

The Appalachian Forest Reserve.
(By JOE T. RAY.)

Mr. Editor: If your space allows I would like to answer all arguments of all comers and goers, now and forever, who are in favor of the Appalachian Forest Reserve. However, I must say a few words any way.

If we knew just what the Government wants to do, we would know just what to say; but the most important part is left optional or understood with the Secretary of Agriculture. We notice in his report to the President of Dec. 16, 1900, as he dips his pen in the colors of the rainbow and describes the Appalachian mountains in the language of a Milton, that he says there should be not less than 4,000,000 incorporated. Judging from his division, and the stress he lays upon the Grandfather, Roan and Whitetop, Boone will be about the center of the patch.

Then I notice in the President's letter of transmittal to the Senate and House of Representatives of Dec. 19, 1900, three days after the Secretary made his report, he says, ten million dollars is enough to buy the desired territory. So you see they are counting on getting our lands at not more than \$2.50 per acre. In a report by H. B. Ayers and W. W. Ashe, sent out by the Government to examine the territory, they say that out of 5,400,000 acres examined by them there are 1,200,000 acres or 24 per cent cleared. They also say that the entire country is upland with the exception of about ten per cent; also that the cleared uplands should at once be reforested. Taking four million as a base, 24 per cent of which equals 960,000 acres, the total cleared land, 10 per cent of that equals 96,000 acres, representing the bottom land; but they said the cleared upland far exceeds the bottom, so we will allow two-thirds for cleared upland and we have left on which to develop, provided they do not get tired of us in their way, and shove us out, 32,000 acres of bottom land. If the Government should see fit to let us keep our cleared bottom land, there would be homesteads for 200 settlers. Lord, how lonesome they will be! They could hear the wolves howl from peak to peak, the lion roar and the whangdoodle mourn.

Mr. Cone says the Forest Reserve would protect our mountains from forest fires. We are inclined to believe that fire will burn in a park the same as anywhere else. To prove this, there was a fire in Yellowstone Park, Mr. Linney says, "the biggest this side of hell."

Then he speaks of the benefit to be derived from the free advertising such an enterprise would give. If the country goes into the hands of the Government, we will have nothing to advertise. Then he says the Government will build good roads. We are not interested in good roads after we are down and out. Then he says they will teach us how to care for and perpetuate our forests. If the Government takes charge of the forests, we will not need any teaching, for we will have none to perpetuate, unless we want to work for the Government free of charge as provided under Sec. 2 of the bill. Then he says it will bring wealthy people among us who will spend money and invest here. None but the wealthy can come and stay long, because parks are the play grounds of the rich, the play grounds of kings.

Then he speaks of preserving the great wonderful natural beauty of this country. True, but who would care to stand on the shores of exile and gaze with tear filled eyes upon the beautiful mountains that were once our own, and not be allowed to go hence and be free again. Then he says it would make this whole section

one great summer resort. Yes, it would be fine for bears, wolves and wild-cats. He says it would bring us schools and colleges. The two hundred settlers scattered over four million acres, could hardly marshal enough to constitute many schools.

In regard to the price of the lands, should I speak for the people, I would say they are not for sale. It is true that we sell and swap among ourselves, but that is quite different from selling out and turning our backs forever, like Lot of old, upon the beautiful and beloved hills of our childhood. We don't want to sell; it don't suit us to leave the mountains. These lands belong to us; we have paid the government all it asked us for them, and we claim we have a perfect right to use them just as we please. If the fact can be established that we are non-compositus, then we favor having a guardian appointed in the regular way. We care nothing about what has befallen France, Germany or Egypt. We know what kind of a country we have. Instead of our lands all sliding off as soon as they are cleared, and leaving a barren rock, as represented, we farmers know that we cannot keep the bushes and briars from retaking our fields. Again we know there are hill tops 5,000 feet high all around us that have not had a tree upon them perhaps 6,000 years, and they are the finest grass farms in the country today, with soil two feet deep.

If the government would take a part of the money it is spending trying to hog us out of our delightful mountains, and educate the people in farming and forestry, it would look much better of it. The fact of the matter is, the whole movement was born of the spirit of tyranny that prompts the strong to oppress the weak; growing out of that same old idea that the people of the mountains are a kind of half savage tribe that ought to be kicked out of the way to give room for nice folks a hunting ground. James Wilson says:

"The proposal that the Government shall protect these Appalachian forests by purchasing the lands and making them a great National Forest Reserve was first brought directly to the attention of Congress in January, 1900, when a memorial to that effect was presented by the Appalachian Mountain Club of New England."

This movement ought to be a greater insult to our dignity, than the motion to free the slaves unconditionally, which brought on the Civil War. Of all the poison, venom and gall of all the empires and monarchies, I never heard of a cheekier trick than the United States Government attempting to start three million people out with a little change on the hunt of homes just in order to make some playgrounds for the rich.

