

Archaeological Institute of America

PAPERS

OF THE

SCHOOL OF AMERICAN
ARCHAEOLOGY

Number Thirty-four

THE PROPOSED "NATIONAL PARK OF THE CLIFF CITIES"

By

EDGAR L. HEWETT

1916

THE PROPOSED "NATIONAL PARK OF THE CLIFF CITIES"

By EDGAR L. HEWETT.

BECAUSE of the recently awakened interest in Senate Bill No. 2542 introduced by Senator Catron it will be timely to inquire into the purpose, present status and merits of this measure.

The bill, in brief, contemplates the permanent withdrawal from settlement, as well as from present use as National Forest, of all lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States between the Rio Grande on the east, the Rio Jemez on the west, the Lobato Grant on the north and the Santo Domingo Grant on the south, and the establishment thereon of the "National Park of the Cliff Cities." The tract embraces an area of approximately 280,000 acres.

The reason for the Act is the existence in that region of a vast number of ancient pueblos and cliff dwellings of such interest as to warrant the strict administration of National Park service and worthy of the more general exploitation which it is assumed would follow. The bill may be considered a revival of Congressman Lacey's Pajarito National Park Bill of more than a decade ago, retired by him to make way for the more popular Mesa Verde Park measure, which became a law, and for the general "Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities" which was enacted in 1906.

Careful inquiry into the status of the present bill discloses the fact that it had not gained the support of

1. Either of the Senators from New Mexico.
2. The New Mexico Representative in Congress;

3. The Department of Agriculture under whose jurisdiction the major part of the lands involved now are;

4. The Department of the Interior under whose jurisdiction the Park would come;

5. The State administration of New Mexico;

6. The scientific organizations most vitally interested, such as the New Mexico State Museum;

The School of American Archaeology;

The Santa Fe branch of the Archaeological Institute of America;

The New Mexico Archaeological Society.

Lack of the support of any one of these would be serious; lack of support from all renders the proposition hopeless. Moreover, it was found that, in addition, there had arisen determined opposition from the settlers in and about the area to be withdrawn. This was expressed in the form of protests to the number of hundreds lodged with the New Mexico Representative in Congress.

All parties interested will welcome information as to the reasons for the failure of the bill to secure the support necessary for its enactment.

As to the New Mexico Senators, Representative in Congress and the Governor of the State, it is to be assumed that they seek to carry out the will of the people of the State and are not convinced that they generally desire or will be benefited by the passage of the bill. The Department of Agriculture, in the ad-

vancement of its policy of making the National Forests serve not only their great economic purpose but also that of National recreation grounds, presumably feels that no change of status would be for the better. The Department of the Interior, knowing that in all probability only one large National Park will be created in New Mexico, is apparently not convinced that this region has the pre-eminent claim, and moreover finds serious objection from the administrative standpoint.

The objection of the scientific organizations expressed in an advisory way, was mainly to the restriction of scientific investigation of important ruins in this immense district to the United States Government, which would serve to retard archaeological research in the region for indefinite years. At the present rate of Government exploration and excavation of ruins, to examine and make known the scientific facts of this large district would be the work of some centuries—a responsibility which the scientific arm of the Government does not seek, nor care to have imposed upon it. The framers of the bill apparently ignored the great amount of consideration given this subject years ago, which resulted in the enactment of the eminently satisfactory Lacey Act, which granted equitable rights of research to all reputable scientific organizations. Under this law, joint departmental regulations make it incumbent upon the Smithsonian Institution to pass upon the qualifications of all scientific organizations applying for excavating privileges. This has operated to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

The State of New Mexico could hardly be expected to favor legislating away the privileges of its State Museum, and other institutions, in the richest archaeological district within its borders; a field which it has been the particular province of the State, through its institutions,

to investigate and make known and convert into an asset of great importance. Equally regrettable would be the exclusion of institutions outside of the State which are desirous of participating in these investigations and whose work it has been our policy to encourage, in the belief that such collaboration is for local as well as general good.

