

THE TRUSTEESHIP OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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UNDAMENTAL IDEA OF PARK PROTECTION

Prior to December 7, 1941, the most evoking question that could be addressed to a National Park Service man is, "What can there be for you to do the winter?" Today park officials sometimes contend with a more serious question which reflects the same lack of understanding of national park objectives that prompted the pre-war question. Some citizens now ask, "What can there be for you to do in wartime?"

Both questions, of course, grow out of the rather popular supposition that the parks and monuments can be closed like theatres and left to themselves when the crowd goes home. To the thoughtful citizen it is quite obvious that they cannot be "closed." Problems of adequate care of these outdoor museums of science and history are always present. It is these problems of park protection, particularly, and the methods of meeting them that I wish to describe.

Principles of Administration

By way of beginning, a quick synopsis of national park objectives is in order. The fundamental ideal of park protection is expressed in the Act of August 25, 1916, creating the National Park Service—its lands are to be held to conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and wildlife thereon, and to provide for the enjoyment thereof in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The reason for that policy, which was well established before the National Park Service was created and which has been affirmed repeatedly by acts of Congress, is found in the conviction that only by such conservation

can the areas entrusted to the National Park Service fulfill the purposes for which they were established; they are to provide the highest and most deeply satisfying enjoyment that they are capable of yielding, and to promote popular understanding of the natural and historical processes which they exemplify.

As a means to that end, it is the responsibility of the Service first of all to acquaint itself fully with all that these public properties contain; to determine their significance and value and the uses to which they may be properly and safely put; and to utilize the most effective methods at its disposal, on the basis of this knowledge, to add to public understanding and enjoyment of them. Certain principles of administration have been defined which have been endorsed by many of the conservation organizations of the land. These principles might be elaborated upon to form a book-length dissertation but for present purposes it will suffice if I present a bare outline of the basic settled rules of action.

1. The national parks must be kept unimpaired for the use of future generations.
 - a. No hunting.
 - b. No logging.
 - c. No grazing of cattle.
 - d. No mining.
 - e. No summer homes.
 - f. No commercial developments except those required for the accommodation of visitors.
2. National interests must dictate establishment and use.
 - a. Each national park is representative of a distinctive American feature.
 - b. Local interests must not affect high standards in selection, acquisition, and use of areas.

3. Units in the Federal Park System are preserved for highest use by all people.
 - a. To be made accessible to the public.
 - b. Accommodations of all grades to be provided.
 - c. Recreational development to be limited to natural facilities.
 - d. Interpretation of park values of primary importance.

These principles were defined long ago, and since the early 1920's, at least, they have constituted a code of procedure for every park official. Even in normal times it has required vigilance to sustain the high ideals expressed in the code. Now, under the stress of war the number of hurried demands and misguided pleas for special privileges and general exploitation is greatly increased.

PROBLEMS CREATED BY WAR

What do citizens expect of the National Park Service during the war? The answer to that question comes to us in many and varied forms. Pressure groups prompted by selfish interests are most vocal, of course. The large majority in the great body of one-time park visitors are not organized and have no single mouthpiece, but, fortunately, they do find good representation in the scientific societies, historical associations, and conservation organizations of the nation. Nearly a thousand organized groups manifest interest in the affairs of the National Park Service. We welcome this interest and strive to respond to it in a personal way so far as it is possible to do so. Outside of the parks it is not possible to meet as many organized groups as we should like to meet because no extension service has been provided in our official program, but in the parks and monuments the Service officials personally meet millions of citizens through ranger activities and the programs of the park naturalists.

Restricted Travel

In 1941 some 21 million people had entered the parks and monuments prior to the fateful December 7. This was an

all-time high in travel figures. The declaration of war had an immediate effect upon visitor numbers, and through 1942 rationing, rubber shortage, and restrictions on recreation travel in common carriers brought about a decline in park travel. Some parks showed a drop of 80 per cent and it is impossible at this time to forecast what public use will be made of the national parks in 1943. It is interesting to note, however, that even this diminished travel of 1942 was greater than the total national park travel for 1935.

So far as we know, recreational travel in 1943 will be permitted to use available space on regular scheduled trains and busses. Restrictions on public and private transportation generally will limit long distance travel but there are indications that there will be some civilian and military travel to many of the national parks and monuments, especially to the areas within a reasonable distance of Army camps and large centers of population and to those accessible by regular scheduled transportation lines. Anticipating this use, Service officials and the operators of hotels and lodges in the parks are now making arrangements for limited service that will be required by visitors.

