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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.]
SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL PARKS

DIRECTORS OF CALIFORNIA Branch
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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 use their best efforts to resist this destruction, 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 urged to write or wire without delay to his senators in Congress (see list on this page) and request them to put on record their opposition to this communal destruction of one of our greatest National Park systems. 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 approved, with the system then inaugurated of 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. 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 labors, will be deemed a surrender of the idea and a return to the idea that the nation has nothing that cannot be appropriated to other interests sufficiently persistent in assertion.

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

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 such an invasion; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the president and our representatives in Congress.

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

... Sample Letters...

HON. Senator 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 destroy this Connor. The Hetch Hetchy as a municipal water tank. Strengthen our park laws instead of allowing them to be overruled.

Very truly,

(Signature)

(Writing 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 and 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 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;

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