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A National Issue. The Hetch Hetchy To Be Saved To All Who Are Interested In The Conservation Of Our National Parks

John Muir

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A NATIONAL ISSUE

The Hetch Hetchy to be Saved

*To all who are interested in the conservation of our
National Parks:*

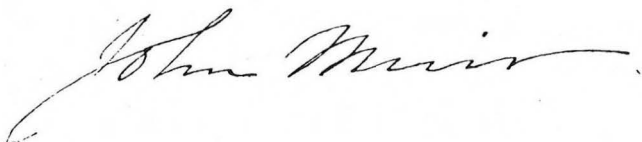
Secretary of the Interior, Richard A. Ballinger, has recently taken a decided step for which he should be warmly commended. He has called upon the authorities of San Francisco to show cause why that portion of the Garfield permit giving the city a conditional right to flood the famous Hetch Hetchy Valley should not be revoked.

The sentiment of the public is very general that San Francisco should not invade the Yosemite Park and destroy scenery of unrivaled beauty. If that city had no other available source of supply and it were a question of the health of its inhabitants, its action would not be considered reprehensible. As the matter stands, its attempt to despoil a part of a great National Park which belongs to the people of the United States, without the excuse of dire need, has aroused the indignant protest of the people of the entire country.

Great credit is due those clubs and individuals who have labored to bring about this happy result, and all believers in the importance of our parks and playgrounds are rejoicing.

I urge you to assist by writing **TO-DAY**, and getting others to write a line to Secretary Ballinger, Washington, D. C., expressing your hearty approval and appreciation of his action in safeguarding one of Nature's greatest wonderlands.

Faithfully yours,



May, 1910.

[Secretary Ballinger has set the hearing on this question for May 18th. Funds are needed to send on proper representatives to present our cause in Washington. Those who feel able can aid materially by sending contributions to the Society for Preservation of National Parks, 302 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.]

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VIEWS OF JAMES BRYCE.

The Rt. Hon. James Bryce, until recently British Ambassador to the United States has for years been keenly interested in the preservation of Hetch Hetchy. In his address before the American Civic Association, on "National Parks—The Need of the Future," he said:
"The world seems likely to last a long, long time, and we ought to make provision for the future."
"The population of the world goes on constantly increasing and nowhere increasing so fast as in North America."
"A taste for natural beauty is increasing, and, as we hope, will go on increasing."
"The places of scenic beauty do not increase, but, on the contrary, are in danger of being reduced in number and diminished in quantity, and the danger is always increasing with the accumulation of wealth, owing to the desire of private persons to appropriate these places. There is no better service we can render to the masses of the people than to set about and preserve for them wide spaces of fine scenery for their delight."

"From these propositions I draw the conclusion that it is necessary to save what we have got, and to extend the policy which you have wisely adopted, by acquiring and preserving still further areas for the perpetual enjoyment of the people."

HOW TO HELP TO PRESERVE THE HETCH HETCHY VALLEY AND THE YOSEMITE PARK.

1. Write at once to President Woodrow Wilson, White House, Washington, D. C. Do it now. Ask him to oppose this Hetch Hetchy Bill.
2. Write also to the Senators from your State and get as many more as you can, addressing each at "Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C." requesting them to oppose this Hetch Hetchy Bill.
3. Get as many of your friends as possible to write. Remember! every letter and every protest counts.
4. Interest your newspapers and get them to publish editorials and news items and send copies to your Senators and Representatives.
5. Send the names and addresses of any persons who would be interested in receiving this circular to "Society for the Preservation of National Parks, 402 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal."

It is particularly urgent that you impress Senators from your State with the importance of opposing any bill granting the Hetch Hetchy Valley to San Francisco. See them personally if possible, wire them, write to them and send resolutions to them.

SAMPLE LETTER.

HON. _____
Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.
SIR:—Our national parks are already too few in number. We are vitally interested in preserving intact those now existing. We earnestly protest against the destruction of any of the wonderful scenery of the Yosemite National Park and urge you to oppose any bill which will permit San Francisco to use Hetch Hetchy as a municipal water tank. Strengthen our park laws instead of allowing them to be overridden.
Very truly,

(Write letters similar to the foregoing in your own language and in accordance with your own ideas).

Clubs which wish to aid us pass resolutions somewhat as follows:
WHEREAS: The Hetch Hetchy Valley is one of the grandest and most important features of the great Yosemite National Park belonging to the ninety millions of people composing the American public;

WHEREAS: This valley is threatened with destruction by those seeking a water supply for San Francisco and the use of the park by the public would thereby be seriously restricted;

WHEREAS: The precedent thus established would destroy the integrity of our whole national park system;

WHEREAS: The need for great public playgrounds is becoming vastly greater instead of diminishing;

WHEREAS: Eminent engineers report that this proposed invasion of a national wonderland is wholly unnecessary and that San Francisco can get an abundance of pure water elsewhere;

CIRCULAR NUMBER SEVEN

The Press of the whole country has heartily responded to the call for aid in this fight. If the good work is continued and all public spirited citizens urge their congressmen and the president to prevent this destructive measure from becoming a law the battle to save the people's parks will surely be won.

Every American citizen who believes that our National Parks are worth while is also urged to write or wire without delay to his Senators in Congress (see list on this page) and request them to put a stop to this commercial destruction which threatens our whole National Park system. Write also to the same effect to President Woodrow Wilson, White House, Washington, D. C.

