Communications

The following excerpts from an article written by Jonathan Daniels, noted Southern author, in a recent issue of The Nation, is of interest:

"They are not talking much, the people who are supervising the digging up of the laurel. It is a new cash crop in the North Carolina mountains now that briar roots for pipe bowls are not coming from Italy and France. The hard burled ROOTS are shipped in lots to New York and New Jersey. Mountaineers are getting from \$1 to \$2.25 a ton for the roots and a ton of roots is a lot of laurel.

"A new industry may be a lasting one. On private lands no law compels the preservation of public scenery and even if the laurel, with the rhododendron and the azalea, seems to run everywhere, twisted and interwined, alcross the mountains, long cutting, careless cutting, might do great damage to the one of the loveliest lands left in America.

"There are naked mountains now, not many miles away from the places where the laurel is being dug up, which stand like pinnacles of destruction. The laurel is not blooming now. But I have seen it blooming. It is important as symbol, I think, even now of the America we really mean to defend. This will be America, of course, when all the laurel is cut down but not the one we knew and had a right to enjoy and save."

ISABEL ST. G. VANDERHOEF.

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