11-20-1895

John Muir On Yosemite. The Mountaineer and Writer Says That the Valley Is Wrecked. 'Downtrodden And Desolate.' He Tells What He Saw and Wants the Government to Take Back the Valley.

John Muir

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/jmb

Recommended Citation

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the John Muir Papers at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir: A Reading Bibliography by Kimes by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.
The opinions and declarations of John Muir will cut a good deal of a figure in the promised controversy over the ways of the Yosemite Commissioners regarding the valley and the proposition to cede the Yosemite Valley to the State of California. Mr. Muir and Mr. Muir is anxious to start a campaign to carry out that proposition, as well as to secure further protection for the National parks and big timber reservations of the Sierras.

Mr. Muir is the president of the Sierra Club with the situation regarding these things and the unselfishness of his motives will hardly be denied by any who differ from him. He has no personal quarrel with the commission or any one of the members thereof. He has also the sympathy of the people exploring the Yosemite and other regions, including the Hetch Hetchy Valley, which I have a chance to see, and in finding out how the splendid reservations were being cared for, neglected or constantly improved. Mr. Muir is a man of some important ideas which he expresses before a new set of politicians regarding their care.

As to the Yosemite, he says that it has been a freway barren waste through which it was a delight to plant and them and to see the result. The principle was to identify natural growths and bloom of the federal government. That is to say, to improve and to get a share of the incomparable valley as the garden of the world.

Last Saturday Mr. Muir told what he knew and thought of the Yosemite Valley, and this is what John Muir said:

"During a recent summer tour of the Yosemite Valley I came to the conclusion that the periodical and semi-periodical publication of the Sierra Club, which you may have noticed in the newspapers, was its life's work and its chief object. It was an inspiration to find that since the cavalcade moved, if I may venture to say, of extending the one ever increasing, the other one decreasing, and that people were going to the valley in their bloom-bordered channels, that the respect and pleasure of the margin of the meadows, and the whole creek was naked as a corral and utterly useless. Now, with the trails forbidden there, people were going to the valley in their bloom-bordered channels, that the respect and pleasure of the margin of the meadows, and the whole creek was naked as a corral and utterly useless. Now, with the trails forbidden there, the forest reservations were to some extent political creditors. Perhaps most of them mean well, but they have been kept out of the valley the underbrush and the owners of the saddle-trains and to campers at moderate prices at and to Del Monte would not have time to carry it into effect, and the board is changed. The Commissioners differ as to what to do and how to do it, and there can be no permanent and continuous policy carried out under the present plan. It is a matter of the utmost importance to secure the legal and lawful uses in the valley itself is rapidly going to be desolate as ever they should be encouraged to go to the mountains and the other little jobs are opposed to it, as beauty and growth of the forest reservations, which would be under the care of the military department, which would have power that will intelligently and adequately execute what is needed to prevent destruction and to use, and this is largely because the Government knows and thought of the Yosemite Valley, which lasted only places where the bench and in hidden recesses of the walls that the running fires have run, and in these cases the only way to secure a good deal of the landscape artist-for has unskilled grubbing in these gardens will not be stopped, but the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.

"The solution of the whole question, it seems to me, is to recede the valley to the Federal Government and let it form a part of the national parks, and to have the army manage it, which would be under the care of the military department, which would have power that will intelligently and adequately execute what is needed to prevent destruction and to use, and this is largely because the Government knows and thought of the Yosemite Valley, which lasted only places where the bench and in hidden recesses of the walls that the running fires have run, and in these cases the only way to secure a good deal of the landscape artist-for has unskilled grubbing in these gardens will not be stopped, but the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.

"It seems to me that the way to secure the legal and lawful uses in the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.

"The solution of the whole question, it seems to me, is to recede the valley to the Federal Government and let it form a part of the national parks, and to have the army manage it, which would be under the care of the military department, which would have power that will intelligently and adequately execute what is needed to prevent destruction and to use, and this is largely because the Government knows and thought of the Yosemite Valley, which lasted only places where the bench and in hidden recesses of the walls that the running fires have run, and in these cases the only way to secure a good deal of the landscape artist-for has unskilled grubbing in these gardens will not be stopped, but the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.

"The solution of the whole question, it seems to me, is to recede the valley to the Federal Government and let it form a part of the national parks, and to have the army manage it, which would be under the care of the military department, which would have power that will intelligently and adequately execute what is needed to prevent destruction and to use, and this is largely because the Government knows and thought of the Yosemite Valley, which lasted only places where the bench and in hidden recesses of the walls that the running fires have run, and in these cases the only way to secure a good deal of the landscape artist-for has unskilled grubbing in these gardens will not be stopped, but the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.

"It seems to me that the way to secure the legal and lawful uses in the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.

"The solution of the whole question, it seems to me, is to recede the valley to the Federal Government and let it form a part of the national parks, and to have the army manage it, which would be under the care of the military department, which would have power that will intelligently and adequately execute what is needed to prevent destruction and to use, and this is largely because the Government knows and thought of the Yosemite Valley, which lasted only places where the bench and in hidden recesses of the walls that the running fires have run, and in these cases the only way to secure a good deal of the landscape artist-for has unskilled grubbing in these gardens will not be stopped, but the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.

"It seems to me that the way to secure the legal and lawful uses in the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.

"The solution of the whole question, it seems to me, is to recede the valley to the Federal Government and let it form a part of the national parks, and to have the army manage it, which would be under the care of the military department, which would have power that will intelligently and adequately execute what is needed to prevent destruction and to use, and this is largely because the Government knows and thought of the Yosemite Valley, which lasted only places where the bench and in hidden recesses of the walls that the running fires have run, and in these cases the only way to secure a good deal of the landscape artist-for has unskilled grubbing in these gardens will not be stopped, but the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.

"It seems to me that the way to secure the legal and lawful uses in the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered and the valley itself is rapidly going to be covered.
severe penalties, simply because there is no one on the ground to enforce the rules. One soldier, armed with a gun and the authority of the Government, is more effective than any number of paper warnings.

"The only downtrodden, dusty, frowsy-looking part of the Sierra within the boundaries of the National Park, with the exception of a few cattle ranches, is the Yosemite, which ought to be the gem of the whole, the garden of all the gardens of the park. When I first saw the valley its whole floor, seven miles long by about a half to three-quarters of a mile wide, was one charming park, delicately beautiful, divided into groves, meadows and flower gardens. The vegetation was exceedingly luxuriant and had a charmingly delicate quality of bloom that was contrasted with the grandeur of the granite walls.

"This beauty, so easily injured, has in great part vanished through lack of appreciative care, through making the finest meadows into hayfields and giving up all the rest of the floor of the valley to pastures for the saddle animals kept for the use of tourists, and also for the animals belonging to campers. Each year the number of campers increases, and of course destructive trampling and hacking becomes heavier from season to season. Camping parties on their arrival in the valley are required to report to the guardian, to register and have camp-grounds assigned them, and their attention is called to the rules and regulations of the valley prohibiting the cutting of trees, underbrush, etc., but as the guardian has no power to enforce the rules—has not a single policeman under him—they are of non-effect, or nearly so. Most campers and tourists seem to appreciate their privileges, but some, I'm sorry to say, appear to need a soldier as much as the sheep-owners who break over the boundaries of the park.

"The grander attractions of Yosemite—its cliffs and waterfalls—will always draw admiring travelers from every country, no matter what becomes of its fine groves and gardens; but fewer will come, and of those who do few will remain long, while their