly sewered without expensive pumping.

"2. That the storm water overflow from the sewers, which could not be taken care of by the Metropolitan system in times of rain, would carry so much sewage matter into the basin to be made by the proposed dam as to become both offensive and injurious to health, and especially would this be the case with Stony Brook and Muddy River overflows. Also, the Back Bay Penna basin would become a nuisance, or the avoidance thereof, if possible, could be accomplished only at disproportionate cost.

"3. That the mingling of salt with fresh water in the basin in summer, for the purpose of renewing the contents thereof, would destroy the fresh-water plant life, and thus create stinking odors in hot weather, as well as unhealthy conditions."

The report, which is signed by George O. Shattuck, Lewis S. Dabney and Charles Head thus concludes:

"The Metropolitan Park Commissioners rely much upon the beauty and attractiveness of the Alster Basin at Hamburg to show what the Charles River would be if the fresh water were maintained at grade 8. The conditions differ to such an extent that, in the judgment of your committee, no comparison can be safely made between the two. The Alster Basin receives no sewage, while the Charles River, when the salt water shall have been excluded, will probably in some seasons receive from the rainy weather sewage a larger amount of pollution in proportion to the volume of its water than it ever received when the whole of the neighboring territory, with its 300,000 inhabitants, drained into it."

LYNN WOODS.

The seventh annual report of the Park Commissioners of Lynn makes but a small pamphlet, and yet it contains a great deal in the way of suggestion. Lynn is one of the busiest of Massachusetts manufacturing cities, and yet it is not an ugly agglomeration of business blocks that push farther and farther into a country that might be beautiful, an extending fringe of miserable, unsightly wooden dwellings. Lynn has had the foresight to preserve the beautiful country that lies among the hills near it, and the charm of Lynn Woods acts on the whole life of the community. Nor has Lynn contented itself with a forest reservation alone; it will soon have, in Oceanside, a beautiful beachway open to all its citizens, a place of recreation, where the tired workers of its many shops may get a breath of sea air, and such of them as are so disposed may smoke the evening pipe of peaceful meditations.

There are other manufacturing cities that might do as Lynn has done, but many of them have neglected the opportunity to preserve their woodlands and those meadows that usually are thought fit only for the homes of those who must build on the least valuable land. The objection is often made that after the first cost of woodland parks is met comes the cost of maintaining them. The report shows that the support of a woodland tract, wisely left a woodland with just paths enough to make it accessible, is but a trifle for a city of the resources of Lynn. The entire appropriation at the disposal of the Park Commissioners last year was but \$5000, and they did not spend it all. The expenditures for

Oceanside took \$2051, and Lynn Woods \$1337. The heaviest charge for Lynn Woods was for the police, \$1050. Yet Lynn has almost an ideal park in Lynn Woods, whose beauties ought to be known to more Bostonians than they are, for Lynn generously allows the residents of other cities to wander through the glades its wisdom has preserved, where the music is that of birds and not of bands, and the balsamic breath of the pines is in the air.

Lynn has done well for her future in thus guarding the sources of her water supply and providing a reservoir not only of fresh water, but fresh air.

LYNN MUST PAY HER SHARE.

Apportionment of the Metropolitan Park Commissioners Sustained by the Full Bench of the Supreme Court.

The apportionment made by the Park Commissioners of the expenses incurred in constructing the Metropolitan Park system among the various towns and cities included in it was today affirmed by the full bench of the Supreme Court. This decision was made on the appeal taken by the city of Lynn from the acceptance by the court of the commissioners' award. The first objection which the city made to the award was that the commissioners were not authorized to determine the proportions to be paid by the several cities and towns, before the construction of any parks in the district, or before the expenses were actually incurred. The court in answer to this objection says that it finds nothing in the act creating the Park Board which expresses or implies that the commissioners shall await the construction of the parks before proceeding to determine the proportions. "The Commonwealth has," says the Court, "to issue its scrip or certificates before that time, and there is nothing which shows an intention on the part of the Legislature to postpone the apportionment."

The appellant also contended that if the commissioners might equitably apportion the amount to be paid by the several cities and towns before the construction either of a park or of a boulevard, and without definitely ascertaining what expenses had been incurred under the acts, then the acts are unconstitutional. But the Court sees no flaw in the constitutionality of the act. The city also objected that it will derive no advantage from a connection with the Metropolitan Park system, and ought not to be included in it. This is a question for the Legislature, the Court says, and not for it. The city further objected that the proportion assessed upon it will carry its municipal debt beyond the debt limit fixed by law, but the Court says it does not know that amount of the existing debt of the city, and no facts are before it, to enable it to determine the question founded on the suggestion.

It was urged by the city that the apportionment was illegal, because it is made up by including within the total amounts appropriated the sum of \$300,000, which the Park Commissioners were authorized to expend along or near Charles River; and that the apportionment was varied thereby. The Court says that it was within the power of the Legislature to authorize or to require such special reasonable expenditures in prescribed places as it deemed best.

Finally, it was objected by the city that the commissioners made a mistake in their award, by calling the unapplied balance appropriated by statute 1894, chapter 288, \$115,000, whereas it should read \$205,000. The Court says that this apparent mistake in the recital of acts by the commissioners does not affect their award, as to the proportion for each city and town. The total amount which Lynn will have to pay under the apportionment is about \$80,000.

NOVEMBER 8, 1895.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS.

Systematic Endeavor to Be Made to Improve the Charles River at Watertown and Newton—Legislation to Be Asked—Recent Sales in Newton and Newton Highlands—Deals in Brookline.

Residents of Watertown and Newton are greatly interested in the improvement of the Charles River, and the building of a boulevard along its banks. For many years the river at Watertown was badly polluted by the manufactories on its borders, but through the efforts of the Watertown Board of Health this was abated. It was supposed that no new buildings were to be erected on the banks of the river, and as soon as the present factories were discontinued, the land would be taken by the State and the boulevard continued as far as Waltham, if not beyond.

Recently two of the manufacturing concerns, both starch makers, one located on the south side and one on the opposite shore, have begun the erection of new buildings for increasing their business facilities. This has called forth much comment, and the State Commission has been severely criticized for allowing them to continue with their scheme. Prominent gentlemen from Watertown and Newton have held recent meetings and discussed the situation and have agreed to combine and make an effort to clear the river banks of undesirable structures.

A joint meeting of these gentlemen was held last evening at the residence of Walter H. Keith on Watertown street, and the following were appointed a committee to appear before the Legislature and ask for an appropriation sufficient to enable the Metropolitan Park Commission to secure control of lands on either bank of the Charles River as far as the Waltham line, according to the plan originally laid out. General A. O. Davidson, Walter H. Keith, Francis Kendall, E. C. Derby, J. O. Smith, John Langford, N. H. Chadwick. It is claimed that the \$300,000 appropriated by the last Legislature has been expended, and will purchase land only as far as the Charles River Improvement.

It is also claimed if the purchase of land above this point is delayed, the cost will be so greatly increased that the State will hesitate before making the necessary improvement.

The committee appointed is much in earnest, and the various improvement societies east, and the various improvement societies along the banks of the river as far as Needham have been requested to hold meetings and consider the topic of controlling the banks of the river by the State. The land owners on the river, with the exception of the mills and factories, are much in favor of the State owning the river banks.

LYNN RAISES ANOTHER POINT.

Contest Against the Validity of the Apportionment of the Metropolitan Park System Expenses Submitted to the Supreme Court.

Today the case of Charles Francis Adams and others, Metropolitan Park Commissioners, petitioners, against the city of Lynn, respondent, was submitted to the full bench of the Supreme Court on briefs which have been filed in the office of the clerk. The case involves the validity of the apportionment of expenses which was made by the special commission appointed by the court. The city of Lynn objects to the assessment. It is called upon to pay and, in addition to its brief filed today by Hon. F. D. Allen and J. R. Baldwin, an important point not heretofore raised is called to the attention of the court, as follows:

"It is further urged by the respondent that the apportionment made by the Assessment Commissioners is illegal, because such apportionment, or ratio of assessment, is made up by including, within the total amounts appropriated by the park act, so-called, the amount of \$300,000, which the Park Commissioners were authorized to expend along or near Charles River; that the Commonwealth, in issuing its scrip, has proceeded upon the basis that said appropriation concerning the Charles River did not increase the general appropriation under said park act, appears from a letter to the State auditor from the attorney general, dated in November last, and reported in the annual report of the attorney general."

In this letter the attorney general says the \$300,000 in question was not a part of the general appropriation. It is contended that including this sum in the apportionment invalidates the whole apportionment, and if this point is sustained, the special commissioners will have to do their work all over again.

March 31 1896
PARKWAY ALONG THE MYSTIC.

Somerville Doesn't Want to Be Out in the Cold.