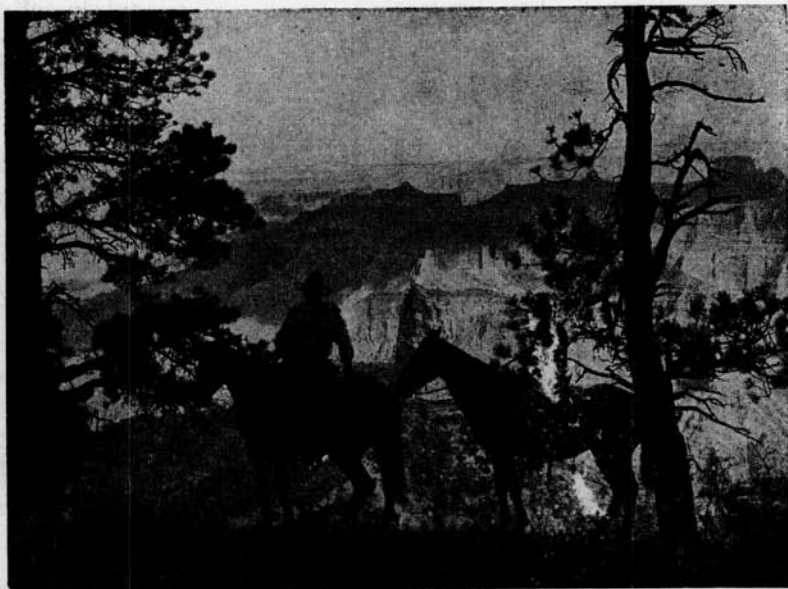
Military Use

During the travel year, October 1941 to September 30, 1942, about 10 million persons visited the various units of the National Park System. Included in the 1942 totals were approximately 900,000 members of the armed forces of the United States. The use of the parks by soldiers and sailors has continued in 1943. The officers of many Army camps and Naval stations located near national parks and monuments have encouraged their men to visit the areas. In some instances organized tours to national parks are featured as a part of the morale-building program of the military. For example, Hobbs Air Field, located 10 miles from Carlsbad Caverns National Park, has perfected plans for sending at least 1,000 soldiers each month to the Caverns. Arrangements have been

made by the Merced (California) Flying School to send 500 men to Yosemite National Park each week. Of the 7,706 persons who visited Petersburg National Military Park in January 1943, only 75 were civilians. Whether the men come in small groups or as organized units they enter the parks without

Civilian War Workers

Very recently, defense plants in California have organized vacation tours to the Sierra National Parks. The Lockheed plant and Consolidated Aircraft have sent several groups of 30 or more employees to Yosemite National Park to remain for two weeks, and ad-



On the Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park

(Courtesy of Union Pacific Railroad)

A prime duty of the National Park Service is to preserve the natural and historic values of the areas under its care. These values are fragile things. Problems in physical, geological, biological and historical sciences must be met and solved whether or not the parks find heavy use by visitors.

charge and the National Park Service makes every effort to extend to them a special service that will assist them in knowing and appreciating the natural and historic treasures contained in the areas.

At Manassas (Bull Run) National Battlefield Site the graduating classes of the Reserve Officers School of the Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia, study the area as a part of their training. National Park Service officials lecture to these officer candidates on the two campaigns and battles of Bull Run. More than a thousand marines visit this area each month.

ditional similar groups are scheduled to spend their vacations in this manner.

This use of national parks and monuments by the armed forces and war workers may seem incompatible with the nation's ban on pleasure travel, but, certainly, it is in harmony with the recreational needs of the military and the war production program.

