

IOWA CONSERVATION

MAGAZINE OF THE IOWA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Devoted to the Protection and Preservation of the
Natural Assets of a Great State

VOL. VII

JANUARY-MARCH, 1923

No. 1



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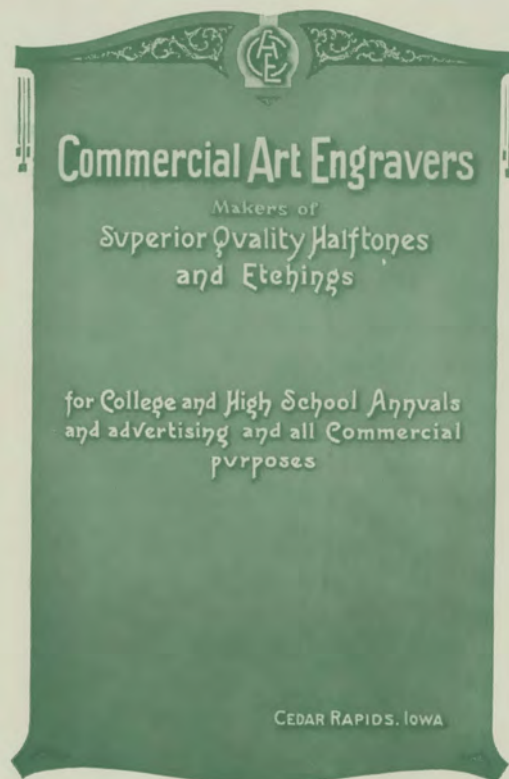
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waters of the Mighty Mississippi, the constant guardian of our eastern boundary.

And we are glad to announce that at Prairie du Chien, our esteemed neighbor city, just across the river, in Wisconsin, on June 16 and 17, will be celebrated the discovery of the Mississippi, 250 years ago. This will be a great event and everybody should be there. The picture above indicates the historic spot.

And we are glad, too, to repeat that August next, 5th to 17th, inclusive, The American School of Wild Life Protection convenes on McGregor Heights, the only institution of its kind, and where students of all ages and from every walk in life assemble to hear from the lips of competent instructors, the thrilling story of the Wondrous Out-of-Doors, Rocks, Trees, Birds, Streams, Wildflowers, and to enjoy the finest possible social intercourse.

Call on us, write to us, approach us in any way you can, and we will acquaint you further with our surpassingly lovely home and all that is happening here. And, if you wish, we will tell you what goods we carry, as we have to work and live like other common folk, but just now we are more concerned to let you know about our fascinating, magnificent home, and to **Bid You All Welcome** to our first "Home-Coming," which is planned to start with the School on August 5 next.



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The wildflowers are stars that bedeck earth's green and wondrously woven carpet. As scintillating orbs above us bejewel the dome of the celestial, shining down with fixed and unerring brilliancy, so precious gems at our feet, with all their marvellous array of tint and tone, project their charm and beauty upwards, giving of their fragrance, too, that Mother Earth secretes among her many treasures, dispensing it most freely to those who seek her close companionship, and take what she offers with full and lavish hand. God given are the wildflowers sacred to the pasture and the fen, the hillside and the mountain peak, by the streamlet's border and where the woodland folk congregate to romp and play, to emphasize their part in nature's work-a-day.

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ON THE WILD LIFE CAMPUS

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Two Hundred and Fifty Years Ago

on the seventeenth of June, two noted pioneers, Marquette and Joliet, discovered the mighty Mississippi, and the City of Prairie du Chien is the nearest residential community to the spot where those explorers of former days, first feasted their eyes on the far-reaching tides of the great Father of Waters.



WHERE THE WHITE MAN FIRST SAW THE MISSISSIPPI

Willis Bickel's Camera

Prairie du Chien, as the nearest city to the historic spot, the place where the waters of the Mississippi and Wisconsin unite and commingle, is well and wisely planning for the reception of thousands and thousands of visitors, in order that she may extend to them the hearty hand of welcome and that they may mingle with the home-dwellers in appropriately celebrating the stirring event.

Accordingly, activities have been under way for some time, and the various civic and other bodies of Prairie du Chien, alert to the necessary preparations, in order that such an event may be signalized with all the dignity, standing and prestige the occasion demands. As the celebration period draws nearer, these preparations will no doubt be amplified and accelerated.

In accordance with historic data, June 16 and 17, 1923, have been chosen for the great assembly and pageant, and C. E. Amann, Prairie du Chien, Wis., who is Secretary of the Celebration, will be glad to communicate with any who desire further information.

IOWA CONSERVATION

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GEORGE BENNETT, Editor

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Entered as Second-class Matter October 18, 1917, at the Postoffice at Iowa City, Iowa, under the Act of March 3, 1879

Every member of the Iowa Conservation Association receives this serial

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Rockford, Ill., who had been very helpful and kind in keeping us in touch with the proceedings. The meeting was well attended and the conservation cause quite taken care of, up to the point it was practicable for those present to act. This important movement will have to be considered again ere long.

THE RECENT ANNUAL MEETING AT AMES

WE have not yet received the official minutes of the above. The nominating committee presented the following names, as officers for the ensuing year, and they were accepted:

President, Charles R. Keyes, Mount Vernon; Vice-President, Homer R. Dill, Iowa City; Secretary, G. B. MacDonald, Ames; Treasurer, Henry S. Conard, Grinnell; Field-Representative, George Bennett, Iowa City; Executive Committee, L. H. Pammel, Ames; Mrs. H. M. Bailey, Sioux City; T. C. Stephens, Sioux City.

