A HISTORY OF THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

Milestones in Wildlife Conservation

By William G. Sheldon

With Contributions of Other Members
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This volume is intended as more than a history of a single organization. An effort has been made to contribute to the documentary history of wildlife conservation in this country. If it interests a broader audience than club members and can serve as a further reference for conservationists on the history of conservation in the United States, its publication seems justified.

It is truthfully believed that the efforts of club members provided the core of what is today considered sound wildlife conservation. There has been no effort to claim credit for the club where credit is not due. The organization's most effective function was that of a catalyst in welding together the efforts of other conservation groups and public agencies in promoting sound conservation legislation.

The chief sources of information for the contents are the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of the club, the various books published by the club, the files of George Bird Grinnell, and letters of Charles Sheldon. It is inevitable that the latter two sources will tend to inject a man's personal opinions and philosophy into the account. However, selections from many of the letters have been carefully chosen as representing the activities to which all the club members were a party. Many of these members who were formidable exponents and crusaders for conservation will not receive the credit which is their due. With the sources at hand such omissions are
hand such omissions are unavoidable. The point to remember is that men like Grinnell and Sheldon represented the club and spoke for the club. Many causes were promoted by these individuals and others only after a full discussion and concurrence of other club members.

Parts of the history and accomplishments are scattered throughout the books published by the club. Since the distribution of these volumes has been limited and many are out of print, all such accounts, after further editing, are reprinted here and thus brought under one cover.

The tremendous work in conservation done by such members as the founder, Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, Stephen Mather, and Aldo Leopold have been fully described in other publications. In many cases these men did not only represent the club, but represented other organizations and public agencies.

Other volumes such as Gifford Pinchot's *Breaking New Ground*, T. Gilbert Pearson's *Adventures in Bird Protection*, Ira Gabrielson's *Wildlife Conservation* and *Wildlife Refuges*, and Albert Day's *North American Waterfowl* were also consulted. A brief history in the form of a letter to Dr. Richard Derby from Horace M. Albright, former director of the National Park Service, is quoted in several instances.

In 1910 George Bird Grinnell published a brief history of the club from its formation up until that year. This account had poor distribution. In spite of repetition to
those readers who are familiar with this, it was considered appropriate to include most of it, with some editing, in the following pages.

This account covers the history up to 1954.

Grinnell’s (1918) account of the formation follows:

“In December, 1887, Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, then a
member of the New York Assembly, at a dinner at his residence in New York City, proposed the formation of a club of American hunting riflemen, to be called the Boone and Crockett Club. The suggestion was warmly welcomed by those present, among whom were H. P. Rogers;
Archibald Rogers, J. Coleman Drayton, Thomas Patton,
Col. J. E. Jones, Elliott Roosevelt, J. W. Roosevelt,
Rutherford Stuyvesant and George Bird Grinnell. A
constitution was formulated, and in January, 1888, the
Club was organized with the following officers and members:

President, Theodore Roosevelt; Secretary, Archibald
Rogers. Members: Albert Strentz, Pater H. Bishop,
Benjamin P. Bristow, J. Coleman Drayton, C. G. Elliott,
George Bird Grinnell, Arnold Hague, James E. Jones,
Clarence King, Wm. M. Merrill, Jr., Thomas Sutton, John J.
CHAPTER X
FORMATION, PURPOSES AND METHOD OF OPERATING

The men belonging to the first group forming the Boone and Crockett Club were ardent sportsmen who not only responded to the thrill of the chase but who had a deep appreciation of wild, unspoiled wilderness areas and had taken some part in the opening up of the early West. Many were prominent in other walks of life. All had great breadth and personified the highest ethics of sportsmanship.

Grinnell’s (1910) account of the formation follows:

“In December, 1887, Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, then a member of the New York Assembly, at a dinner at his residence in New York City, proposed the formation of a club of American hunting riflemen, to be called the Boone and Crockett Club. The suggestion was warmly welcomed by those present, among whom were E. P. Rogers, Archibald Rogers, J. Coleman Drayton, Thomas Paton, Col. J. E. Jones, Elliott Roosevelt, J. West Roosevelt, Rutherford Stuyvesant and George Bird Grinnell. A constitution was formulated, and in January, 1888, the Club was organized with the following officers and members:


"As time went on, these men added to their numbers others interested in the same objects, so that now, for many years, the Boone and Crockett Club has had one hundred regular members - its limit - and from twenty-five to forty associate members. Among the latter are a number of men who have performed notable services in behalf of the objects to which the Club is devoted.

"These objects were announced as being:

(1) To promote manly sport with the rifle. (2) To promote travel and exploration in the wild and unknown, or but partially known, portions of the country. (3) To work for the preservation of the large game of this country, and so far as possible to further legislation for that purpose, and to assist in enforcing the existing laws. (4) To promote inquiry into and to record observations on the habits and natural history of the various wild animals. (5) To bring about among the members interchange of opinion and ideas on hunting, travel and exploration; on the various kinds of hunting rifles; on the haunts of game animals, etc.

"Such were the purposes of the Club when it was formed, and for a number of years each received its fair share of
attention. Gradually, however, the settlement of the country and the sweep of population to the westward made it more and more difficult to carry out the two first-named, while the same causes magnified the importance of the third and fourth of these objects. Great changes had taken place in portions of the United States, where at the date of the formation of the Club wild game was found in abundance, and over much of the western country the advancing tide of settlement had swept out of existence much of the early game habitat. The Boone and Crockett Club, organized as an association of hunting riflemen, to promote manly sport with the rifle, and to investigate the wild and unknown portions of the country, could no longer do either of these things within the limits of the United States. Little hunting trips may be made, and occasionally a head or two of game killed, but the old wild frontier of the limitless prairie and of the steep and rugged unknown mountains were gone forever."

In the years that have elapsed since its organization, the Boone and Crockett Club has accomplished a number of things which entitle it to the lasting gratitude of the American people. Its members have won battles for sound conservation measures whose importance the club saw far in advance of the public opinion of the time.
In 1920 E. W. Nelson, former chief of the Biological Survey, had this to say in a letter to Grinnell:

"It is scarcely necessary for one to state that but for the active and long-continued interest and devotion to the cause by yourself and others we should now have practically no game protection in this country and no conservation of forests or other beneficial conservation measures. The public will never act without the efforts of the interested few in leading movements of this kind."

In his book entitled *Adventures in Bird Protection*, T. Gilbert Pearson writes as follows in reference to the conservation efforts of sportsmen:

"Some well-meaning people, fond of referring to themselves in a rather exclusive way as 'bird lovers', cried out against all 'sportsmen.' They seemed unaware of the fact that in the ranks of the hunters there were those numerous strong, influential men who, by hard work in legislative lobbies had secured 9/10 of all the existing laws for wild-life preservation."

In this connection it is a matter of interest that the first Audubon Society was formed by George Bird Grinnell, former president of the club. At present two club members are presidents of State Audubon Societies: John Holman is president of the Connecticut Audubon Society and Richard Borden is president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Certain members represented the club in Washington
legislative circles and were influential as lobbyists. Several club members were in public service and helped promote conservation measures recommended by the club. Besides Roosevelt, such men as Senators Elihu Root, Henry Cabot Lodge, Secretary Henry Stimson, Hon. John W. Lacey, and Frederick C. Walcott might be mentioned. The administrative heads of government agencies such as the Biological Survey (later the Fish and Wildlife Service), the Park Service, and the Forest Service were in most cases made associate members of the club.

Personnel of the club often acted as key men behind the scenes in promoting some measure and were not unwilling to have history record the credit to some other organization. Their main concern was doing all possible to successfully promote good legislation regardless of who got the credit.