Thinks It Ought to Be Included in Park Commission's Scheme of Boulevards - Matter Discussed at Dinner of Mystic Valley Club - Banquet of Boston Druggists.

The Mystic Valley Club made a new departure last evening by holding its meeting outside of Boston. The place selected was Grand Army Hall, Somerville, and the subject, "Metropolitan Parks." The speakers whom President Samuel C. Darling introduced comprised the well known expert on that subject, William B. de las Casas, chairman of the metropolitan park commission, and Charles Elliot, landscape architect of the same board, and those enthusiasts on the subject, Mayor Albion A. Perry of Somerville and Senator Arthur H. Wellman of Malden.

About 100 persons were present, including many of the leading citizens of Somerville, who, after the speaking, enthusiastically and unanimously supported a motion made by John Herbert that the members of the Legislature from the Mystic valley section be requested to support the bill introduced by Senator Wellman appropriating \$500,000 more to be expended by the park commission.

Mayor Perry of Somerville welcomed the club to the city, and then spoke of the great possibilities for a parkway along the Mystic, and the need of a public awakening to secure that region, so rich in natural advantages. Naturally, he said, we are most interested in that part of the park scheme which has to do with Middlesex Fells.

Somerville has been assessed for parks and boulevards. In fact, for the former it has been assessed more than any other city save Boston and Cambridge, though not a foot of the parks is in Somerville, and has been assessed an amount for boulevards next to what Boston must pay, though not a rod will be built in our city under this assessment. If Somerville does not press her claims, she will not accomplish much.

President Darling spoke in glowing terms of the steadfastness of the park commission in holding to the line of their duty to use the means at their disposal so as to secure the greatest good to the greatest number.

Mr. De la Casas interestingly and clearly told what had been thus far accomplished in the laying out of parks, and how it had been done. He declared that in many respects this work is greater in credit and renown than any that has ever been undertaken in this section, because it is done for the future of humanity.

Every city and town in the district is better and richer and stronger for what has been done. The next important question is how to reach these reservations cheaply and quickly from the congested districts, for they must be made available to the people. The commission is ready to hear from it.

The speaker commended the example set by Winchester in making an appropriation for a parkway, and spoke of the influence of such places in increasing values.

Mr. Elliot pointed out on a large map the reservations that have been taken by the commission, and said he thought the Lynn woods ought to be brought under its jurisdiction; also that the shore of Quincy bay from Moore Island to Nut Island ought to be acquired by the commission; also a strip of land from Keyes Beach to Great Head, and land along the Charles river from Waltham to Newton Lower Falls. Then would the breathing places be symmetrically and fairly distributed throughout the metropolitan district, which includes the territory within a circle having a radius of 15 miles with the State House as a centre.

In regard to boulevards, he said they should be so laid out as to compass the greatest good for the greatest number, and with that in mind the boulevards to the Blue Hills and from Middlesex Falls to Broadway Park, Somerville, had been projected.

Senator Wellman aroused much enthusiasm by his earnestness in debating this question. He pointed out the fact that it is in the line of economy to secure these boulevards now before the land is built upon. We have the reservations, and it is of just as much importance that ways be provided for to reach them. This never can be done so cheaply as today.

The senator also spoke of the element of these reservations give many a city youth some chance to come in contact with

April 29 1896
A bill authorizing the Metropolitan Park Commission to expend \$1,000,000 for park reservations under the park act, and another bill authorizing an expenditure of a similar amount for boulevard construction. The same committee reported adversely on a bill introduced by Mr. Maxwell of Boston, providing that each political party shall nominate twelve candidates for aldermen in the city of Boston.

April 28 1896
Also, leave to withdraw, on the petition of the Selectmen of Stoneham that the streets of said town within the Middlesex Fells reservation may be kept in repair by the Metropolitan Park Commission

TO COMPLETE THE BIG PARKWAY.

Bids Opened This Noon for Finishing Up Two Sections of the Middlesex Boulevard. 25 Jan 97

Bids were opened this noon by the Metropolitan Park Commissioners for the completion of sections 8 and 9 of the Middlesex Fells Parkway. These two sections make up the main line of the parkway from Somerville in the former town, and running to the beginning of the already completed section at Pleasant street, Malden. This is the part of the parkway which connects Somerville, and the electric lines running from the city through it with the Fells, and is, therefore, about the most important part of the whole undertaking. This work also includes the short branch running to the Medford end of the parkway, which joins it at Salem street. Section 8 runs from Mystic avenue to the Medford branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad, and section 9 from there to Pleasant and Salem streets.

There were about fifty or sixty bidders this noon, and the mere reading of the bids took more than an hour. There is a great deal of figuring to get at the net result of each bid, so that no decision will be reached by the commissioners until their meeting Wednesday.

CHARLES RIVER PARKS.

The committee on metropolitan affairs yesterday gave a hearing on the bill accompanying the petition of the Garden City Improvement Society and others for an act to authorize the Metropolitan Park Commission to expend \$500,000 in addition to the amounts heretofore authorized for open space along or near the Charles River.

S. L. Powers of Newton said the banks between Waltham and Newton Lower Falls should receive the first attention.

Mayor Cobb of Newton spoke of the necessity of the appropriation from a sanitary standpoint.

He assured the committee that nearly every citizen of Newton is in favor of the bill.

Mayor C. P. Bond of Waltham said the sentiment of that city is in hearty accord with the provisions of the bill.

Chairman Las Casas of the metropolitan board of park commissioners thought the sum of \$500,000, the amount asked for by the bill, would be sufficient to accomplish the desired improvements.

Henry Parkman also favored the bill.

J. E. Abbott of Watertown, on behalf of his town, urged the appropriation, as did also City Solicitor Harvey of Waltham. Dr. Channing of Brookline endorsed the propositions of Dr. Hartwell. Mr. Codman, also of Brookline, favored the idea, as did also Mr. H. J. Foxallan of the Weston board of selectmen.

25 Jan 97

ROUTE OF THE BOULEVARD.

Detailed Plan Outlined by the Metropolitan Park Commissioners for the Proposed Middlesex Fells Parkway.

For the convenience and interest of our readers, the Journal presents a plan of the proposed Middlesex fells boulevard, a long description of which was given in our columns four weeks ago. The final surveys have been made, and everything is in readiness for carrying on the work but for two things—an agreement as to the cost of certain land along the parkway, and the concurrence of the governments of the cities through which it passes.

If the cities concur, as they undoubtedly will, and if a suitable settlement can be made with the land owners, preference will be given to this work; otherwise the commission will begin operations elsewhere. There are two principal items of work now engrossing the attention of the commission, and if the conditions result favorably, the board can soon begin the construction of the fells boulevard.

The advantages of this boulevard to Somerville and the surrounding population

goes through an unsettled territory, where the cost of construction will be comparatively small, and for a short distance only it runs through a settled neighborhood.

Ahead 200 yards this side of the main highway, which extends from Medford to Malden (Salim street in the former city, and Pleasant street in the latter), and in the rear of the Catholic church, which is near the boundary line, the boulevard diverges Y fashion. Part of it makes to the left toward Valley street, which it will follow for a long distance, and ultimately reach Forest street, Medford, near Pine Hill; and the other to the right toward the Majet hospital.

From the point of divergence, each boulevard will be a double roadway, the same as the main parkway. The one extending toward the Pine Hill entrance to the reservation will be known as "Fellsway West," and the other as "Fellsway East," while the main parkway from their junction to Broadway, Somerville, will be "Fellsway."

The land for "Fellsway West" has already been taken by the commission, but only a little actual work has been done. "Fellsway East," however, is completed from Pleasant street, Malden, past the hospital grounds and Fellamere, for more than a mile, to the Bears-Den hill entrance

the natural scenic attractions of the boulevard and the wonderful region which it opens up will be of chief interest to visitors. For variety of city, river, marsh, meadow, hill, woodland, and lake scenery, the boulevard and fells cannot be excelled.

Although many of the older residents can scarcely realize the change, the Broadway park has become one of the prettiest small parks in the vicinity of Boston, and it is in every way a suitable beginning for the new boulevard.

Many Somerville people would like to see a boulevard extending from Powder-house square to the partially-completed Mystic Valley parkway, which ends at High-street bridge in West Medford, and it is more than likely that within a few years their dream will be realized. This Mystic valley parkway now extends along the shores of the Mystic lakes and Abbajona river, about two and three-quarter miles to Winchester centre. With a continuation of the parkway to Powder-house square in one direction, and a short distance into the Winchester part of the fells in the other, and with the construction of the proposed fells boulevard, the circuit would be complete, and the finest continuous drive in this part of the country would be the result. The

grass plot, in which the electric cars will run, and two broad sidewalks and grass plots between the walks and the road. The total width will be 120 feet.