We can report, too, that special steps were taken to draw the bird lovers of the State more closely together for counsel and co-operation, this resulting in the reviving of The Iowa Ornithological Association, to be known in future as The Iowa Ornithologists' Union. We have received an interesting report of the inception and progress of this movement from Charles J. Spiker of Sioux City, which we hope to print in our next issue. Mr. Spiker reports that sixty members have been enrolled, and that the officers are as follows:

President Walter M. Rosen, Ogden; Vice-President, T. C. Stephens, Sioux City; Secretary, Mrs. H. M. Bailey, 2109 Nebraska St., Sioux City; Treasurer, Thomas H. Whitney, Atlantic; Executive Committee, Le Roy Titus Weeks, Emmetsburg; Homer R. Dill, Iowa City; A. J. Palas, Des Moines.

WHAT I SAW AND HEARD IN AMERICA

THE above is the title of an interesting article appearing in the "Year Book of the Society for the Preservation of Natural Monuments in the Netherlands," recently published in Holland. The writer is H. Cleyndert, a resident of the Netherlands, whom we had the pleasure of enrolling in the Iowa Conservation Association, about a year since, when he was a visitor to our country. And we may say that some time ago we received a communication from Amsterdam, indi-

THE SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST, MINNESOTA

OUR readers may have noticed recently opinion focused on the Superior National Forest in the State of Minnesota, which embraces something like a million acres of lake and wildwood, teeming with creatures of the wild, unique as a canoeing country. An attempt was made to introduce auto roads through this remarkable virgin tract, which would have ruined a wild life sanctuary, the like of which we have nowhere in the United States, so near to populous centres.

Happily Secretary Wallace of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, true to the enlightened and progressive stand he has taken on Wild Life Conservation, took up the question, and a meeting was held in Duluth during the first days of April. We were invited to this, but instead of attending had to be content with mailing our proxy, which was used in the interest of true conservation by Mr. Paul B. Riis of

eating that Mr. Cleyndert had placed himself well in advance of membership responsibilities, thus clearly showing that he was with us to stay, notwithstanding the mighty Atlantic rolled between.

The article is quite lengthy, with several capital illustrations of United States park scenery, and we have run through a translation of it (naturally it is printed in Dutch) with very definite pleasure.

Mr. Cleyndert was much impressed with the altruistic spirit of our country as revealed in the great park movement, and he presents quite a mass of detail, setting forth the keen analyst of what he was brought in contact with, and the industrious outlining of this that others might also be informed. It is a splendid tribute to what has been done in this direction.

But Mr. Cleyndert, who is a true wild life conservationist, and so associated with others of his own country of like ideal and purpose, takes the opportunity of drawing a sharp contrast between what he has seen here, and what the conditions are in his own land.

In his article, he says:

It is specially instructive to observe the expression of love and need for free out-of-doors in the American people. These expressions logically call for protection of nature which is recognized by the Government. Sad to say, the latter is not true in the Netherlands.

The following tribute is paid to our State:

Iowa is primarily an agricultural state. Quick action was of special importance here, because only 5% of the land is uncultivated. Such practical steps were taken here, that in a single year eleven parks were established, and the purchase of additional areas was contemplated.

The situation in New York is thus dealt with:

The park system of New York is very extensive. Forty reservations, including state forests, have been established. No one need ask what that can mean to a large state like New York.

Again we read:

It might be said that the idea of a park system is so thoroughly inculcated in the American people, that there is not a single city of any importance without a city park. Is there a single city in our country which has it?

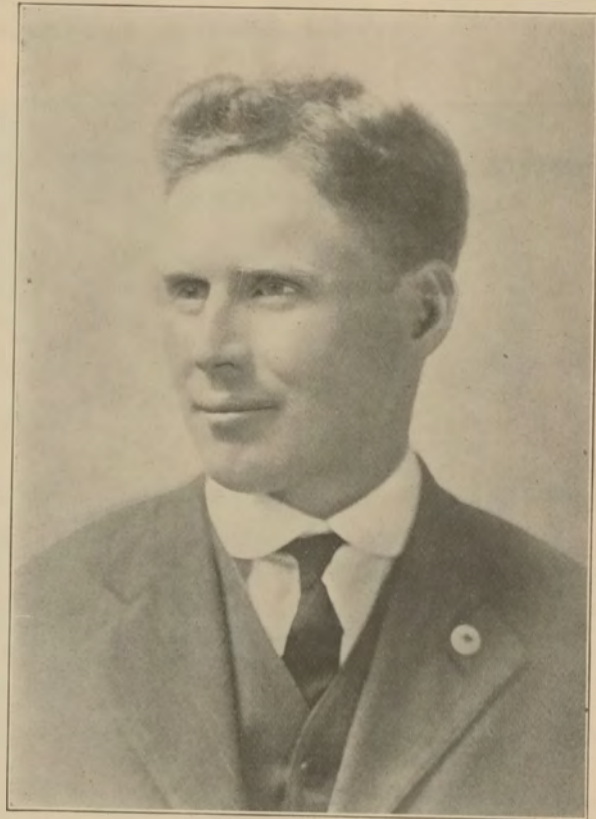
The entire article bristles with interest, and we hope to print it at no distant date, as our readers would much like to peruse it, we are satisfied.

JOHN A. SPURRELL OF WALL LAKE

IT is with keen and heartfelt regret that we report the passing away of a member of our Association, who had long emphasized our ideals and supported our work, John A. Spurrell of Wall Lake, Iowa. He belonged to that profession, as old as the hills, and yet which is today occupying a place in world economy that gives it a prestige, policy and purpose surpassing any other calling.

He was a farmer, and born on the farm April 21,

1889, in the house in which he died. His death was on the evening of Easter Sunday. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Spurrell, were pioneer settlers and he their only son. After completing his high school course at Wall Lake, he entered the Iowa State College at Ames, and graduating from here was united in marriage to Evangeline Francis of Winthrop, Iowa, a young lady whom he had met at the college.