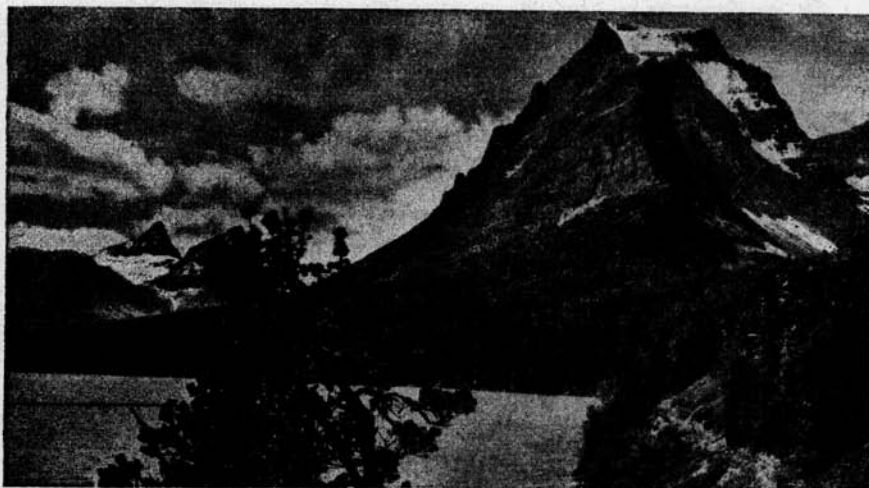
Morale-building Function

Recently Joseph B. Eastman addressed the Allegheny Regional Advisory Board of Railroads, stating:

"Recreation under present conditions can be undertaken solely with the

purpose of building up body and mind and with the chief thought that this will help win the war. At the same time it has been proven beyond doubt that human beings cannot sustain continued and prolonged work for very long, without obtaining a proper balance between work on the one hand and vacations and recreation on the other."

of vacations from now till the end of the year rather than during three months in the summer, and we repeat what has been said about traveling microweek, avoiding trips on week-ends and holidays." The National Park Service does not encourage or advocate recreational travel but it is prepared to add just its programs to meet the demand



St. Mary's Lake and Going-to-the-Sun Mountain, Glacier National Park
(Courtesy of Union Pacific Railroad)

The background of American character is reflected in the landscapes of the national parks and the march of freedom in the United States is portrayed in the historical areas cared for by the National Park Service as shrines of culture and national progress. They are tangible symbols of democracy.

Mr. Ralph A. Bard, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, writing for the **New York World Telegram** on the subject of absenteeism, recommended a system of short vacations every 90 days as a help to the efficiency of war workers. Paul V. McNutt, War Manpower Commissioner, is reported to have endorsed the incentive vacation plan proposed by Assistant Secretary Bard. A month ago an official of O.D.T. stated in Chicago, "There is a definite need for civilian travel conservation; vacations as usual are not possible. We recognize that health and morale make some rest and relaxation necessary, but we urge that this be obtained with the minimum burden on transportation. We must minimize the peaking of loads on the carriers. There should be a spreading

of those who find it possible to visit the parks and monuments.

There is always a morale-building value in national park use which may be particularly significant now. The battlefields of Yorktown and Gettysburg and the Statue of Liberty are wellsprings of patriotism. Pride in America swells in the hearts of all who look upon the mile-deep chasm of Grand Canyon, the geysers and hot springs of Yellowstone, the thundering waterfalls of Yosemite, and the towering Sequoias. One hundred and twenty-five million of our citizens have had such experiences during the past ten years. Consciously or unconsciously there has been built up within them an increased faith in our country. If public transportation had not been up

set by the war demands for materials and facilities, the Service would, we believe, have been justified in encouraging extensive civilian use of the parks because of their morale-building values. The present use of parks by the military is definitely linked with the recreational and morale-building programs of the armed forces and it seems reasonable to conclude that national park experiences add to the conviction of these men that this is a country worth fighting for.

Maintenance Problem and Park Protection

Even if civilian Americans for the time being cannot visit their national parks, they gain courage from the fact that these possessions are being protected, and will be available to them after the war has been won. The wartime program of custodial work in the national parks and monuments recognizes this. Heavy investments have been made by the National Park Service in its physical plant. There are 167 areas in the Federal Park System comprising 22,000,000 acres. Upon these lands are physical developments conservatively valued at 215 million dollars. These investments will be protected; maintenance programs must continue whether or not the facilities find heavy public use. Even more important is the duty of preserving the natural and historic park values which are of fundamental importance in the American scene. These values are fragile things. Major problems in physical, geological, biological, and historical sciences are encountered and solved in preserving them.

The processes of nature impose many of these problems upon the park administrator, whether or not visitors are in the areas. Just now there is the necessity of protecting the natural and historic values from impairment that may be brought about by enthusiastic promoters of wartime use of park and monument resources. Most of the demands come from well-meaning citizens; others may be the culmination of planned raids. All must be studied and appraised. Some examples of these wartime problems follow.