By referring to the President's letter of transmittal, and the Secretary's report, you will see they intended to incorporate not less than 4,000,000 acres of land including the Grandfather, Roan, Black and Whitetop mountains. You will see that President Roosevelt says that \$10,000,000 is enough to buy it. You will see in the Secretary's report that they mean to re-forest all the cleared uplands at least. Everybody well knows that they have a right to condemn and take our lands if they want to. What do you think about it?

When you write to James Wilson for information, please write Joseph Cannon also.
Elk Park, N. C.

Blowing Rock Items.

Colonel and Mrs. Ogden E. Edwards left their summer cottage to-day for Washington City, where they will spend the winter. They will be greatly missed from among us.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Stringfellow left their beautiful summer home, "Chetola" last week and have returned to their winter

quarters in Aniston, Ala. Mr. Stringfellow has made improvements at his place, beautifying the grounds, until it is by far one of the most attractive places in the State.

Dr. Jennings is spending the week at the Watauga Inn, where he is ready to "give pain that relief may result," preserving his rep as a dentist.

The Faculty of Skyland Seminary, formerly Skyland Institute, but under the same management the American Board, gave an informal reception recently, that the community might get better acquainted with them. An occasion enjoyed by all.

The meeting conducted by Bro. Davis, of the Baptist church is arousing considerable interest, and we, Blowing Rockers, are glad of any effort by any Christian worker, having for its object the spiritual improvement of our town and the revival of interest in church affairs among the members of all churches. Brother Davis is an earnest worker, a practical preacher of the Word, and sincerely desires the moral uplifting of every community.

Mrs. Mary Carter, of Philadelphia is spending the autumn making some needed repairs upon her summer cottage in one of the loveliest places at the Rock.

William Mordecai, after an illness of several months at the cottage of his sister, Miss Elizabeth Mordecai, is able to drive out now, and will soon leave for Durham, where his father is a professor in Trinity college.

In Memoriam.

On Wednesday, the 23rd ult., with agonized numbness of grief, we reluctantly parted by the grave to give up the body of one of our dearest sisters on earth, Mrs. Nora Mast, of Sugar Grove, daughter of Dr. J. B. and Mrs. Carrie Phillips. The deep sympathy of all was made known to the bereaved by the many kindnesses shown during her illness. So far as earthly aid was concerned, there was none lacking. Her husband, both fathers, one mother, brothers, sisters, friends, surrounded her with prayerful hearts for her restoration.

But the Master's call bade no earthly interference, while one mother on earth bade her farewell for her heavenly journey. The other, which had preceded her some 8 or 10 years, was waiting and watching for the messengers of love to return with her precious jewel. Me thinks I can see that gray-haired mother welcome her in at the pearly gate.

Our Dear sister was born July 21, 1870, died Oct. 22nd 1907, aged 37 years.

I have often heard her parents remark that she was a most obedient child while under their care and she was a loving sister and model wife and mother.

At the age of 16 she sought the Lord at her own home, professed religion, joined the church and was baptised. From this period she began to earn her reward by fanning this spark Divine into a steady flame whose lustre guided her pathway to the tomb and will shine on through eternity. How sad on earth to see this mother go from her precious little ones.

Clarence, Vickie, Johnny and lesser ones, how sad for your young hearts. But dear children, console yourselves with this truth that there is a direction in which you may travel and meet dear mamma again where you can more truly enjoy her sweet smiles that we all so sorely miss.

And when you have found this way, what a joy it will be to take your little sisters and brothers by the hand and point them a way to mamma. She will be waiting for you.

By request of the mother, Mr. and Mrs. John Mast took the little babe. What a tender bud, only ten days old. May they be enabled to unfold the tender petals to blossom in the sunshine of our Redeemer.

Dear sorrowing ones, there are spirits, messengers of love, that

come at our call and fortify our strength. Let us make friends with them and with our inner selves. Shake hands with pain, give greeting unto grief. Those angels in disguise, and our glad souls from height to height from star to shining star shall climb and claim blessed immortality.

(Mrs.) JAMES R. PHILLIPS.

The other day Dr. Andrew S. Draper, New York State commissioner of education informed the Federation of Women's Clubs that "the percentage of illiteracy in the State of New York is many times greater than in Britain, or France, or the German empire, or Switzerland, or Scandinavia, or Japan." O for some Southern Ogden to charter a vestibuled train, fill it with missionaries, and rush to the rescue!—Charlotte Observer.

Indigestion, constipation, dyspepsia, kidney and liver disorders and all stomach troubles positively cured by using Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea, 35c. tea or tablets. M. B. Blackburn and Blowing Rock Drug Co.

Christ loves the poor as well as the rich; the weak as well as the strong; the afflicted as well as the joyful; and no one in adversity can say that he is so because Christ does not love him. He died for the unrighteous as well as the righteous—the trouble is with ourselves.—W. T. McElroy, Jr.

CASTORIA.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of
Charles H. Fletcher

New Store, New Goods.

I am now located in East Boone with a neat stock of General Merchandise, in which may be found Boots, Shoes, Dry Goods, Notions, in fact almost anything to be found in a good country store.

