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Letter from W[illia]m E. Colby to John Muir, 1905 Feb 24.

William E. Colby

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"To explore, enjoy, and render accessible the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast; to publish authentic information concerning them; to enlist the support and co-operation of the people and the Government in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada Mountains."



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San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 24, 1905.

Mr. John Muir,
President Sierra Club,
Martinez, Cal.

My Dear Mr. Muir:

After all our hard work in this Recession matter, it is a *great* satisfaction to learn that the desired result has been accomplished. The bill had a very close call in the Senate since two of our friends were absent and ~~one~~ ^{two} man that we had counted on to vote with us went over to the enemy so that we fell ~~three~~ ⁴ votes short of what we had expected, but favorable influences were at work and we gained three votes that we had not counted on, just enough to carry the bill. The "Golden-haired" Shortridge finally voted in favor of the bill explaining that so many of his constituents had demanded it that he could not overlook their wishes. To make the contest all the more exciting, another Senator whom we had counted on refused to vote on the question until the Senate demanded that he vote one way or the other and when forced to do so cast his vote with us, making the necessary twenty-one. Still another Senator whom we had counted on all along announced a very short time before the vote that he thought that the bill was not going to carry and hence to satisfy some of his constituents who had asked him to vote against it, he was going to do so, but being reassured at the last moment

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Mr. Muir- 2

that the bill would carry, he cast his vote with us. You will probably note the Hand of Providence guiding matters through all this doubt. Now that it is all over it is necessary for us to turn our attention to the other side of the question and direct our energies on Washington. We must, if possible, try and persuade the President and Secretary of the Interior that it is possible for them to assume control of the Valley at once without the necessity of a Congressional act. Our friend Johnson may be able to help in this relation. I enclose a copy of the bill as passed which you can send on to him. Our idea is that the President, by proclamation or otherwise, has power to accept the Recession but an appropriation is necessary to care for the Valley. I enclose the clippings you asked for.

Very truly yours,

Wm. E. Colby

The two hoodlums who voted, cast their votes against us. I am glad we carried the day without any of their votes.

03532