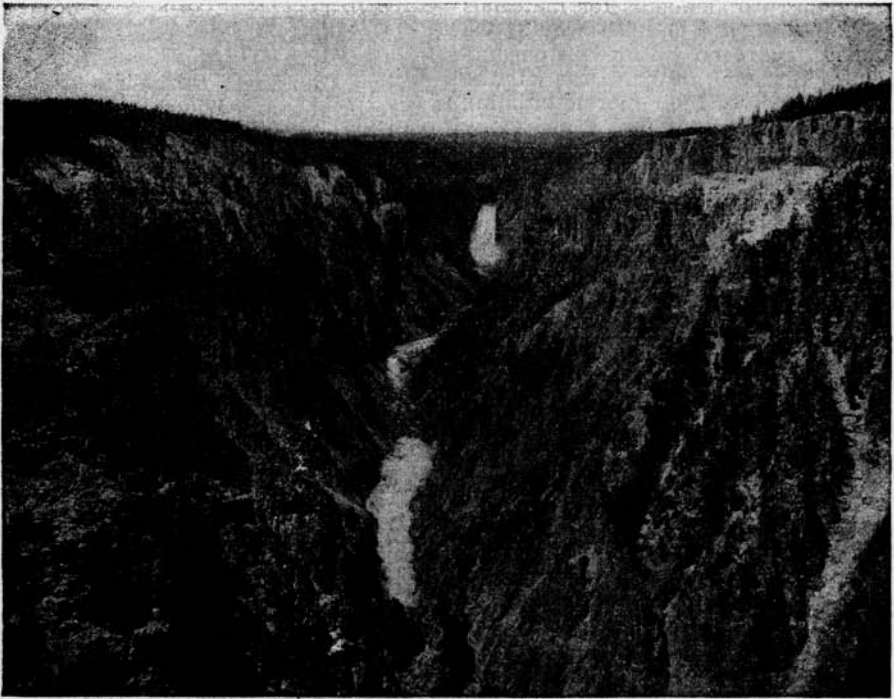
PROBLEMS OF PARK PROTECTION

Military Permits

Five hundred thirty-two permits have been granted to the armed forces and war agencies for operations and activities within the national parks and monuments. Had it been necessary for the War and Navy Departments to provide the lands and facilities made available by the National Park Service, not less than 30 million dollars would have been expended. Requests were analysed, investigated, and studied to determine what action should be taken to aid in the war program and at the same time protect park values. These permits have ranged from the installation of direction finders along the coastal areas to the complete assignment to the Army and Navy during the war of two national monuments—Fort Pulaski in Georgia and Cabrillo in California. The extent and nature of most of these permits of necessity are confidential, but it is interesting to note that the British Navy has made use of Recreational Demonstration Areas under the administration of the National Park Service in giving 10,000 battle-weary British sailors an opportunity to enjoy a change of scene, and the United States Army has utilized the National Park Service personnel in planning and constructing inexpensive rest camp facilities in areas which would be available to soldiers on leave. Thirty-three camps with a capacity of 20,000 men were constructed in 23 states and the District of Columbia. This rest camp program was launched before our entry into the war and is quite separate and distinct from the recreational use of national parks by the military mentioned previously.

Demands for National Park Service Timber

The shortage of Sitka spruce for airplane manufacture may be a threat to the safety of the virgin forests in Olympic National Park. This park serves its highest public use by preserving for future generations a remnant of the vast forests that once were the glory of the Pacific Northwest. Once mutilated, an outstanding natural spectacle



Yellowstone Canyon and Falls of the Yellowstone River

(Courtesy of Union Pacific Railroad)

For centuries Americans were so concerned with the exploitation of natural resources that little thought was given to preserving any remnants of them. Yellowstone became the first national park in 1872. Twenty years elapsed before other areas were recognized as worthy of similar preservation and yet another quarter of a century passed before a program of organized park protection under a National Park Service was instituted in 1916.

is lost to America forever. The consensus of conservation leaders is that none of the virgin forest in this park should be cut unless the trees are absolutely essential to the prosecution of the war. Logs from Oregon, Washington, Alaska and British Columbia are being made available, and the National Park Service is cooperating in the provision of airplane spruce by selling some of the timber in the Queets Corridor Parkway adjoining Olympic National Park.