In a letter written by Charles Sheldon to E. W. Nelson in 1915 the basic operating method of the club is discussed. "The Club has never been a noisy promoter of any game legislation. It has never attempted to organize public movements or make itself conspicuous. This policy has often been carefully discussed and it is deliberate. Other organizations perform the necessary function of public clamor. . . . From the beginning the Boone and Crockett Club sought to make itself a force by securing the type of personnel who could be called upon for far reaching work. . . . As an example Mr. Elihu Root was
opposed to the Migratory Bird bill, with which he
sincerely sympathized, wholly on the ground of his belief
in its unconstitutionality. He expressed the opinion
that it was his duty to oppose it for that reason.

It was owing wholly to the influence that some of the
members of the Club brought to bear on him that his active
opposition was withdrawn and that he appeased his
conscience by introducing the resolution of international
treaties which, if pushed through, would preserve the
constitutionality of the bill. You can readily imagine
the fate that would have been dealt to this bill had Mr.
Root actively opposed it. McLean did not push it in the
Senate until assured that Mr. Root's opposition was
withdrawn. All through the big measures of game protection
in the past the Club has performed similar services. Its
personnel has attracted to its dinners in Washington and
New York our influential political men. From the
beginning its ideas on game conservation have been ahead
of the times. Every club is led by a few active
individuals. The members as a whole do no work and are
indifferent to activities. But when necessary to act,
the great thing is to have the influential members to
appeal to. Such appeals in the Club have been highly
successful.

The above is a good summary of the club's philosophy.
When Sheldon speaks of "influential" men an inspection of the
roster of the club in Appendix G speaks for itself.

Those familiar with controversial conservation bills before Congress at the present time (1955) have some conception of the amount of time an ardent conservationist must spend on Capitol Hill and elsewhere to have any hope of defeating a poor measure or promoting a good one. This task fell on the shoulders of only a few men in the earlier days.

The club's chief interest has always been the conservation of the large game mammals in North America. It was recognized at an early date that the greatest chance of building up a breeding stock and in some cases saving some species from extinction lay in the establishment and control by the federal government of large tracts in the public domain. Thus, all club members promoted through the years the establishment of national forests, national parks and monuments, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas. Although the focus of attention was on the large mammals, the breadth of the club's activities included almost all phases of conservation including wild fowl, recreation, and control of water pollution.

In the short history written by George Bird Grinnell in 1910 there are similar comments on the tactics employed by the club in promoting legislation. Some of his comments follow.

"It has not been the Club's practice to announce its purposes nor to glory in what it has accomplished but rather to move steadfastly forward striving constantly"
to do whatever fell within its province which would tend to promote the country's welfare. . . . It would have been natural and easy for the Club to have confined its activities to meeting at intervals to dine, and discuss abuses and dangers and to pass stirring resolutions. Instead of this it has had a small body of intelligent men, scattered all over the country, working individually and constantly in behalf of things once laughed at or unknown but now as familiar to the public mind as household words."

"WHEREAS, a part of the thoughtless public is sometimes misled into attempts at interference with the independent administration by these bureaus of the game under their charge, and endeavors by means of public campaigns and elanor to induce them to adopt methods which scientific inquiry and their own judgment do not approve; now therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That the Boone and Crockett Club condemns all such attempts to subdue or to dictate to these bureaus, as hampering them in the exercise of their duty, and as harmful to the best administration of their policies as
CHAPTER II

NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS

Insofar as possible the word for word resolutions passed by the club have been excluded from this volume. However, the club's policy in working with public agencies such as the Biological Survey (Fish and Wildlife Service), National Park Service, and National Forest Service is basic and well worded in the following resolution which, in this case, is reprinted verbatim.

"WHEREAS, Congress has delegated to the Forest Service, the Biological Survey, or the National Park Service the administration of wild life on various tracts of the public lands set aside as Refuges or as National Parks, including the broader task of administering of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and

"WHEREAS, a part of the thoughtless public is sometimes mislead into attempts at interference with the independent administration by these Bureaus of the game under their charge, and endeavors by means of public campaigns and clamor to induce them to adopt methods which scientific enquiry and their own judgment do not approve; now therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That the Boone and Crockett Club condemns all such attempts to coerce or to dictate to these Bureaus, as hampering them in the exercise of their duty, and as harmful to the best administration of their policies as
to wildlife. "RESOLVED, That the Boone and Crockett Club believes that any plans for possible improvements in administrative methods should take the form of suggestion or discussion rather than of faultfinding or attempted dictation. [Italics author's]

"RESOLVED, That the Boone and Crockett Club unreservedly approves of the game policies of these Bureaus, and expresses its confidence in their ability to administer the game placed in their charge in such manner as shall yield the best results."

In summary, the club recognized that the public agencies mentioned are empowered by federal statute to administer and establish policies on lands or wildlife species under their control. Therefore the best policy was to work in cooperation with these agencies. Disagreements with some of these policies were usually resolved by informal discussions.

Mr. Horace M. Albright, a member of the club and director of the National Park Service from 1929 through 1933, has summarized briefly the part played by the Boone and Crockett Club in the creation of a bureau for the administration of national parks.

"For many years, the Boone and Crockett Club had supported proposed legislation to create a bureau to administer the national parks. These parks had been created from time to time beginning with Yellowstone in
1872 and had been assigned to the Interior Department, but had never been properly financed, and no central agency created to supervise them. One lawyer in the Department gave part time to their affairs. Four of them had been entrusted to the U. S. Army to protect; others were supervised to some extent by agencies of the Department of Agriculture. There were no adequate uniform regulations covering use of the parks and their protection.

"After the Lacey Act of June 8, 1906 authorizing national monuments was enacted, these important reservations as created by presidential proclamation were assigned to three departments - War, Interior and Agriculture, depending on which department had controlled land covered by the proclamation, whether these departments had local protective personnel available or not.

"As bills to create a national park bureau were introduced in Congress, hearings were held, and the Boone and Crockett Club sent representatives to the hearings or filed strong endorsements in support of these measures. The minutes of December 1911 of the Executive Committee refer to Senate 3463 and House of Representatives (H.R.) 18716 to create a national park bureau. Hearings on these bills were held in Washington in April, 1912.

"On March 4, 1913, Franklin K. Lane of California
became Secretary of the Interior in the Cabinet of Woodrow Wilson. Lane was a 'Theodore Roosevelt Democrat.' He was a sincere conservationist and a great admirer of the former president. He had been appointed Interstate Commerce Commissioner by Theodore Roosevelt.

"Lane turned his attention to national park affairs soon after taking office. He brought on from California his old friend of college days, Dr. Adolph C. Miller, head of the Department of Economics of the University of California to be Assistant to the Secretary. He assigned to him supervision of the national parks among other duties. He asked Miller to work to obtain a national park bureau. Bills were introduced to establish the bureau by U. S. Senator Reed Smoot of Utah and Representative John E. Baker of California. Hearings were held in April of 1914. The Boone and Crockett Club was active in supporting these bills but neither of them passed. In the summer of 1914 Dr. Miller was appointed a member of the newly established Federal Reserve Board.

"Secretary Lane, in January 1915, appointed another friend of college days as Miller's successor. He was Stephen T. Mather, a well-to-do borax manufacturer, a man of enormous energy and magnetic personality. He had spent four years on the New York Sun as a young men, was well known East and West, was a camper and mountain climber, well versed in trees and wild flowers, a lover
of wildlife, but no hunter or fisherman. Grinnell’s account: “He threw himself actively into his Washington work, and soon made acquaintances among legislators, conservation association staffs, and individuals engaged in conservation work, transportation, tourism and public service in general. He was immensely popular.

“In 1915 new park bureau bills were introduced and in April 1916 hearings were held in Committees of both houses of Congress. The Boone and Crockett Club had representatives on hand to promote this legislation. The most effective speakers were George Bird Grinnell and Charles Sheldon. This legislation was enacted into law by President Woodrow Wilson’s signature on the Act of August 25, 1916.”

The activities of the club in the creation of national parks antedated by many years the creation of the Park Service Bureau. In those parks conceived of by club members, particularly Glacier National Park and Mt. McKinley National Park, it should be recognized that other organizations, such as the Campfire Club, John Burnham’s American Game Protective Association, and the Isaac Walton League were often enlisted to push the necessary legislation through. In some other cases the club supported the creation of parks conceived of by other people or organizations.