It may be repeated here that the main object of the boulevard construction is to render the large Blue hills reservation, with its 4,000 acres, and the Middlesex fells, with its 3,200 acres of hills, woods, and lakes, accessible to the interior parts of the metropolitan district, and so to the great masses of the population. Prettier drives, having more picturesque scenery, might have been found on the outskirts of the district, but the main purpose would be lost. The commissioners deemed that the public advantage would be best served, not by opening merely driveways to be enjoyed only by bicycles and carriage owners, but by providing, in addition to roadways and sidewalks, separate passageways for the cheap, agreeable, and rapid transportation of the multitude by electric cars. To this end they gave the whole subject most careful consideration, and finally decided upon the Blue hills parkway, and the Middlesex fells parkway as best suited to the needs of the district.

The first work of constructing boulevards was begun in 1891, when the legislature made an initial appropriation of \$300,000.



will be apparent at a moment's glance at the maps. By means of a broad highway, for pleasure vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and electric cars, Broadway park, the southern end of the boulevard, will be brought within a little over three miles of the heart of Middlesex fells. Not only will Somerville have the shortest and most convenient route to the fells region, but the beautiful woodland reservation will also be made accessible to the population of the neighboring cities.

As will be seen by the map, the boulevard begins at Broadway, the principal pleasure thoroughfare of Somerville, which is easily reached from all parts of the city, and extends along both sides of the park to Mystic avenue. Then the two roadways converge, and extend in a double boulevard, or parkway, across the marsh and the corner of Ten Hills farm to Middlesex avenue, near the bridge. Across the river the parkway follows the main road as far as Wellington, where it turns to the left, and then extends across the valley to Malden. For most of the way the boulevard

to the fells. This was opened to the public this fall, and is proving immensely popular.

The course of the proposed boulevard is shown by the dotted line on the map. A considerable widening in the parkway will be noticed at the junction of the boulevard and Middlesex avenue, near the Wellington bridge, where the commission is making provision for two important features,—the preservation of the site of the old wharf, from which the Blessings of the Bay was launched, on the lower side of the bridge, and a strip of beach on the upper side for boating or bathing purposes. Several hundred feet on each side are thus reserved. The recommendation was made in the Journal, and the commission has adopted the idea.

Another feature of the boulevard, which was mentioned before, is the nearness with which it brings the traveler to the famous old Cradock house in Medford, the oldest house in New England, which was built about 1628.

Aside from the historical associations,

benefit to Somerville, which would be in the circuit, for more than half the entire length of Broadway, would be incalculable.

Such a scheme is not a matter of mere fancy, but it is one of the probabilities of the future.

For the present, however, the only feasible thing is the construction of the Middlesex fells parkway, which will ere long be a surety, if the land owners and city councils give the favorable attention which the project deserves. The Somerville city fathers recognize the importance of spending the matter, and the cities of Medford and Malden will doubtless show an equal earnestness.

If, as suggested, the conditions resulted favorably, the first work on the boulevard could begin this winter. In that case great headway would be made by next spring, with a good chance that the boulevard would be completed a year from this time. The boulevard will consist of two sand-papered roadways, separated by a wide

Considerable progress has since been made on each of the big boulevards named, but as the Middlesex fells parkway is shorter and more easily benefits the population of the metropolitan district, it is the evident desire of the commissioners to complete this work as soon as possible. The Blue hills reservation is farther from the mass of population than the fells, and between them is Franklin park, which stands for the south of Boston what the fells will for the northerly part of the district.

In connection with the proposed boulevard in Somerville, a gentleman, who has studied into the matter, makes a suggestion which is worth considerable attention. It is that the city of Somerville, in the event of the construction of the boulevard, should purchase wide strips of land on either side of the boulevard, extending from the Broadway park to the Mystic river, and thus increase the city's park system.

Under a rational system of procedure the same properties might be taken for park purposes, but it would doubtless be at less expense to the city and in accordance with some properly considered and devised plan by which the parks would be members of a related system and not the casual, scattered, and disconnected spaces we now have.

But though it would have been well to have continued the last able park commission, of which Luther R. Marsh, Augustus Schell, Weldon Hutchins, W. W. Niles, C. L. Tiffany, and G. W. McLean were members, with authority to acquire, lay out, and improve the lands for park purposes, there are at least two new and important reasons why a larger commission, with larger powers, ought to be appointed at this time. One of these reasons is that the present system ought to be combined in one connected plan, or chain, by ornamental parkways, and this not only of the parks in and belonging to New York city alone, but of all the parks, parkways, and concourses within the metropolitan district, from the ocean on the southeast to the ocean on the northeast, and embracing in the circuit the Runson and other notable roads of Monmouth County, New Jersey; the Springfield and Millburn turnpikes, the Orange Mountain system of parks and parkways, the Bloomfield road out of Newark, the Hudson County Boulevard, the Palisades, parks and parkways, the upper park system of New York, including Van Cortlandt, Crotona, Bronx, and Pelham Parks and the connecting parkways; the park systems of Flushing, Long Island City, Jamaica, and Brooklyn, and the Merrick Road, and shore resorts on the north and south shores of Long Island.

Only the man who has travelled over these roads and through these parks knows of their natural beauties and attractions; knows of the possibilities of their development; knows how the advancing tide of population is rapidly enhancing their value; knows what important functions they are fulfilling in the growth and expansion of the metropolis. Every one of them has claims to individual distinction and every one of them rewards the visitor for his trouble in visiting and inspecting them. But if they are attractive in their natural disconnected and unimproved conditions, it requires no forced imagination to perceive that they would be of multiplied attractiveness and value if they were connected by a system of finished parkways and boulevards, so as to communicate easily one with the others.

A second reason is that the metropolitan district is growing so fast, its waste spaces are filling up so rapidly, that works of a public character ought no longer to be planned in the fragmentary way that they have been in the past, but on the score of economy, as well as utility, should be laid out with reference to the needs of the future metropolis. This would embrace not only the park systems of the urban and suburban settlements, but the sewerage, water supply, and highway systems as well. It is unscientific to consider any one of these systems of works without direct reference to all the others. The harmonious and symmetrical working out of the problem of construction of a great city upon lines of utility and economy calls for the careful study and planning of all these works with relation to each other.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE.

A METROPOLITAN PARK, WATER, AND HIGHWAY SYSTEM.

Inadequacy of the Present Disconnected Systems—Faulty Methods of Expansion—Economic Features of the Problem—A Lesson from the Recent Achievements of Boston in Park Work.

A public duty that addresses itself to the people of the metropolitan district of New York is to take up the outlying, struggling park, parkway, and boulevard systems of the various cities, towns, and villages contained within the district, for scientific consideration and treatment, to the end that the disconnected parts may be brought together into one articulated park and parkway system, under harmonious management.

Park extension was once considered of sufficient importance and distinction to enlist the promotive cooperation of some of our foremost citizens. Had it not been for the disinterested work of Washington Irving, Andrew Campbell, Andrew H. Green, George Bancroft Davis, and other equally enterprising citizens, it is doubtful if New York would now be in possession of the magnificent park system which is her chief ornament and claim to civic distinction. In these later days, however, we seem to have fallen upon changed and strange ideas of the way to develop a park system.

While but few mistakes, if any, have as yet characterized the recent methods of park expansion, the fact is not due to any excellence in the method, but to the fact that the district abounds in natural park areas, and the only mistake that could be made in sequestering them for the public use and enjoyment would lie, not in the selection, but in the rejection of any of them. The method of selection is about as bad as it could be. It is hardly ever anything less than the exploitation of the city by real-estate speculators.

It will not be denied by anybody that the development and extension of the park system of this great city and its outlying suburbs is a matter of sufficient importance to call for systematic, logical, intelligent consideration, and yet it is suffered to be the one function of municipal government which is without intelligent or responsible direction, and, being everybody's business, is assumed to be nobody's business. The practical method of park expansion as exemplified in recent years is for a clique or group of interested persons to obtain options on a parcel of land that is suitable for park purposes, then go to Albany, retain some practised lobbyist, and by the means advised and directed by him, procure the enactment of a special law making it mandatory upon the city to condemn and purchase the land in question for use for ever for park purposes. It requires but little acumen to see that this system is capable of the greatest abuse.

It is not intended to reflect upon the work of the Small Parks Association, than which nothing could be better. These suggestions are with reference to work in the suburbs, and upon the present outlying park system.

People who are acquainted with Boston will see in the above no original suggestion. Boston is the beneficiary now of a work of great magnitude in park expansion, performed by a Metropolitan Park Commission, composed of eminent citizens, which derived its power from the Legislature, and extended its work in every direction from the limits of Boston proper.

Charles Eliot has published in the *New England Magazine* an interesting report of the method of organization and work accomplished by the Boston Metropolitan Park Commission, in which he says:

"A great work has been quietly accomplished in the neighborhood of Boston during the last two years, and a sketch of it may perhaps encourage the people of other American neighborhoods to go and do likewise.

