

RESERVE FOREST LANDS.

Extracts from Letter of the Government Forestry Commission.

Suggestions Made by P. G. FRIEDRICHES, the Regulation of Uncle Sam's Valuable Timbered Properties—Legislation Needed.

The substance of the detailed and voluminous report submitted by the government forestry commission, the body designated by the National Academy of Science, in embracing in a letter which has just been submitted by the commission to the secretary of the interior in advance of the formal report to be made early in May. Following are important extracts:

"The legislation relating to reserved forestlands of the public domain, which the commission of the National Academy will recommend in its final report, now in course of preparation, provides for the following:

"First, that authority be given to the secretary of war to make details of troops at the request of the secretary of the interior to protect temporarily and until a forest service is organized the property of the government in the forest reservations from fire and trespass and to enforce such rules and regulations as he may make for their care."

"Second, the establishment of a permanent forest bureau in the department of the interior, composed of trained officers, to administer, maintain and improve the reserved forest lands. Third, the appointment of a commission to institute as rapidly as possible under the supervision of the director of the geological survey topographical surveys of the reservations and determine what portions of them should be permanently reserved on account of their forest covering and what portions should be reopened to entry and sale. Fourth, to authorize the secretary of the interior to issue the necessary rules and regulations for the protection, growth and improvement of the forests on the reservations, etc."

The commission will recommend that the reservations be opened to the location of mining claims under the general mineral laws. It will also recommend that the owners of unperfected, bone fide claims or patents of land included in the great reservations be permitted to relinquish their claims to the government, selecting in these tracts of vacant land open to settlement, but not exceeding in area the tracts covered by their claims or patents; and that the owners of such unperfected claims shall not be subjected to additional charges for entries or record, and that credit shall be allowed them for the time spent on the relinquished claims.

DR. HARPERS NEW OFFICE.

Chicago University's President a Sunday School Superintendent.

President Harper of the University of Chicago, is now a Sunday school superintendent. Deacons of the Hyde Park Baptist church, Fifty-sixth street and Woodlawn avenue, prevailed upon him to accept the post and the vote was unanimous for the famous educator as the annual meeting of the officials of the church.

About a month ago the church officials got wind of a pet project of the doctor's which was to be carried out as soon as circumstances would permit. A model Sunday school was to be established on the university campus, one which was to outshine every other school of the sort in the city. The Hyde Park Baptists feared it is said, that if this scheme were to be put into effect their own school would be harmed to no little extent, as its location is but two blocks from the campus. A week ago the pastor, Rev. J. L. Jackson; H. W. Mahan, superintendent of the Sunday school, and R. E. Davidson, the assistant superintendent, met and decided that the only method of avoiding such a possibility would be to bring Dr. Harper into the school.

The president agreed to the proposal on condition, it is believed, that he could manage the Sunday school according to his own ideas. The members of the congregation are elated over the news, and say they will cooperate in any plan which is likely to make their Sunday school a model one. Dr. Harper has had a trusteeship, but none from this has performed the duties of no other prominent office in connection with the workings of the church.

BEING CROWDED OUT.

Italian Canned Tomatoes Supplanting American Vegetable in Ireland. United States Consul Taney at Belfast reports to the state department that Italian canned tomatoes are supplanting the American tomatoes largely used there, owing, as the dealers say, to the fact that the American vegetable is overcooked or overripe, and consequently is not as firm when opened as the Italian tomatoes. By the Italian can appear to be larger than the American.

Old Customs of Physicians.

It was formerly the practice among physicians to use a cane with a hollow head, the top of which was pierced with holes like a pepper box. The top contained a small quantity of aromatic powder, or snuff, and on entering a house or room where a disease supposed to be infectious prevailed the doctor would strike his cane on the floor to agitate the powder and then apply it to his nose. Hence all the old prints of physicians represent them with canes to their noses.

Preserving Mexican Timber.

Mexico evidently sees the evils which may accrue to the country through the destruction of the timber. A committee of five has just been appointed by President Diaz to report on the best means of preserving the timber throughout the republic.

THESIS OF CHICAGO STUDENT.

Designs a Bear Trap Dam Applicable to Drainage Channel.

Now that the "fourth year men" at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston are well started on their last year of college grime and have their themes well under way, it is interesting to note some of the different ideas being worked out.