VIEWS OF HON. JOHN W. NOBLE, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Upon the policy of surrendering the Hetch Hetchy Valley and its surroundings to the use of the city of San Francisco for water supply, allow me to express to you my conviction that such appropriation should not be made.

Permit me also to recall that during the Harrison administration these reservations, in connection with Yosemite Park, were discussed and advanced, with the system then inaugurated of protecting our natural and wonderful scenery and our forests and other resources. It took labor and moral courage to withstand the fierce opposition of local interests to do this.

Among the most important reservations secured were these now asked for a city to be abandoned. It ought not to be done. The city has abundant water supply other than the reservoir to be constructed here, and it is not necessary to give this up.

There is a growing public opinion in favor of a strict preservation of what has already been redeemed for national reservations; and an appropriation of this, one of the chief works of John Muir's patriotic foresight, will be deemed a surrender of the national policy and a return to the idea that the nation has nothing that cannot be appropriated to other interests sufficiently persistent in assertion.

Now Therefore be it Resolved: That we are earnestly opposed to such a needless local use of a priceless national possession in which the entire citizenship is interested, and we petition the President and urge all Senators and Representatives to defeat any bill which proposes to confirm any such invasion; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President and our Representatives in Congress.

List of Senators. Address each Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.

Marshall, Thomas R., Indiana, Vice-President	Martine, James E., New Jersey
Ashurst, Henry F., Arizona	Myers, Henry L., Montana
Bacon, Augustus O., Georgia	Nelson, Knute, Minnesota
Bankhead, John H., Alabama	Newlands, Francis G., Nevada
Borah, William E., Idaho	Norris, George W., Nebraska
Brady, James H., Idaho	O'Gorman, James A., New York
Bradley, William O., Kentucky	Oliver, George T., Pennsylvania
Brandegee, Frank B., Connecticut	Overman, Lee S., North Carolina
Bristow, Joseph L., Kansas	Owen, Robert L., Oklahoma
Bryan, Nathan P., Florida	Page, Carrol S., Vermont
Burleigh, Edwin O., Maine	Penrose, Boies, Pennsylvania
Burton, Theodore E., Ohio	Perkins, George G., California
Catron, Thomas B., New Mexico	Pittman, Key, Nevada
Chamberlain, George E., Oregon	Poinexter, Miles, Washington
Chilton, William E., West Virginia	Pomerene, Atlee, Ohio
Clapp, Moses E., Minnesota	Ransdell, Joseph E., Louisiana
Clark, Clarence D., Wyoming	Reed, James A., Missouri
Clark, James P., Arkansas	Robinson, Joe T., Arkansas
Colt, LeBaron N., Rhode Island	Root, Elihu, New York
Crawford, Coe I., South Dakota	Saulsbury, Willard, Delaware
Culberson, Charles A., Texas	Shafroth, John F., Colorado
Cunningham, Albert B., Iowa	Sheppard, Mark T., Texas
Dillingham, William P., Vermont	Sherman, Lawrence Y., Illinois
du Pont, Henry A., Delaware	Shields, John K., Tennessee
Fall, Albert B., New Mexico	Shively, Benjamin F., Indiana
Gallinger, Jacob H., New Hampshire	Simmons, F. M., North Carolina
Goff, Nathan, West Virginia	Smith, Ellison D., South Carolina
Gore, Thomas P., Oklahoma	Smith, Hoke, Georgia
Gronna, Asle J., North Dakota	Smith, John Walter, Maryland
Hitchcock, Gilbert M., Nebraska	Smith, Marcus A., Arizona
Hollis, Henry P., New Hampshire	Smith, William Alden, Michigan
Hughes, William, New Jersey	Smoot, Reed, Utah
Jackson, William P., Maryland	Stephenson, Isaac, Wisconsin
James, Ollie M., Kentucky	Sterling, Thomas, South Dakota
Johnson, Charles F., Maine	Stone, William J., Missouri
Jones, Wesley L., Washington	Sutherland, George, Utah
Kenyon, William S., Iowa	Swanson, Claude A., Virginia
Kern, John W., Indiana	Thomas, Charles S., Colorado
Lane, Harry, Oregon	Thompson, William H., Kansas
La Follette, Robert M., Wisconsin	Thornton, John R., Louisiana
Lea, Luke, Tennessee	Tillman, Benjamin R., South Carolina
Lewis, J. Hamilton, Illinois	Townsend, Charles E., Michigan
Lippitt, Henry F., Rhode Island	Vardaman, James K., Mississippi
Lodge, Henry Cabot, Massachusetts	Walsh, Thomas J., Montana
McCumber, Porter J., North Dakota	Warren, Francis E., Wyoming
McLean, George P., Connecticut	Weeks, John W., Massachusetts
Martin, Thomas S., Virginia	Williams, John Sharp, Mississippi
	Works, John D., California

EDITORS are respectfully requested to write brief editorials and news items informing the public and calling on them to write to their Congressmen and Senators and protest.

CLUBS should send copies of resolutions they may adopt to President Wilson, and the Senators and Representatives from their State.

FUNDS ARE NEEDED to carry on this fight. Those who would like to render pecuniary assistance may send their contributions to Mrs. R. V. Colby, Treasurer of The Society for the Preservation of National Parks, 402 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

Kindly read carefully, act promptly, and hand this pamphlet to a friend in order that it may keep working.