It should be made clear that the areas in which cutting has been authorized are not within Olympic National Park. The Federal Government acquired a strip of land one-half to three-fourths of a mile wide on each side of the Queets River extending from the boundary of the park to the Quinault Indian Reservation, a distance of ap-

proximately 12 miles. An ocean strip somewhat over a mile in width was also acquired. This strip extends north from the Quinault Indian Reservation to the Ozette Indian Reservation. It follows the ocean shore for approximately fifty miles. Acquisition of these lands was a Public Works project undertaken for parkway and protective purposes.

The Western Log and Lumber Administrator of the War Production Board has recommended that selected Douglas fir and Sitka spruce of aircraft quality be made available from the Queets Corridor. The Secretary of the Interior in accordance with this request advertised this timber for sale in conjunction with a similar sale of timber on adjacent lands which belong to the University of Washington. One bid was received and the logging of 4

million feet of timber is now in progress. The contract of sale calls for selective cutting and a forest screen will be retained along the road right-of-way.

Urgent requests from tannin extract manufacturers for the surrender of dead chestnut on the Blue Ridge Parkway, and in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park have been received. In the case of the Blue Ridge Parkway, it was planned that most of the dead chestnut would ultimately be removed in landscaping and hazard reduction measures. It seems advisable to make this wood available now in view of the demands for easily accessible supplies of chestnut. The Peaks of Otter area is to be used for a trial sale if bids are obtained. The National Park Service adheres to the opinion that such cutting within the national parks must be avoided except as a last resort in case the need for dead chestnut for tannin extract becomes an acute war necessity which cannot be met from the supplies elsewhere. According to the best information available at this time, such a contingency does not appear imminent.

Requests for Mineral Resources

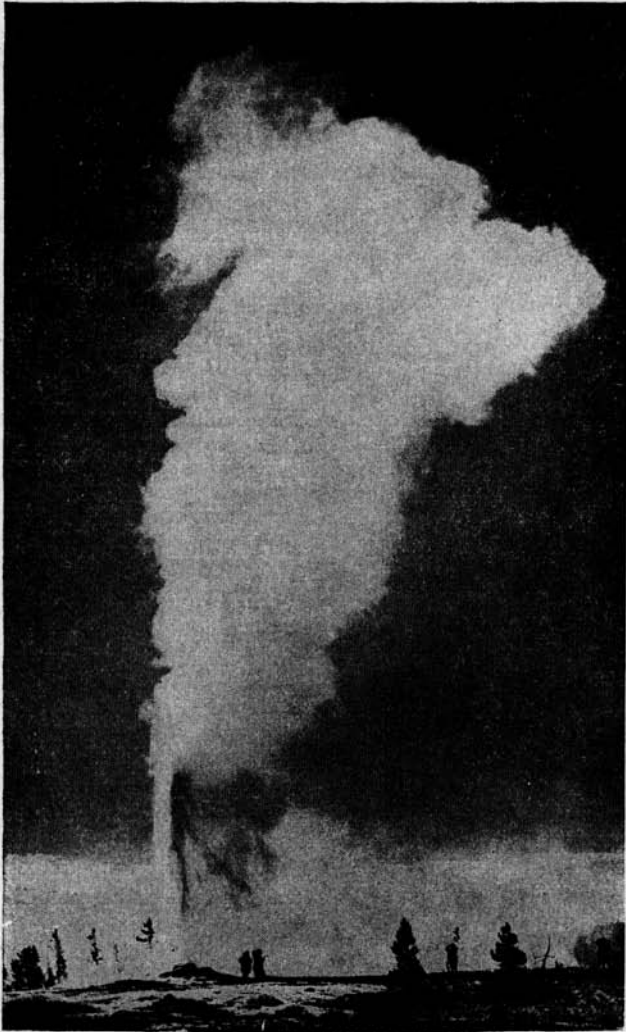
Similarly with proposals to mine strategic minerals in the national parks and monuments, the position has been taken that invasion of a national park by mining can be justified only to furnish strategic or critical minerals indispensable to the war and not obtainable elsewhere. In general, studies indicate that strategic minerals are not present in national park areas in sufficient quantities to be of economic importance, but the Service in collaboration with the Geological Survey is prepared to aid in determination of the nation's highest interest in the matter of sacrifices necessary to provide war materials. Any developments that may be adjudged necessary will be undertaken by the Government and no financial benefits will accrue to individuals or other private interests.