A thesis of rather unusual character and one that is attracting wide attention in the college is a design by Morris Kinnard Turnbull, of Chicago. This design is for a bear trap dam with an investigation of the controlling works of the Chicago drainage canal. This dam is one that may be raised or lowered, thereby controlling the elevation of the water in the channel, and hence limiting the overflow. Such structures are rarely used in that part of the country, although less frequent in Pennsylvania and Ohio. This dam will be designed for a channel 160 feet wide, and the elevation will be controlled by hydraulic force. Mr. Turnbull has his work well under way and it promises to be something entirely new in this line.

Another very practical problem under consideration, and one that will be of great interest to railroad men all over the world, is a plan for the abolishment of grade crossings at Besseville, Mass. A noteworthy feature of this problem is the fact that the New England railroad passes over the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad at this point.

Another thesis involves the design of a railroad bridge of 440 feet span. The type of this structure is that used nowadays in this country for long-span railroad bridges—that is, a pin-connected, curve-chord truss. The bridge in this design is of rather unusual span for this type, although longer spans are occasionally built, the longest in this country being at Cincinnati, O., with a span of 550 feet.

TO GO DOWN TO POSTERITY.

Autograph Placed in the Bronze Portals of Grant's Tomb.

When the bronze portals of Grant's tomb are taken apart to be broken up for firewood and old bronze in some remote age the inhabitants of Manhattan island will learn the names of some of their progenitors of this day and of some of the people who were reckoned prominent in the metropolis of the new world in 1897.

For between the wooden frames of the doors and the thick bronze sheeting which covers them have been laid sheets of parchment, in all the panels and on the interior and exterior, which bear the autographs and names of many people. Borkel & Dabek still have the desire in their possession. Mr. Borkel has locked the secret of the people who are to be handed down to posterity in this way in his breast. Not even the Grant Monument company, said he, "knows who they are. For the most part they were people who came in to look at the doors while we were at work on them, and signified the desire to perpetuate their names in this way."

Most of them will be found, he said, in the list of New York's 400.

A DESERTED VILLAGE.

Ketona, N. Y.—Abandoned Because Too Near Croton Watershed.

Old Katonah awaits a second Goldsmith to write another "Deserted Village." It is a place abandoned. Its houses, with the exception of a few dismantled ones, have been moved away. Railroad avenue, formerly the center of trade, presents only a line of excavations and crumbling foundations. Poor old Katonah is an instance of the destruction of an entire village to benefit the water supply of New York.

The village was condemned in March, 1896, by reason of being within 300 feet of the Croton watershed. Little Russell's old cob horse was sold at auction the other day at East Rockaway, Long Island. With him was a coach that used to rumble over the Long Island roads 100 years ago. The old cob was called Solly in the days when the fair actresses drove him. He was bought by a peddler of Valley Stream, Long Island. The peddler sells claims in the summer, so old Solly will have to pull a cart load of claims this season instead of an airy fairy Lillian, which is a sed-e-me-down. Poor old Solly seemed to understand how great was his fall when he was knocked down by the peddler. His ears drooped and his tail hung limp, his knees rubbed against each other, and he breathed hard when the fatal "Going, going—once, twice, third and last call—gone! Sold!" fell from the auctioneer's lips. It is thought he will not last long.

CORBETT IN MARBLE.

Seubert Reproduces the "Knock Out" Scene of Recent Fight.

Otto Dobbertin, the well-known sculptor, has just completed a bust of James J. Corbett, which is destined to attract a great deal of attention. The bust is entitled "Knocked Out," and is something after the style of the "Dying Gladiator." It represents the former champion of the world just after Robert Fitzsimmons dealt him his famous hook on the left side near the heart.

The tall form of the erstwhile champion is toppling for a collapse. His left hand is thrown upward and outward; his right is at his side; his knuckles have given way under him and his head is thrown back, while a look of utter agony comes over him. The look is one of pain, of regretful resignation and surprise. Moreover, there is an expression such as Napoleon might have worn at Waterloo or St. Helena.

Candies.

Recent experiments by the curmous at Portland, Ore., have revived collections of a primitive light used in the early days of the settlements along the Columbia river, when the residents called sweets candiebah. The druid sweets have as well as candies, and give as appetizing odor.

Hard to Keep Awake.

In the long arctic nights there is a constant difficulty in keeping awake. Greeley had to make very strict rules to keep his men awake during the long arctic night. Rodes were not allowed to be made, and the men were compelled to get up and move about.

Ingenious Contribution Box.

There is a Boston church where the contribution box has a small bell concealed in it, which rings only when a deposit is made. The collection is taken during the sermon, and the stingy churchgoers are thus easily detected.

Diebold Safe & Lock Co.

Entre les rues St-Joseph et Julie.

No 50,000—Cour Civile de District pour la paroisse d'Orléans.

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