

EDITORIAL

THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK MOVEMENT

In the month of March, the Board of Editors decided to devote the entire April number to the Great Smoky Mountain Park Project. Col. D. C. Chapman kindly agreed to furnish the cuts and members of the Academy were asked to write articles on certain scientific phases of the Great Smokies. Unfortunately the cuts could not be released at that time and the April issue was put off until suitable illustrations could be obtained. Some of them are now available and the decision was made to go ahead with the publication.

The editor regrets the delay in getting this number to the members of the Academy but feels sure that our action will meet with the approval of members of our society.

It is with pride that we send out this April number. The articles (save one) have been written by experts in their fields of research and will prove valuable for future reference. The first number laid special emphasis on Reelfoot as a place for an Experiment Station in Biology; the July JOURNAL was devoted largely to the work of the State Archæological Society; and Vol. I, No. 2, gives to all members of the Academy a splendid forum of articles on the Great Smokies from a scientific standpoint.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE PARK MOVEMENT

LETTER FROM COL. CHAPMAN TO THE EDITOR

You ask about the present status of the park movement. No further action by Congress is necessary. The bill which passed the last session of Congress with unanimous consent, reads as follows:

"That when title to lands within the areas hereinafter referred to shall have been vested in the United States in fee simple, they shall be and are hereby establishd, dedicated, and set apart as public parks for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. . . . the tract of land . . . to be known as the Shenandoah National Park . . . and the tract of land to be known as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park."

The Act further provides that "When one hundred, fifty thousand acres, which in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, is acceptable, shall have been deeded to the United

States Government in fee, it shall then be taken over for administration and protection."

Approximately One Million Dollars was raised in Tennessee and North Carolina by public subscription for the purchase of land, and the Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association is now acquiring land as rapidly as is feasible, and we have the title to more than one thousand acres, as well as negotiating for many additional tracts. In a very few weeks North Carolina will begin the purchase of lands in their state, and the two state organizations are working in perfect harmony.

The Democratic platform of North Carolina pledges their support necessary to the National Park, and the information that reaches us is that their next legislature which meets in January, will provide the necessary money for purchasing that part of the land that lies in North Carolina.

Congressman Temple, chairman of the Southern Appalachian Park Commission, said before the Congressional Committee, that they were greatly heartened when the State of Tennessee made possible the purchase of the eighty thousand acres of the Little River Lumber Company, this to be purchased only with the provision that Congress, by legislative enactment would indicate that they would take this and use it as a National Park. I am of the opinion that this action of the State Legislature of Tennessee was responsible for bringing this movement to its present status. Without this action the whole matter would have no doubt been dropped many months ago. Governor Peay and Mayor Morton, of the City of Knoxville, are now negotiating with Colonel Townsend, president of the Little River Lumber Company. I am confident that within the next few months announcement will be made that this land has been purchased.

This tract of land takes in half of Thunderhead; half of Silers Bald, and half of Clingmans Dome.

It is very probable that it will be necessary to ask the State of Tennessee to do as much approximately as the State of North Carolina will do. Tennessee's part of this purchase of the Little River Lumber Company's tract will amount to only \$182,000 cash.

There is now no serious interference from the lumber company and practically all opposition that developed earlier in the campaign has been withdrawn. It is inconceivable in my mind with the matter standing as it does that we will fail to procure this national park. It will bring to the State great renown, a vast amount of wealth, and will preserve for all time an area which is admitted by all of the experts to be "unexampled and the most exquisite thing of its kind in the world."