



1896-02-02

Letter from Jno. T. McLean to John Muir, 1896 Feb 2.

Jno T. McLean

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Yosemite

JNO. T. MCLEAN, M. D.
OFFICE AND RESIDENCE,
COR. CENTRAL AVENUE AND WILLOW ST.
OFFICE HOURS:
Before 10 A. M., 12 to 2, and after 4 P. M.
TELEPHONE NO. RED 71.

On the Portland Train
Going East - near Rawlins
Wyoming - 7 P. M.

Placenta, Cal. Feb. 2nd 1896

Mr John Main -
Martinez - California -
My Dear Sir -

As you see I am

on my way east - bound for Washington -
expecting to remain East, mostly in Wash-
ington; though visiting N. York & Boston & other
northern cities while away from California

I go as a delegate from the River & Harbor
Improvement Association of Central Califor-
nia (there being from other delegates) to secure
as liberal app. appropriations as possible from
Congress for the improvement of the Sacramento
& San Joaquin Rivers & their tributaries, and
the harbors of San Francisco & Oakland -
Petaluma & Napa Creeks & Alviso Slough
& Creek -

In addition I go to secure the passage
if possible, of an Act providing for the pur-
chase & making free of the four toll-roads
passing thgh the Yosemite National Park -
The Tioga Road, the Oak Flat Road, the Coul-

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terville & Yosemite Road & the Kaweah Road - the Government to pay for them the cost of their construction -

It is an anomaly, & not in accordance with the fitness of things, as you know, that the Govt. should establish this Grand Park, & invite our own people, & the people of the world, to visit it, & see its wonderful forest, rock & water scenery, & then allow them to be charged toll for passing over it. Sen. of the Interior Noble realized this & sent a Commission to ^{California} to examine these roads & to report to the Interior Dept. on their origin, ~~character~~ = ^{length} under our laws, length, cost, character of construction, present condition etc. - This report was made & the recommendation accompanied it that the Govt. buy the roads, at the cost of their construction & make them free - Sen. Noble sent this Report to Congress with his favorable recommendation. Senator White has introduced a Bill ^{in the Senate} to ~~make~~ this purchase providing for this purchase to be made by the U.S. and Representative Johnson a similar bill in the House of Representatives - They are referred to the proper Com^{tee} in each House - ^{Both} ~~all~~ our Senators and all our Representatives from Cal^a favor the passage of this Bill. But it will need work

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Plameda, Cal.

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specimen influence to pass it & secure
 Pres. Cleveland's approval.

I take it for granted that you would
 favor its passage, & so write to ask you
 to send me, to my address, at Hillards Hotel,
Washington, letters of introduction to such
 friends East of you, in the East, as would
 be disposed & able to help me with Senators
 & Representatives & other officers in Washington
 having a voice in the passage of this bill.

I thought Mr. Johnston & Mr. Gilder, of the
 Century Magazine, would have powerful in-
 fluence in this direction; but I do not know
 them personally - You do - & you know me -
 So I thought I would ask you to send me
 letters to them & to such others East as might
 suggest themselves to you as likely to help to
 a condemnation so desirable as free-roads
 in our Yosemite National Park.

I intended to write & ask this favor of you
 before starting from home - but I was very much
 occupied & could not do it.

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I am reading, in my way East, your very interesting book on "The Mountains of California" - and congratulate you on ^{this} presentation of these grand mountains of ours, with their glaciers & forests & animal life, in such truthful & yet entertaining & delightful form, as that one can hardly leave off, when once engaged in reading it. I hope it may have many readers, and you great satisfaction and profit, as the result of its publication - & that many thousands may be drawn by its perusal to visit our Sierras.

I write with a pencil & while the train is in motion so please excuse personship - & my long explanatory letter. Hoping to hear from you, at your earliest convenience, in reply.

I am, Very Truly, Your Friend,
Geo. S. McLean