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HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH OF THE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK.

Mr. CARTER presented the following

LETTER FROM LIEUT. GEN. S. B. M. YOUNG TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES, WITH AN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE
SKETCH OF THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, COMPILED AND
PREPARED BY MR. JOHN H. RAFTERY.

MARCH 2, 1909.—Ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 15, 1909.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: In the course of my superintendence of Yellowstone National Park prior to the Spanish-American war I became greatly interested in a proper administration of its affairs and the execution of the high purpose which actuated the National Government in setting apart that singularly interesting region as a place dedicated forever to the use and enjoyment of the people. After the close of the war and likewise of my active service as an officer of the army I was pleased with your proposal that I return to discharge the duties of superintendent of the park and again assumed charge.

I am conscious that my efforts to improve the park administration have been only in a measure successful, but I indulge the hope that by the adoption of the recommendations it has been my privilege to make and such other recommendations as enlightened management may suggest in the future the Yellowstone Park will in due time become a genuine pleasure ground for the people of the United States, free from annoyance and needless restraints, and fully responsive to the public-spirited design of Congress in creating it.

From the beginning of my service I have been impressed with the opinion that there should be some reasonably adequate official description of the park and its many remarkable features accessible for ready reference. Many writers have undertaken to describe it, but none of these have been presented in such form as, I think, most desirable. Some descriptions are too extensive, while others are too brief. Some magnify one feature while minimizing others; whereas, in my judgment, a fairly balanced and well-written description should be placed in the official files of the Government.

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Moved by this idea, I ventured on my own account and without expense to the Government to engage the services of Mr. John H. Raftery, of Helena, Mont., and commissioned him to write a historical sketch and a concise description of that wonderland.

After spending some time in the park in study and observation, Mr. Raftery prepared the descriptive article herewith transmitted for your information and such disposition as you may think proper to make of it. As no language can convey a true impression of the many wonderful sights of the park, I have thought proper to aid the description with photographs of a few objects of special interest, also photographs of certain of the first explorers of the country now embraced within the park boundaries.

My regular official communications have all been made in due order to the Secretary of the Interior, but since I have severed my official relations with the department I transmit this communication direct to you, Mr. President, because it was through your complimentary request that I for the second time assumed the duties of park superintendent after nearly fifty years' service in the army.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. B. M. YOUNG,

Lieutenant-General, U. S. Army, Retired.

To the PRESIDENT.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK.

NOTES—HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

[Compiled and prepared by Mr. JOHN H. RAFTERY, under the direction and supervision of Lieut. Gen. S. B. M. YOUNG, U. S. A., retired, superintendent.]

For a complete understanding and appreciation of the Yellowstone National Park, whether as a pleasure ground, a health resort, or a place for scientific investigation, personal and repeated visits to it are necessary. The accounts of its discovery, exploration, and establishment as a national park have been written with varying degrees of accuracy, and writers of vivid fancy and contrasted literary qualifications have vied with one another in enthusiastic word pictures of the phenomena, beautiful, sinister, or scientific, of this premier wonderland of all the world. From every corner of the civilized world students and savants, poets, painters, and practitioners have come to witness, study, and describe the alternating manifestations of nature in spectacles magnificent or monstrous; and while each has contributed somewhat to the public's knowledge of this incomparable region, the aggregate mass of their descriptive work yet falls far short of a complete and convincing exploitation of its wonders. Indeed, the scope of spoken or written language, the range of the human imagination, and the power of pigments spread upon the artist's canvas become feeble, narrow, and almost impotent in the presence of the majestic and outlandish marvels of Yellowstone Park.

Out of the vague, unwritten lore of Indian tradition come the remote rumors of an enchanted land among the mountains where the rivers boiled, the earth burned and haunted lakes tossed spectral plumes of scalding steam into the zenith. Here in cauldrons of

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gypsum or jasper or jade the evil spirits mixed their war paint, and from peak and promontory, in the valleys, and on the hills could be seen the spiral smoke of their bale fires. The nomads of the Northwest shunned it as a land of evil haunt or prowled about its margins in awesome fear and reverence. Sioux, Blackfoot, Crow, and Bannock ventured to the verge of these demon-haunted fastnesses, and in timorous truce made stores of arrowheads from the mountain of black obsidian which looms above the river near its golden gate. Beyond that portal was a realm of mysterious and infernal portent. Looking back a full century we find that the story of the Yellowstone Park is a sequential link in the chain of epochal events which commenced with the purchase by the United States of the then uncharted wilderness called the "Louisiana Territory," the subsequent expedition of Lewis and Clark, the discovery of gold, the conquest of the savages, and all the epic deeds which achieved at last the winning of the West.

Nearly a century ago (1810) there returned from the wilds of the northwest one John Colter, a scout, trapper, and hunter, who had been with Lewis and Clark in their historic expedition. It was upon the return trip of the party that Colter, at his own request, was discharged near the confluence of the Yellowstone River with the Missouri. He had won the confidence and respect of his commanders, who supplied him with food and ammunition for his new venture. With two companions Colter then set out for the headwaters of the Missouri, trapping, hunting, and trading in friendly commerce with the Indians. Colter seems to have been a man of almost infinite endurance, courage, and perseverance. The record of his doings from August, 1806, when he parted with Lewis and Clark, until the spring of 1807 is not extant, but early in the latter year he arrived at the mouth of the Platte River in a canoe. There he met Manuel Lisa, the famous fur trader, who was organizing a trapping and hunting expedition into the very regions from which Colter had come. So timely a prize as the services of Colter was not to be overlooked, and he was induced to return into the wilderness with the Lisa party. Maj. Hiram M. Chittenden's book, "The Yellowstone," in many respects the best that has been written about this national park, devotes considerable space to the activities of Colter, who was unquestionably the first white discoverer of the region. For it was in 1807 that he passed through the Yellowstone wonderland, viewing for the first time the boiling springs about the lake, the tar springs at the fork of the Shoshone, and skirting the Yellowstone River from its source past the upper and lower falls to the ford above Tower Falls and thence to Lisa's fort. Wounded in battle between the Crows and Blackfeet, alone, ill-provided with ammunition or food, the intrepid Colter traversed on this journey afoot hundreds of miles of the wildest and most rugged country on earth. He had hardly recovered from the effects of his hardships when Lisa sent him back to the hostile Blackfeet for the purpose of opening up trading negotiations with them. Nothing daunted by the fact that he had appeared with the Crows in battle against them, knowing that Lewis had slain one of their number, Colter, in company with a single comrade named Potts, adventured back into the hunting ground of the Indians on the upper Missouri. Paddling up that river one morning the two trappers were suddenly surrounded by a swarm of more than 500 Blackfeet warriors, who lined either shore and bade the white men land.

As they did so an Indian seized Potts's rifle, but Colter, who was a mighty man, wrenched the weapon from the red man and handed it to Potts. The latter in panic leaped into the canoe and pushed it out into the stream. An arrow struck him, and crying out: "Colter, I'm wounded," Potts seized his rifle and shot his assailant dead. A shower of arrows from the enraged savages ended the life of Potts right there. Whether he used his rifle to invite a sudden death in preference to the prolonged torture which he anticipated at the hands of his captors will never be known, but his comrade was quickly disarmed and stripped naked as for the torture. After the Indians had conferred they asked Colter if he was a good runner. The chance of running the gantlet or being chased by 500 fleet-footed savages bent upon his murder gave him a pale gleam of hope, and although he was reputed one of the speediest and most enduring runners of the West, he told the chief that he was both weary and slow. They led him three or four hundred yards out upon the prairie and bade him run for his life. Barefoot, nude, with half a thousand screaming demons at his back, but with the indomitable courage of a man who loves life, he ran as no white man ever ran before. His feet and legs were pierced with hundreds of the thorns of the prickly pear, blood spurted from his nose and mouth, and his breath came only in stentorian gasps before he ventured to look back.