Another objection is to the proposed name, which seems particularly unfortunate. It is now so generally conceded that the local Indian and Spanish names of the Southwest should be perpetuated, and that changing the names of long established and well known localities is to be avoided, that it would seem no possible reason could be advanced for the substitution of the unhappy "National Park of the Cliff Cities" for the old name "Pajarito Park" under which the district has become known through more literature than has been produced concerning any other point of archaeological interest in the west.

Some effort has been made to meet the objection pointed out by the archaeological organizations. In the draft of a new bill which is designed to replace Senate Bill 2542 the excavation provisions of the Lacey Act are adhered to and the name "Cliff Dwellers' National Park" substituted. It is less objectionable. In a subsequent section, however, it is provided that the National Board of Geographic Names may recommend a suitable name for the Park which on approval by the Secretary of the Interior shall be made permanent. With the numerous examples we have of emasculation and eradication of fine old local names by those who are ignorant of their significance and pronunciation, might it not be just as well for New Mexico to stand for its own characteristic names while it can have some influence in the matter? It is argued that such a name as Pajarito is frequently mispronounced. The same may be said of Santa



—*Photograph by John K. Stauffer.*

THE NAMBE FALLS.

These beautiful falls are almost 20 miles east of the Puye, a few miles above the pueblo of Nambe. The river, like the stream in the Rito de los Frijoles Canyon, drops over a huge ledge of rocks.

Fé, Yosemite, Los Angeles and La Junta. It is held by some that the name Pajarito is not sufficiently descriptive of the region. The same objection might be urged against Yellowstone.

It is greatly to be regretted that, in the search for a new name, *publicity value* is made the main consideration, to the disregard of all principles of place naming. It can not be conceded, however, that even if willing to set aside local sentiment, and sound philological laws and the passion of historian and scientist for truth, and view it from the purely mercenary standpoint of *publicity value* the case would be against the original name. The absurdity of the "National Park of the Cliff Cities" would achieve the publicity of ridicule and the "Cliff Dwellers' National Park" would be found in competition with another Cliff Dwellers' National Park (The Mesa Verde) and the manufactured Home of the Cliff Dwellers near Colorado Springs.

Considered plainly as an asset, the name Pajarito Park has the advantage of years of use in connection with this unique region in scientific literature and the daily press amounting to an enormous volume of advertising.

Considered from the only standpoint that should have any weight at all, the present name of the region under discussion is the only one it can have. The excuse for making it a National Park is its archaeology. Its general name, and the particular names of the ruins and natural features belong to the archaeology of the district. They are native Indian or their Spanish equivalents, furnished in every instance by the most reliable Indian informants and invariably confirmed on the ground by additional Indian witnesses. Does the removal of the dominant name Pajarito portend the extinction of Tyuonyi, Otowi, Navawi, Puye, Shufinne, Tsankawi, the Alamo, the Guages?

Are we to have Cow Creek, Cottonwood Gulch, Smith's Mesa, Bald Bluff, Abbott's Canyon, Zoroaster's Temple, Big Stone Ruin? Look at the map of Mesa Verde National Park. Here are some of the official place names: Big Mesa, White's Canyon, Soda Canyon, Horse Canyon, Spruce Tree House, Balcony House, Mug House, Kodak House, Long House, Cliff Palace, Thomas House, Sandal House, School Section Canyon, Community House. This unspeakable medley in spite of the fact that every ruin, canyon, mesa or feature of any kind whatsoever has an Indian name that it has borne for ages, well known to the living Utes nearby.

The fact is Pajarito Plateau is the only section of the Southwest that has been systematically and scientifically named. There is not a single absurdity in the place names, such as Aztec Ruin, Toltec Gulch, Montezuma's Well. All are archaic and authentic. Simplified rather than scientific orthography has been used in the Indian words and the corruptions permitted in order to make them generally useable are no greater than those found in the beautiful Indian names that have so happily persisted throughout the middle west, such as Iowa, Illinois, Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, Kankakee, Oquawka, etc.