JOHN A. SPURRELL

Responding to his country's call in the recent war, he joined the forces at Camp Gordon, and as one of the Sac County contingent, later embarked for France. But in the early days of the voyage across, he contracted the deadly influenza, and on disembarking in France had to enter the hospital for treatment, in place of lining up with his comrades at roll-call.

He never recovered from the effects of the attack, and although returning from France, had to again seek hospital treatment immediately after he arrived home. And in all probability, enforced relinquishment from his usual activities which the disease imposed, and his desire to be at work, contributed to the seriousness of his condition and the death which resulted.

A member of the M. E. church from early boyhood, a teacher in the Sunday School, a member of his church board, a valued community worker, he filled his place among those with whom he lived, and filled it well. He was also a frequent contributor to many periodicals.

But he was a nature lover, and deeply interested in the work of wild life conservation. An article of his

appeared in the October-December, 1918, issue of Iowa Conservation on "The Future of Iowa's Game Birds," which our friends would do well to look up and re-read. Farmer as he was, wild-life conserver as he was, he embodied a combination that is of the first importance in life economy today.

To his bereaved wife and little son, and the father who has lost his companionship and counsel, we extend our sincere sympathy.

DR. MACBRIDE ON IOWA PARKS

WE are happy in the thought that Dr. Macbride, that veteran seer of the park movement in our State, is back with us in his familiar haunts in Iowa City, and for a prolonged stay, we trust. He has lost nothing of the old time stimulus and energy relative to what he has so long advocated and worked for, park lay-out and extension in Iowa. A valuable contribution appeared from him in the last and previous issues of this magazine, where he deals with the subject from a constructive and administrative standpoint, that gives a unique value to his article.

We have a few spare copies of the last issue referred to, containing the most important part of the article, which we shall be glad to furnish to those specially interested.

NOT ONLY HOLLAND BUT GERMANY

WE had some pleasant experiences at the annual stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Chicago last fall, and while there took the opportunity of distributing a few copies of Iowa Conservation to the assembled members.

Following this, in February last, came the appended communication:

I am an American and have been living some years in Germany, being engaged in the Prussian Department for the Preservation of Nature. Last October I attended the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Chicago, of which I am an Associate. No. 3, Vol. VI of your paper, Iowa Conservation, was tendered the members there. It is an admirable number and aroused greatest interest in our office here. Would it be possible for you to send me the current volume, and such back numbers as you may have available, or which you may consider of special interest?

I should add that these magazines will be of the greatest value to the above office, as it is specially desirous to collect for its library as much American Literature upon conservatism topics as possible.

Needless to say, a warm and hearty response was sent to the writer of the foregoing, Dr. T. G. Ahrens, Berlin-Schoneberg, Germany, who appears to be promoting some excellent work in his quarter of the world. He was on the A. O. U. program at Chicago, and it was a privilege to hear him.

A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE PRESENT ISSUE

ANOTHER designation for "The Man and the Wheelbarrow," appearing below, is "The Rev. Albert L. Murray, Litt. D.," and he is the writer of the bright and breezy article on "Selling Conservation to the People of Iowa," that appears on page 13.

We wish our friends to carefully read this effective contribution, and study this picture of the man. A year or two since, when the old brick M. E. Church on Fourth Avenue, Cedar Rapids, was being dismantled we discovered this gentleman there with his wheelbarrow, and from what we remember of the accompanying circumstances, it was to help the American Legion. They, in some way, had an interest in the razing of the building, and Murray, like a real minister of the Gospel, turned in to help.



THE MAN WITH THE WHEELBARROW

At the present time, this gentleman is acting rector of Trinity Church, Iowa City, and his friends who know him best only wish that he could continue, for a while at least, as that church needs him, and Iowa City, with its daily growing important status needs him. In addition, however, to the foregoing, this man who can handle a wheelbarrow, is editorial writer for the Evening Gazette of Cedar Rapids, a leading Iowan daily, and these contributions bear the guinea stamp.

Where eventually our helpful friend will land, we cannot say, but that it will be to hold a large place in a large environment can scarcely be doubted.

A NEW MOVEMENT IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

A RECENT issue of the Times-Union of Jacksonville, Fla., has a wide-awake editorial on "Needed Forestry Legislation." After reference to the progressive steps taken by the legislatures of Oklahoma, Arkansas and South Carolina, for the creation of non-partisan state boards of forestry, and

suggested co-operation with farmers and private timber owners, it goes on to recommend that Florida pursue a similar course.

Allusion is made to the importance of the basic turpentine industry of the home state, but the warning sounded that this source of wealth will be materially affected, unless a wiser policy for dealing with the fine forests is pursued. Antiquated and wasteful methods that have been practiced in the woods are scored, and a more intelligent and enlightened program advocated.

On March 1, the Florida Forestry Association was organized, and with such a step taken, there should be accruing and satisfactory results along the lines featured by the editorial.

And though Iowa has so little of forest area, there is much in the foregoing that we could cultivate to our distinct advantage.

A. GLANCE BACK AT WINTER DAYS

WE have had the pleasure of hearing again from our friend at Postville, Iowa, who has enshrined in pleasing and rhythmic lines the stimulus and appeal of winter. They will prove a panacea to some who find it somewhat difficult to enjoy a genuine hot day, by setting the imagination to work in another direction. The lines are reproduced here by permission of the American Poetry Magazine:

WINTER FIELDS

Come out across the fields with me, the winter fields
of snow!

Come, feel the tang of icy air, feel all your being
glow

With healthy, vibrant, joyous life, like one who
drinks of wine

And through whose veins the pulsing blood beats
rhythmic tunes divine.