He had gained on all of his pursuers except one, an agile young warrior, who, with brandished spear, was swiftly closing down upon him. With sudden desperation Colter stood stock still. The Indian, in trying to do likewise, stumbled and fell. The badly-launched spear stuck in the ground and was broken off. The hunted white man seized the barbed half, impaled his fallen foe to the earth, and set off with renewed vigor for the Jefferson Fork of the Missouri, which he now saw gleaming through the trees. He had run more than 6 miles. He was covered with blood, his feet were torturing him, but he gained the fringe of willows by the river, and saw his enemies yelling and screaming about their dead brother. A raft of driftwood, snags, and branches accumulated at the head of a sandbar downstream from where he stood caught Colter's eye. He dived into the river, and, swimming under water, came up within the shelter of the drift. Search as they would, the Indians could not find him, and concluded he was drowned. He kept his hiding place till night had fallen, and then, chilled by the icy water, footsore, hungry, weakened from loss of blood, and stark naked, he struck bravely into the forest for a seven days' struggle back to Lisa's camp. He reached it after a week of the most exquisite agony, toil, and exposure. Such was the man and such the trials which give to John Colter an enviable and enduring place amongst the really great explorers of this country. John Bradbury, in his "Travels in North America," is authority for most of the details here mentioned, and so ably and accurately written was the book of the English naturalist that Washington Irving in his "Astoria" uses the Bradbury text with but few alterations.

Coming back to St. Louis in 1810, John Colter's tales of almost incredible ventures, discoveries, and hardships were scouted by most of his hearers, but he won the respectful attention of Gen. William Clark, who knew him, and of Henry M. Breckenridge, the author, and John Bradbury, whose writings have been subsequently authenticated by the explorations and researches of scores of dependable

authorities. Coulter's journey through what is now the Yellowstone wonderland took him in a generally northeast direction from the southeasterly corner of the park, and, although he saw the hot springs about the Yellowstone Lake and River, and must have passed close to both the upper and lower falls, he makes no mention of the latter, nor did he catch a glimpse of the great geysers of the upper and lower basin, nor the mammoth hot springs, nor any of the other marvels except the tar springs.

In 1880 Col. P. W. Norris, then superintendent of the park, discovered what is believed to be, after Colter's, the oldest record of the presence of the white man in that region. In a ravine about half a mile above the upper falls Colonel Norris found an ancient tree upon the bark of which, partly over grown but yet decipherable, was the inscription "J. O. R. Aug. 19, 1819." Careful investigation of the names and exploits of all the early trappers, hunters, and scouts has failed to even remotely indicate the identity of J. O. R. Although the date of the inscription was verified by counting the annual rings upon an adjacent tree, and though now nearly obliterated, it remains a proof that white men visited the park after Colter and full fifty years before its final discovery. In 1878, in caches by Beaver Lake and the Obsidian Cliff, Colonel Norris found marten traps of a pattern used by the Hudson Bay Company a half century previous; and at the foot of Mount Washburn, near the rim of the Grand Canyon, Frederick Bottler found the ruins of a block house of incalculable antiquity. The Washburn-Langford expedition of 1870 found near Mud Geyser, on the east bank of the Yellowstone River, an old dismantled pit or trench which might have been used as a place of concealment for hunters of waterfowl.

In 1871 Mrs. Frances Fuller Victor published a book, "The River of The West," which is a sort of biography of a pioneer trapper named Joseph Meek. In 1829, when the Rocky Mountain Fur Company withdrew from the field then dominated by the Hudson Bay Company, Meek, who had been in the employ of the former under Capt. William Sublette, was lost from his comrades and wandered for several days until he was found starving and half crazed by two of his party. There is no doubt that he was at one time in the hot springs district of the park, for he describes in his diary a "whole country smoking with vapor from boiling springs, and burning with gases issuing from small craters each of which was emitting a sharp, whistling sound. * * * Interspersed among these on the level plain were larger craters, some of them from 4 to 6 miles across. Out of these craters issued blue flames and molten brimstone."

Allowing for possible exaggeration, Meek's assertion that fire and brimstone issued from these craters is not wholly unsubstantiated. Writing in 1811, Henry M. Breckenridge says: "Mr. Lisa informs me that about 60 miles from his fort (at the mouth of the Bighorn) there is a volcano that actually emits flames." Major Chittenden and others of like sincerity and diligence have concluded from this and other early writings and traditions that there was volcanic activity in the Rocky Mountains as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century. To Warren Angus Ferris, a clerk for the American Fur Company from 1830 to 1840, Chittenden gives the honor of having written the first actual description of the Firehole Geyser Basin. Returning from his station in the Flathead country in the spring of 1834, Ferris,

yet incredulous of the marvelous tales he had heard of the boiling fountains of the Yellowstone region, took two Pend d'Oreille Indians with him and followed up the Firehole River. On May 20, 1834, he woke in full view of the outlandish phenomena of the Upper Geyser Basin, convinced at last and exclaiming, "The half has not been told me." Ferris's journal of this adventure was published in 1842 and proves conclusively that the great geysers had been seen and appreciated long before 1870, when the Washburn-Langford expedition made the first and ultimately adequate exploration of the park, an achievement which culminated in the erection and preservation of the most magnificent, the largest, and the most eventful national pleasure park the world has yet known. Father De Smet, the famous Jesuit missionary, writing in 1852, was the first to give an accurate geographical definition of the geyser district, locating it then with precision both as to latitude and longitude. Gunnison, in his "History of the Mormons," published in 1852, like Father De Smet, drew much of his information about the Yellowstone country from Capt. James Bridger, the famous frontiersman whose strange yarns of the marvels he had there beheld remained discredited or tabooed by such writers as Hayden, Warren, Reynolds, and others as late as 1860. The first governmental expedition sent expressly to explore and chart what is now the Yellowstone National Park set out in the early spring of 1859 under command of Capt. W. F. Reynolds, of the corps of topographical engineers of the United States Army. He did not reach the actual locality of the park until the summer of 1860, nor did he ever penetrate the valley of the upper Yellowstone, so that except for a map in which, as he himself admits, the most interesting portion of the region remains a "terra incognita," Captain Reynolds's expedition yielded little of accurate information about the central glories of the Yellowstone Park. Immediately upon his return the national election brought the country face to face with armed rebellion; disruption threatened the Union, peaceful pursuits were abandoned, the military establishment was mustering for war, and the western wonderland was left to slumber in the memories of the few who had seen it or heard about it.

From 1863 to 1869 the northwestern hegira was made up of gold seekers, hardy adventurers, and prospectors, drawn thither by the discovery of the great placer mines of Montana. Sometimes in pairs, but oftener in groups, they wandered into the confines of what is now the national park; but with their hearts set only upon mining and their minds feverish with the thirst for gold, they gave but a cursory glance at the stupendous wonders which then first came within their ken. In August and September of 1863 we find Walter W. De Lacy leading a band of prospectors into some theretofore unknown sections of the region. They traversed the hot springs locality east of Yellowstone Lake, camped at the junction of the Snake and Lewis rivers, explored the Pitchstone Plateau, descended Moose Creek Valley, discovered the true drainage of Shoshone Lake, passed through the Lower Geyser Basin, casually witnessed the play of the Great Fountain Geyser, and went out via the junction of the Gibbon and Firehole rivers. Finding but scant indications of gold, these, like other prospectors who passed through the park between 1863 and 1869, gave slight heed to the scenic splendors through which they passed; and yet their unavoidable reference to the geysers, springs,

canyons, and rivers served in a cumulative way to whet the interest and focus the attention of men in whom science, sentiment, and the passion for adventure were already making for the ultimate exploitation of the world's wonderland. De Lacy in 1863, James Stuart in 1864, George Huston in 1866, and two prospecting parties in 1867 contributed much to the waxing fame of the paradise that had until then been regarded as remote, if not as imaginary as the mountains of the moon and the valleys of the shadows.