The retention of our characteristic New Mexico names is of the same importance as the preservation of our old architecture. How rapidly the fine old style was disappearing and the nondescript taking its place. That seems happily arrested now, and Santa Fe knows that its archaic style of architecture is its finest asset—that this makes it unique among state capitals. The archaic names should be as jealously guarded. The "Bandelier National Monument" has recently been established by the Department of Agriculture. It is designed to protect the ruins of El Rito de los Frijoles and those tributary to it. At first

thought, how fitting it seems that that lovely spot should bear the name of the noble scientist of revered memory, who glorified it under its ancient name of beautiful sound though homely significance. But it is wholly wrong in principle, and the modest, well-beloved archaeologist would, if it were possible, keenly resist the substitution of his name for that of "The Rito," most beautiful and romantic of ancient cliff communities. Fancy a movement to make of the Mission of San Juan Capistrano the "Lummis National Monument," in honor of the leading spirit of the California Landmarks Club, foremost in the preservation of the sacred missions! Imagine the sounds that would issue from the Lion's Den! The living lion would be listened to with much respect. Truly it adds a new terror to death when one thinks of the inevitable efforts of his friends to honor his name.

The new draft partially eliminates another objection to Senate Bill 2542 which to every right thinking person was sufficient to condemn it. In defining the area of the Park the Santa Clara Indian Reservation was extinguished. This tract of approximately 45,000 acres was set apart some years ago for the Santa Clara Pueblos in settlement of their long pending and just claims upon a larger tract, nearly 90,000 acres, adjoining their grant on the west. An altogether erroneous and unjust decision of the courts had put them off with the "Shoestring Grant," a few rods wide, along the Rio Santa Clara. Friends of the Indians worked for many years to have this injustice set right and it was finally adjusted to the satisfaction of all parties by granting to the Indians the Santa Clara Reservation which they accepted in lieu of their larger claim. Of any measure that would deliberately, or by careless oversight, overthrow such a work of eminent justice as this, one finds it difficult to speak with restraint. The record

of dishonor in dealing with the Indians is long enough. Let us not add to it.

The new draft recognizes the Santa Clara Reservation and excludes it in fixing the boundaries. Difficult to understand, then, is the reason for treating it in a subsequent section as though included within the limits of the Park. (Section 2, second paragraph:) "That portion of the area of said tract which is known as the Santa Clara Indian Reservation shall be reserved for the exclusive use of the Indians who heretofore shall have been entitled to the use of the same to the full extent that it was used as a Reservation." Those who are solicitous for the welfare of the Indians will tolerate no ambiguity on this point. It would seem to be the part of wisdom to meet the above objections with unequivocal provisions.

The new revision does not meet the objections of the Executive Departments of Government nor on close examination those of the local settlers. The bill begins with the reservation from settlement and entry of all the lands within the specified boundaries. This is later, in Sec. 6, qualified by the proviso that there shall be no interference with the rights to enter homesteads upon agricultural lands within the boundaries of the national park the same as within national forests. This is later qualified by the provision that no land of any character whatsoever can be leased or made subject to entry under the homestead or mining laws if such appropriation interferes in any manner whatsoever with any object of interest or the free enjoyment of them by the public. The sole judge of this can only be the Secretary of the Interior. Under this provision he can prevent all settlement or entry of lands within the park, and doubtless would carry out the settled policy of the Department, which is absolutely against private holdings within the National Parks. That policy is ex-

pressed as follows: "It is of special and urgent importance that provision should also be made by Congress for the extinguishment of private holdings in the several parks. These holdings seriously interfere with the proper administration of the parks and impair their usefulness and beauty in many ways. They can be extinguished either by way of direct appropriation for their purchase or by authorizing their exchange for lands or timber within the particular parks or within the national forest reserve adjacent thereto." (Report of the Secretary of the Interior, 1914.)

The bill thus attempts to meet the reasonable demand of the Interior Department for exclusive control within the park limits and satisfy the tenacity of the people for the preservation of their homestead and mining rights, and fails in both objects. It is another example of ambiguity—all too prevalent in this bill—caused by trying to pacify objectors. The bill should be entirely re-drawn, simplified and made unequivocal.

The local advantages in favor of the National Park that we hear most frequently mentioned are:

1. Its desirability as a great tourist attraction;
2. The advantage of Government exploitation;
3. Strict custodianship of the antiquities.