Come out and climb the frosted hills and note the
beauty there—

A fairy-land of jeweled trees in glistening meadows
fair;

Rare etchings traced on seas of glass; tall firs up-
lifted high,

A silhouetted picture there against the blue of sky.

Come out across the whitened fields, the fields of
snow with me,

And breathe a crisp, sweet promise of the things that
are to be;

Through clear white stillness we may hear earth's
throbbing pulse below,

And know the flowers are waiting there beneath the
winter's snow.

JENNIE ORR LEUI.

TURTLE DOVES IN THE WINTER.

TEN or fifteen years ago on North Branch I saw a turtle dove in a bit of timber where a farmer was feeding cattle in January. That was my first winter dove. Every winter since that I have seen a few. One of the bitter cold days recently coming down from the Moore woods to the Backbone tun-

nel the dog flushed a little flock of doves out of the cornfield. They lit in the trees right north of the tunnel, and curious to see how many there were I counted thirty-seven before they took to wing. A lot more much higher up in the chestnut oaks went along with them.—Arthur Goshorn in the Winterset News.

YET ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM THE A. O. U. IN CHICAGO

REFERENCE to the last issue of our serial will show that among those attending the little jaunt to the Indiana Sand Dunes, at the close of the convention, was Benjamin T. Gault, Glen Ellyn, Ill., a noted ornithologist of his state. A copy of the serial containing this outline was sent to Mr. Gault, who in reply says:

Please accept the writer's thanks for the October-December, 1922, number of the "Iowa Conservation," which arrived here a day or two ago. Certainly I appreciate it and your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy.

It seems you have taken up the Park idea in your state in good earnest, and I surely wish you will realize in that direction all you hope for.

Am also interested in the little sketch on the Sand Dunes region of N. W. Indiana and the excursion made there last October by friends and members of the A. O. U.

But, as for the Park idea, it would be nicer still, if this great State of ours were only matching up fully with its progressive neighbor just over the line and across the "Father of Waters."

A PLEA FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD FLOWERS

LAST year a communication was sent to the Des Moines Capital relative to the protection of wild flowers, by Mrs. Fannie P. Himes of Des Moines, a well known member of our Association. In paying a tribute to the paper for its editorial on "A Plea from a Friend of Wild Flowers," the lady commented in a way that is particularly applicable just now, and which we quote. She says:

The adult reading public turns to the editorial page to know the editor personally. The responsibilities he assumes there disclose the character of the publication. Conservationists realize the benefit from such articles in reminding the people of nature's blessings.

A little later the tourists who turn vandals when away from home, will need the memory of such editorials. Just at this season, however, it is the little folks who go to the woods and there find the wonders that bring transports of delight. The first thought is to gather gifts for mother or teacher. Their little damp hands ache with squeezing tightly the poor wilted blossoms as they lay their sacrifice in the lap of their goddess. The flushed face turns eagerly for expressions of thanks. It is really difficult for the receiver to enter at once upon the lesson of conservation but a few hours later when the woodland flowers still droop dejectedly, mother or teacher has a wonderful opportunity to convert the new generation to conservation.

We build for the future by such lessons taught the child.

McGREGOR IS BUSILY PREPARING FOR AUGUST

FOR a considerable time now, an active nucleus of McGregor citizens has been busily at work getting ready for the month of August, that period in the calendar year which has become the little city's great trysting time, because of the School of Wild Life Protection established there, the status it has attained, and the ever increasing interest that is being manifested in its program and work.

Arrangements have been made for the return of practically all the members of the faculty, who in previous years have so enthused and satisfied the students. This means maintaining the high grade of work that has previously prevailed.

The larger interests, where extended areas of wild life conservation are featured, promise this year wider fields of exposition, and this is being industriously cultivated.

The social features promise to be more enjoyable than ever. A day has been chosen for a river trip over one of the most beautiful sections of the Mississippi, and the great steamer Capital engaged for the sail. During the sail, an educational program will be carried out.

Another thing that will accentuate and emphasize the social spirit will be the "Home Coming" (the first



ALL ABOARD FOR LANSING AUG. 9!

in McGregor's history) to be celebrated during the first days of the school session. McGregor is anxious that as many as possible of her dwellers of former days, now resident in other sections, should come back at this time, and rehearse the friendships of long gone days, and this will add to the pleasure and fan the flame of old acquaintance.

The School will be in session from August 5 to 17, inclusive, and all contemplating attending are urged to communicate with Fred G. Bell, chairman Executive Committee, McGregor, so that satisfactory arrangements may be made for their stay.

The Winneshiek Bottoms Drainage Project

Harry C. Oberholser, Washington, D. C.

IN ACCORDANCE with instructions from the Chief of the Biological Survey I made on August 10 an examination of the Winneshiek Bottoms from near Lynxville, Wisconsin, to near Lansing, Iowa. This examination was for the purpose of determining the advisability, particularly from a biological standpoint, of the project to drain these bottoms and to turn them into farming land.

The so-called Winneshiek Bottoms lie in the valley of the Mississippi River and extend from Lynxville, Wisconsin, for some thirty miles northward. The portion below Lansing, Iowa, lies in the State of Wisconsin, that north of this place in the State of Iowa, the former comprising some 13,000 acres, the latter area about 15,000 acres. These bottoms consist of wooded or partially open land, much of it marshy, with many lakes, ponds, sloughs, and inlets, formed by the Mississippi River, which during high water completely floods the entire area for some two or three miles in width.