As early as in 1867 prominent and practical men of Montana had been earnestly considering an extensive, thorough, and scientific exploration of the region from which so many strange tales had come. Party after party was organized for the venture, but the uprising of the hostile Blackfeet and the sporadic forays of other savage tribes discouraged and dismayed them all until 1869. In that year David E. Folsom, a qualified surveyor of Montana, and C. W. Cook, both men of excellent education and alert intelligence, determined to wait no longer upon the doubts and fears of their neighbors of Montana, and on September 9, with provisions for six weeks, and only one man, William Peterson, accompanying them, they set forth from Diamond City, 40 miles from Helena, Mont., for an expedition that first won and commanded popular interest in the new Eldorado of mystical beauty. Reaching the Yellowstone River near the confines of the park they followed its eastern shore line and reached the falls on September 21. They crossed the river above the now famous cataracts, examined Sulphur Mountain and the adjacent hot springs, followed the western margin of the river past Mud Geyser and the Emerald Grotto, recrossed the river at the outlet of the lake and skirted the eastern and southern shores of the extreme western arm. Thence they headed for Shoshone Lake, viewing in turn the beauties of the Firehole River and the awesome spectacle of the Fountain and Excelsior geysers in full eruption. For the first time also they saw and recited the weird and wraithlike manifestations of Prismatic Lake and the scarcely less wonderful cones, craters, pools, and springs which are scattered about that formation in bewildering variety and profusion. Awed by the majestic sights which they had witnessed and dazed by the portentous demonstrations of the subterranean inferno over which they had passed in trembling safety, they went out of the country through the valley of the Madison River, bringing to the outside world the first sequential and convincing account of the facts which up to that time had been considered as preposterous and visionary.

Returning to Helena, where their reputation for veracity was as high as their known courage amongst the leading men of the Territory, both Folsom and Cook refused to risk their reputations by telling their experiences to a promiscuous crowd. Gen. Henry D. Washburn, the surveyor-general of Montana; Gov. Samuel T. Hauser; Truman C. Everts, ex-United States assessor for Montana; Nathaniel P. Langford, who afterwards became first superintendent of the national park, all gave wondering heed and credence to the statements of the home-comers. New plans for a larger and more exhaustive exploration of the wonderful region were now made. General Sheridan, who visited Helena at that time, became vastly interested and gave assurances of military aid to the proposed expedition.

Mr. Folsom, who was rarely gifted as a writer as well as an observant explorer, then wrote a concise, logical, and sequential account of the

marvels which he and Mr. Cook had witnessed in the Yellowstone country, and sent it to Harper's Magazine. The editor of that publication, astounded by the audacious "imaginings" of the author and wholly incredulous as to the statements made in it, declined the article and returned it to its chagrined author. It finally gained publication in the Western Monthly, of Chicago, but not until the copy reader had eliminated many of the most interesting passages because they were considered "ultramontane" in both a literal and a figurative sense. With the exception of the publishers' proof, which passed into the hands of Mr. Langford, the whole issue of the magazine containing Mr. Folsom's story of the park was destroyed by fire. In later years Mr. Langford, at his own expense, printed and distributed 500 copies of the narrative and donated the original to the Montana Historical Society, which yet retains it among the treasured archives of the State.

The plans of the Washburn-Langford party took tangible form in the spring of 1870, when Mr. Langford visited Major-General Hancock at St. Paul, outlined the proposed expedition, and secured from him a promise of a military escort. Samuel T. Hauser also visited General Hancock about that time, so that on August 17, 1870, when the party, equipped for a journey of four weeks set out from Bozeman, Mont., it was known that orders had already been forwarded to Fort Ellis providing a military escort of one lieutenant, one sergeant, and four enlisted men. Fourteen civilians, with a train of pack and saddle horses, adequately armed and equipped with the essential scientific instruments and commanded by General Washburn, was reinforced at Fort Ellis by Lieut. Gustavus C. Doane, a sergeant and four troopers of the Second United States Cavalry, and constituted the none too formidable cavalcade which then rode into a wild region infested with hostile Indians for the first and most consequential exploration of the Yellowstone wonderland. The party, though shadowed by roving bands of prowling savages, arrived without mishap at the mouth of the Gardiner River on August 26, entering the present domain of the park not far from the northern gateway, the present site of the stately and magnificent lava arch. Holding to the trail, which led along the left bank of the Yellowstone, the party missed the Mammoth Hot Springs altogether, encountering, first, the fascinatingly beautiful wonders of the cascades and spires of Tower Falls, and coming upon the initial apparition of the Grand Canyon itself on the eastern flank of what was a mountain, soon named Mount Washburn. The eager spirit of their leader prompted General Washburn then to adventure from the camp alone in search of signs that he was leading his party aright. He scaled the rugged sides of the precipitous mountain, and, from its bald and rusted summit far above timber and snow, his eye for the first time swept over that panorama which in its magnificent extent, variety, and Titanic majesty has not been equalled in the known world. Perched upon the pinnacle rock, a central atom within an incredible amphitheater, he looked in all directions across the overmastering silence to where the ragged peaks of the Grand Tetons, the Absarokas, and countless unnamed mountains rose up against the cloudless blue like the encincturing and crenelated battlements of an unknown kingdom. He saw, too, far to the southeast, the far-spread, shining waters of Yellowstone Lake, the focal point of the expedition and, nearer yet, but only as a dark

gash across the green tunic of the valley below, the winding outline of the Grand Canyon. Across through the pale haze that hung above the valleys more remote he could descry the flaunting jets of steam uprising from the geysers, and all about, on grassy upland, by the lush brink of brook or pool, and upon the rock-strewn inaccessible promontories, he could see elk, deer, and mountain-sheep like tiny specks of brown and white upon the green.

The account of that day's adventure heartened his tired company to new and zealous effort. They pushed on next day, following the brink of the deepening canyon of the river to camp within sound of the mighty falls of the Yellowstone. Only the hundreds of thousands of tourists who have witnessed the astounding combination of majesty and beauty accomplished here by nature can realize the rapt astonishment with which these men of the Washburn-Langford expedition first gazed upon the falls and canyon of the Yellowstone. Some of them, men who, for all their early nature had been hardened by years of adventure, warfare, hardship, and disappointment, sat for hours upon the dizzy rim of the canyon gazing into its unearthly abysses, bound by the spell of its indescribable beauty, and choking the sobs forced from their startled hearts by the unspeakable and portentous wonders which their eyes saw but their minds could not encompass.

Nor can the extraordinary emotions of these adventuring men be ascribed in any degree to their lack of previous descriptions; Folsom's word picture of the wonders he had witnessed in 1869 remains even now one of the most graphic, convincing, and detailed accounts of his experience, and the men of the Washburn expedition had read it or heard it from his own eloquent lips. Since then the world has been widely and well advised of what the traveler may expect when he shall gaze upon the strange sights of the Yellowstone National Park; the fancies of descriptive writers have been wrought into fine frenzies in attempts to realize its phenomena for readers of all tongues and tribes; year after year the painters come to limn its baffling outlines and to catch and fasten down forever the radiant glories of its coloring; travelers from every corner of the world have come to contrast it with the wonder places of their wanderings. And all of them have come to know and admit that the language which can tell its story is unwritten and unspoken of man; that there is no palette wide enough to carry the colors, shades and tones which nature brought to its creation; that comparison becomes futile and is forgotten in the presence of marvels without their counterparts on the globe.