"Surrounding Boston and forming with Boston the so-called metropolitan district lie thirty-seven separate and independent municipalities, comprising twelve 'cities' and twenty-five 'towns,' all of which lie either wholly or partly within the sweep of a radius of eleven miles from the state-house. The population of this group of towns and cities is about one million of people, and the total of taxed property about one thousand millions of dollars.

"In 1892 the central city of Boston already possessed and had in part developed a costly series of public squares and parks within her own boundaries, sixteen of the surrounding municipalities had secured one or more local recreation grounds, and some of these communities had acquired still other lands for the sake of preserving the purity of public water supplies. Nevertheless it was evident to all observing citizens that a great body of new population was spreading throughout the district much more rapidly than the local park commissions and water commissions were acquiring public open spaces, and that if any considerable islands of green country or fringes of sea or river shores were to be saved from the flood of buildings and made accessible to the people, it could only be by means of some new and central authority raised above the need of regarding local municipal boundaries and endowed by the people with the necessary powers and money. Accordingly the whole problem was laid before the Legislature of 1891 by a committee appointed at a meeting of the local Park Commissions, aided by representatives from the trustees of public reservations, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and other organizations, and by numerous and influential petitions from all parts of the district. A preliminary or inquiring commission was the result. This Commission, headed by Charles Francis Adams as chairman, examined the district in detail, discussed the problem with the local authorities, became thoroughly convinced of the need of prompt cooperative action, and so reported to the succeeding Legislature; whereupon an act was passed establishing a permanent Metropolitan Park Commission, which act was signed by the Governor, June 3, 1893."

This commission purchased and acquired by gift eleven separate tracts and parcels of land, some of high, rocky, wooded hills, some of salt marshes along the estuaries of the bay, some of meadow lands, and some of sandy beach on the seashore. Not all of it is intended for immediate or even present improvement, but all is considered necessary for the future proper development of the city. The organization and financial system are described as follows:

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Content Aroused by the Erection of Advertising Sign Boards.

What has been characterized by a good many beholders as a piece of vandalism, has just been perpetrated at the Clermont end of Riverside Drive. On the easterly side of the drive, beginning at One Hundred and Nineteenth Street and running northward over 300 feet, a light wooden fence about nine feet high has been erected, and painters are now engaged in daubing its face with glaring advertisements. People who frequent the upper end of the drive, on bicycles, in carriages, on horseback, and afoot, have expressed their indignation and surprise that any such thing should be possible. Some, particularly a few who reside in the immediate vicinity, have been surprised to learn, upon inquiry, that the authorities are powerless to prevent it. The fence is a great advertising billboard. It has been erected on private property, fronting immediately on the drive, by a firm of bill-board advertisers, as a money-making scheme.

The property is otherwise unencumbered with structures of any kind. It belongs to the estate of Eli Wood, which has rented the billboard privilege to the bill-posters. The excuse for so doing is that the property has long been unproductive; that there are minor heirs, and that the trustees would be neglectful of their duties if they refused an opportunity such as this to get some revenue from the property.

Among the charms of this section of the Riverside Drive and Park have hitherto been its naturalness, the free sweep of the breezes, the wide expanses of view, and, particularly, the absence of those glaring advertisements. People go to such places to experience the delights of the former and to escape the depressing influences of the latter. Said one of the complaining visitors: "We have a right to have our public parks and drives protected from such nuisances. We come here for rest and recreation, for change of scene and air, and having paid large sums for our place of public resort, have a right to require that they shall not be invaded and despoiled of their natural beauties by such vandalism as this.

The meaning of this is plain enough; the use of the bicycle has brought a current of visitors to this riverside hill a hundred times greater than was ever before known. The bill-board advertiser saw in this fact an opportunity for gain. He has hunted up the owner and obtained the privilege of erecting his bill-board, for some paltry sum in the way of rent. Never cared a penny for the sentiment of the public or the destructive influence of the thing upon the beauty of this scene. The worst of it is that they are within their legal rights, and as the law is at present, cannot be prevented from maintaining the nuisance—though because there is no offensive odor arising from it, the law would not hold it a nuisance—as if a thing could not be so offensive to the sight as to render it a nuisance!

The Park Department certainly ought to have power to prevent such a spoliation of the public property. Suppose every owner of a vacant lot on Riverside Drive should permit these advertising bill-boards to be erected, what would become of the drive and park? People would avert it. The park and drive would be ruined. If these things are to be permitted as barriers around the parks, why try to keep them out at all? Why not farm out bill-board privileges in the parks? They would gain no more damage and the city would gain a miserable pittance from them, as the owners do in this case."

THE EVENING POST.

THE CITY AS A LAND OWNER.

Nearly a Fifth of the City's Entire Area in Its Parks.

How large an owner of real estate the city of New York is, would be a difficult matter to determine with accuracy. It would naturally be supposed that some department of the city government would have a list and description of all the property owned by the city, but this seems not to be the case, and an attempt made some time ago to obtain from the several departments statements of the property in their charge or under their control, was unavailing.

The city's holdings are represented in parks, public squares and places, school-house parcels, fire-stations, police-stations, court-house properties, department buildings and grounds, reservoirs, asylums, hospitals, docks, wharves, markets, and houses and buildings occupied by tenants and from which the city derives some income. The larger part of this property, in point of area, is in the municipal park system, though it may be doubted if this part constitutes half the city's holdings in value. With the buildings the properties other than parks may be more valuable.

A list of the parks, published herewith, shows that they are sixty-one in number and embrace no less than 4,983,169 acres. The total area of the city being 27,060 acres, the proportion of public park property is 18.44 per cent., or nearly one-fifth of the whole.

Table listing various parks and their areas in acres. Includes entries like 'Abingdon, Junction Hudson Street and Eighth and Ninth Avenues', 'City Hall, Broadway, Mail Street, Park Row, Chambers Street', etc.

These properties represent a cost, to date, of about \$30,000,000, but City Hall Park alone would be worth nearly if not quite that amount to-day, and all the park property embraced in the foregoing list would be worth ten times their cost, at a low valuation. A fair estimate of all the city's real estate holdings would place them not far from \$700,000,000.

The commission consists of five gentlemen who serve the community without pay. The Governor of the commonwealth, acting for the metropolitan district, appoints one new member every year, the term of service being five years. The General Court of the commonwealth, acting for the metropolitan district, authorizes from time to time the sale of bonds by the State Treasurer, who is directed to collect annually the amount of interest on the sinking fund charges from the towns and cities of the metropolitan district in accordance with an apportionment newly made every five years by a special commission appointed by the Supreme Court. Bonds running forty years and bearing interest at the rate of 3 1/2 per cent. have thus far been authorized to the amount of \$2,500,000, and the total sum to be collected from the district annually is found to be \$111,253.99. The first quinquennial apportionment requires Boston to pay 30 per cent. of this annual requirement, or \$55,627 per year, while the other thirty-six cities and towns are called upon for varying amounts ranging from Cambridge's 0.5 per cent. (\$7,600.50 per year) to Dover's four-thousandths of 1 per cent. (\$48.92 per year). The validity and constitutionality of this ingenious financial system has recently been affirmed by the Supreme Court on appeal. It should be added that the law provides for the annual collection from the cooperating towns and cities of the cost of maintenance of the several reservations, and it is probable that the total sum required for this purpose will soon equal that required to meet the charges on the bonds. Whatever the total amount may be, it is to be assessed in accordance with the quinquennial apportionment, but down to the present time the commonwealth has itself paid the general and maintenance expenses of the commission, the Legislature having appropriated \$10,000, \$30,000, and \$38,943 in the years 1883, 1894, and 1895 respectively.

Mr. Elliot concludes his report with these pertinent and suggestive general remarks: "Every rural as well as every crowded district of the United States possesses at least a few exceptionally interesting scenes, the enclosure or destruction of which for private pleasure or gain would impoverish the life of the people. Very often these strongly characterized scenes are framed by lands or strips of land which, like the Blue Hills, the banks

of the Charles, and Beverly Beach, are either almost unproductive or else are put by their private owners to no means their highest use. In many districts now is the time when these financially profitless summits, cañons, vynes, ravines, and strips of ground along the seashores, lake shores, rivers, and brooks ought to be preserved as natural pictures, and put to use as public recreation grounds. To enable benevolent citizens or bodies of voluntary subscribers to achieve the permanent preservation of such scenes, Massachusetts has created a board of trustees, known as the Trustees of Public Reservations, who are empowered to hold free of all taxes such lands and money as may be given into their keeping—an institution which ought to be found in every state. In special regions, however, where the establishment of such a board of trustees would be ineffectual, either because large sums of money are required promptly or because the power of eminent domain must be invoked, the methods of the Massachusetts Metropolitan Park Commission may be profitably followed on either a humbler or a grander scale. The establishment and the successful working of this commission proves that at least one great and complex American democracy is alive to the usefulness of the beautiful and the value of public open space; also that this democracy is capable of cooperation and of foresight, ready to tax itself severely for an end which it believes in, and able to secure as executors of its expressed but undefined desires commissioners capable of realizing these desires in a remarkably comprehensive and equitable manner."

trans. Jan. 1897.

