



FARMING OPPORTUNITIES IN NATIONAL FORESTS

IN a State which has more National Forests than any other State in the Union, still the people of that State remain, for the most part, ignorant of the extent and privileges of their public lands.

These government lands are no longer known as reserves. They are reserves only in the sense of being held away from private ownership exploitation and private ownership havoc.

They are patrolled by boys in khaki, by lookout men in watch towers, by chiefs and supervisors, and by men in the big cities who hold the main lines of the vast network of agriculture in their hands.

Though agriculture is not, to any great extent, demonstrated in their areas, for that reason alone, if for no other, they are the source and strength of agriculture.

Their management is directly opposed to the management that obtains on private land. The one method gains for the few by destroying the provisions of Nature.

The other gains for the many by guarding and conserving the provisions of Nature.

Here in these mighty forests and deserts and mesas, here beside great rivers and watersheds and lakes, here on alpine moraines and Arctic glaciers, Nature keeps her laws and her balance. And because somewhere on the earth that Law and that Equilibrium remain unaltered by man, is the only reason why farming lands and cities are able to exist at all. This is the only reason why you and I can exist and talk about it.

The general policy of the National Forests might be extended to the governing of farm lands and towns: A little space about agricultural districts, a little space about cities where Nature could correct the mistakes of human draining and interference and waste, would give to humanity a more immediate advantage. We have parks, but our city parks are

Virginia Ballen, special writer for The Bulletin, is now at Auberry, in the heart of the Sierras, in the Sierra National Forest. She is writing her charming Nature studies from there for readers of this paper.

usually as unnatural as our cities. And the best that can be said of uncultivated land about towns is that it is uncultivated. No readjustment is allowed there. Such lands are sick with the same ailments that trouble man.

The California National Forests cover about one-sixth of the State. A vast realm that feeds raw material to the most important industries of the State.

Most people think of the National Forests only as forests, as dense stands of timber that come down evenly and run along a dividing line.

Our National Forests might better be called National Lands. For one can travel in them without

sight of a forest. Sometimes over miles of chaparral, sometimes across deserts, sometimes above the timber line over ice lands, sometimes through sparsely wooded rocky pine barrens.

But the most wonderful forests in the world rise in our "National Lands." Some virgin and unexplored, some easily reached by automobile, wagon or pack-mule trains.

In the Sierra National district Huntington Lake and all its free camping grounds is reached by the railroad from Auberry. You can find any kind of climate in the Sierra National Forest.

Do you know that you can rent, for a nominal payment, a large tract of land in the National Forests? For a mere pittance rent a site for a summer, winter or all-the-year home and get your water, wood and a good deal of your building material free?

If I were you I would step into the Forestry office, at 114 Sansome street, and ask for Mr. Whiteman. He will tell you all about "Your National Lands."

Capt. Dollar Names Y.M.C.A. Committee

Captain Robert Dollar, president of the San Francisco Young Men's Christian Association, has appointed the following committee to manage the Golden Gate avenue branch of the Y. M. C. A.: John L. McNab, Charles Victor, C. A. Parmelee, J. E. White, E. T. Grove, John Williman and Frank Hohenschield.

REAL STATESMANSHIP.

A little limitation on the part of the colonel of the generous support Mr. Hughes and Mr. Taft are giving the administration would be appreciated by a public that fully realizes the value of such moral support if we are to win this war.—Milwaukee Sentinel (Republican).

Prayers Aided Him to Live 100 Years

BANGOR, Me., April 30.—"If you want to live to be 100, say your prayers regularly, eat regularly, and don't overload your stomach with food or drink," said Francis O'Brien, of Grover street, a Bangor man who celebrated his hundredth birthday the other day.

O'Brien, whose eyesight is so good that while he was being interviewed he was able to thread a needle and sew a button on his vest, believes thoroughly in the value of religion as an aid to longevity. He says that anyone who fears the Almighty and obeys his commands should live to be as old as he is. On his first day as a centenarian he is positive in his assertions that it is his faith in God