Without entering upon an extended discussion of these alleged benefits, the following questions are proposed for investigation in connection with this subject:

What city has been built up or noticeably benefited by becoming a gateway to a National Park? Will the tourist business gained by Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Espanola offset the prospective development of this vast region by settlement which can go on uninterruptedly under the present liberal forestry regulations but which is barred under the National Park restrictions?

The native New Mexican is preeminently a small farmer and stock grower. For the first time he is learning, under the instruction of county agents, to farm and breed scientifically. Who can doubt that under the new order that is here, thousands of settlers on farms of ten acres or less, with some grazing advantages, will be found in a few years living comfortably on this area? It is par excellence a country for small farmers and grazing, and our native population will eventually know how to develop it. A permanent bridge at Buckman or Rio Grande, a highway and tributary roads penetrating the region, giving it direct access to the State Capital, will mark the beginning of such development. Another factor in the problem is the ultimate destiny of the private grants within the district, such as Baca Location.

In other words, the splendid mountain region of northwestern New Mexico, about the area of Switzerland, with the scenic beauties of the Alps or Pyrenees, has also large possibilities of settlement, cultivation and economic development as in the mountain countries of Europe. Would it have been wise centuries ago to have made of Switzerland a vast park, barring settlement and reserving it solely for a pleasure ground? It is the home of three and a half million people of the finest type, and the world's playground at the same time.

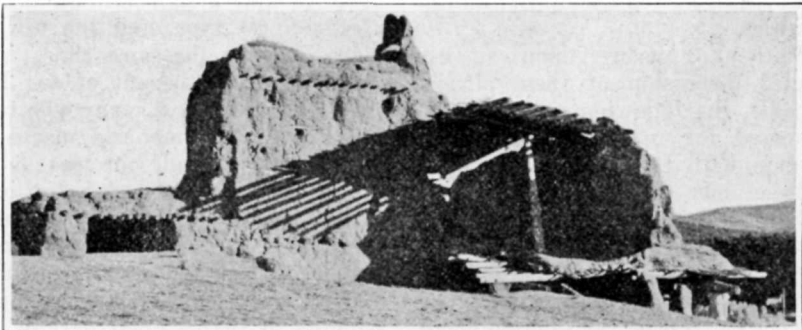
Who gets the benefit of our National Parks? How many who read this have had time and means to visit them? Will not the withdrawal of vast areas for National Park purposes, with its consequent stoppage of local development, probably be superseded by the creation of large numbers of small parks distributed so that a great part of the population may have access to them? This is the course that the recreation ground problem in our large cities is running. The National Monument clause in the Lacey Act

was enacted for the express purpose of creating small reservations for the protection of important objects without the withdrawal of large tracts of land. Is not this a desirable step toward the establishment of small and numerous National Parks?

Is Government exploitation the most important factor for stimulating travel to an attractive place or is it a matter of railroad advertising? The Mesa Verde National Park, in the greatest scenic state in the Union, for ten years under Government control and exploitation, had in 1915 about 1200 visitors; the Grand Canyon, a National Monument, advertised mainly by the railway, had 106,000 visitors. The point is that an attractive district will get its patronage if advertised and made accessible. It is noticeable that the railways are more and more disposed to make the Santa Fe district a leading attraction. Is it not likely that it will reach its maximum as a tourist center under the present status without interfering with the prospective development of the region by permanent withdrawal from settlement?

Is the National Monument Act inadequate for the protection and exploitation of the important ruins of Pajarito Park? The law for the protection of antiquities is just as drastic for National Monuments as for National Parks. No serious vandalism has occurred in Pajarito Park for more than ten years. The Forest Service and War Department have funds and service for the care of National Monuments under their jurisdiction. Those on Indian Reservations are adequately policed. The Secretary of the Interior has an item in the Sundry Civil Bill in the estimate for his department for the care of the National Monuments on the public domain. So this weak spot in the administration of the National Monument Act is in a fair way to be remedied.

These last suggestions are not offered as objections to the proposed National Park measure, but as questions which every organization and individual that is asked to indorse it may reasonably raise and require to be satisfactorily answered. It is not a spirit of opposition but merely the attitude of the discreet Missourian.



ANCIENT HOUSE AT PICURIS.