It is proposed to dredge and dyke the main channel of the river so that all the rest of the bottom land from bluff to bluff will be thereby made dry land and thus suitable for farming purposes. In the State of Wisconsin (in which the more southern part of these bottoms lies, and which is proposed for immediate

drainage) there is a law that allows a petition signed by over one half of the owners of any marsh land to call for a commission to consider the draining of such land. In this particular case the commission has been appointed, one of the members of this commission being directly interested in the project, but no report has yet been made. The engineer of the War Department, who has examined this region, has already recommended that the drainage be made, but so far his report has not been accepted by the War Department.

So far as the actual draining of the area is concerned, it is probably feasible, but the estimated cost would be something like \$80 per acre for the land re-deemed. At the present time this whole area is an excellent resort for waterfowl of all kinds, particularly during the spring and fall; and during the breeding season it is tenanted by numerous Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), a few Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and various other water birds of less economic importance. Numbers of muskrats likewise live in these bottoms, and the revenue derived from the taking of these animals for their fur amounts to a considerable sum each year. This area is, furthermore, one of the best sections of the Mississippi River for fishermen, and the various lakes and sloughs form a wonderful refuge not only for the fish themselves at all times of the year,

but also for spawning purposes. From the land-locked ponds and lakes in the area between Lynxville, Wisconsin, and Lansing, Iowa, there were reclaimed by the United States Bureau of Fisheries during the year 1921 the enormous number of 23,607,000 fishes. Not only are the commercial fisheries in this section of the river very important, but numerous private fishermen find here opportunities for the exercise of their favorite sport. This great area of bottom land, including the ponds, inlets, and sloughs, forms a remarkable holding ground for the flood waters of the Mississippi River, and its value in this particular is great.

Should the drainage project be put through as planned, all of the above assets would be practically eliminated; the area would be worthless as a resort for waterfowl, both in spring, summer, and autumn; the muskrats would practically disappear; nearly all the fishing would be destroyed; and the great spawning and living grounds for fish ruined. In addition to this, the flood waters of the river, which are now held back to some extent by this area, might without this check cause much more damage to places along the river banks bounding the area. It would also have the effect of increasing flood stages for a given discharge for some distance below the proposed drainage districts.

The great expense of the project, due to the difficulty of drainage, would make the land thus obtained cost more than it would be really worth, for the failure of a similar project near Muscatine, Iowa, shows

that the land would not be of much value for agricultural purposes, because the water level in the river in flood stages would be likely to make the land too wet.

Local sentiment, as represented by the town of Lansing and similar towns along the river, by fishermen, by sportsmen, both individually and through their associations, including the McGregor Rod and Gun Club, and by the Honorable W. E. Albert, the Iowa State Game Warden, is all against this project, chiefly for the reasons outlined in the preceding paragraphs of this report. Likewise, Mr. C. F. Culler, the Superintendent of the Fisheries Station at Homer, Minnesota, and Mr. G. C. Leach, in charge of the Division of Fish Culture, both in the Federal Bureau of Fisheries, are decidedly opposed to the drainage of these bottom lands, as the efforts that the Federal Bureau of Fisheries for years past to maintain the supply of fish in this part of the Mississippi River would thereby be nullified.

In view, therefore, of the great damage to the wild fowl and other game, to the fur industry as represented by the muskrat population of this region, to the fishing industry, as well as to private fishermen, to the river valley, owing to the increased potential flood damage; and in view of the impracticability of the project as an agricultural asset, as well as its almost prohibitive cost, it is strongly recommended that the proposal for the drainage of these bottoms be abandoned.

The American School Wild Life Protection

George Bennett, Iowa City

UP to the immediate recent years, Miss McGregor of Clayton County, State of Iowa, U. S. A., was a demure little lady, going the daily round of her uneventful life, amid the placid calmness of an unbroken routine. When accosted, she responded with amiable mien, but took no pains to prolong an interview, as such had no particular attraction for her. She was satisfied to pursue the even tenor of her way, neither seeking publicity, nor shunning the good will of a passing stranger. She was merely playing the part of the well poised and politely trained lady, with no thought that the world ever had, or ever could have, any special regard for her, or that the time would come, when her charms would be heralded far and wide, and her story echoed and re-echoed, from state to state, and carried to lands beyond any state.

And yet this change in Miss McGregor's life and prospects is just what these few years have accomplished. She had imagined that though she might have been arrayed in comely apparel enough, there was no cause for her to set high store on her garments, or imagine they were adorned with jewels. So accustomed was she to the raiment she had always regarded as just

"sweet and simple," she could not see what was patent to the strangers who began to visit her, she was not conscious of the charms they began to point out to her. And then the awakening came, and Miss McGregor saw her own, not only comely, but supremely attractive self, reflected as in a mirror, reflected, too, in the clear and definite attitude characterized by a constant and increasing stream of votaries.

Roused then from the many long decades of a career of quiet and peaceful procedure, she knew that she was sought after, knew she was beautiful, learned to understand something of her stately form, and the vestments in which she was arrayed, the mighty wood-crowned pillars guarding her rich environment, the exquisite tints of the hillside wild flowers, the happy songs of feathered choristers, the silver sheen of stream and waterfall.

Yes, Miss McGregor awoke, as from a dream, and discovered that all she had been told was true, and to-day she is taking her destined part in world economy. She has been witnessing these recent years an increasing interest in what she is and what she has to offer, and now she is responding with whole heart

and soul to the call of duty. Endowed far beyond the common lot of mortals, rejoicing in the lavish gifts which nature has bestowed upon her, she is pleading that humanity everywhere listen to nature's appeal, and not permit the continued ravaging of the glorious out-of-doors, which has worked so much havoc and disaster in the past.