The party had now followed the rim of the canyon for almost 30 miles. Commencing its swift descent just above the upper falls, the descending chasm gains 200 feet in depth where the first waterfall plunges to the new level of the river; thence for a half a mile, foaming over gigantic boulders and lashing the precipitous walls of the deepening gorge, it adds over 600 feet to its swift descent, seeming to pause for a breathless instant upon the out-thrust lip of a level floor of rock, the river plunges its mighty current sheer into the silent depths 320 feet below. Out of the rainbow-streaked mist of the lower falls the Yellowstone River begins its tortuous journey between the walls of that incredible canyon which towers more than half a vertical mile above the river, unfolding in sequence sudden, gradual, and indescribable, a panorama that stands alone in its mingled marvels of color and magnitude, of beauty and wildness, of tenderness and power.

From the falls of the Yellowstone the Washburn expedition pushed on past Sulphur Mountain with its surrounding wonders of boiling pools and springs, the stifling fumes, the crusts of lava, and the volcanic deposits all giving token of the furious upheavals of some ancient time when the splendors of the grand canyon and the sinister monstrosities of the geyser regions of the park sprang simultaneously from the tortured womb of the world. Here for the first time the explorers realized the almost unthinkable disparity of contrast in the phenomena which the Yellowstone wonderland presents, and with the inspiration awakened by the incomparable beauty of the falls and canyon yet upon them, they came presently into the presence of the mud volcano, from whose hideous crater 30 feet in depth and almost as wide, uprose an unclean fountain of boiling, living, paste-like mud. The earth about it trembled and from its vile caverns uttered muffled groans like the stifled cadences of some infernal engine.

Within the wide circle of its sickening influence the side of the mountain was all defiled, the trees coated with livid mud, and the air noxious with the pungent fumes of sulphur. And yet the fascinated and horrified visitor will find but a few rods away from this monstrous manifestation, an orifice in the same acclivity which is groined and arched like the entrance to some miniature temple, its outer surface stained with a beautiful green, its rocky walls changing to olive, brown and yellow as they recede and converge within. And always from out of this little cavern comes a pulsating gush of water, hot, but limpid as any mountain brook, projected out of the darkness within as by the stroke of an unseen steamer and accentuated by the measured, rhythmic escapement from its hidden vent. Nearby there is a spring of tartaric acid, a half mile away one of alum, about which the crystals are piled in lavish beauty.

Having crossed the river below the outlet, the Washburn party camped September 3 on the shore of Yellowstone Lake, 7,788 feet above sea level, the largest body of water in North America at so great an altitude. Across the smooth surface of its shining waters, 150 square miles in area, they could see the towering Teton range standing upon the boundary line between Idaho and Wyoming, and lifting their snow-covered peaks 14,000 feet above the level of tide water. Around the forest girdled margin of this great mountain lake they pushed their way on the opposite shore from where the Lake Hotel is now. On September 9 Mr. Everts was lost from his comrades and commenced those thirty-seven days of peril which is part of the history of the park, and which so nearly brought an awful death to one of its earliest and most ardent champions. After days of hopeless toil and incessant search, the party gave him up and, running short of provisions, struck out across the mountains toward the valley of the Madison.

The following succinct account of Everts's experience is from the pen of Lieutenant Doane, and is in the main correct; for Everts's own account see Scribner's Monthly, Volume III, page 1:

On the first day of his absence he had left his horse standing unfastened, with all his arms and equipments strapped upon his saddle; the animal became frightened, ran away into the woods, and he was left without even a pocketknife as a means of defense. Being very nearsighted, and totally unused to traveling in a wild country without guides, he became completely bewildered. He wandered down to the Snake River Lake (Heart Lake), where he remained twelve days, sleeping near the hot

springs to keep from freezing at night, and climbing to the summits each day in the endeavor to trace out his proper course. Here he subsisted on thistle roots boiled in the springs, and was kept up a tree the greater part of one night by a California lion. After gathering and cooking a supply of thistle roots, he managed to strike the southwest point of the (Yellowstone) Lake, and followed around the north side to the (Yellowstone) River, finally reaching our (old) camp opposite the Grand Canyon. He was twelve days out before he thought to kindle a fire by using the lenses of his field glass, but afterwards carried a burning brand with him in all his wanderings. Herds of game passed by him during the night, on many occasions when he was on the verge of starvation. In addition to a tolerable supply of thistle roots, he had nothing for over thirty days but a handful of minnows and a couple of snowbirds. Twice he went five days without food, and three days without water, in that country which is a network of streams and springs. He was found on the verge of the great plateau, above the mouth of Gardiners River. A heavy snowstorm had extinguished his fire; his supply of thistle roots was exhausted; he was partially deranged, and perishing with cold. A large lion was killed near him, on the trail, which he said had followed him at a short distance for several days previously. It was a miraculous escape, considering the utter helplessness of the man, lost in a forest wilderness, and with the storms of winter at hand.

On the thirty-seventh day of his wanderings (September 9 to October 16) he was discovered by Jack Baronett and George A. Pritchett near the great trail on a high mountain a few miles west of Yancey's. Baronett threw up a mound of stones to mark the spot. He carried Everts in his arms the rest of that day, and passed the night on a small tributary of Blacktail Deer Creek. The next day he was taken on a saddle to near the mouth of the Gardiner.

Passing into the now famous Firehole Valley, the explorers emerged suddenly upon that strange plateau of which Charles T. Whitmell, addressing the Cardiff (Wales) Naturalists' Society, said:

Nowhere else, I believe, can be seen on so grand a scale such clear evidence of dying volcanic action. We seem to witness the death throes of some great American Enceladus. Could Dante have seen this region he might have added another terror to his Inferno.

Here, within that narrow radius of a mile which is now known as the "Upper Geyser Basin," 26 geysers and more than 400 hot springs were discovered within a few hours' search. It was a bright September day when the Washburn party first emerged upon this treeless tract and saw, scarcely 200 yards away, that great jet of steam and water tossing its roaring head 150 feet into the air which has since become known throughout the civilized world as "Old Faithful Geyser." The sunlight transfigured its clear water to crystal showers and the breeze flaunting its spray and vapor to diaphanous banners colored with all the rainbow tints and floating away against the far background of green, combined with the quivering of the encrusted earth and the rumbling tumult of subterranean forces to produce upon the speechless adventurers a sense of glorified and yet timorous astonishment. For centuries incalculable, every hour, with hardly the variation of five minutes, in snow and rain, by day and night, in winter and in summer, with none but the wild men of the primeval days or the wilder beasts of the wilderness, or with the modern multitudes of tourists to witness its eruptions, as though regulated by some superhuman horologe and energized by infinite power, Old Faithful has gone on with its strange work.

Scattered about upon the surface of this miraculous formation are geysers of every size and craters of a myriad form; fountains of varying degrees of heat, tossing upward at unmeasurable intervals and varying in height from 20 to 250 feet. Some of these pools and

craters from which the geysers rise have periods of strange and ominous quiescence, some are turbulent and vocal with the angry fires below, the craters of some are cup-shaped, some oval, some fantastically irregular; some are fringed, fretted, and beaded about with petrified incrustations of the most exquisite and fragile beauty; the bottoms of the pools and subsided geysers disclose in turn the most delicate tints of the rose and of the sky, varying through the scale of the spectrum in red, blue, green, brown, gray, ocher, and gold.