In May 1942, the Secretary of the Interior authorized the Defense Plant Corporation to extract salt from Death Valley National Monument for a period

of three months, for use in the production of magnesium at the Las Vegas, Nev., plant. The permit was given with the understanding that the operating company, Basic Magnesium, Inc., would develop a suitable supply of salt elsewhere as soon as possible. By August 9, about 18,000 tons of salt had been extracted when the operation was halted by a cloudburst which washed out the roads. The roads were repaired and the permit extended but no salt has been taken from the national monument since the interruption in August. Suitable salt supplies have been located elsewhere and there will be no occasion for renewed salt mining in Death Valley. In some degree the natural landscape features of the national monument were impaired by this operation, but it is hoped that Nature will restore the salt pinnacles that were leveled by the mining operation.

Another case of National Park Service mineral resources required by the war production program is found in Yosemite National Park where a deposit of tungsten was found in the high country on the north boundary of the area. A study of the deposit was conducted last August by the Geological Survey, at the request of the National Park Service. The deposit is relatively small but of high grade. Upon the advice of the War Production Board, arrangements have been made with the Metals Reserve Company to extract the ore of this critically scarce mineral as soon as weather conditions will permit.

Prospectors and other local interests have pressed several other claims for the exploitation of minerals in National Park Service areas but most of the deposits have proved to be of no importance to the war program. Reported occurrences of copper in Grand Canyon and Mt. Rainier National Parks were demonstrated to be of negligible value. The same appraisal was given to a manganese deposit in Shenandoah National Park. Discoveries of manganese in Boulder Dam Recreational Area, however, prove to be important and the deposits will be mined for the Government. Thirty-eight thousand yards of gravel and stone were removed from Sitka National Monument for military



Old Faithful Geyser, Yellowstone National Park

(Courtesy of Union Pacific Railroad)

The "living museum" exhibits of the national parks constitute basic values which exceed their playground qualities. In the master plan of each park and monument appears a concise statement of those features or values which distinguish the area. The inventory, or interpretive statement is more than a listing of principal features; it is an analysis of the record of inspirational and recreational experiences enjoyed by visitors. These analyses point to the fact that the important values of the National Park System are found in its capacity to stimulate pride in and understanding of our natural heritage and cultural tradition.

purposes. Molybdenum reported to occur in Sequoia National Park is to be investigated.

Glacier Bay National Monument and Mt. McKinley National Park, Alaska, Death Valley National Monument, California, the northern and eastern portions of Olympic National Park, Washington, and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona, are subject to the mining laws of the United States with certain surface restrictions under Departmental regulation. The Geological Survey has conducted a search for strategic and critical minerals in some of these areas during the past several years. All other areas in the National Park System are closed to prospecting and mining in accordance with the mandate of Congress. Recognizing its primary responsibility to protect the parks and monuments from exploitation, the Service has, nevertheless, also recognized its duty to maintain a cooperative attitude towards proposals to utilize the natural resources of the parks for war purposes. Each proposal for mining is given careful study to determine whether it is in the public interest to draw upon the resource involved and to ascertain if the necessities of war require that the sacrifice be made.

Stockgrowers' Interest in National Park Service Range Lands

In ten national parks and thirty-three national monuments and other Service areas, the grazing of livestock was permitted when the areas were established and continues to be tolerated by the National Park Service under authority extended by the Congress to the Secretary of the Interior. Some 19,893 head of cattle and 74,097 sheep fed upon the ranges opened to them by the National Park Service in 1942. Approximately 1,300,000 acres of Service lands are affected by these permits—less than one-seventh of one percent of all the lands grazed in the United States. To the comparatively few stockgrowers who have established their business enterprises in the neighborhood of Service areas the availability of Service grazing land looms big in the economic scheme. To the rest of the nation, this grazing in national

parks and monuments is relatively unimportant economically, however the present demand for increased meat production has caused the United States Government to study the grazing potentialities of even minor units. The livestock industry, always alert to advance its interests, has opened its campaign to expand grazing in certain national parks where grazing now is permitted and to gain access to certain other parks and monuments where grazing has been excluded.