Soon after the creation of Yellowstone National Park efforts by private interests to exploit the resources of the
park took place. This is well described in Grinnell's account of the park, included elsewhere in this volume.

Throughout the years the club fought for the protection of national parks from any type of exploitation.

A summary of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on May 12, 1920 contains the following statement:

"In 1872 the Yellowstone National Park was 'dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.' Since then other national parks have been set aside for like purposes. From time to time various private interests have endeavored to secure legislation which would enable them to make use for commercial purposes of portions of these public pleasure grounds dedicated to the recreational uses of the people of the U. S.

"The Yellowstone Park is threatened now by projects, the purposes of which are to exploit it for private profit and thus take from the public their rights therein. Action by Congress depriving the public of any of its rights in this Park in this first instance will produce at once many further demands from private interests for congressional action to take away other rights in this and other parks. It will establish a dangerous precedent. A first encroachment on the integrity of the Yellowstone Park is a threat against the whole national park system and puts in jeopardy the unrestricted
ownership which the people enjoy and have utilized for many years. The Boone and Crockett Club is therefore of the firm opinion that every attempt by private interests to acquire for their own uses and for their own gain privileges and special rights in any national park is to be condemned, and it unqualifiedly opposes action by Congress looking toward the granting of private privileges within any of the national parks."

The club likewise recognized the threat to the National Park System by other federal bureaus. In 1922 while promoting the extension of Sequoia National Park in California which was to be called the "Roosevelt-Sequoia Park" (not approved by Congress), the club refused to support one bill for the park which contained no provision excepting the proposed park from the provisions of the Federal Power Act. Members prevailed on Congressman Barbour of California who had introduced the bill to insert an amendment putting the proposed park on the same basis as other national parks by excluding it from the provisions of this act.

According to Grinnell, club members were responsible for carrying on to a successful end the fight for the preservation of the Yellowstone National Park. He comments as follows:

"This fight commenced in 1872 long before the Boone and Crockett Club was organized, yet the men who began the fight and for many years carried it on alone were..."
among the first members of the Boone and Crockett Club and the Club at once took up and carried through to its end the work that they had started. Among the men were Arnold Hague, William Hallett Phillips, Archibald Rogers, George G. Vest, and George Bird Grinnell."

The two most important parks conceived of and promoted by the club are Glacier National Park, first explored by George Bird Grinnell, and Mt. McKinley National Park in Alaska encompassing an area outlined by Charles Sheldon who had spent many months hunting and exploring the McKinley region. Included in this volume are the histories of Glacier and McKinley Parks written by Madison Grant and published in the Boone and Crockett book entitled *Hunting and Conservation*, Yale University Press, 1925.

There were unsuccessful efforts to create a national park in the Black Hills of South Dakota, an extension of the Sequoia National Park mentioned above, and an attempt by Sheldon to establish a park in northern Mexico. Although these efforts were not successful, often as much time and energy were spent in attempting to have Congress approve them as was expended in the creation of parks such as McKinley and Glacier.

Several members of the Boone and Crockett Club took part in the formation of the National Parks Association of which Robert Sterling Yard was the first director.

After the act empowering the President to set up national
monuments, Roosevelt at once set aside the Grand Canyon as a national monument. Minutes of the executive committee meetings attest to the successful efforts of the club in later expanding this monument to the status of a national park.

A resolution was adopted at the executive committee meeting in June 1932 urging making Olympic National Monument into a national park. The club in this case was particularly concerned for the future of the Roosevelt Elk which have their strongest holdout on the Olympic Peninsula.

In Sheldon's files there is a copy of a letter written by him in 1927 to Secretary of the Interior, Hubert Work, in regard to the Great Smokies National Park. He had conferred with Grinnell and others in the club in regard to this park so it is a good example of the kind of work removed from the public spotlight which the club was constantly engaged in. According to Mr. Horace Albright, former director of the National Park Service, in a letter to me dated March 9, 1955, the advice given Secretary Work by Sheldon was followed and that the park lines were actually drawn by the National Park Service as Sheldon advocated "after a good many tilts with the politicians in North Carolina and Tennessee."

As a matter for the record, the letter follows:
"February 1, 1927

Honorable Hubert Work,
Secretary Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Work:

I hear from North Carolina that the Southern Appalachian Commission will advise the local committee in Asheville what lands to buy with the two millions appropriation to be asked of the State legislature.

This is most unfortunate, for the news of its further participation will cost the Great Smoky project much of the confidence it has inspired throughout the conservation world; besides this, the Commission's advice cannot fail further to confuse local workers who are all at sea among various conflicting national park theories and need more than anything else the strong directing hand of the Interior Department exerted only through the National Park Service.

So wholly has this Commission discredited itself by ignoring national park precedents and standards, and especially by its unabashed use of political practice in Congress and its elbowing the Interior Department out of participation in the Mammoth Cave matter (now known and discussed everywhere), that I seriously believe you cannot permit it to accept this invitation without loss of prestige and influence to the Department."
"Being in continuous touch with men and new developments in both states, I see the present situation in a way which I trust that you will permit me to place before you.

"The Little River property which the Tennesseans have been so anxious to acquire under act of their legislature has not, as I have pointed out to them, national park quality in respect either to scenery or forest. Only limited portions of it could possibly be included, as fillers, in my first national park choice limited to 150,000 acres. Besides, most of it lies far from the great central uplift of lofty mountains and unmodified original forest which should constitute the greater part of a national park of that size.

"Two or three weeks ago, on the eve of purchase, Colonel Chapman assured me at lunch that the terms of the legislative purchase act created no obligation that all this tract should go into the national park. The Tennessee State Forestry Commission, he stated, of which he and other members of the national park group were members, could hold it indefinitely as state property, turning into the park only such portions as later should seem desirable. I was permitted to infer that this would be done.

"The two millions which North Carolina now proposes to raise by State appropriation will make her State
contribution eight times as large as Tennessee's, even
though all the Little River tract should be thrown into
the pot.

"We mustn't dodge the fact that, with all their fine
cooperation, these two states are really, deep under the
surface, seriously in competition in respect to acreage,
prestige, publicity and tourist patronage in the coming
national park. The skin is thin in places. The feeling
extends to their Congressional delegations, where, also,
individual political ambitions are altogether likely to
figure.

"The whole constitutes a situation very dangerous to
getting a real national park nucleus picked out of this
big purchase area, notwithstanding that it includes the
makings of an extraordinarily fine national park.

"Your own position, that, upon these states making
you a firm offer of 150,000 acres you will designate what
parts thereof are acceptable, will prove ineffective
under the situation now developing. It has become quite
clear that any self-chosen offering will be the result of
sharp compromises rather than careful pickings, and that
Congress will accept whatever compromise properties the
two states may offer, with or without your acquiescence.

"It seems necessary, therefore, that now while you
still have the power you should reach out a strong
controlling hand. These people, who mean the best in the
world under their differing conflicting lights, need control, and will welcome it heartily in the uncertainties of opposing interests and advices. Literally, they do not know who to follow and what to do, and are the natural prey of compromisers, politicians, and advocates of cheap land only.

"Here also is another disturbing situation: It has become evident that this first 150,000 acres will determine once and forever the character of the whole national park. Once this is accepted by the government under the Temple Act, in other words, once these states officially possess a national park, it is extremely probable that money raising will definitely stop in both. As for the conditional appropriations clause in the Temple Act, nothing will be easier, after say a couple of years, than to replace it by an act authorizing immediate appropriations for developing what they have got. We can confidently assume that that will be done. In fact it was predicted by interested Congressmen a year ago, and is talked about today in both states.