Silent now, all scepticism vanished, yet scarcely grasping the scope and significance of the bewildering wonders which they had witnessed, they sat about their campfires pondering the seemingly omnipotent versatility of nature in producing such inconceivable manifestations of awful power as the Giant Geyser, with its towering fountain hurtled 250 feet into the air, and yet placing but a few rods away the Morning Glory spring with its cone-like calix of opalescent crystal, its unruffled surface, and its waters limpid and blue as the eye of a girl. They passed through the middle and lower geyser basins and saw the ever-varying wonders there unfolded: Turquoise Spring, Prismatic Lake, the Paint Pots, the contrasted beauties of the sylvan valley of the Firehole and the murmuring cataracts of the Gibbon River. On September 19, after leaving the geyser region, camped near the junction of the Gibbon and the Firehole rivers, the talk of the explorers turned upon the material opportunities offered by the incomparable and outlandish wonders of the country they had visited. There were thoughts and suggestions of acquiring sections about the chiefest places so that they might be held in profitable control as show spots for travelers, and it was in the silence which followed these selfish suggestions that Cornelius Hedges gave utterance to the lofty thought that under no circumstances should private ownership of the region be countenanced, much less encouraged. It should, he said, be set apart by the National Government as a place of perpetual instruction and pleasure for all the people; it should be made at once a park and a wonderland for the unrestricted delectation of the people and never a field for private speculation or mercenary greed. This lofty view of Mr. Hedges found instant response and approval with all the party; and when the explorers broke their final camp in the park and headed for home it was with the unanimous determination to further and accomplish the plan for the erection of the Yellowstone wonderland into a national park, preserving by one federal act the beauties, the marvels, the native wildness, the unharassed freedom of nature, living or inanimate, and all the pristine glories and portents lavished upon this region by the unaccountable hand of the Divinity.

Filled with this high idea, the men of the Washburn-Langford expedition, many of whom were endowed with gifted minds, lofty ideals, and much learning, soon gave to their countrymen the first adequate and comprehensive idea of the priceless possession which lay so long hidden in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. Lieutenant Doane's splendid report made in December, 1870, was the first official statement made to the United States Government comprising accurate descriptions, maps, and data of the phenomena of the Yellowstone country, and, supplemented as it was by the writings, lectures, and incessant activity of General Washburn, Langford, Hau-

ser, Hedges, and other enthusiastic and patriotic members of that expedition, the project took definite form, and in 1871 was scientifically advanced by the explorations and reports of Doctor Hayden, of the United States Geological Survey. In the autumn of 1871 William H. Clagett, who had just been elected Delegate from Montana to Congress, undertook the task of introducing and advocating a measure in accordance with the desires and plans of its originators. He was already independently interested in it and worked hard for its success at home and by correspondence. Mr. Langford went to Washington with him, and together they drew the park bill, the description of boundaries being supplied by Doctor Hayden. The bill was introduced in both Houses during that session, Senator Pomeroy, of Kansas, bringing it before the Senate and Delegate Clagett before the House. The camera had been brought to aid in the work, and perhaps no measure ever offered to the attention of Congress was better illustrated by photographs, maps, and argument than the park bill which created the national park out of that prodigious wonderland about the lake and headwaters of the Yellowstone.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the tract of land in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming lying near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River and described as follows, to wit, commencing at the junction of Gardiners River, with the Yellowstone River, and running east to the meridian passing 10 miles to the eastward of the most eastern point of Yellowstone Lake; thence south along said meridian to the parallel of latitude passing 10 miles south of the most southern point of Yellowstone Lake; thence west along said parallel to the meridian passing 15 miles west of most western point of Madison Lake; thence north along said meridian to the latitude of the junction of the Yellowstone and Gardiners rivers; thence east to the place of beginning, is hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States, and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people; and all persons who shall locate, or settle upon, or occupy any part of the land thus set apart as a public park, except as provided in the following section, shall be considered trespassers and removed therefrom.

SEC. 2. The said public park shall be under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, whose duty it shall be, as soon as practicable, to make and publish such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary and proper for the care and management of the same. Such regulations shall provide for the preservation from injury or spoliation of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said park and their retention in their natural condition.

The Secretary may, in his discretion, grant leases for building purposes, for terms not exceeding ten years, or small parcels of ground, at such places in said park as shall require the erection of buildings for the accommodation of visitors; all the proceeds of said leases, and all other revenues that may be derived from any source connected with said park, to be expended under his direction, in the management of the same, and the construction of roads and bridle paths therein. He shall provide against the wanton destruction of the fish and game found within said park, and against their capture or destruction for the purpose of merchandise or profit. He shall also cause all persons trespassing upon the same after the passage of this act to be removed therefrom, and generally shall be authorized to take all such measures as shall be necessary or proper to fully carry out the objects and purposes of this act.

Approved March 1, 1872.

For more than twenty years after the act of dedication became a law the Yellowstone National Park became a mecca for explorers, and not a year has passed without witnessing the presence of scientific parties, large and small, seeking newer and more minute data of the strange things to be found there. In 1872 Gen. John Gibbon, U. S. Army, with a considerable body of men made a tour of inspec-

tion. He tried to ascend the North Fork of the Madison, but abandoned the effort after a few days. His name was given to that stream. The following year Capt. William A. Jones, of the Corps of Engineers, made a more extended and effective reconnoissance. He succeeded in crossing the thitherto impassable Absaroka Range, verified the tradition of Two Ocean Lake, and discovered Two-Gwo-Tee Pass over the Continental Divide. Prof. Theodore B. Comstock, the geologist who accompanied this expedition, added much to the value of the report, which appeared in 1875. In 1875 Capt. William Ludlow, of the Corps of Engineers, accompanied by Mr. George Bird Grinnell, a civilian who was then and afterwards one of the ablest champions of the park, made an investigation and report of the country which yielded one of the best brief descriptions of the park extant. In that year Secretary of War Belknap, guided by Lieut. G. C. Doane and a large party, made an enlarged tour of the national pleasure grounds, and the story of the trip was ably written by Gen. W. E. Strong, who participated. In 1877 Gen. W. T. Sherman and his staff visited the principal scenes, and the report of Gen. O. M. Poe added materially to the interest in and public appreciation of the place. That same year, at war with the Nez Percé, Gen. O. O. Howard traversed the reservation in pursuit of the hostile Indians. Secretary of the Interior Carl Schurz, accompanied by General Crook, made an extensive exploration, visiting many unknown portions.

Capt. W. S. Stanton, of the Corps of Engineers, surveyed the park in 1881, and Governor John W. Hoyt, of Wyoming, with a large military escort commanded by Maj. J. W. Mason, U. S. Army, established a practical wagon road entering from the southwest. General Sheridan, in 1881 and 1882, made visits to the reservation and was the first to give to the public an idea of the then demoralized state of its civil administration. P. W. Norris and many less known explorers made frequent, desultory, and unimportant tours of the now famous park, each adding something to the literature and celebrity of the place, so that the region which is between the forty-fourth and forty-fifth parallels of latitude and the one hundred and tenth and one hundred and eleventh meridians of longitude became the most thoroughly and scientifically explored section of the United States. The great travelers and famous men of many countries of Europe as well as of the United States began to visit it, so that in 1883 a splendid expedition, including the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, a lieutenant-general of the United States Army, a United States Senator, and an imposing cavalcade of soldiers and civilians made an extensive tour; the same year there came a justice and associate justice of the Supreme Court, the general and many other distinguished officers of the army, six United States Senators, one territorial governor, the ministers from Great Britain and Germany, the president of admiralty division of the high court of justice of England, three members of Parliament, and scores of men of eminence from Europe and America.

These facts are recounted to show how suddenly and how effectively came the public attention which followed the dedication of the national park. The act itself contributed to the quick fame of the park, for it was at that time an unheard-of step among national governments, setting, as it did, a precedent which has since been, and will hereafter be, followed by other states and nations. Already this country has added the Yosemite, Sequoia, Chickamauga, and many

national battlefields and cemeteries to the growing list of governmental reservations. New York and Canada have each preserved a park about Niagara Falls. Minnesota has segregated the headwaters of the Mississippi in Itasca Park. New Zealand has made a national park of its geyser and hot springs regions. There is a plan afoot to create a great game preserve in Africa, and at this writing there is pending, and unopposed, a bill in the Congress of the United States for the creation of a vast and beautiful scenic park in northern Montana, to be called Glacier Park. And yet it is a fact that no region of like size in the known world can compare with the Yellowstone National Park in point of natural beauty, or magnificence of scenery, or the marvels of its natural and yet outlandish phenomena.