And so, year by year, she is calling all sorts and conditions of men and women, boys and girls, that meeting skilled instructors in the ways of the wild, they may impart to them that which interests, stimulates and wonderfully satisfies and comforts. These folks, from far and near, assemble in the month of August, where she lives, and the date for August next is set for the 5th. to the 17th., inclusive. There is one solemn and serious contract, though, that all these visitors are understood to enter into and accept, that after these days of delightful intercourse with their fair entertainer, they will return to their own immediate environment to promote, at all times, the great cause for which the gentle lady lives, the protection of the wondrous out-of-doors.

In the years just past, Miss McGregor has brought to the School Campus on her own "Heights", where the work of instruction goes forward, men possessed of the knowledge of the wild, and skilled in the ability to impart it, who become fast friends of those they daily meet. Most of these old faces are coming back again this year, and there will be a great succession of re-unions, agreeable and delightful to every one concerned.

Miss McGregor has a fine local bodyguard, truly alive and specially interested in doing all possible for the welcome and convenience of those who in August next will study day by day and night by night, the symmetry, mystery and entrancing loveliness of the trees, rocks, birds, streams, wildflowers and all other nature beauty. This body-guard bears the name of the Executive Committee, their chairman being Fred G. Bell; and his coadjutors, Oscar Fryklund, A. J. Widman, Mrs. W. H. C. Elwell and Karl D. Bickel. These five constitute a rare combination, and with Miss McGregor's never-ceasing and loyal support, will have all ready and waiting when August is ushered in.

We are inserting a picture of Chairman Bell, as Miss McGregor would like every one to be able to recognize him on arrival on the opening School Day. Moreover, he has long been inviting prospective students to apply to him for information as how to act and arrange, so that they will realize all they are looking for, when the Milwaukee conductor calls in clear and resonant tones, "McGregor!"

Miss McGregor sees to it, that the instruction given at her School is of such a character, that thought of

its being in any way related to labor, never comes into the mind. It is learning, learning, learning all the time, but no thought of toil ever arises, it is an operation of love where labor has not even a look-in. And then the social features, the trips over the hills, through the vales and on the river, are simply a series of prolonged experiences of genuine enjoyment.



FRED G. BELL

Miss McGregor recently made her latest and most important advance, in announcing the founding of "The Order of Wild Life Protection." This order, started in her home, is expected quickly to win the support and adherence of dwellers throughout America and every land. The founding of the order will correlate and emphasize the work of the School, in addition to promoting a campaign for nature conservation unique in history, a discussion and elucidation of the movement itself coming up on a day specially chosen, during the assembly in August next.

Though Miss McGregor long since reached what may be termed mature age, up to the present, there has been no general gathering of the friends of all the years in a "Home Coming," but all this is now to be changed, and those who were acquainted with the lady in the former days, and those who were introduced in more recent times, are coming back for the sake of "Auld Lang Syne," and to discuss old confidences once more, and all this to take place when the great School assembles in the month of August next.

Evolution of the State of Iowa Fish and Game Department

THAT the important department of our State entrusted with the administration of its fish and game interests is giving very definite evidence of progressive advance cannot for a moment be doubted. Conditions and sentiment have rapidly changed in the recent years, calling for a vigorous and intelligent grasp of a new situation, and to this the Department is unerringly responding. The time has more than passed when such a bureau of state service as the one under review can be satisfied with merely policing Iowa's rural territory, in order that the law-breaker may be prevented from taking fish and game illegally, and the rights of those who fish and hunt, according to law, be not infringed on.

This police work is very important and no laxity can be permitted in carrying it out. Rather is a need for more stringent effort here by the Department appropriating more funds, if possible, to devote to this particular phase. For its funds are the product of its own administration, and it is the one state organization that runs under its own steam. No appropriation of public funds of any kind does the Department of Fish & Game receive, its support coming wholly from monies representing license fees for hunting and fishing.

In order that the waters of Iowa may be replenished, large numbers of trout and pike are hatched year by year from spawn, the infant fry afterwards being liberated in the streams and lakes of the State. In the case of trout, this is carried out at the department's station at Lansing, and relative to pike, at the hatcheries of Spirit Lake and Clear Lake.

Another very important work which the Department carries out, is the annual rescue of many millions of fish from the shallow ponds adjacent to the course of the Mississippi, where these fish have been transported on the rising of the river, but have failed to get back as the water recedes, and, if not thus rescued, must perish through want of water, or be frozen in the ice at the approach of winter. These rescued fish are either returned to the main channel of the river, or distributed to other waters of the State.

About nine miles from Des Moines is located the State Game Farm, with plant and conveniences for the breeding of certain species of wild game birds, and a custodian's lodge. Because so much of the area of the Middle West is under cultivation, (and this applies to Iowa in a marked degree) the conditions having to do with the life and propagation of wild birds have become considerably modified, and this farm provides an opportunity for certain experimentation, which can be carried forward relative to these changing conditions, and also where the introduction of a species foreign to Iowa is contemplated. Moreover, visitors are always welcome at the Game Farm, and are naturally interest-

ed in what they see. Some species of birds of distinct fancy types are bred in limited numbers, and this naturally intensifies the interest. At the present time, a pair of southern deer and fawn will be found at the farm, which is an additional attraction to the place.

As an illustration of what the Department has done in introducing and acclimatizing a foreign bird, may be mentioned the case of the ring-neck pheasant, a handsome creature well-known in the game covers of England. Not only are these bred at the farm, but they are afterwards distributed in various parts of the State. In order to further carry out this program of distribution, sittings of eggs are furnished persons interested, in order that they may superintend the hatching of these, and afterwards see that the birds are set free to forage for themselves. The ring-neck is a large and handsome bird, and not prone to wander far from where it is liberated, hence promises to be quite an asset to Iowa's out-of-door life.

So far we have been considering what may be designated the general routine procedure of the Department, but, as before intimated, there is much else that recent years have logically brought within the area of its program, because such is closely associated with wild life of every kind and must be dealt with and cared for, if the major amount of good is to be achieved.