Recently, the National Park Service has made a careful investigation of all grazing potentialities of the lands under its jurisdiction. This inventory of range resources was made in connection with a survey conducted by the Department of the Interior to determine what contributions can be made to the nation's food and fiber supply. The study produced statistics on National Park Service range resources which cause the Service to reaffirm its long-standing policy of eventual elimination of all grazing by cattle and sheep from the scenic-scientific areas under its administration. There will be no departure from the established principle that the great scenic parks and other important natural areas shall be held inviolate, but on certain types of areas opportunity exists to increase grazing during the emergency. In Great Smoky Mountains National Park and in Gettysburg and Lava Beds National Monuments an increase in the number of animals now on the range may be permitted, but no extension of the areas grazed will be involved. In Carlsbad Caverns and Shenandoah National Parks and in six national monuments, one national historic park, one national recreational area, one national historical site, two national parkways, and three recreational demonstration areas extension of grazing to ranges not previously used, as well as an increase in the number of animals now grazed on existing ranges may be permitted. This extension and expansion may result in a 20 per cent increase in the number of cattle grazed and a 10 per cent increase in the number of sheep. However, the number of animals involved (cattle—20,000 increased to 25,000, and sheep—74,000 increased to 82,600) is very small when contrasted

with the total volume of business engaged in by the American stock industry. It is worthy of note that the goal of the Grazing Service of the Department of the Interior in serving the nation's food-for-war program is to obtain a 10 per cent increase in stocking cattle and sheep on the Federal range. Judged on the basis of the proposals of the Grazing Service, the possible increases in National Park Service grazing activities should be accepted as adequate, but the Service cannot dismiss the problem as solved. Pressing demands for grazing privileges affecting areas that should be held inviolate are being made by stockmen and their lobby. The situation may involve a crucial test of the national park idea. Conservationists, generally, should be informed regarding the menace.

Effects of Grazing. A few of the damaging effects of grazing in national parks and monuments may be mentioned here:

(1.) Injury to scenic and esthetic values. Grazing of livestock destroys the very wilderness character by which many of the national parks and monuments are distinguished. These areas are preeminent among the few virgin reservations in the country and they serve as check plots and research areas for biological research workers as well as outdoor laboratories for a growing number of students and nature lovers. Grazing injures, even eliminates in some instances, many flowering plants or other botanical features of high scientific and esthetic value. The lush mountain meadows of the scenic parks often are the most sensitive spots, and after a few years of intensive grazing may become barren wastes. Unightly gullies develop and soon the forces of erosion have wrought irreparable damage.

(2.) Damage to historical and archaeological values. During recent years the National Park Service has made determined effort to stabilize the hundreds of important historic and prehistoric structures and ruins that are found within its areas. The purpose of this work has been to arrest the destructive effects of weathering and erosion. Domestic livestock, given access to these areas of cultural sig-

nificance, may in a few minutes do more harm to ruins, sites, markers and inscriptions than would the forces of nature in a human lifetime.

(3.) Effects upon biological relationships. It is obvious that heavy grazing brings about drastic ecological changes and if long continued notably alters the biota of the area grazed. If stock have access to virgin lands too early in the season or if the number of grazing animals is too great, normal growth of certain plants is prevented, the vigor and nutritive value of the more palatable species are reduced and eventually the original good forage may be replaced by the poisonous plants and unpalatable species which are not taken by the stock. The destructive effects of trampling affect the sod or other ground cover, opening the way to stream cutting, gully formation and the removal of top soil. The water table is lowered and moisture-loving plant species find themselves without sustenance. The subsequent drying out of the soil invites the establishment of lodgepole pine seedlings or other species foreign to the original plant assemblage, and in a comparatively few years the primitive biological picture has been obliterated. Destruction of the plant species has immediate effect upon the animal population. Browsing and grazing members of the fauna are deprived of their sustenance which, in turn, affects the flesh eaters. Increased siltation of the streams modifies the aquatic fauna and flora including the fish resources. Wildlife watering holes are polluted or otherwise rendered unfit for use. Not the least important among the damaging results of grazing is the introduction or extension of the diseases of domestic stock among certain native species. Stock-carried exotic plants add to the menace.