The act of dedication was so framed as to prevent the destruction of the curiosities, forests, and game of the park; it was calculated to prevent private occupancy and to grant only such privileges as were necessary to the comfort and pleasure of the public. But it provided no specific laws for the government of the region, it neither specified offenses nor provided punishment or legal equipment for the enforcement of such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior might see fit to establish. For more than twenty years after the enactment of the dedication the park was frequently the scenes of wanton vandalism, the wild creatures were hunted by hundreds of poachers and trapped indiscriminately by fur-hunting bands from the adjacent territories. The confines of the park consisted then, as now, only of imaginary lines. Its waters teemed with fish; its caves and canyons were the homes of myriads of bear. Buffalo, elk, deer, and antelope thronged its remote meadows and fattened upon the rich pastures of its forests and valleys. Moose, big-horn or mountain sheep, panthers, and other species of fur and meat bearing animals, though not as numerous, were to be found in plenty. Mink, beaver, otter, ermine, marten, sable, fox (red, gray, and black) abounded and were made the easy and profitable prey of hunters and trappers. The awe and terror with which the Indians regarded the place, its natural remoteness from the haunts of the first white plainsmen and argonauts, the impenetrable wildness of its hills and valleys, its forests and tablelands, its wealth of water, of foliage, of nutritious grasses and natural shelters, made of it from the beginning a natural sanctuary and home for the millions of wild animals which frequented it. When these facts became bruited among the market hunters and fur seekers, they swarmed into the park at all seasons. What havoc they have wrought will never be fully known.

Thus for twenty-two years the original hope and purpose of the promoters of the national park were defeated and the only everlasting and signal victory they had gained was in the disbarment of private encroachment by land speculators and selfish squatters. It should be understood also that the first and most unselfish advocates of the park dedication act had conceived extravagant ideas as to the income that it would derive from the leases and privileges that were to be let to hotels, coach lines, and other conveniences and comforts for the travelers and tourists. They thought that this revenue would fully cover the expense of policing the park, opening the driveways, and guarding the natural treasures of the place. They overlooked the fact that the average tourist would not or could not tour the park as its discoverers and explorers had done; that there

must be highways, good hotels, safety, and even luxuries provided before the anticipated stream of travel would set toward the park. They forgot that the nearest railroad station was 500 miles away and that to the outside world of pleasure seekers and sight-seers the Yellowstone National Park yet remained a primeval and almost impenetrable wilderness.

There can be no doubt that the long delay between its first discovery as a place of unthinkable beauty and wonder and the final exploitation and fame of the park was a fortuitous circumstance. For if it had been disclosed to the world earlier than the civil war or at any time during the progress of that conflict, the Federal Government would not have set it aside from settlement, and greedy speculators would certainly have intrenched themselves within its boundaries. So, too, the mistaken hopes of its enthusiastic promoters in anticipating adequate resources from the leases operated had a fortunate consequence; for it is probable that the Congress would not have passed the act of dedication if it had not believed that the park would be self-sustaining, or that it would become a financial "burden" to the public. Even when the devastation and wanton license of its desecrators became known, Congress for several years failed to make any appropriation either for the improvement or protection of the national park.

The first act of the Secretary of the Interior after the enactment of the dedication act was to appoint a park superintendent. Nathaniel P. Langford, from the day of his return home from the famous Washburn-Langford expedition the chiefest advocate of the measure, was appointed first superintendent of the park. The work was to be a labor of love with him. Eager, courageous, brilliant of mind, and prompt of action, passionately proud and fond of the wonderland which he had been so largely instrumental in winning for his countrymen, Mr. Langford was the making of an ideal manager and guardian of the park. But from the beginning he was left without aid, encouragement, or financial support. He never asked nor expected a salary. The region over which he held single sway is larger than the States of Delaware and Rhode Island with part of Massachusetts added. Alone, without men or money, it is not strange that his task became not only impossible of accomplishment, but that its unreasonable requirements became a source of endless vexation and grief to Mr. Langford. Meanwhile the press and the public abused him roundly for conditions of which he could know but little and which he was powerless to circumvent.

Mr. Langford was succeeded by Philetus W. Norris, of Michigan, himself an enthusiast and an explorer who had already accomplished much in the exploitation of the park. He was fortunate to have been in charge when Congress appropriated its first item in support of the national park and with his administration began the first effective improvement in its affairs. Norris was an indefatigable explorer, an enthusiastic lover of the wondrous region in his charge, an untiring worker, and a man of absolute integrity and patriotism. His ceaseless wanderings into every nook and corner of the park disclosed a thousand marvels and beauties that had escaped preceding explorers, and his indomitable hardihood and everlasting vigilance put the first check upon the outlawry of the place.

After five years of effective service, Norris was succeeded by Patrick A. Conger, of Iowa, a man without interest in the work, with no conception of the great responsibility placed upon him. The weakness of his administration brought the park to the lowest depths of misfortune, but the very extent of its retrogression excited public indignation and made for permanent reform in the management of the famous pleasure ground. It was also during the Conger régime of neglect and mismanagement that even a greater menace arose. Thus far no special leases had been granted. Permits of occupancy had been granted to a few, and small and scattered houses of public comfort had been erected. The dedication act specified that "only small parcels" of land be let to private parties. But now a company bearing the name "Yellowstone Park Improvement Company" was formed for the ostensible purpose of improving and safeguarding the park in a manner which had not been accomplished by the Government. The Assistant Secretary of the Interior gave countenance to this scheme and a lease of 4,400 acres, including the principal points of interest in the park, was actually granted to the schemers. The uproar which followed this announcement came from every section of the United States. General Sheridan, who had visited the park in 1881, 1882, and 1883, made the country aware of the deplorable conditions existing and called upon the sentiment of the people of every State to insist upon some definite action. The governor of Montana appealed to Congress and the powerful voice of the press was raised against the meditated stultification of the dedication act as a swindle and an outrage. The effect was prompt and salutary. In 1883 the sundry civil bill containing the annual appropriation for the park prohibited the leasing of more than 10 acres to any single party, authorized the use of troops in the reservation, and provided 10 assistant superintendents to police the park. That made an end to the "improvement" company and gave to the Government and to the whole world a new and lasting idea of how highly the American people prized their unique and precious park.

Up to this time hunting and fishing had been allowed without stint for the "needs" of camping parties. The privilege had been shamefully abused, and the wild creatures had been for years slaughtered and captured without let or hindrance. Now the catching of fish except with hook and line, was absolutely prohibited and the killing of birds or animals even for food was rigorously forbidden. But these stringent regulations were either ignored or despised by the irrepressible poachers. The funds appropriated by Congress were still inadequate, and at last it was suggested that the Territory of Wyoming, in which the largest part of the park is contained, should take over the responsibility and expense of protecting the timber, game, fish, and natural curiosities of the national reservation. The folly of this plan was quickly followed by its failure, but in 1884 the Wyoming legislature passed an act which ran its desultory course, increased the prevalent evils, created new difficulties and was repealed after two years of utter failure. The withdrawal of Wyoming authority proclaimed the unguarded state of the region. The assistant superintendents were worse than useless. They were all inexperienced at the work required and considered their appointments as sinecures, the rewards of some political activities. They peddled

privileges, and as Chittenden wrote, "made merchandise of the treasures they were appointed to preserve." He says that "Under their surveillance, vandalism was practically unchecked, and the slaughter of game was carried on for private profit almost in sight of the superintendent's office."