Where there are fish, the waters those fish frequent must be conserved, the banks of the streams protected, the water neither rushed nor retarded, and pollution rigorously excluded. Such a heinous crime as dynamiting a stream, to get the fish wholesale, calls for swift and severe punishment on the offender.

There are bluffs and hills where the woodland crown should never be removed in entirety. Trees should be thinned, as they become ripe and occasion requires, but the general assemblage and contour be maintained, in order that the flow of water be properly retarded, and the bluff or hill retain its soil, so necessary to its life and fertility. Unfortunately, as yet, there is no law dealing with such cases, but the Department will welcome such.

A foremost factor in conservation economy is the protection of song birds and other birds that prey upon the insects and weeds that imperil the farmer's crops. Such birds need caring for in many ways, most of them being under the aegis of the law, and here the Department holds a specific brief as custodian for the law and against those who trifle with it.

The rare trees and plants of Iowa are in greater danger of extermination than ever before, particularly the last named, because more easily taken. The Department through its general watchful attitude, and through the ministrations of its district wardens seeks to care for these,

Thus it will be seen, the whole living Iowa out-of-doors logically comes within the operating efforts of the Fish & Game Department. The State Warden is ready to respond to such, and welcomes active and efficient aid from every source. He realizes that the State Fish & Game Department should assume its proper place as the State's leading wild life protective factor, and will be glad to co-operate with every class and movement, so that the best possible results may be secured.

The sportsman (the loyal citizen who lives up to the terms of his license) is one of the best conservationists we have. And the wild life lover, happily increasing through individual and collective effort, stands four-square in the van of permanent advance, while various existent clubs ever seeking to promote human welfare, can be confidently relied on to help stem the tide of nature devastation. The Department confidently seeks for the support of all these in doing everything possible to maintain the natural wild features of the State,

notwithstanding the necessary concessions made to the claims of scientific agriculture.

The State Game Warden deems it not only the discharge of duty, but also a definite privilege to champion in all its fullness and entirety the protection of Iowa's wild creatures and wild plant life, and his various deputies throughout the State are commissioned to do likewise. Residents everywhere should consult and co-operate with these men, whenever occasion arises.

During the sittings of the recent General Assembly, a union of certain departments was discussed, where the work pertaining to Fish and Game might be consolidated with other avenues of public service, but the Legislature happily did not entertain this. The Department of Fish and Game is entirely in its own class, and its chief far too deeply engrossed with matters peculiar to its administration, to be called to supervise something foreign to the important claims of his own special field, with its unique and technical problems, and where scope and outlook is practically limitless.

Selling Conservation to the People of Iowa

Albert L. Murray, Cedar Rapids

In July last, Dr. A. L. Murray of Cedar Rapids was on the program of the Association's summer convention in Charles City, but was prevented from attending. He, however, sent from the editorial rooms of the Gazette, Cedar Rapids, a communication to the field-representative relative to his address, and this was read at the convention. This communication, with some personal allusions eliminated, follows in its entirety:

The unexpected absence of two of our men from the city deprives me of the great pleasure of attending the sessions of the convention in Charles City. I had been counting on the information and the inspiration of the conservation convention. Every newspaper man in the state should be behind your movement pushing, fanning, shouting and dreaming, thinking and talking conservation, even as you and some of the members are doing daily. It is with a sense of personal loss that I have to inform you of my inability to attend. The Charles City people are awake to the importance of the conservation movement and have the right spirit and I am sure that you are going to have a great convention. I am sorry to miss meeting and greeting those kindred minds who see each other so rarely, though each of us in his separate sphere is carrying on for our common cause.

My subject was to have been "Selling Conservation to the People of Iowa." Our organization is doing a work and sustaining an ideal that should appeal to every good citizen of Iowa. From the economic point of view the work of conservation is unappreciated. Deforestation, floods, and their consequent destruction of land values, reduction of essential resources and loss

of bird and animal life are problems of vast importance. The problem of fires alone is of great industrial importance. The work of the rangers, the bug and plant specialists of the federal government, the programs for experimental horticulture and state parks backed by the state are painfully inadequate. The love of nature and the enjoyment of out-door life is fostered by various organizations including in a small way the boy scouts, the Y. M. C. A. and K. C. camps and the work of the public schools. There are many forces at work, but there is only one common ground, one clearing house for them all, and that is the Iowa Conservation Association.

If every person and organization in Iowa interested in the conservation and development of the state would only realize the possibilities of co-operation and co-ordination of ideals and objectives through the Conservation Association, our organization would get the membership, support, and workers, that it merits. It is a voluntary, free and democratic organization. It is flexible and easily adapted to the immediate needs of Iowa at any given time.

Those interested in Iowa from an historical angle, from an artistic point of view, from an industrial, economic, agricultural, timber, horticultural, educational, and even moral viewpoint, may find room for themselves and their interests as represented in our organization. This is the one society that gathers together the fisherman, the hunter, the bird lover, the florist, the geologist, the biologist, the botanist, in fact every scientist and every artist, every poet and every practical business man of Iowa, and says to each, "This is

your society. It works for the conservation of the natural resources of the state." It stands for a wider knowledge of what nature gave to Iowa. It stands for a high appreciation of these varied resources and appreciates their potentialities to the coming generations. In brief, the Iowa Conservation Association is in the best and highest sense the patriotic organization of the state. In the last analysis it was born, developed and perpetuated by real patriotism,—love of country.

So much for the growth of the society itself. We should feel proud of belonging to it and working in it. I hope that every member of our organization will continue to grow in his or her enthusiasm for the association, and present its ideals and aims in season and out of season until every citizen of our state becomes familiar with our organization and our enrollment of members reaches into the thousands. Why not? It should, shouldn't it?