Within two years the colony at Cape Ann had grown to a village, dwelling in thatched cottages, of two hundred souls. John Lyford was its minister, and with the exception of a slight disagreement with Captain Miles Standish and the Plymouth people over the original fishing stage, in which Conant's moderation averted bloodshed, and certain internal dissensions caused by the conflicting elements composing the colony, there were no very notable incidents. The enterprise did not pay, and the Dorchester company withdrew its support, after paying all bills, and offering to take all the settlers who chose back to England. Conant believed in the future of New England, however, and had no idea of returning, especially as Rev. Mr. White promised him a new charter and financial backing if he would stay, with the better elements composing the land. So he removed to Salem, then called Naumkeag, or, as the ancient historians quaintly put it, "Nahum-koelke," thus changing the Indian term into Greek, "the bosom of consultation." Fifteen men with their families, perhaps fifty in all, made the removal. Their names were: Roger Conant, governor; John Lyford, minister; John Woodbury, Humphrey Woodbury (John's son), William Trask, William Jeffrey, William Albon, Thomas Gardner, Thomas Gray, Richard Norrman, with his son Richard, Peter Palfrey, John Balch, Walter Knight, and John Tully. The descendants of many of these men have been prominent in New England for 200 years.

The removal to Salem was in 1629. Two years after Standish came with his reinforcements—thus fulfilling the promise of Rev. Mr. White—and Roger Conant, whom many feel richly deserves the title of "First Governor of Massachusetts," which has been denied him, retired to peritil obscurity, though locally prominent in Salem and Beverly all his life. Many of the old historians claimed that the name "Salem" was given the settlement as a token that the "old planters" deprived of their right to rule and lead, by the sale of the charter of the Dorchester company to the Massachusetts Bay Company, had become reconciled to the situation. What we have repeated of the story proves, we think, that the ancient "Fisherman's Field" on Cape Ann is entitled to higher honor than has ever been accorded to it as the location of the first important settlement in Massachusetts Bay if it does not prove that the beginnings of Salem were earlier than she herself claims.

The reason for the slight emphasis placed upon the Dorchester settlement is obvious. Gloucester was not permanently settled until 1642, and dates her beginnings from that time. Though the bounds of Naumkeag extended down the coast as far as to include Jeffrey's Creek, now Manchester, and that part of Gloucester now known as Man-nolia, (William Allen of Salem having been given land at Kettle Cove), she has always dated her history from the removal. It will thus be seen that Fisherman's Field and its colony is a part of the history of the State, rather than of either city, and that it is the State which should hold and keep open to the public forever the site of her first beginnings.

By a fortunate train of circumstances, this property still remains practically intact. Gloucester has for years been hoping to be financially able to purchase it for a park, but this has thus far been impossible. A few years since, it was rumored that Cornelius Vanderzift had purchased it, and would erect a summer villa, and great was the consternation in the city. Chapter 332 of the acts of 1891, incorporated Frederick L. Ames, Philip A. Chase, Christopher Clarke, Charles R. Codman, Editha S. Conover, George F. Hoar, N. S. Shaler, Francis A. Walker, and others, as a corporation by the name of The Trustees of Public Reservations, for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining, and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth. It can acquire and hold these tracts by

grant, gift, devise, purchase or otherwise. The State Port property—the remains of the Revolutionary earthworks add to its historic interest—is both beautiful and historical. If private generosity cannot be depended upon to furnish the funds to place it in the hands of the trustees, the Legislature should appropriate the money, for it certainly is as deserving of perpetual preservation as the province lands, or any other reservation.

There are few towns in the country more widely known than Andover, in Massachusetts, and whatever is done for its improvement may fairly be regarded as a matter of public interest. The name of "Indian Ridge" will awaken many recollections of school days, nor is it unknown beyond the confines of our own land. As Prof. Hitchcock of Dartmouth College testifies, this ridge represents certain phenomena caused by the ice sheet that formerly covered New England that can nowhere else be so conveniently studied. Sir Charles Lyell when in this country visited Andover for the especial purpose of examining the ridge, and it is more and more resorted to by students of geology. Prof. G. F. Wright has also made it the subject of several monographs, and it possesses an unusual combination of scientific, antiquarian, and aesthetic interests. The announcement, therefore, that unless prompt action is taken a large part of the ridge will pass into the hands of a lumber company, which will at once set up a steam sawmill and denude its slopes of their magnificent covering of pines, must occasion very general concern. Some of the public-spirited citizens of Andover have determined to make an effort to raise the sum \$2,000, required to preserve this beautiful spot from desolation and secure it as a public park. As the object is far from being a purely local one, an appeal for aid is properly addressed to all who like to think of the old town as retaining all its beautiful features, as well as adding to their number. Contributions sent in care of the Andover Townsman will reach the Treasurer of the committee on subscriptions.

M. J. Diez, Nov. 1896.

Pleas for Indian Ridge.

Probably many of the readers of the TOWNSMAN are aware that an effort is being made to preserve a section of Indian Ridge embracing that portion which borders on the roadway not far from the R. R. bridge.

The question is asked, "Why is it important to save this when we have a natural park in another section of the town?"

First, for its geological value, it being one of the most interesting spots to scientists to be found in this region.

Secondly, it furnishes an attractive and accessible park for the Abbott Village residents, one which is almost at their doors. As one resident of the Village says "It is the only bit of shade we have."

Again, "Why buy this when the town already owns a tract of land nearby which embraces a portion of the ridge?" Yes, the town does own it and for what purpose? Simply to supply gravel for road-making and other similar purposes.

The encroachment upon it may be slow

but we know that long before another quarter of a century shall have elapsed the contour of much of the ground will be altered, if any of its distinctive form is preserved. Then we are asked, "How shall we be assured that the portion which it is desired to purchase will not share the same fate?"

If the required amount is subscribed, the committee would like to see the property deeded to the Trustees of Public Reservations, a corporation chartered in Massachusetts in 1891 for the purpose of preserving and holding parcels of real estate possessing natural beauty or historical interest and to hold them for the benefit of the public. The Gen. Rufus Putnam homestead in Rutland, Mass., is one of their more recent acquisitions.

The Society has for its President Hon. George F. Hoar; Vice Pres. Judge Shuttleworth of Springfield; and the names of Francis A. Walker, Leverett Saltonstall and our neighbor, J. D. W. French of North Andover appear as members of the Corporation, and as the Trustees are forbidden to sell except to towns or cities for public uses, there is no fear of the land ownership reverting to private individuals after it is purchased, or being used for other purposes than the purchasers desire.

A similar piece of land situated in the township of Stoneham is held by this Society for the benefit of the public. It is in reality a memorial park, being the gift of Mrs. Fanny Foster Tudor who dedicated it to the memory of her daughter by naming it Virginia Wood.

Who could wish a more beautiful monument?

To the Townsman:

It may be interesting to those who were unable to attend the meeting called by the Andover Village Improvement Society for the preservation of Indian Ridge, to learn what was done at that time.

It was announced that the town would not be able to purchase the land, and that the only way to save it from being stripped of its trees this winter, with the possible prospect of its being sold for house lots, would be for the citizens to make an effort to contribute the money to buy it. Some of those present made a very generous response to the appeal and it was felt that a house to house solicitation of the townspeople would result in raising the sum. In response to a call for those who were willing to do this begging, Miss Emma Lincoln, Mrs. William Murland, Miss Susie Blake and Miss Alice Buck rose, and were appointed a committee. Their courage was made equal to the effort by the stirring appeals of Dr. Bancroft, Mr. Draper, Mr. Goldsmith and Prof. Taylor, urging that this wonderful Pre-Historic monument should be saved from the steam saw and shovel, and its beauty preserved to refresh and delight coming generations, as it has those of the past.

The committee earnestly beg that the men, women and children of town will go to Indian Ridge at the first opportunity to see for themselves how well worth an effort it is to save the part now offered for sale. This will better prepare them for an enthusiastic mass-meeting to be held at an early date, and to give as much as they can to the solicitors.

For the Committee,
ALICE BUCK.

(For Tuesday.)

Appellate Division Supreme Court—Eccles.

Supreme Court Appellate Term, before Daly, P. J., McAdam and Bischoff, Jr., JJ.—Appeals from judgments of District Courts—Nos. 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28, 29, 30, 34.