"Whether or not, then, Great Smoky National Park shall be the splendid addition to the National Parks System that it is possible to be, or whether it shall be merely a collection of low-altitude cut-over lands adjoining what ought to be the national park, with perhaps a bit of LeConte included to give it semblance of excuse, will
depend wholly on the composition of the first 150,000 acres offered. I can imagine no fiasco more absurd, or more damaging to the prestige and the future of the National Parks System, than the latter of these alternatives.

"Success or failure of the park, then, centers upon selection of the first 150,000 acres; the choice of these cannot be long delayed if we are to maintain the least control of the situation, for meantime interstate pledges will be made and limitations of price etc. inserted in the North Carolina appropriations bill, which will make sound selection impossible. In other words, the National Park must be definitely planned first.

"Who shall select the lands for this crucial 150,000 acres?"

"Shall it be left to the competing states? That means compromises - anything to get a park and ease the growing difficulties of the situation which these men, who are taking the time from their own affairs, have on their hands. It means the least possible of the expensive high mountain property; even now they are asking how little of this will do to make a showing. It means immense preponderance of cheaper low-altitude cut-over lands of no better quality than thousands of square miles anywhere in the Appalachians. It means appeal to Congress to put the compromise through - in which the Southern
Appalachian Commission will be useful in again flouting the Interior Department.

"Shall it be left to Congress? That means pulls, personal ambitions and politics.

"Shall it be left to the Commission? Ever since passage of the Temple and Ernst-Thatcher acts, I have heard from every hand expressions of relief that at last park selection would return to the safe hands of the National Park Service. 'Of course,' it is assumed, 'selection from these big purchase areas will now be properly made.' Even on the Pacific coast this summer, I was anxiously questioned as to whether the Commission was still an influence.

"If you will permit me to advise you, Dr. Work, the Interior Department has now a duty which is also a real opportunity. It is, after discarding the discredited Commission definitely, getting it entirely out of the picture, to take over itself the responsibility and choice of lands to constitute Great Smoky National Park. Returning to the sound, responsible, popular and time-honored method of careful government selection is the only way to restore much shaken confidence.

"I suggest that, following methods which have proved so satisfactory in the past, you assign the National Park Service to examine thoroughly the purchase area and map out 150,000 acres of national park, about half in
each state, which shall conform to the standards which are ardently upheld by the national park public which is becoming a greater and better informed public all the time; meantime, that you notify the organization of the two states that this is what you will accept and that their purchases and contracts to purchase must lie therein.

"You need not doubt that the two states will be thankful for authoritative direction, nor that you will receive an enthusiastic backing throughout the country, the size and heartiness of which will surprise you. Our only hope of stability for the System is vigorous enforcement by the responsible government itself of the standards which alone differentiate National Parks from National Forests."

"You will be pleased, I know, to hear that the National Parks Association is coming into its own at last. The addition of Dr. Kellogg and Dr. Merriam to its executive committee alone will add much to its power and influence. Sufficient funds, development of the Bulletin into a monthly, extensive membership campaigns, an aggressive policy, and a country-wide campaign of education in national park standards that will last years enough, if years prove necessary, to insure the System's sound establishment in law, will increase its influence rapidly
and many fold.

"Please forgive the length of this private letter, in which I avail of the privilege you once extended me of advising you.

Sincerely yours,
C. Sheldon"

There is evidence that the club or its members were active in the promotion of other national parks about which the records have not been preserved. For example, in a letter from Enos Mills of Colorado to Sheldon dated December 18, 1915 the former expresses appreciation for the help of the club in the establishment of Rocky Mt. National Park in Colorado.

Of particular importance was the establishment of the "Coordinating Commission" appointed by President Coolidge's Committee on Outdoor Recreation in 1924. This committee was established as a result of the National Outdoor Recreation Conference discussed in a later chapter. This group was "commissioned to investigate and report to the President's Committee on Outdoor Recreation on all projects under consideration by either Department (Agriculture or Interior) dealing with proposed enlargements or adjustments of National Park or National Forests. . . ."

The Commission members were Congressman Dr. Henry W. Temple, Charles Sheldon, Major William A. Welch, Colonel W. B. Greeley, Forester and Stephen T. Mather, Director of
the National Park Service. On October 19, 1925 this group submitted its report and recommendation on boundary adjustments and proposed creation or addition of the following national parks:

Shenandoah National Park Proposed
Great Smoky National Park Proposed
Sequoia National Park Addition
Yellowstone National Park Addition
Grand Canyon National Park Addition
Rocky Mountain National Park Addition
Crater Lake National Park Addition
Mt. Rainier National Park Addition
Yosemite National Park Addition
Lassen Volcanic National Park Addition
Cliff Cities National Park Proposed
Big Horn Mountains National Park Proposed
Redwood National Park Proposed
Sawtooth National Park Proposed
Mena National Park Proposed

The above recommendations were made after the Commission had made a western reconnaissance of all the proposed new park areas and proposed changes in boundary lines. Sheldon did not go on the western trip but another Boone and Crockett Club member took his place, Barrington Moore.

Many of the park additions were later approved. It is noteworthy that this report contained the first suggestion...
that the Teton Range be included in Yellowstone Park.

Several of the proposed parks later either became National Parks or National Monuments.

Since, as pointed out later, the National Recreation Conference came about through Boone and Crockett Club efforts, the club should rightfully claim a large share of credit for the constructive accomplishments of the work of this Commission which would not have been formed but for the Conference.

Grinnell's history of Yellowstone Park, which was first printed in 1910, follows:

"In the year 1869 a hunting party from Helena, Montana Territory, stumbled into the region of hot springs and geysers, now the Yellowstone Park. The stories which they brought back were scarcely credited, and in 1870 the Washburn party set out for the locality and at length returned with authentic accounts of many of its wonders. These were thoroughly exploited with pen and voice by N. P. Langford. In the summer of 1871 parties under Capt. J. W. Barlow, U. S. Engineers, and Dr. F. V. Hayden, U. S. Geological Survey, made explorations of the region. Mr. Langford's writings and lectures had already aroused much public interest, and Congress was ready to yield to the influence of Dr. Hayden and to pass (March 1, 1872) the Organic Act by which this area was set aside and designated 'as a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.' The Park was to be
under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, who was authorized to make regulations for the preservation from injury of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities or wonders within the Park. This was essentially the language of the statute, but no methods were indicated by which the Secretary of the Interior should carry out the law.

"At the time Dr. Hayden drew the Park bill, the country had not been surveyed, and no one knew just where the territorial lines were to run, or, indeed, where the Park lay. Dr. Hayden chose for his initial points the natural features of the landscape, and made his lines meridians and parallels of latitude. His selections were marvelously fortunate. As Col. George S. Anderson has said, 'They seemed almost a work of inspiration. The north line takes in the large slopes on the north of Mt. Everts and the valley of the East Fork of the Yellowstone, where the elk, deer, antelope and mountain sheep wander by thousands; it leaves outside every foot of land adapted to agriculture; also - and this is more important than all - it passes over the rugged and inaccessible summit of the snowy range, where the hardiest vandal dare not put his shack.' As with the lines on the north, so with those on the east, on the south and the west; they are protected by mountain heights and they exclude all land of value for agricultural
purposes, or even for grazing.

"The first Superintendent of the Park was N. P. Langford, appointed May 10, 1872, to serve without salary. He never drew any salary, never lived in the Park, and protected it only by reports and recommendations. No one could have been more enthusiastic than he, nor more earnest in his wish to see the Park protected, but the reservation was a new thing, and neither he nor anyone else knew what it needed, nor was the public well enough acquainted with it to feel any special interest in it.

"In the spring of 1876, P. W. Norris was appointed to succeed Mr. Langford. Something more than a year later an appropriation was had for the Park, and a small force of employees was engaged, some of whom did good work in trying to protect the forests from fires. Norris was a destroyer of natural wonders, collecting great quantities of beautiful specimens, which he shipped out of the Park. He professed to desire the protection of game, but not the abolition of hunting. Norris was followed by P.H. Conger, in 1882, who made the usual recommendations that various things be protected. In August, 1884, he was succeeded by R. E. Carpenter, who was removed in May, 1885. David W. Wear was the next and last civilian Superintendent.