Conger resigned and was succeeded by Robert E. Carpenter, of Iowa. This superintendent from the first looked upon his office as an opportunity for profit to himself and friends. He gave no thought to the protection or improvement of the park, spent most of his time in Washington and there, in concert with a member of the notorious improvement company, almost succeeded in getting Congress to pass a measure granting vast tracts within the park to private parties for commercial purposes. Carpenter and his confederates were so certain of success that they had themselves posted their names on claim notices and located for themselves the most desirable tracts. The scandal which followed the exposé of this plot caused the dismissal of Superintendent Carpenter.

Col. David W. Wear, of Missouri, then assumed control. He was a man of rare ability and immediately set out to remedy the wrong wrought by some of his predecessors. Energy and intelligence marked his first acts of administration, but his sincerity and zeal could not offset the bad impressions left by the maladministration of others. Congress declined to appropriate further funds for the maintenance of the civil management of the park, and the Secretary of the Interior was compelled to call upon the War Department for military assistance. In August, 1886, Capt. Moses Harris, of the First United States Cavalry, took charge of affairs in the national park. He had the ability and the disposition as well as the men and the means to estop many abuses at once. Trespassers soon learned that he meant what he said and that he was ready and able to enforce it.

The dilapidated physical equipment of the park, the demoralization of its management, and the consequent contempt with which poachers, campers, and travelers alike regarded its lax restrictions combined at this time to force an immediate though tardy action from Congress. That body was at last aware of the deplorable state of affairs in the park, not realizing that its own failure to appropriate adequate funds was really as much the cause of the bad conditions as the incapacity, greed, indifference, or occasional obliquity of some of the early superintendents. There can be no doubt that Langford would have made an ideal official if he had had the material and moral support of the Government. Norris did excellent work under similar difficulties, and Wear demonstrated his desire and ability to reform abuses and administer his office well. It was the refusal of Congress to appropriate sufficient money for the work that forced the induction of the military and the appointment of an officer of the army as "acting superintendent." At the time and under the peculiar conditions it was the only alternative that could be thought of.

Captain Harris took immediate steps to curtail or estop all encroachments. He posted the rules and regulations, dealt summarily with offenders, and gave the visitors to understand that he meant what he said. Meanwhile the question of road construction had begun to be solved. Capt. D. C. Kingman, of the Corps of Engineers, had already laid the foundation of the present system, and the excellent results obtained prompted Congress in 1900 to place the work defi-

nately in the hands of the Engineer Department. The code of laws for the regulation of the park enacted in 1894 put a check on abuses of leases and privileges. Tourist traffic increased with the erection and maintenance of better transportation facilities, more and larger accommodations, greater safety, and convenience in and about all the important places of interest. The annual summer incursion of visitors grew from hundreds to thousands, and every witness of the marvels and the beauties of the place became thenceforth an enthusiastic herald of its strange glories. The theory of the founders of the park commenced to be better understood and appreciated. The world came to realize the fact that the Government was in earnest in its desire to maintain, so far as possible, the wild and natural character of the great reservation. The place and its possibilities came to be held sacred in the eyes of lawmakers and administrators of its laws and regulations. Such attempts as have been made to circumvent them, although continued even to this day, became more secret and less bold—adroit schemes cunningly planned for the aggrandizement of private interests. At various times movements have been quietly but cunningly begun for the inbuilding of trolley lines and even steam railroads, for the harnessing of water power and its conversion into the business of transportation, lighting, and even manufacturing.

In unflinching opposition to these selfish enterprises the Government continues to adhere to its original policy of maintaining forever so far as possible the virgin splendor of the people's great playground. In this it must now and always will have the support and approval of enlightened and patriotic people of every nation. To this end it is not now and will never be necessary to gridiron the park with carriage roads and highways, but only to improve and sustain safe and smooth thoroughfares to the principal points of attraction. The vast wildernesses which surround these can never be improved beyond the magic handiwork which nature has already lavished upon them. Indeed they constitute and so should be held the natural sanctuary, home, and refuge of the myriads of wild creatures that contribute almost as much as the inanimate prodigies to the primeval and noble attributes of this matchless park.

To-day the tourist in the Yellowstone National Park, viewing the fringes of these almost impenetrable fastnesses, will not fail to see almost by the roadside of the traveled route bands of antelope and deer, an occasional elk or bear or Rocky Mountain sheep. They gaze with placid interest at the passing coach and go on feeding with the calm security of confidence. But they are only the outposts, the skirmishers of vast armies of their kind that swarm in the silent fastnesses of the forests that must be trailed in the remote places to be seen in all the glory of their safeguarded freedom.

The creation of national forest reserves in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, around the outside boundaries of the park, has operated favorably for the peace and protection of its fauna, and the game laws of those States, improved as they are though still open to betterment, have gone far to enhance the wise provisions for the permanent safety and multiplication of the myriads of beasts, birds, and fishes which now make their home within the invisible boundaries of the great domain. With that inexplicable instinct with which nature has endowed them, the wild animals of the region seem to know exactly the imagined line which bounds the four parallel margins

of the reservation. Their hegira from the outside sets toward it with the advent of the hunting season and they seem to know that it is their home. The profusion and richness of its pastures, the accessibility of its natural shelters and the isolation of its trackless hills and forests must have always appealed to them, but since the enforcement of laws for their protection, since the elimination of the hunter and the trapper, these beautiful creatures appear to have realized a new assurance of contentment so that thousands of them never cross the boundaries of their paradise.

The prodigality of the natural resources of the park has been wisely reinforced by the planting and curing of considerable quantities of tame forage plants for winter feeding. Deer, antelope, and mountain sheep come down in herds to the feeding grounds during winter, there to feed and thrive upon the alfalfa hay which has been provided for them. Thus more than 1,000 antelope and half as many deer now winter annually in the valley of the Gardiner and about the slopes of Mount Everts quite in view of Fort Yellowstone and the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel. Occasionally some of them wander into the streets of Gardiner, which is adjacent to the confines of the park, but they are so tame and inoffensive that the sportsman is ashamed to shoot and even the dogs respect them.

The number of elk in the park has been variously estimated. These splendid animals have proved themselves the most prolific and hardy of their contemporaries, and the most conservative estimates give their numbers as more than 25,000. Easy victims to the gun and guile of the hunter, for years the native herds of buffalo were decimated and disturbed. Only since they have been segregated within inclosures, and fed during rigorous seasons, have these noblest of typically American creatures gained in physical and numerical conditions. A few of the original wild herd are yet at large in the Madison and Mirror plateaux and the Pelican and Hayden valleys, but the largest number is now confined to the 900 acres of splendid pasture lands fenced for them in the Lamar Valley. The moose, too, are increasing in numbers, frequenting the marshes and thickets of the upper Yellowstone, the Bechler, and the Gallatin Basin in the northwest corner of the park.

The bear, if not the most numerous, is the most familiar habitant of this wonderland. Grizzly, silvertip, black, and brown, he may be seen at almost any time, singly or in groups, prowling contentedly through the brush or about the garbage refuse of the hotels. Tourists have counted scores of them feeding at one time in familiar proximity at the park hostleries, and thousands of snapshots are circulating around the world an ocular proof of the tameness and amiability of bruin. At long intervals some old or invalid bear will betray signs of returning ferocity. Death is the penalty of these seldom returns to savagery. Although the official killing of mountain lions has been discontinued, there are a few yet in the park, but their ravages are inconsequential and they are never a menace to mankind.

Geese, ducks, cranes, pelicans, gulls, and more than 70 varieties of small birds come yearly to rear their young about the lakes and rivers of the reservation. Most of the song birds choose their habitats near the places of human habitation, and they were from the first so molested and diminished by the forays of dogs and house cats that both of these domestic animals have been banished from the park.