Supreme Court Special Term, Part I, before Smyth, J.—Motion calendar called at 11 A. M.

Supreme Court Special Term, Part II, before Lawrence, J.—Court opens at 10:30 A. M. Ex-parte matters.

Supreme Court Special Term, Part III, before Beckman, J.—Motions. Preferred causes—Nos. 2447, 2601.

Supreme Court Special Term, Part IV, before Beach, J.—Law and fact—Nos. 2525, 2607, 1849, 2641, 2625, 2642, 2643, 2650, 2657, 2671.

Supreme Court Special Term, Part V, before Fryer, J.—Cases to be sent from Part IV for trial.

Supreme Court Special Term, Part VI, before MacLean, J.—Cases to be sent from Part IV for trial.

Supreme Court Special Term, Part VII, before Andrews, J.—Elevated railroad cases.

Supreme Court Special Term Part VIII, Adjourned for the term.

Supreme Court Trial Term, Part II, before Freeman, J.—Preferred causes—Nos. 2044, 2726, 2670, 2628, 2626, 2677, 2119, 2723, 2624, 2623, 2622, 2621, 2623, 2720, 2421.

Supreme Court Trial Term, Part III, before Duross, J.—Nos. 2062, 2623, 2134, 1329, 2673, 2674, 2422, 2476, 2578, 2582.

Supreme Court Trial Term, Parts IV and VI.

PLEAS FOR INDIAN RIDGE.

Prof. G. Frederick Wright and Another Correspondent Heard From.

Editor of the Townsman:

I learn with interest of the efforts made to save the beauty of Indian Ridge, and would be glad to strengthen the hands of those who are trying to preserve them for the use and glory of the town.

There are other ridges like this cluster in Andover. Yes, there are many others which are as beautiful and interesting in themselves as Indian Ridge. But they are not in Andover. They are not accessible to the Andover citizens. They are not as celebrated as is the Andover cluster. The Andover Indian Ridge is known the world over. It is the great object lesson of the world touching a certain department of glacial geology. In 1842 it was discussed at the first meeting of the American Geologists and Naturalists, and a map of it published by President Hitchcock. In connection with my own books the knowledge of it is much more widely disseminated. The volumes containing maps of it have had a distribution of not less than ten thousand being found in every important scientific library of the world. Isnt it too good an object lesson to be destroyed? I do sincerely hope arrangements may be made to have it preserved as a public park and an object lesson in the most interesting department of geology. Either end would justify the expense. Both make it a gilt-edged investment.

Yours truly, G. FREDERICK WRIGHT.

Preserve Indian Ridge!

The Village Improvement Society has issued a call for a public meeting which is to consider the question whether it is desirable to preserve to the town a part of the beautiful Indian Ridge. This object should appeal to a large number of our residents.

Andover justly prides herself upon the educational institutions within her borders, and the intelligence of her inhabitants. With education we are accustomed to associate an interest in all affairs which affect the town for good or ill, and a hearty co-operation, so far as is in one's power, in every forward movement. That the preservation of spots of great natural beauty, or of historic interest, is such a movement, no one will deny. Neither will any person of observation deny the fact that the Village Improvement Society although a little over two years old, and constantly hampered by lack of funds, has done good work.

But are you, my friend, helping along the good work or have you too little public spirit to care for the objects in which the society engages? Will you not show by your presence at the meeting next Tuesday evening your approval of its aims? Let us have a little enthusiasm over something besides a bonfire and a torchlight procession.

JANUARY 21, 1897.

A FREE MOUNTAIN PARK.

The Spy's Mount Wachusett Editorial Warmly Commented.

To the Editor of the Spy: I am glad to find that you suggest that Mount Wachusett shall be made a free mountain park. Members of the board of the state trustees of public reservations from your county have warmly advocated the project in the meetings of our board, and the trustees would be pleased to see Mount Wachusett made a free public reservation, and at the earliest moment possible have the magnificent view from its summit made free to all our people forever. Why not call a meeting of the citizens interested in this matter in your city and county at an early day, and start the movement in such a way as will lead to success during the session of the present legislature? The board of trustees of public reservations was chartered in 1891, to provide a ready and absolutely trustworthy instrument by means of which persons who may desire to effect the permanent preservation of any interesting or lovely spot in Massachusetts, can accomplish their purpose without difficulty or delay from legal causes. The general desire of the commonwealth that just such spots shall be preserved, both from destruction and exclusive individual possession, is evidenced by special exemption from taxation lands and moneys which may be accepted by this board in trust. If ever there was a golden opportunity for the investment of money in a permanently beneficial way, it is in the purchase of well chosen places for conveyance to this board in trust.

This is the message of the standing committee to the board in the annual report of 1894, and is quoted to give your people a knowledge of the splendid work undertaken by the board of trustees, who represent every county in the state, with Senator George F. Hoar as their president. It is a well-known fact that the public is fast being excluded from many points of general interest, and almost the entire account of the state is now in private hands. I trust, therefore, that the people of your city and county will see that Mount Wachusett will soon be added to the list of public reservations.

I think there will be a very strong sentiment for making Mount Tom, in this section, a public reservation when the object is well understood by all. Christopher Clarke, Trustee, Hampshire County, Northampton, Jan. 20, 1897.

Mountain Park

AS A FREE PUBLIC RESERVATION.

To the citizens of Northampton and Easthampton:—As the Hampshire county member of the state board of trustees of public reservations I hope to enlist your aid in securing for a free public reservation the Mount Tom mountain park which includes the highest southern elevation of this mountain range and comprises within its proposed limits land located in the city of Northampton and the town of Easthampton, which is mostly of little value except for this purpose. Members of the board of trustees have for several years past urged citizens of Holyoke to obtain this land for a park and the late Judge Shurtleff of Springfield, who so ably aided that city in the establishment of Forest Park and its subsequent enlargement to one of the most beautiful parks in the country, was deeply interested in securing this mountain park for the general public.

The Mount Tom park, when it is fully developed, will be far beyond any park in this country in the beauty and extent of its views and unobscured location for general use by the public, and if made a state public reservation will be free for the enjoyment of our citizens forever. Northampton, in whose borders a large portion of the land is located, will, I think, lose nothing by aiding this project as all the land from the northern limit of the park will be largely increased in value for reasons in the future. By the construction of a short carriage road from the summit at the base of the western side of the mountain in the town of Easthampton through a depression in the mountain range, an easy means of reaching the park from that town can be had.

The general plan suggested is to acquire all the land required from the Connecticut river to the Easthampton roads on the western and southern sides of Mount Tom of which about eight hundred acres of land have already been secured for park purposes, by private purchase and was not intended for a private land speculation, but for park purposes. This park is now reached by the electric cars, and the Walling Street reservoir road and a company has been organized and is to build a mountain railroad to the top of Mount Tom from the terminus of the electric road, the mountain at this point being 1225 feet above tide water.

If the park is made a free public reservation the people of Northampton should be interested in securing a public improvement which will be for the best interests and enjoyment of the residents in this most beautiful region of the Connecticut valley, and will attract many thousands of visitors from other cities, towns and states. The principal object of the trustees who represent every county in the state is to secure and hold in trust all the beautiful sites and places of public interest possible for the free use of all our citizens, lands that might otherwise be taken for private use by speculators who have already excluded the general public from almost the entire sea coast of this state and from many other places of public interest.

I certainly hope that a friendly and liberal spirit will be shown to the city of Holyoke and the mountain park project, if it can be done with such proper safeguards and conditions as will fully protect the interests of all our citizens. Christopher Clarke, Trustee, Northampton, Jan. 18, 1897.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

The question of establishing a public park on Mt Tom now confronts the people of Northampton and demands immediate and thorough consideration from the city. The Herald has no desire to bias public opinion, but simply to present conclusions reached after careful investigation of a matter which concerns the present and future pleasure and profit, not only of Northampton people, but of all the residents of the Connecticut valley north of the Holyoke and Tom ranges.

The proposition of Holyoke, which is a new dress for the old scheme to annex a portion of Northampton to Holyoke, calls for the state's cession of a portion of this slightly mountain territory as a state park. Northampton would have no good cause to object, if the plan promised fair return for the loss of taxable property. Mountain

Park, which is practically what Holyoke wants set off by the state, has been in use a year or more, and how much pleasure have Northampton people derived from it? There is no convenient means of reaching it from this city and its beauties have been enjoyed almost exclusively by Holyoke and Hampden county residents. Then the question really stands: Are Northampton and Hampshire county people willing to join with Holyoke in asking the state to reserve a part of Northampton's territory for a Holyoke city park?