"Meantime, in the year 1882, soon after the completion to the Park of the Northern Pacific Railroad, the region
and its wonders became accessible to the public. Among those who visited it were a number of men controlling some capital and more or less familiar with large affairs. They saw the possibilities of the Park as a pleasure resort, and at once set to work to gain such control of it as they could, and to secure a monopoly of anything that might fall in their way. They succeeded in securing from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior a provisional lease, said to have been for ten plots of six hundred and forty acres, each at a different point of interest. These plots were to be so located as to cover the various natural wonders of the Park, where this was practicable. The syndicate, as it was called - the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company - started a saw-mill and began to cut and saw timber in the Park for the construction of their various hotels and other buildings. As laborers in large numbers were to be employed through the winter, the company tried to give out a contract for twenty thousand pounds of wild meat at five cents a pound, for the boarding houses for their laborers and mechanics.

"In the year 1883, the company put up tents for the use of guests, and later put up light frame buildings. About this time Gen. Sheridan came through from the south with President Arthur. It was this same year that Mr. Arnold Hague came into the Park to take charge of the Geological Survey work there."
"The effort to secure leases which in practice would give the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company a monopoly of the Park, the high-handed way in which they seized and used the timber, and their efforts to give out a contract for wild meat, aroused a storm of indignation among the people, who best knew what such acts must mean for the public. In the autumn of 1882 the *Forest and Stream* attacked the proposed monopoly and began a fight which was kept up for a dozen years. Senator Geo. G. Vest sprung to the defense of the Park in Congress, and Messrs. Hague, Phillips and Rogers rendered invaluable aid. A campaign of education was carried on which had a great effect on the country, and thousands of petitions, signed by tens of thousands of people interested in natural things, came into Congress and strengthened the hands of Senator Vest.

"The work of protecting the Park was difficult, for there was no law governing it. As already said, the organic law authorized the Secretary of the Interior to make regulations for its government and protections, but prescribed no methods for the enforcement of such regulations as he might lay down. The regulations were practically a dead letter. The people cut down the forests, killed the game or chopped out wagon loads of

*Edited by Grinnell*
the beautiful geyser formations, which they hauled away for a few miles and then dumped on the prairie. Violators of the regulations could not be punished. If this was true of the casual citizen, it was much more so of a corporation with a large force of men, which in a high-handed way was seizing and converting to its own use timber, game and other valuable things within the Park.

"The dangers which threatened were very real, and continued for a dozen years. About 1883 efforts began to be made to secure from Congress legislation which should afford protection to life and property within the reservation, and should prevent the destruction of the forests, natural wonders and game within its borders. In season and out of season, Senator Geo. G. Vest, later a member of the club, urged this matter in the United States Senate, and was ably supported by many other members. From 1883 to the end of the year 1890 bills to remedy these dangerous conditions passed the Senate at four sessions of Congress — twice by a unanimous vote — but there was a strong effort on the part of a lobby in the House to use the National Park for private purposes, and this lobby always succeeded in having attached to the Senate bill a rider granting a right of way to a railroad through the Park. Members of the Boone and Crockett Club fought this amendment from the beginning. They felt that a railroad in the Park would be a grave
danger to the National pleasure ground, and if one railway was permitted to run its lines there, the same privilege might not be denied to others, and before long the reservation would be gridironed by tracks.

"As we all know, the efforts of the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company to secure a monopoly of the Park, and of the lobby to secure the right of way for a railroad, were eventually blocked, but much energy and hard work and a great amount of ink was expended before this was accomplished.

"By the Act of March 3, 1883, the Secretary of War was authorized - on request from the Secretary of the Interior - to detail a force of troops for duty in the Park, the commander of the troops to be the acting Superintendent. The first officer detailed under the new appointment was Captain Moses Harris, First Cavalry, a member of the Club, who took charge August 20, 1886, and from this time forth things in the Park began to wear a different aspect. Captain Harris had a troop of cavalry, which he used with energy and discretion, and his efficiency was evidenced by the amount of confiscated property which he accumulated. He made splendid efforts to prevent fires, to protect game and to put an end to the defacement of geysers. He early called attention to the immense herds of elk which occupied the road between Gardiner and Cooke City, and in his reports pointed out
the difficulty of protecting this game from the public which traveled to and from the mining settlement of Cooke City. Captain Harris remained in the Park for nearly three years, and left it, having initiated and put in force most of the protective measures that have since been used.

"In 1889 an additional troop of cavalry was detailed for duty during the summer, and stationed in the Lower Geyser Basin. Capt. F. N. Boutelle became the Superintendent. He was an ardent sportsman and game protector, and especially interested in the stocking of barren waters of the Park with game fish. This he caused to be done.

"In February, 1891, Captain Geo. S. Anderson, a member of the club, came to the Park and relieved Captain Boutelle. Captain Anderson, while wholly new to the work, was a most able officer, and in Ed. Wilson, one of the scouts in the Park, he found a single, able assistant. This man was devoted to his work and succeeded in arresting a number of violators of the rules; but in the summer of 1891 he disappeared, and his place was taken by Felix Burgess.

"Captain Anderson's treatment of the Park was most judicious. Where another officer might have roughly expelled a man from the Park for writing his name or scratching his initials on the beautiful geyser formation,
Captain Anderson had the man brought back to the place, and supplied with soap and scrubbing brush or some tool, and obliged him to erase the writing. His ingenious punishments greatly impressed the visiting public, and a wholesome respect for law began to be felt.

"At this time the Park held a considerable herd of wild buffalo. The heads and hides of buffalo had now become so scarce that they were very valuable, and in the minds of taxidermists and hunters seemed beyond price. For some time the killing of buffalo near and in the Yellowstone Park went on without being suspected; but in 1894 the scout Burgess detected a hunter in the act of butchering a number that he had just killed in the Astringent and Pelican Creek districts. The poacher, Howell, was engaged in skinning a cow and was surrounded by the bodies of seven freshly killed buffalo, of which six were cows and one a yearling calf. Howell was arrested, held for some time in confinement and then set free, with orders to leave the Park and not return. There was still no law under which he could be punished.

"This crime was undoubtedly one of the best things that ever happened for the Park. It was thoroughly exploited in Forest and Stream, and afterward in other periodicals, and created an interest throughout the country, which brought about the passage of the Park Protection Act, signed by President Cleveland, May 7, 1894."
This was the ultimate reward of a number of men who, for a dozen years, had been working for the protection and betterment of the Yellowstone Park. It may fairly be said that since then that great reservation has never been exposed to any special dangers.

"The Yellowstone Park had been set aside under peculiar conditions. The public - represented by those who urged the establishment of the Park - asked only that the territory might be withdrawn from settlement, and was satisfied with that. But the people at large did not look forward to the existence of the reservation without government for a period of twenty-two years, nor did they realize the changed conditions which would prevail so soon as railroads reached the neighborhood of the Park. So long as the Park was isolated and to be reached only after five hundred miles of horseback or stage ride, the region might get along very well without law, but as soon as the Northern Pacific R. R. brought to it a large public, that public required to be governed.

"The Boone and Crockett Club after its organization, acting through the personality of Geo. C. Vest, Arnold Hague, Wm. Hallett Phillips, W. A. Wadsworth, Archibald Rogers, Theodore Roosevelt and George Bird Grinnell, was finally successful in carrying through the law of May 7, 1894, and so saved the Park.

"Much more might be written about the history of the
Entitled The Beginnings of Glacier National Park, Grant wrote the following account in the Boone and Crockett Club book: Hunting and Conservation, published in 1925. Several pages of the original account giving the history of the names of geographical features in the park have been deleted in the story below:

"In 1919 the writer was greatly impressed by the fact that, although the Glacier National Park had been established only nine years, the memory of its dedication as a federal reserve had already begun to fade into tradition and the historical facts concerning the Park had become obscured and distorted.