It has been by the preservation of the living as well as the inanimate wonders of the park that naturalists as well as geologists, scientists as well as sightseers, have come to know it as the world's largest, most varied, and most perfect wonderland. It is the only place in the world where civilization has seized upon only to safeguard the prodigious manifestations of nature's secrets. It is an illustration of the only incident in history in which the advent of man has not operated at variance with the native magnificence of primeval beauty. Its phenomena antedate history. Its monuments were old when the traditions of the troglodyte were new in the caves of prehistoric man.

Centuries count as but moments in the variant conditions and activities of nature in this wonderland. The energy which made its marvels may have caprices, whims, vagaries, but it is yet dynamic and resistless as with an infinity of power. Great geysers have subsided for a time only to burst forth unexpectedly with new vigor and indescribable beauty; pellucid pools, for centuries unruffled in their adamantine beds have leaped without warning into boiling fountains. Yawning craters, vacant for years, have come to utter groans as of the labor of some unseen and unclean monster, giving birth at last to hideous, living jets of mud that dance and wheeze as in some filthy frenzy. For every subsidence of fountain or geyser there is some new recruit to the bewildering display. Only lately a hitherto inactive hot pool broke into sudden activity. Above it had been reared a tent. Its surface was covered with a floor through a trapdoor in which its hot water was raised into washtubs. It was surmounted by the laundry of Old Faithful Inn. During the winter when none was there to witness the eruption except the winter people, the explosion came. He was entering his greenhouse nearby when, with a sudden roar, the hiss of steam, and the trembling of the earth the laundry and all its contents, floor, tubs, boxes, and benches, were tossed skyward at the sport of a mighty fountain which had spurted into life. The pool had become a geyser, and with a thought of popular celebrity the single witness promptly named it the Merry Widow. During the season of 1908 a small but curious eruption became evident a few yards away from the Merry Widow. It is neither a pool, a geyser, nor a spring. Yet from a small central orifice in the crust of the formation there exudes a constant upheaval of tiny hot crystals. Glittering like diamonds, insoluble in water, soon cooled and dried in a circular pile, they can be lifted in the hand, a beautiful evidence of one of the latest and least-known of the unclassified wonders of the park. The most inveterate and observant habitués of the reservation come in sight and touch with the changes and new developments constantly taking place. The names bestowed at random soon become part of the unwritten nomenclature of the place. Boiling springs cool or become quiescent only to give place to new and turbulent springs. Small geysers break forth in remote places, there to spout or subside unknown to the thousands of visitors who cling to the main lines of travel and are more than gratified with the multitude of wonders which they encounter in their brief sojourn. Nor are the hidden and undescribed attractions of this vast preserve confined to the weird and portentous wonders and the wild beasts there to be encountered. Hundreds of matchless sylvan scenes, valleys voiceless but for the murmur of their brooks, cascades that stripe with silver streaks the green-walled fortresses of the mountains, caverns that are lair to the

fox, the bear, and the wolf, things tender and terrible, unseen by the eye and untouched by the hand of man, can be found on every side in the still wilderness of the Yellowstone National Park.

Who, then, but must hope for the preservation of every foot of the 3,500 square miles of this incomparable possession, that its beauties may be unmarred, that its wonders may be undefiled, that its myriads of living, happy, wild creatures may be kept unmolested in its hospitable solitudes? The whole world has come to know and value the priceless worth of this pleasure ground and to look to the people of the United States for its fullest protection, peace, and prosperity. Its welfare has become something more than the hope and dream of its foresighted and unselfish explorers and projectors. It has become a matter of national pride and prudence, a subject of admiring interest to all the students and travelers of the world.

The pleasure-seeking traveler and the official inspector who pass through or loiter in the Yellowstone National Park in the summer time can not realize the transformation which occurs at the end of September, intensifies as winter advances, and is maintained in almost arctic rigor for nearly nine months of the year. The physical inequalities and imperfections which are evident in varying degrees during the tourist season, both as to the accommodations and as to the transportation facilities, are directly traceable to the difficulties and disasters that occur during the stressful months of winter. Then the roads are piled high and wide with incessant snowdrifts. The grand tour becomes utterly impassable except by snowshoes. The lowlands are piled with undulous drifts, and the very trails are obliterated. The havoc wrought by these incredible masses of snow begins late in the spring, when with a suddenness almost as unheralded as the descent of winter the sun blazes with summer energy, the warm winds blow, and the melting snow comes down in resistless cataracts, sweeping away roadways, undermining viaducts and bridges, and undoing much of the work of previous months.

During subsequent weeks what with mud, pools, washouts, and débris from the melted snowslides miles of the main roads are impassable for wagons and repair machines. The work of reconstruction with the existing forces of men and teams, tools and wagons, is necessarily slow, imperfect, and temporary in many cases. Hardly one hundred full days of work time are at the command of those in charge of mending the damaged thoroughfares, extending the road-building plans, and improving the general conditions of the park. The fidelity and zeal of those in charge of these great works can not successfully offset the lack of adequate means in money and men or cope with the destructive elements that have warred against them. The ultimate solution of this, one of the gravest and most apparent obstacles to the perfect conduct of the park's affairs, will come with speed and certainty when Congress shall supply appropriations commensurate with the great and growing needs of the admirable road system planned by the engineer department.

Nor is the isolation of the scattered hotel plants or the annual devastation of roads the only problem raised by the long reign of ice and snow and frigid weather. With the cessation of travel and the advent of the hunting season the hardships of the wild animals necessarily commence, and the irrepressible poacher and hunter gets busy around the unsentined edges of the greatest game preserve in the world.

The small existing force of civilian scouts is an admirable nucleus about which to upbuild an organized and trained body that could and would solve and administer the few remaining problems which hinder the ultimate advancement of the best interests of the wonderland which they know like a book and love like a home. At many scattered points of vantage throughout the park log huts, called snowshoe cabins, have been erected for the shelter of the scouts. In these secret quarters fuel, food, and bedding are cached at the close of each summer. Quickly they become inaccessible except by snowshoes. All winter long the scouts in groups of two or three, guided by the most experienced of the number, track across the unmarked snow from cabin to cabin watching for skulking poachers, spying for the smoke of intruding trappers, and investigating the characters and designs of the many furtive hunters who camp conveniently outside the confines of the park ready to cross the lines and slaughter the unsuspecting game. These running scouts travel lightly and rapidly, skimming the snow on skis, carrying only enough food for a midday lunch, depending for warmth only upon the violent exertions which must be sustained between shelters to prevent them from freezing. There is no camping for them until they have reached the far-away cabin which marks the end of their day's running.

Indistinguishable from private horsemen, familiar with the country, devoted to the work, passionately fond of the great wonderland which is their home, properly paid and provided with quarters and subsistence for themselves and their horses, it is apparent that the work of these men in the summer as well as in the winter will be found unequaled in efficiency and constancy by any other method of policing the park. What with patrolling the park, apprehending thoughtless or criminal malefactors, fighting forest fires and regulating scattered camps, feeding the game in winter and preventing the ravages of carnivorous beasts, their duties and dangers are constant and important.

The police work of the park has been focused and made effective by the establishment of a trial court presided over by a United States commissioner with headquarters at Mammoth Hot Springs.

The enormous area of the national park, its unspeakable and awesome phenomena, its indescribable beauties, its perennial disclosures of new and astonishing things, the amazing variety of its countless attractions, the alternating contrasts of marvels winsome and prodigious, can be indicated but not appraised in these brief notes.

For the great public of this and other countries repeated personal visits and sustained and intimate study of its lavish splendors and inconceivable curiosities are necessary to even an approximate appreciation, either of the Yellowstone wonderland itself or of the broad and patriotic spirit which has made it one of the proudest possessions of the whole people of the United States, as it is also the open and hospitable pleasuring ground of the travelers of every country on the globe.

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