SOMETHING TO EAT

Always on hand. The best grades of Bacon, Lard, Flour, Sugar, Coffee, Rice; a good supply of canned goods, etc., etc. MY PRICES ARE RIGHT.

To be sure, I sell goods for a profit, but I want you to know that I am a strong believer in "quick sales and short profits," and I invite you to give me a trial.

I WANT GOOD PRODUCE.

I will pay just as much for fresh butter, chickens, eggs, corn, rye, buckwheat, or other good produce, as any merchant in town, and sell you goods as cheaply as any of them.

Very Respectfully,
L. L. CRITCHER,
(Near School Campus.)

BANK STATEMENT.

Following is the report of the condition of the Watauga County Bank at Boone, N. C., in the State of North Carolina, at the close of business Aug. 22, 1907:

RESOURCES.	
Loans and discounts	\$24,614.61.
Overdrafts secured	78.62
Overdrafts unsecured,	298.44.
Banking house	1,870.24.
Furniture and fixtures	400.00.
Due from banks and banks	13,400.57.
Cash items	100.00.
Gold coin,	2,135.00.
Silver coin, including all minor coin currency.	625.99.
National bank notes and other U. S. Notes	2,587.00.
Total.....	\$45,710.47.
LIABILITIES	
Capital stock	\$10,000.00.
Undivided profits, less current expenses and tax paid	1,117.91.
Bills payable	4478.88.
Time certificates of deposit included in bills payable	
Deposits subject to check	28,899.73.
Cashier's ck's outstanding	1,213.95.
Total.....	\$45,710.47.

State of North Carolina, Watauga county, ss: J. E. S. Coffey, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

E. S. Coffey, Cashier.
Correct—Attest: N. L. Mast: W. C. Coffey, Directors.
Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 11th day of Sept. 1907.
J. M. May, Register of Deeds



The effect of malaria lasts a long time. You catch cold easily or become run-down because of the after effects of malaria. Strengthen yourself with **Scott's Emulsion.** It builds new blood and tones up your nervous system. ALL DRUGGISTS; 50c. AND \$1.00.

TO THE MERCHANTS OF WATAUGA CO.

I now have a branch house at Elk Park, N. C., for the purpose of buying Roots, Herbs, Birch Oil, Pennyroyal Oil, Wool, Hides, Chickens and Eggs, and will at all times pay the Highest Cash Prices.

I will also have for sale at Wholesale Prices, Corn, Chop, and Flour and will sell as cheap as can be bought at any railroad station. I will also have Heavy Groceries that I will sell as low as they can be bought anywhere, less the freight. I invite one and all to give me a trial and see if I don't pay you more for your barter and sell you goods for less money than you have been paying.

For the present I will pay \$1.95 for Birch Oil.
YOURS FOR BUSINESS,
MILLARD F. HOPKINS.

Elk Park, May 1st, 1907.

BANK OF BLOWING ROCK
BLOWING ROCK, N. C.

This Institution is offering its patrons every facility consistent with safe Banking.

We buy and sell exchange, discount commercial papers and give our customers every convenience of Banking Business.

We pay four per cent. interest on time deposits. No account too large or too small for us to handle.

Call in and see us when convenient, or write us. We are always glad to meet you.

MITCHELL COUNTY BANK
ELK PARK, BRANCH.

Capital and Surplus.....25,000.00.
Resources.....\$200,000.00.

To merchants and farmers who desire better banking facilities, we respectfully offer our services.

With our large reserve we can carry any account, no matter how LARGE or how SMALL.

We also issue demand certificates of deposit on which we pay 4 per cent.

Get one of our steel savings banks and begin to save part of your money.

Ranges, Cooking and Heating Stoves.
44 DIFFERENT STYLES AND SIZES.

The best assorted line ever shown in this section.

Our purchases were made before the recent advance in iron and we are therefore in position to save you money.

Come early and you will be certain to find just what you are looking for.

Call on us for everything in the HARDWARE line.

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MERCHANT AND TRADER'S BANK
MOUNTAIN CITY, TENNESSEE.

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL.....\$50,000.00.
OFFICERS: J. WALTER WRIGHT, President, W. P. DUGGAN, Vice President, I. S. RAMBO, Cashier,
J. K. WALSH Ass't. Cashier.

Stock-holding DIRECTORS: J. WALTER WRIGHT, I. S. RAMBO, R. F. WRIGHT, E. E. BUTLER, J. S. DONNELLY, H. T. D. WILLS, R. E. DONNELLY, J. N. WILLS, W. T. SMYTHE, J. C. BURTON, B. R. BROWN.

Non-Stock holding DIRECTORS: J. G. BUTLER, T. H. SUTHERLAND, R. S. McDADE, W. S. COLE, J. B. D. ROBINSON, H. B. WILLS, M. E. WILSON, W. H. WILSON.
Accounts of Firms, Corporations, and Individuals Solicited.