"As a member of the governing body of the Boone and Crockett Club, the writer had been for years familiar
with the long-continued efforts to establish Glacier National Park, and these notes and memoranda were gathered in order to set down, before it was too late, all the material available concerning its origin. These data were published in 1919 by the National Park Service of the Interior Department as part of the historical record of the Park.

"The Glacier National Park lies in a remote corner of Montana along the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains, immediately adjoining the Dominion of Canada. Before the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad it had been scarcely visited except by an occasional mountain-man or trapper. These mountain-men penetrated the remote fastnesses of the Rocky Mountains in the early decades of the nineteenth century, but they passed and left no record behind. Many a mountain slope or tree-studded valley has borne silent witness to their solitary roamings and oftentimes tragic end in hopeless fight against savage foes. With the building of the transcontinental railroads, men entered the country who were capable of recording what they saw, and who realized the importance of making such records.

"Little is known of the earlier history of the Glacier National Park region. Perhaps the first account of it is the story told by old Hugh Monroe, of the visit, long ago, of a missionary priest to the Lower St. Mary Lake."
"Chief Mountain, by far the boldest natural feature of the region, had been seen and named long before that, for on the early map sent back to President Jefferson by Lewis and Clark in 1804 a mountain is indicated at about this point, called The King — evidently a translation of the Indian term, Chief of Mountains. It is not surprising that it should have received this name, for it is visible for a great distance from the prairie, north, east and south, and stands out before the other mountains of the range like a chief leading his men.

"After the mountain-men, and yet long before the day of the railroads, we have one or two early records of the general region, one by A. W. Tinkham, who in 1853 approached it from the west and south, while in May of the following year James Doty, accompanying Governor I. I. Stevens on his exploring trip in charge of the railroad survey along the forty-seventh parallel, actually saw the area which is now the park. Doty's detailed report enables us to follow him from camp to camp until he reached the body of water now known as the Lower St. Mary Lake, to which he referred as 'the well-known Chief Mountain Lake,' stating that the name was then established. The present Upper St. Mary Lake he called Bow Lake. In later maps these early names went astray, and the very appropriate name, Chief Mountain Lake, became attached to another lake farther north and lying across the
international boundary in longitude about 113° 53'.

That Chief Mountain Lake was described and a survey of it published in the international boundary survey in 1878. It is now known as Waterton Lake.

"It is to be regretted that the Lower St. Mary Lake, dominated as it is by the great peak Chief Mountain, does not bear the name Chief Mountain Lake, given it long ago by a Hudson Bay factor. This matter might properly be brought to the attention of the National Board of Geographic Names with such evidence additional to that heretofore available as might warrant a reconsideration of any earlier decision by the Board.

"The shift of names was perhaps based on the map purporting to give Doty's route, printed in Volume XI of the Pacific Railroad Reports, compiled in the engineer's office from surveys of 1853-1857, where Chief Mountain Lake is given as lying across the border, partly in the United States and partly in British territory. This is Waterton Lake, and was very likely taken from Blakiston's - 1858 - map. Those familiar with Doty's narrative and route do not agree that this lake lying across the parallel of 49° N. is Doty's Chief Mountain Lake. Lieutenant G. K. Warren, under whose direction these maps were compiled, calls attention to the difficulties met with in harmonizing the various surveys he had to work with, and implies that in some cases he
was obliged to force an agreement.

"Mr. Grinnell long ago gave reasons* for believing that the Lower St. Mary Lake was the Chief Mountain Lake of Doty. Briefly they are these:

"In the narrative of his trip"** Doty says he camped on a small stream - one of the heads of Milk River - eight miles beyond and north of Cut Bank River, and then went on, and after seventeen miles saw in a valley five hundred feet below him the Chief Mountain Lake. The distance is about right to have brought him to the Lower St. Mary Lake.

"He describes in some detail the heads of Milk River, crossed before he reached his Chief Mountain Lake, and mentions particularly the growth of pine timber seen on the mountains near and on Divide Mountain, which extends toward the plain for a distance from Divide Mountain. According to Doty, the south end of Chief Mountain Lake is in 48° 41' 8", or about seventeen miles south of the boundary line, which would make the north end about ten miles south of that line. By modern maps this northern end is about eleven miles south of the boundary. Doty also says definitely that his survey shows that [his] Chief Mountain Lake and its environs belong to the

* Science, August 12, 1892, Vol. XX, p. 85.

The lengths he gives for the two lakes, i.e., Chief Mountain and Bow Lake, are approximately those of the Lower and Upper St. Mary Lakes. He further says that the outlet of his Chief Mountain Lake is called in the Blackfeet language Mo-kó-un or Belly River, which is what the St. Mary River—-the outlet of the Lower St. Mary Lake—is called by the Blackfeet today; that it is the most southerly of the headwaters of the Saskatchewan River, and that one large fork arises near Chief Mountain. This would be Kennedy Creek.

At the time when Lieutenant Warren's map was made the existence of the St. Mary lakes was not known, but Blakiston's Waterton Lake was known, and it seems probable that the compilers of the map in Volume XI of the Pacific Railroad Reports, knowing that there was a considerable lake near the boundary line, assumed that this was the lake visited by Doty and set down his trail as going to and beyond that lake. This inference is confirmed by the fact that the maps in Volume XI made Doty's—-and the Blackfeet's—-Belly River, Mo-kó-un, flow out of the Chief Mountain Lake, which crosses the international boundary, and have moved the heads of Milk River far to the north. In other words, Lieutenant Warren accepted Doty's name for a lake and river, but did not accept his survey, and did not believe that he had properly located
the lake and river that he named. Yet Doty was right, and this is one case where Lieutenant Warren by forcing an agreement of the surveys made his map wrong.

"In 1882 Professor Raphael Pumpelly tried to cross the main chain of the Rocky Mountains by the Cut Bank Pass, but finding the snow too deep was obliged to turn back. In 1883, however, by the same Cut Bank Pass, he crossed from west to east and discovered the glacier, which is a part of the iceflow from the Blackfoot Mountain and is now known as the Pumpelly Glacier. With Professor Pumpelly were W. A. Stiles, a writer well known between 1870 and 1890 and for many years the editor of Professor C. S. Sargent's Garden and Forest, and W. R. Logan, who was long in the service of the Indian Bureau and was the first superintendent of Glacier Park.

"Professor Pumpelly, eminent in science, outdoor man and nature lover, beheld the scenes of the Glacier National Park with enthusiasm. He says:

'Among these limestone mountains - from lofty crest and in cirques - you will see the grandest scenery in the United States; and the best time to see it is when, from high-lying snow fields water falls are plunging 2,000 feet down almost vertical steps.

'A sharply cut pyramid towers 1,000 feet above the [Cut Bank] Pass. Its four faces form the upward extension of the intersection of four amphitheater walls - two on
each side of the crest - and it indicates a lowering of the crest here during the glacial period by at least 1,000 feet."

"The outlying prairie borders of the region were by this time becoming known, and a few prospectors were washing for gold along the lower reaches of Swiftcurrent and Kennedy creeks and on the St. Mary River.

"In 1885, George Bird Grinnell, of New York, having heard many accounts of the country, went there on a hunting trip. The route at that time was by the Northern Pacific Railroad to Helena, thence to Fort Benton, one hundred and sixteen miles by stage; from that point to the Old Piegan Agency on Badger Creek, ninety miles by wagon; and from there to the lake and mountains by saddle.

"The mountains here had always been a hunting ground for Indians and had been visited by parties of Kootenais from the west, and by Crees and Bloods from the north. The Kootenais and the Crees were good mountain hunters and all three tribes were good trappers. The streams of the mountains and the lakes and pools of the foothills abounded in beaver, while game was plentiful. The Blackfeet, too, camped about the lakes and hunted the mountain bison found in the valleys and on the foothills. Sometimes hostile camps met here and more than once the great flat at the foot of the Lower St. Mary Lake has been the scene of battle."
"As an example of the abundance of game in those days, Mr. Grinnell records that in eight days a party of Kootenai Indians with whom he hunted killed two or three moose, two or three elk, many sheep and goats and eighty beaver.