The objection to the Holyoke plan is not opposition to a state park, it should be understood. The general idea is a grand one, and it is assuredly a credit to the state that it has inaugurated the movement for the establishment and maintenance of these free pleasure resorts, but the Meadow city men have most positive evidence that the scheme is not one to further private corporate interests. A communication from Christopher Clarke in another column takes up the state's side of the question, but even this is not broad enough. If Northampton desires a state park, why not have one that shall be a credit to the commonwealth? In other words, why not include the whole mountain range, together with the northern and southern slopes, as far as the home-woods at the base and along the stream? The Northampton electric railway company would then extend its tracks to the mountain, the park would be as accessible from the north as from the south and Northampton residents, in the pleasure they would enjoy in nature's wilds on this rugged old mountain, would quickly realize an abundant return for the sacrifice of valuable property. A tremendous project! True, but one which the combined forces of Hampshire and Hampden counties, between which the mountain stands guard, can surely accomplish if the effort is made in harmony.

The matter is already before the legislature, our representatives are waiting for instructions and prompt action should be taken by the city government.

Wachusett Spy 21 Jan 97

Northampton Herald 18 Jan 97

FITCHBURG.

Blighting of Scenery by Advertising Near a Minimum.

Rocks and Ledges Quite Free of the Antelope, but Country Barren Are Year Much in Demand—Memorial Day Offered Inspiration to Veterans—Raising of Salaries of Teachers.

FITCHBURG, June 6, 1896. The rocks and boulders and ledges that adorn the scenery in this very beautiful section of Massachusetts are not so much blighted by the depredations of the antelope as they were some years ago. The antelope is still to be seen in the woods and fields, but it is not so numerous as it was some years ago. The depredations of the antelope are not so much blighting of scenery as they were some years ago. The antelope is still to be seen in the woods and fields, but it is not so numerous as it was some years ago.

To be sure there are some signs of a country where and wayside poles, but these are, for the most part, small and do not seriously wound the beauties of the scene. There are some signs of a country where and wayside poles, but these are, for the most part, small and do not seriously wound the beauties of the scene. There are some signs of a country where and wayside poles, but these are, for the most part, small and do not seriously wound the beauties of the scene.

REPORT ON YELLOWSTONE PARK.

Yellowstone National Park has received no improvements the past year, because the Northern Pacific Railroad is the principal stockholder in the park association, and is unable to spend money on it. Capt. Anderson, in his fifth annual report, just filed with Secretary Francis, says there is great need of new hotels and lunch-houses. There should be a hotel at Upper Geysers Basin and at the Thumb of the Lake. This is to accommodate the class of visitors who have abundant means, and after coming long distances to see the beauties and wonders of the park, are disappointed if they do not find good hotel accommodations. There is a large class of visitors who go through the park in camping parties in charge of licensed conductors. The authorities in charge of the park confess that these parties annoy them not a little. They are careless about their campfires and continually threaten serious damage by fires. Besides this they are not so sentimental as they might be in their regard for the natural features of the park, which should be preserved from curiosity-hunters. Capt. Anderson would like to have all the accommodations in the park monopolized by one company, and the terms kept reasonable for good service. Another thing that ought, he thinks, to be consolidated under one control is the Yellowstone Lake steamboat franchise. The present steamboat company desires to rush tourists through the park, as it receives the same pay whether stop-over privileges are granted or not. The hotel people, on the other hand, would like to prolong the stay of visitors. Thus there is a clashing of interests.

Travel to the park fell off last year and this because of the hard times. Last season snow blocked some of the roads until June 20. Still, 2,800 people visited the park. One of the important things done this year has been the survey of the west boundary line by Lieut. Broomwell. Suitable monuments have been set up, so that hereafter this line will not fluctuate a quarter of a mile or so, according as there is high or low water in the lakes from which the boundary was originally described. Stones have been set up to mark the east point of Yellowstone Lake, its south point, and the west point of Shoshone Lake, as well as the initial points of the four boundaries of the park. Great danger was apprehended all last summer from fires. The season was exceptionally dry, and campers were careless, as usual. The patrols had to be more than ever cautious. Over 100 campfires were extinguished, any one of which might have caused a terrible forest conflagration. Outposts have been maintained all over the park, and roads built, so as to reach them with supplies. The Wyoming approach to the park is in fair condition, and the road is rapidly being improved. Much road-building was done last year also, on the east and west approaches. Although the area of the park is greater than that of the state of Connecticut, but \$20,000 has for several years been allowed for its protection and improvement. This year \$35,000 is available. Capt. Anderson thinks \$100,000 ought to be appropriated for about two years, and then the roads could be completed and surfaced with stone. This, he supposes, would anticipate and stop the demand for trolley roads.—Washington Star.

A STUDY OF FORESTRY.

An Interesting Investigation by Eminent Scientists.

(SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE TRANSCRIPT.)

Washington, March 5.—One of the greatest strokes yet made in forestry reform has just come from Secretary Hoke Smith. He has called upon the National Academy of Sciences for the appointment of a committee of eminent men of science to go into the field, study forest conditions on the ground where they exist, and report findings of fact and recommendations to the Government. Professor Oliver Wolcott Gibbs of Newport, president of the academy, will be ex-officio a member of the committee. He is one of the best chemists in the country, and is eminent in other lines of scientific inquiry. Charles Sprague Sargent, the learned authority on trees, will be chairman of the committee. He is a professor in Harvard, and a director of the botanic garden and Arnold Arboretum, and was also chairman of the Adirondack Forest Commission of 1885. His works on the "Forest Trees of North America," Volume IX, of the Tenth Census, and "The Silva of North America are standard works of great value. Alexander Agassiz, the first living authority on many branches of natural history, will also be a member. General Henry L. Abbott of the Engineer Corps, resident, one of the leading experts on rivers; Professor William H. Brewer, former professor of agriculture at Yale, and Gifford Pinchot of New York, a consulting and practical forester, now in charge of the work at Vanderbilt's Baltimore, are the other members chosen.

The practical questions to which the committee, with this remarkable personnel, will address its attention are the following: Is it desirable and practicable to preserve from fire and maintain permanently as forested lands the wooded parts of the public domain for the supply of timber? How far does the influence of forest upon climate, soil and water conditions, make a policy of forest conservatism desirable in those regions where most of the public domain is situated? What specific legislation is required to remedy the evils now existing?

This investigation will doubtless have more influence on Congress than all the work done by volunteer forestry societies in the way of resolutions and memorials, for brought to bear against the vaporous "claims" of the representatives of the public land states in behalf of the "poor pioneer."

this as an object lesson, and I will point out to you the same man as one who can give a reason for his sentiment. What adequate reason can there be for denuding the trees of their branches and so destroying the artistic and botanic anatomy peculiar to every species? What reasonableness can there be in producing living tree-puzzles for the student, and monstrosities for the artist, by the unwise trimming of our trees—as if the true natural expression of the species, singly or in groupings, depended on the woodman's axe!

The ridings of a botanico-technical hobby-horse, good as it may be in its proper place and when kept in subordination, as means to greater ends, trespasses, however, its bounds when it interferes with the naturalness of our parks.

The sylvan character of park woods should go beyond the idea of an extended and somewhat spilt-up nursery of trees and plants set apart at measured distances, as if each constituted an end in itself, rather than being means for producing a larger whole. I trust that all who are interested in the aesthetic and the beautiful in nature will combine their influence and insist that this vandalism shall cease.

AN ARTIST.
Boston, Feb. 11.

COMMISSIONERS, SPARE THOSE TREES

To the Editor of the Transcript:
With feeling do I reecho the pathetic cry of "A Lover of Nature" in a recent letter to the Transcript, because of the deplorable sweep a "new broom" is making among the picturesque trees of Franklin Park. While the public are housed in winter quarters the woodman is degrading stanch and sturdy trees into firewood.

The pine woods of the early settlers are gradually dwindling away in New England—being supplanted in the natural course of events by hickories, oaks, etc., and it makes one's heart ache, indeed, to see the comparatively few remnants of this magnificent race of pines hastened to extermination by special vengeance of the axe. These noble pines, in perennial summer

freshness, afford a happy contrast in both form and characteristic quality of color to all other species of trees which grow in the park, and can, therefore, not be replaced by other kinds. Gentlemen of the Board of Park Commissioners, spare the trees!

The so-called "wilderness" is becoming exceedingly tame, and unless the axe be stayed in its work of ruthless desecration, its very name will present a standing burlesque. This unwise cutting and trimming of the trees is taking the character out of them.

The paralyzed limb, particularly of the pine tree, is a story of achievement and heroism that even a powerful gale from the icy north cannot easily eradicate. Gentlemen, show me a man who can appreciate

nothing. The corporation has not as yet...
Hornes held to be 1890 this spring

Objected to Removal of Constitution.
Portsmouth, Jan. 19.—Information has been received in this city for Washington to the effect that the New Hampshire delegation in congress called at the navy department at noon yesterday and protested against the attempt being made to have the United States Steamship Constitution removed from Portsmouth navy yard to Washington before she is rebuilt. Senator Gallinger is of the opinion that the old vessel was thoroughly rebuilt before she is removed to Washington. It is doubtful, however, if the plan to have her repaired and towed there will be successful. It would require an expenditure of \$300,000.

