

SAVE MT. RAINIER

Valuable Report of Expert Committee on Preservation of Magnificent Mountain Park.

Chairman E. T. Parsons, of the important committee making and submitting the following report, was a guest at the Hotel Occident on Thursday, and in conversation with a reporter of the Astorian gave a glowing description of the great Rainier Park, which made the reporter regret his inability to take it down in shorthand, but the quality of his description and his evident perfect faith in the necessity of reserving the park, as Yosemite and Yellowstone, and Mt. Hood, are reserved, gives excellent ground for submitting the entire report in this behalf to the public, and it is done, in the hope, public sentiment may be aroused throughout the northwest for the final and complete exemption of this magnificent section as a national park reserve.

"To the President of the United States, and the Secretary of the Interior: "At a meeting held during the Joint Outing of the Mazama Club and the Sierra Club in July, 1905 in Paradise Park, of the Mt. Rainier National Park, at which meeting were present also representatives of the American Alpine Club, and the Appalachian Mountain Club, a resolution was unanimously adopted to appoint a committee representing those present from the membership of these organizations, to report to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of the Interior, on the present condition of this National Park, and to recommend such action for its betterment as might appear desirable.

"The following committee was appointed: Chas. E. Fay, of American Alpine Club; W. A. Brooks, of Appalachian Mountain Club; E. P. Sheldon, of Mazama Club; E. T. Parsons, Chairman, of Sierra Club.

"To this committee was added Alden Sampson, recently game preserve expert of the United States Biological Survey, who was present during the encampment, and who made an investigation

of the mountain. "These committeemen have prepared the following report, and herewith beg leave to submit it to your consideration as a disinterested expression of the views and recommendations of nature-lovers and mountaineers.

"Very respectfully,
"CHAS. E. FAY,
"W. A. BROOKS,
"E. P. SHELDON,
"ALDEN SAMSON,
"E. T. PARSONS, Chairman.

"It was a wise provision that set aside the Mt. Rainier National Park as a perpetual reservation for the enjoyment and benefit of the citizens of our common country and every care should be taken to preserve it in its native attractiveness for the generations to come. Such was the unanimous opinion of the large and distinguished body of men and women, representing in their number no less than twenty-two American colleges and universities, in conformity with whose will the committee making the present report owes its existence.

"Though the observations of the majority of the members of the committee was confined to the southerly portion of the reserve and principally to the district known as Paradise Park, it is felt that, in general, what is true here applies with equal force to all sections of the great reservation.

"Because of its comparative accessibility to the large cities of Oregon and Washington, Mt. Rainier National Park, and Paradise Park in particular, is destined to become in future years a pleasure ground for thousands of people, as the Adirondacks and the White Mountains are for the inhabitants of eastern states.

"Situated just below the snow line on Mt. Rainier, the grandeur and beauty of the region are unsurpassed. The lower slopes are covered with grand forests, which give way at higher alti-

tudes to the open park country where the valleys and hillsides are carpeted with green sward spangled with myriads of wild flowers, and ornamented with clumps and groves of sub-alpine firs and spruces, and hardy mountaineers of the botanical world. The vegetation extends up the mountain to nearly six thousand feet, above which the zone of snow and ice whose eternal whiteness makes Rainier a landmark for the traveler and a beacon for the sailor while they are yet scores of miles away.

"Rising west of the Cascade Divide and within sight of the Pacific ocean, where the landward breezes distribute an enormous snow and rainfall during six months of the year, Mt. Rainier has a great glacier system outranking in this respect as it does in height any mountain in North America outside of Alaska. Its area of glaciers and perpetual snow covers 32,000 acres, and it rises in magnificent outlines to a height of 14,528 feet above the sea-level. Within the limits of Paradise park one of the largest glaciers, the Nisqually, presses down below timber-line in the park, discharging into the river of the same name. Two others, the Paradise and Cowlitz, are also within walking distance.

"On the opposite side of the valley from Mt. Rainier, across the Paradise river rises the sharp, rugged peaks, of the Tatoosh range, beyond whose serrated sky-line from high points within the park may be seen Adams, St. Helens, Hood, and other snow peaks.

"To the scientist, whether he be botanist, geologist, or zoologist; to the artist in search of grand subjects for his canvas; to the camper who loves to pitch his tent where he may listen to the music of falling water and fill his lungs with the pure breath of the hills; to the mountain climber seeking heights worthy of his ambition; or to the tired man business whose weary brain demands rest away from

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