As for selling the conservation association to the public, I would say that we have four ways at least, four open to us. First, the intelligent interest and enthusiasm of our individual members who should become missionaries for the organization. Every member should be able to get five new members within a year and should be able to give at least ten people an intelligent understanding of our work. This is our call for personal workers. The second way will be the support and circulation of the magazine. The third way I would suggest is that our organization make its appeal to the people of the state by a record of achievement. Nothing is so convincing to the people of this age as accomplishment. The fourth way we may all help is by getting the editors of Iowa well lined up. Every editor may be said to be fighting for the very things this organization stands for. Thousands of people are too much occupied with other things or indifferent to the vitally important things that the association stands for. We must make it clearly understood that we are not a group of cranks or faddists, or peculiar people who have narrow views about hunting and fishing or that we are impractical dreamers. As a matter of fact,

this organization is one of the most hard-headed, far-seeing institutions in the state. It is because we realize the economic value of bugs and reptiles and birds and flowers and trees, that we are working to conserve them for the future generations.

The newspapers of the state have it in their power to put over the greatest thing in the state. They have it in their power to sell Iowa to the Iowans. That is exactly what our association is trying to do. If Iowa realized what it possessed actually and potentially, Iowa would wake up to a program of conservation that would fulfill the dreams of this association. Iowa, like every other state, will not wake up until every phase of conservation is presented from every angle, and the vital, urgent importance of conservation is brought home to the people by voice and pen. The public school, the moving picture, the churches, each offer an open door to our organization to spread our message, but perhaps the greatest force we have at our disposal is the press of this great state.

With their wide circulation and vast influence in forming and directing public opinion, the newspapers of this state could put over our proposition. What is more, they *should* put it over because it is their proposition too. It is the supreme concern of Iowa, if Iowa only knew it. Iowa itself must be conserved. The resources of nature are fundamental to life, and to society.

We must all do it. What we need is not more members just now, but more active members. Let every newspaper in this state be personally reached by active members of this organization.

Let us have a strong publicity committee that will supply news features to the press of the state. This work must be pushed. We have something big to do and we must do it in a big way.

These are some of the things I had intended to say. I am sorry that I can not say them. With warmest personal regards, I am yours for conservation till the soldiers get their bonus, and then until wars shall cease and strikes be no more.

DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI TO MONTROSE

Two hundred and fifty years have passed since the noted pioneers, Marquette and Joliet floated down the Wisconsin River, in the neighborhood of Prairie du Chien, and found they were on the bosom of a mighty body of water, still, the magnificent Mississippi.

In memory of those long ago days, the event they signalize is to be celebrated in various ways, and one of these that of impersonating the party of Marquette and Joliet by a canoe launching at the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, on the anniversary of the day of discovery, June 17. Day by day the voyagers will paddle down the river, the procedure being regarded as a celebration for residents on both banks, as well as the country generally.

On Tuesday, June 26, a reception will be tendered the voyagers, as they reach Burlington, under the auspices of the Women's Catholic League of Burlington.

Eventually all will culminate at Montrose on Wednesday, June 27, when an assembly will gather under the chairmanship of Benj. F. Shambaugh, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Among other features, an address will be given by Lieut. Gov. Hammill, preceded by words of welcome and a response by J. P. Kennedy of Montrose and President Smith of Iowa Wesleyan College, respectively.

Various other interesting events will be staged in and about Montrose during the day.

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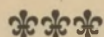
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The spell of the wildwood is here, and sleeping rock and active tree invite us to range and roam far from the city's avenues of smooth and polished stones. The bird of the forest calls, and his note is ringing clear. The rivulet's ripple is singing the old ditty of long ago, while the tree tops bend to the breeze's caress, and where the tree trunks leave the soil, there are myriads of tiny creatures that contribute to the symphony of nature's great orchestra, the chorus of the wild. There are many instruments and there are many players, staccato notes voiced to the full, knowing nothing of restraint, with low, crooning sounds of soft, beguiling witchery, best attuned to the ear of him, who has long sought the happy companionship of vernal spring.

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The Mission of
McGregor by the Mississippi



WILD LIFE SCHOOL SCENE—A PROFESSOR AND HIS CLASS

Beautiful for situation, with towering bluffs, beetling crags, forested heights, rolling hills, pictured rocks, vocal valleys and water scenes unsurpassed, McGregor by the Mississippi, has found its mission, and this, not only a mission to the Middle West, not only a mission to the United States of America, but a mission to the wide and waiting world.

Here will assemble on August 5, 1923, to continue two weeks, "The American School of Wild Life Protection," where expert instructors of Mother Nature's inner circle, will meet men, women and children of all ages and classes, and reveal to them the secrets and the teachings of the great out-of-doors. And, in association with all this, will be social features of the highest and most appealing order; and the cost of all this is moderate; and McGregor's tariff scale of living is moderate, too. Ask those who have been here and the Secretary of the Citizens' Association.

And McGregor, on August 5 next and following days, is staging a great "Home Coming," the first in the city's history. It has so much now to invite residents of other days to come back to, investigate and enjoy! Be sure and ask the Secretary of the Citizens' Association about this.

And during the "Happy School Days" on McGregor Heights in August next, steps are to be taken to complete the organization of "The Order of Wild Life Protection," which, with a vision and prospective operation that is limitless in its scope and ultimate in its line-up of every land, marks an era in the great world movement of today, a movement for protecting the character and wonder of God's sacred out-of-doors.

So let the reader who wishes to record a vacation of all vacations, and to be present in McGregor in August next, communicate without delay with

L. F. BELL, Secretary Citizens' Association

McGregor, Iowa