Sudden Death of D. C. Warner.
Springfield, Mass., Jan. 19.—Dwight Warner, aged 65, buyer for the wholesaler

mans. Aug. 98

THE LISTENER.

The Listener can have no part in the discussion of the question whether the landscape gardening at Franklin Park and Jamaica Pond is invariably good, but it may be sufficient in order for him to say that of all the professions in the world, that of landscape gardening is probably at once the most thrilling and the most ungracious. Its rewards, so far as the inner feeling and aesthetic subjective emotion are concerned, are immediate and high; so far as the public understanding and approbation are concerned, they are very slow, and generally come wrong end first. An effect that it may take fifty years to accomplish will hardly be appreciated by the generation which sees it only in its unformed beginnings. The Listener has sometimes wondered whether some way might not be found to make the transitions of landscape development beautiful in themselves. Just as Nature makes her transitions beautiful. When a forest is burned, leaving nothing but a frightful waste of stumps, Nature will not succeed in a single year in making the place beautiful; but she will succeed in two or three years. Her scheme is to cover the ground with a prodigious mass of leaf growth, in which the varying tints of the new shoots, rushing into almost monstrous growth with all the strength of roots which have until now supported trees instead of shrubs, shall by the very splendor and excess of their foliage make the beholder forget the blackened stumps still standing; meantime these abounding new growths are rotting and felling the black stumps; and by the time they are fallen there is a young wood, beautiful in its multitude of stems and the thick mass of its tops, pointed picturesquely here and there with the special development of some favored trees that overtop the others; the forest is forming, in its wonderful equilibrium; and there is a new beauty each year—but no moment when the scene is not beautiful.

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The Listener does not mean, of course, that a direct resort should be had in landscape gardening to the natural method of forest-forming. In most of our city parks we do not want any forests at all. But, having observed that nature never leaves any gap in time between one of her epochs and another, he has been set to wondering whether close imitation of her methods in special cases might not help to bridge over the time when a tract of land, for instance, consists of many separate and unrelated estates, and the time when it becomes a great harmonious public pleasure ground, without causing people who have known the beauty of the former state of things to lament its disappearance. A big upland New England pasture is a fine thing in itself; if it is left entirely to itself it will "grow up to woods," and an entirely new state of things come in; but there will not be a moment when any passer that way, animated by a purely aesthetic impulse, could lament the change. Such an abandoned pasture, every young pitch-pine and white birch in it extending its branches widely clear from the ground in the abounding space, and little white pines and oaks sprouting up to make the forest of the future under the shadow of the more temporary growths, is one of the most beautiful things in nature. Let us hope there are to be lots of growing-up pastures in the great domain over which the Metropolitan Park Board exercises its beneficent dominion.

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And if Nature seizes upon an abandoned homestead—just as the city seized upon the private estates in what is now Franklin Park—she proceeds to establish a gradual relation of the growths which man has left there with her own freer neighboring domains. As soon as the beneficent fire has restored the buildings to the air and the earth, she plants the seeds of birches along the cellar-walls and the seeds of alms on the bottoms of the cellars. She sprouts the suckers of the alms so that what was lately but a tree or a bush becomes a little forest. The row of locust trees speedily becomes a thicket; and by the time the birches and alms have hidden the cellar-holes, the woods have extended a welcoming hand, in the shape of little jutting towers of poplar growth and hawberry bushes, to the rapidly-widening plantation of man about the old homestead. All foolish and irrelevant exotics Nature has quickly killed and eradicated, and in their places strong young native trees and shrubs are coming in; but for a long time Nature will spare a fine horse chestnut, or European elm or linden—so long a time that its inevitable replacement will be effected without a visible break in the order of things. Those who have loved to see it there will hardly miss it, because a more admirable tree has slowly risen to take its place. Every soft-wood growth which merely prepared the way for a hard-wood tree has, as it discharged its modest serviceable purpose, been as good a bit of decoration in Nature's scheme as if it were the end and aim of her endeavor. The discordant plantation is soon and beautifully harmonized with its surroundings.

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In these days of "greater" cities which threaten merely to become "baser," it is refreshing to read the fourth annual report of the Metropolitan Park Commission of Massachusetts. This unsalaried body is charged with providing open spaces for public health and recreation in a territory having a radius of twelve miles from the Boston State house, and embracing thirty-seven cities and towns. The unrivalled position of Boston makes the working out of this problem a school for all other municipalities having a like end in view. The present report, which is, as usual, accompanied by scenic illustrations, diagrams, and maps, is notable for its consideration of the equitable balance of pleasure grounds in the area under treatment; its proposed conversion of the western part of the Charles River into a boating basin with a permanent levee; and its quite novel study of the possibilities of Revere Beach. Here the landscape architect seeks to preserve unobstructed the beautiful sweep of the beach while affording the necessary accommodations for bathers and other visitors. We regret that we can do no more than suggest the extreme interest of this report.

Notes - Feb 4, 99

TROLLEYS IN THE WILD PARKS

Now that the Metropolitan Park Commissioners are considering the problem of trolley transportation to and from the forest reservations under their control, it is more necessary than ever to look out for the harmonious development of these great wild reserves. The late Charles Eliot, who was the active member of this firm of landscape advisers to the commission from its organization until his death in 1897, repeatedly pointed out the necessity of beginning a comprehensive study of the reservations, with a view to the adoption of a carefully considered and definite plan based on their final development. Until such a plan is perfected it would be impossible, he showed, to properly develop these lands. Carriage roads, trails, trolley lines and the care and management of the vegetal conditions are all interdependent elements of the landscape, and cannot be treated independently except at the expense of the completed composition.

As a people, we are only just beginning to recognize landscape architecture as one of the fine arts, and it should be the endeavor of the present day to pass these great public-owned landscapes on to more critical times as examples of our best possible productions in this line. When a painter is commissioned to produce a landscape or portrait upon canvas his first work is to make a study in which he determines his composition and scheme of color. The landscape architect, however, cannot produce a finished work at once. He can only direct the work, the details of which must be supplied by nature. Knowing almost absolutely what nature will do for his picture, if she is intelligently guided, the architect is obliged to patiently wait for the years to roll slowly around, and, little by little, develop the work he so carefully planned upon his map. How important it is, therefore, that the complete future developments of our great woodland reservations should be definitely studied out first.

The result produced for want of such a far-sighted policy is to be seen in some of the college grounds today, where buildings have been designed and located without due regard to the harmony of the whole. Happily, however, the authorities of some of our colleges have awakened to the need of correcting this evil so far as is possible, and in future every new architectural element will be required to fall into step with a well-defined plan for the whole. There still remain in such cases certain buildings which are wholly out of key, and these must be tolerated until a more widespread public sensitiveness demands a change.

Let us quote from what Mr. Eliot wrote in what was destined to be his last report: "But it may be asked, why all this preparation? Is it clear that it is necessary, or even advisable, to attempt to plan in advance how vegetation ought to be controlled and directed, and where roads ought eventually to be built? . . . To us it seems that a due regard for the high purpose of public reservations, as well as a due regard for the economical fulfillment of that purpose, prohibits piecemeal, unrelated and hand-to-mouth work in such domains, precisely as it prohibits planless and disconnected work for the accomplishment of any and every large purpose that can be imagined. . . . Park commissions are the trustees of the people's treasure of scenery . . . and they are charged with the duty of making it most effectively accessible. Being trustees, they cannot safely proceed planlessly. . . . The devising of comprehensive and far-seeing plans or programmes of procedure is for park commissions, as for all other executive bodies, the most necessary, arduous and responsible labor which they are called upon to perform. . . . To proceed to 'improve' the woods without reference to the positions designed to be occupied by the permanent roads will plainly result either in much double expenditure or else in failure to secure that varied and beautiful scenery which the public has a right to expect the reservation roads to exhibit. Conversely, it is just as true that the placing of roads ought to be largely governed by the plans adopted for the control of vegetation. If roads are devised independently there is danger that they will either seriously mar the landscape or else not effectively exhibit it. . . . If it is desired to preserve wildness and enhance the natural beauty of reservations accessible to multitudinous populations, that is precisely the thing that requires the most considerate and prophetic planning."

These last clauses ought to serve as a warning against planning independently for a trolley location. It seems unreasonable, therefore, to suppose that the commissioners in the face of so much positive advice from so eminent a source would allow "the people's treasury of scenery" to be despoiled by a private corporation. There can be no question but that it would amount to this if any electric roads are admitted within the reservations before a general plan for final development has been adopted.