(4.) Depreciation of general recreational values. The nuisance element and the accompanying unsightly effects resulting from the presence of cattle in campgrounds and other areas of intensive human use give emphasis to the incompatibility of grazing and recreational use. Pollution of bathing areas and domestic water supplies are accompanying ills. The use of the "back country" by park visitors is encouraged by the service. This use calls for pack

animals and saddle horses. In many high country meadows the forage for "recreational stock" is already taxed to its full capacity and cannot stand the added strain of cattle grazing.

(5.) Damage to park structures and other physical developments. Cattle free to range through the national parks and monuments bring about a very rapid deterioration of roads, road slopes and trails. They damage the facilities provided in campground and break down fences. Landscaping developments at headquarters areas and around residences are sometimes destroyed or damaged.

Is grazing in national parks vital to national welfare? The Secretary of the Interior has reaffirmed the ever strengthening policy of eliminating grazing from the national parks and monuments. It is the conviction of the National Park Service that the people of this Nation desire to retain the national parks in their natural condition. Further extension of grazing, therefore, will be prohibited unless and until this war makes grazing in these areas vital to the national welfare. If that time comes, the people will know that there is no alternative and that the sacrifice will have to be made in aid of winning the war.

On March 3 a noted news analyst in a radio broadcast interviewed the owner of a 40,000 acre cattle ranch in Oklahoma. The rancher stated that ordinarily at this time of year he has 8,000 cattle on his lands. This year, due to the difficulties of obtaining stock to be fattened, only 5,000 head are grazing where 8,000 could be fed. If this one ranch could be brought up to full production, it would take care of a notable share of the increase of grazing animals that some cattlemen believe should be admitted to the western national parks. If similar conditions exist on other cattle ranches, it seems obvious that the time has not come when it is necessary to invade the grazing lands of the national parks in order that the war may be won.

BASIC VALUES OF THE NATIONAL PARKS

For centuries Americans were so concerned with the exploitation of natural resources that little thought was given to preserving any remnants of them. Neither sentiment, thrift, nor scientific approach influenced this selfish utilization. Finally the nation awakened to the realization that its successful exploiters had displayed no great vision.

True conservation programs, with a few exceptions, had their beginnings during the lifetime of most of us present here, so recently have we come to look back upon primitive America as something to be cherished. The preservation of primitive areas had its beginning in America when in 1864 a few far-seeing Californians obtained Federal action in reserving Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees as a State park. Yellowstone became the first national park in 1872. Twenty years elapsed before other areas were recognized as worthy of similar preservation, and yet another quarter of a century passed before a program of organized park protection under a National Park Service was instituted in 1916.

The infant bureau of parks weathered the stormy years of the first World War and emerged thereafter with a defined policy of administration. The basic rules of management were developed then and have proved to be dependable in translating policy into intelligent administrative action. In the years that followed World War I the interest of Americans focused upon the national parks and monuments especially as vacation spots, and—as I have already indicated—in some of them the recreational use has taxed all facilities. To a multitude of vacationists the parks have become known as "the pleasuring grounds of America."

It is obvious that the parks and monuments have a basic value that far exceeds their playground qualities. In order that the National Park Service might appraise park values and review Service functions it has prepared an inventory of assets as they relate to

public use. In the master plan of each park and monument appears a concise statement of those features or values which distinguish the area. The inventory, or "interpretive statement" is more than a listing of principal features; it is an analysis of the record of inspirational and recreational experiences enjoyed by visitors. These analyses point to the fact that the important values of the National Park System are found in its capacity to stimulate national pride in and understanding of our natural heritage and cultural tradition; they high-light the fact that the significant use of the so-called "pleasuring-grounds of the people" embodies much that the nation is fighting for in the present war for liberty, and they emphasize the necessity of active guardianship on the part of all conservationists. National park champions must accept responsibilities to coming generations. They cannot com-

promise in their leadership in order to gain doubtful advantages. During the ordeal of all-out warfare the National Park Service more than ever before needs the help of conservationists. The Service functions as trustee, not as landlord. Conservation organizations must play a role in the exercise of that trusteeship. Their thought must contribute now to the guidance that is so necessary to the intelligent weighing of national values.

The very background of American character is reflected in the landscapes of the national parks, and the march of freedom in the United States is vividly portrayed in the historic areas cared for by the Service as shrines of culture and national progress. They are tangible symbols of democracy and they must not be sacrificed, even in part, until it is shown that their material resources are essential to victory.