"Two years later, at what is now known as Lake McDermott, the ice mass now known as Grinnell Glacier was seen and its character recognized. In company with Lieutenant J. H. Beacom, later Colonel Beacom, U.S.A., the glacier was climbed and explored by Grinnell, and Lieutenant Beacom named the mountain, glacier and lake.

"From 1887 on, Mr. Grinnell returned each summer and autumn for a number of years, devoting his time to hunting, climbing, exploring and the study of the Blackfeet Indians.

"In 1891 with William H. Seward and Henry L. Stimson a trip was made to the head of the St. Mary River where the Blackfeet Glacier, the largest ice mass in the park, was discovered and named. That year, and later, names were given to various physiographic features of the park.

"At this time the mountain area on the east side of the Continental Divide, from the international boundary line south to Birch Creek, was the westerly portion of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, but was not used by these Indians. It was a region of great precipitation, and, so long as its forests were preserved, would constitute a storage reservoir of great value. It early occurred to
Mr. Grinnell to try to have the region set aside as a national park, and it is matter of record that the project of the Glacier National Park for the first time took concrete shape in September, 1891, in his suggestion that a movement be set on foot for the government to buy the St. Mary region and turn it into a national reservation. The Great Northern Railroad was then just being built through this country and it was believed that its managers might be persuaded to see material advantage in backing the project. After long consideration the proposal was elaborated by Mr. Grinnell in an article called 'The Crown of the Continent' and published in the Century Magazine, September, 1901, from which we quote:

'The Chief Mountain region has a real value to this country, and this consists in its being a reservoir for the storage of the great amount of moisture precipitated here. For eight or nine months of the year this moisture takes the form of snow, and supplies the annual waste caused by the melting of the glaciers. Without these glaciers and the far-reaching fields of snow which lie on many of the mountains, the lakes and the rivers would soon go dry. At present all the watercourses are full at all seasons of the year, and the winter's snows, protected by dense pine forests, are still slowly melting in June and July. The St. Mary River is a very large
stream, and south of it, until we come to the Missouri River, there is none carrying an equal volume of water flowing out of the Rocky Mountains to the eastward. A plan is already on foot to divert the St. Mary from its present course and turn it into Milk River. If this should be done it would render irrigable many hundreds of square miles in northern Montana which are now quite without value from lack of water. But if the forests of the Chief Mountain region should be swept away by fire or the ax, its value as a reservoir would be gone. Large tracts of forest on Swiftcurrent have been burned over by hunting parties of Canadian Indians, and this danger is ever present.

Persons who have given intelligent study to the problems of forestry and the needs of the arid West appreciate the importance of protecting the sources of rivers flowing from the Rocky Mountains over the plains east and west, and it is obvious that the greater the number of settlers who establish themselves on these dry plains the more water will be used and so the more needed. The question of water supply is the most important that to-day confronts the States which border the Rocky Mountains. Already many of these States are feeling in the lessened volume of their streams the evil effect of the wasteful destruction of their forests. Great rivers like the Platte, the Arkansas, and the Rio Grande receive
in a short time the quickly melting snows which lie on the naked sides of the mountains in which they rise, and when this flood is over, they fall at once to their summer level. Besides this they are tapped all along their courses by flumes and ditches which carry off the water and spread it over the ground. The result is that even these large rivers dwindle in midsummer and autumn to mere trickles of water, or become wholly dry. Their waters have been used up.

'Happily, in 1897, by the official initiative of the United States Forest Commission, of which Prof. Charles S. Sargent was chairman, a large section of this mountain country was made into a forest reserve, including Upper St. Mary Lake. Under faithful and intelligent supervision, the dangers above spoken of will in large part be obviated, and in due time Montana will rejoice, as California is now doing, that so large a source of her water supply has thus been preserved for her people.'

'These paragraphs set forth truths that now are commonplace; but at that time such broad views on the conservation of water supply, forests and game were unusual.

'Ten years had elapsed between Mr. Grinnell's first concept of the Glacier National Park and the publication of this article, and in the meantime various changes had taken place. In 1892 and 1893 indications of copper were
found in the foothills, but as the country was an Indian reservation all prospecting was illegal. Since it was forbidden ground, people in the neighborhood began to imagine that great wealth must be hidden in the mountains, and strong pressure was brought to bear on Congress to purchase the mountain and foothill territory from the Indians and throw the region open to settlement.

"The Blackfeet Indians, whose hunting grounds and reservation included the territory of the Glacier Park, cared little about this mountain country, as they had been for generations a plains tribe depending for support on the buffalo. The only Indians who hunted in the mountains were Cree or Stonies from the north and Kootenais from the west, though sometimes the Bloods came down from the north to trap beaver.

"The result of the agitation to open this Indian country to prospectors was the passage of the act authorizing the purchase of the land from the Blackfeet Indians, and in 1895 the Secretary of the Interior appointed Mr. Grinnell, who was named at the request of the Blackfeet themselves, and Messrs. W. C. Pollock and W. M. Clements to treat with the Blackfeet. These negotiations resulted in the purchase of the mountain area of their reserve. The action of the commission was confirmed by Congress in June, 1896, and the land was thrown open in April, 1898. Between these dates many
parties of prospectors secretly entered the forbidden territory, only to be discovered, arrested, escorted to the border, and released by the Indian police. Once set free they usually returned by some other route. The throwing open of the land was followed by a great incursion of miners and by a general prospecting of both sides of the mountains. Beautiful samples of copper were found, brought out and exhibited, and on some veins much work was done. The prospect holes and shafts may still be seen on many hillsides.

"Experts from important mining camps were brought to the newly opened territory and looked it over, but all shook their heads in doubt, and none seemed to agree with the local optimists, who declared that this was to be a 'bigger camp than Old Butte.' After two or three years of unsuccessful prospecting for gold, silver, copper, and finally for oil, the miners here became discouraged and practically all the claims were abandoned.

"By 1902 almost the last prospectors had withdrawn from the region, leaving behind them no marks of their presence more permanent than the prospect holes or shafts which they had dug at the cost of so much labor. They had cut down much timber for their mining operations, and in different localities adjacent to the claims rough log cabins, most of them roofless now through weather and decay, still mark the points where hopes once high had
grown fainter and fainter and at last had been abandoned. The time came when the only claim still occupied was a well sunk for petroleum, whose high derrick until recently was a landmark in the valley of Swiftcurrent River. Many tales are told of the struggles of those interested in this oil well to make it appear a valuable prospect, and tradition tells of casks of crude petroleum secretly brought into the country and fed into the well to buoy up the hopes of those who had invested in it.

"During the period of mining excitement Mr. Grinnell had regularly visited the region, where he was welcomed because his visits were known to be for the purpose of exploration and hunting and not for location of mineral deposits. He climbed and named many of the mountains; among others, Mount Jackson, Blackfeet Mountain and Mount Gould, and made the first sketch map of the region.

"When the mining excitement died down, he recognized that the time was propitious to advance his plan for a national park, then ten years old, and approached Senator T. H. Carter, of Montana, suggesting its creation. He took the matter up also with friends in Montana, inducing them to write independently to the Senator. These suggestions resulted in the introduction by Senator Carter of the desired bill. It passed in the Senate twice, but the House felt slight interest in the measure. At length, however, Mr. L. W. Hill, who had visited the
region, became an enthusiastic partisan of the bill, and Congressman Pray, of Montana, became interested. Mr. Hill saw in the measure great possibilities for the public benefit, as well as important material advantage to the Great Northern Railroad. With these new interests behind it the bill passed both houses and was signed by President Taft May 11, 1910, and the Glacier National Park, after nineteen years of effort, became an established fact.

"After the establishment of the park the appropriations for its improvement and care were small. There were no roads or bridges and it was evident that without these the general public would be unable to enjoy the beauties of the region. At this juncture the Great Northern Railroad stepped into the gap and expended many thousands of dollars in building safe and good roads to the lakes, as well as camping places for tourists, which later grew into large and attractive hotels. Much of the earlier development of the park was thus due to L. W. Hill.

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"These are some of the essential facts which have to do with the genesis of the Glacier National Park. . . . Those desiring to know more details of its early history and of the life of the people who lived about it, should read: 'The Ascent of Chief Mountain,' by Henry L. Stimson in *Hunting in Many Lands*, New York, 1895; *Blackfoot Lodge*
In the same volume in which Madison Grant wrote the history of Glacier National Park he also wrote the following account of the establishment of Mt. McKinley National Park.

"The Boone and Crockett Club, founded originally by riflemen and hunters, has, with the transformation of North America from frontier to almost old world conditions, been itself transformed into a club whose achievements in the field of conservation have been far-reaching.

"One of its most recent achievements is the establishment of Mt. McKinley National Park in Alaska, if the Club be allowed to appropriate to itself the results of the foresight and zeal of one of its members, Charles Sheldon. Mr. Sheldon has advised me that the interest of the Boone and Crockett Club in creating game refuges, especially in Alaska, was the sole cause which inspired in him the thought of preserving this area after personally studying the situation in that land.

"It took George Bird Grinnell nineteen years to establish Glacier National Park, counting the years which elapsed from the date of the conception, in 1891, and the public announcement of the plan of the proposed park and game refuge ten years later, down to the date
when the statute establishing the park was actually enacted, in 1910.

"Mr. Sheldon was more fortunate in point of time. The plan of conserving the Mt. McKinley region as a national park was conceived in the summer and fall of 1906 by Charles Sheldon and by him alone, and during the following year he devoted much time to studying on the spot the proper boundaries of the proposed national park, so as to include therein territories suitable for a game refuge.

"Upon his return to the East in 1908, the Game Committee of the Boone and Crockett Club, of which he was chairman, took under consideration the question of game refuges in Alaska, and especially in the region adjacent to the northern slopes of Mt. McKinley. It was felt, however, that the time was not favorable for congressional action and that the best hope of success rested on obtaining approval and support from the Alaskans themselves.

"Later, while this matter was under discussion, the construction of the Alaska Railroad from the southern coast of Alaska to Fairbanks was making rapid progress and the route as laid out crossed Broad Pass and so rendered easily accessible the eastern limit of the Mt. McKinley Park outlined in Mr. Sheldon's plan.

"The first step was to secure the approval and cooperation of the delegate who represented Alaska in
Congress. In October, 1915, Mr. Sheldon took up the matter with Dr. E. W. Nelson of the Biological Survey at Washington, D. C., and with Mr. George Bird Grinnell, with a view to introducing a suitable bill at the coming session of Congress. The matter was then again considered by the Game Committee of the Boone and Crockett Club, and after full discussion received the Committee's endorsement. On December 3 of the same year, it was formally laid before James Wickersham, then delegate from Alaska, who, after some deliberation, gave his approval to the establishment of a park in the Mt. McKinley region. The whole project was then presented to the Executive Committee of the Boone and Crockett Club and was unanimously endorsed by them on December 15, 1915.

"The plan was thereupon brought to the attention of Stephen T. Mather, in charge of national parks at Washington, D. C., as a plan originating with and endorsed by the Boone and Crockett Club. It received the immediate and cordial approval of Mr. Mather. He and Secretary Lane secured the cooperation of Thomas Riggs, Jr., later governor of Alaska but at that time in charge of the Alaskan Boundary Survey. Mr. Riggs was asked to draw a bill for the establishment of a national park in the Mt. McKinley region, with boundaries as suggested by Mr. Sheldon. The western, northern and eastern limits of the park were laid out by Mr. Sheldon from his own personal
knowledge, based on observations made during an entire winter season spent on and near the northern slopes of the mountain. The southern boundary, of little importance with reference to the conservation of game, was based on convenient topographical features.

"After this plan had been formally presented to the authorities in Washington, several similar propositions, some including the Mt. McKinley region, were brought forward, but the net result of these activities was the preliminary drawing of a bill by Mr. Riggs with the boundaries approximately as outlined by Mr. Sheldon.

"Mr. Sheldon suggested that the park be known as The Denali National Park, "Denali" being the local Indian name for the mountain and signifying "The Great High One." This suggestion, however, was not followed. The drafted bill was submitted to and approved by Delegate Wickersham, who thereupon decided to introduce the bill himself.

"After prolonged discussion as to boundaries, the original outlines approximately as suggested by Charles Sheldon were accepted and were embodied in bills introduced in April, 1916, by Delegate Wickersham in the House, and in the Senate by Senator Key Pitman, of Nevada.

"Meantime, other organizations and individuals interested in game conservation and in national parks had taken up the proposed park scheme and were at Washington, arousing public sentiment in its favor.
In order to retain and to coördinate all these favorable influences, Mr. Sheldon called, at his house in New York, a meeting of the Game Preservation Committee of the Boone and Crockett Club, which was attended also by a committee from the Camp Fire Club and one from the American Game Protective Association, both of which societies were deeply interested in the proposed bill, and had done effective work in its behalf. At this meeting it was determined that the campaign in Congress be entrusted to the American Game Protective Association, its president, Mr. Burnham, assuming the active leadership. Mr. Burnham was duly authorized by his association to undertake this work, and the various clubs and individuals supporting the measure agreed to act unitedly under his direction.

Immediately after the introduction of these bills in Congress, a widespread campaign was started to accelerate their passage and in this work George Bird Grinnell, now President of the Boone and Crockett Club, took an active part, ably backed by a number of clubs and associations and influential individuals. Hearings were held before the Committee on Public Lands, in the House, and of Territories, in the Senate.

Some difference of opinion arose among the officials at Washington as to the advisability of certain amendments, and for a time no progress was made in the House, but in
the Senate the bill was reported out by the Committee.

"All through the spring and summer of 1916 much active work was done by the Boone and Crockett Club. A banquet given by the Club in Washington gave the advocates of the bill an opportunity to explain its importance to the country to some members of Congress. Effective work in Washington and elsewhere was also done by individual members and, above all, by Mr. Burnham.

"Nevertheless, first one cause and then another, which had no relation whatever to the merits of the bill, delayed its passage. The chief impediment was a policy adopted by the Committee on Public Lands that not more than two national park bills should be reported favorably in any single session of Congress and bills for the Mt. Lassen National Park, the Grand Canyon National Park and the Sawtooth National Park all claimed right of way over the Mt. McKinley Bill.

"Public sentiment, however, kept piling up in favor of immediate action on the Mt. McKinley National Park in order to save its game while there was yet time. When the bill was finally reported out in 1917, it was so late in the session that it took its place on the Unanimous Consent Calendar of the House, where a single objection might block it. Yet, because of the ceaseless activity of Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Burnham, the bill was finally reached in the House and passed with some small amendments
on February 19, 1917.

"On the next day the Senate, which had already passed the bill, concurred in the amended House bill. After the necessary formality of obtaining the signature of the Secretary of the Interior, the bill, establishing Mt. McKinley National Park, was personally taken from the office of the Secretary to the White House by Charles Sheldon on February 24, 1917. On February 26, 1917, the President of the United States signed it and presented to Mr. Sheldon the pen with which he had affixed his signature.

"Eleven years had elapsed from the conception of Mt. McKinley National Park to the actual signing of the bill. It was quick work. Public sentiment in this country in matters of conservation moves with reasonable celerity but unfortunately the forces engaged in the work of destroying our forests and game work even more rapidly.

"It is seldom that the history of an achievement of such magnitude as the Mt. McKinley National Park has been recorded in full, but many of the facts set forth above are within the personal knowledge of the writer, and in Appendix B is given an abstract, in chronological order, of the written records and of the correspondence covering all essential points. All the signed documents and letters referred to are in the files of the Boone and Crockett Club."