

2005

Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources in Four Volumes. Vol 3

Howard R. Whitcomb
whitcomb.howard@gmail.com

Friends of Baxter State Park

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/baxter_docs

Recommended Citation

Whitcomb, Howard R. and Friends of Baxter State Park, "Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources in Four Volumes. Vol 3" (2005). *Governor Percival Proctor Baxter Documents*. 4.
http://digitalmaine.com/baxter_docs/4

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Governor Percival Proctor Baxter Documents by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.

Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park

*An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources
in Four Volumes*

Volume III

Friends of Baxter State Park
Bangor, Maine

Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park

An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources

Volume III



Katahdin From Near Foster Field
Lou Mucci, 2004
Commissioned by Friends of Baxter State Park

Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park

An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources

Volume III

Compiled and Annotated by
Howard R. Whitcomb, Ph.D



Friends of Baxter State Park
Bangor, Maine

Copyright 2005 by Friends of Baxter State Park
P. O. Box 1442
Bangor, Maine 04402-1442
Second Printing 2008

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or
by any means without the prior written permission of
Friends of Baxter State Park

ISBN numbers are provided by The Osprey Press, Wiscasset, Maine
courtesy of The Chewonki Foundation

Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park
An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources
Compiled and Annotated by Howard R. Whitcomb
1 - 887940-08-1

- Volume I: Deeds of Trust and Judicial Opinions
1-887940-09-x
- Volume II: Attorney General Opinions
1-887940-10-3
- Volume III: Speeches and National Park Controversy Correspondence
1-887940-11-1
- Volume IV: Correspondence Related to Baxter State Park
1-887940-12-x

Painting Opposite Title Page: *Katahdin from Near Foster Field* by Lou Mucci, Alna, Maine

Design, Formatting, and Printing by:
J.S. McCarthy Printers • 15 Darin Drive • Augusta, Maine 04330-9479

Summary of Contents

Foreword

Preface

Acknowledgments

Volume I: DEEDS OF TRUST AND JUDICIAL OPINIONS

- Part 1: Deeds of Trust
- Part 2: Judicial Opinions
- Appendix: Guide to the Use of the Percival Proctor Baxter Collection,
Maine State Library, 1972

Volume II: ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

- Part 3: Attorney General Opinions

Volume III: SPEECHES AND NATIONAL PARK CONTROVERSY CORRESPONDENCE

- Part 4: Speeches**
- Part 5: National Park Controversy Correspondence**
- Part 6: Miscellaneous Personal Documents**

Volume IV: CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO BAXTER STATE PARK

- Part 7: Correspondence Related to Baxter State Park

Contents

All Four Volumes

Foreword

Preface

Acknowledgments

Volume I: DEEDS OF TRUST AND JUDICIAL OPINIONS

Part 1: Deeds of Trust	
Overview	1-1
Baxter's Remarks in 1955 Formal Communications to Governor Edmund S. Muskie	1-2
Map — Location of Land Acquisitions with Date Granted to the State as of 1963	1-3
Annotations	1-4
1.1 Parcel #1 (1931 and 1933)	1-4
1.2 Parcels #2 — #3 (1939)	1-5
1.3 Parcel #4 (1940)	1-6
1.4 Parcel #5 (1941)	1-6
1.5 Parcel #6 (1942)	1-7
1.6 Parcels #7 — #8 (1943)	1-7
1.7 Parcel #9 (1944)	1-8
1.8 Parcels #10 — #18 (1945)	1-9
1.9 Parcel #19 (1947)	1-11
1.10 Parcels #20 — #22 and #14 — #16 (1949)	1-12
Formal Communications, 1953	1-14
1.11 Parcels #23 — #27 (1955)	1-15
1.12 Parcel #28 (1963)	1-19
Formal Communications, 1965	1-19
Maps — Land Acquisitions with Date Granted to State — Revised 2003 and BSP Use Zone Legend	1-20
Documents	1-21
Part 2: Judicial Opinions	
Overview	2-1
Annotations	2-1
2.1 <i>State of Maine v. The Fin & Feather Club et al.</i> (Me. 1974)	2-1
2.2 <i>Fitzgerald et al. v. Baxter State Park Authority et al.</i> (Me. 1978)	2-2
2.3 <i>In the Matter of Baxter State Park</i> (Superior Court, Kennebec County, 1981)	2-3
2.4 <i>Cartwright et al. v. Baxter State Park Authority</i> (Superior Court, Kennebec County, 1985)	2-4
2.5 <i>Normand et al. v. Baxter State Park Authority</i> (Me. 1986)	2-5
Documents	

Appendix: Guide to the Use of the Percival Proctor Baxter Collection, Maine State Library, 1972

Volume II: ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

Part 3: Attorney General Opinions	
Contents Listed by Subject Matter	3-1
3.1 "Boston Trust" and "State Trust" Documents	3-1
3.2 Trust Fund Administration	3-1
3.3 Baxter State Park Administration	3-2
3.3.1 Separate Identity	3-2
3.3.2 Rules and Regulations	3-4
3.3.3 Miscellaneous	3-4
3.4 Snowmobiles and Motor Vehicles	3-5
3.5 Scientific Forestry	3-6
3.6 Court Jurisdiction and Dispute Resolution	3-7
Overview	3-7
Annotations	3-8
3.1 "Boston Trust" and "State Trust Documents (3)	3-8
3.2 Trust Fund Administration (10)	3-8
3.2.1 Introduction	3-8
3.2.2 Separation of Income from the General Fund	3-8
3.2.3 Permissible Uses	3-8
3.2.4 Acceptance of Grants and Donations	3-9
3.3 Baxter State Park Administration (19)	3-9
3.3.1 Separate Identity (13)	3-9
3.3.2 Rules and Regulations (3)	3-10
3.3.3 Miscellaneous (3)	3-11
3.4 Snowmobiles and Motor Vehicles (5)	3-11
3.5 Scientific Forestry (6)	3-12
3.6 Court Jurisdiction and Dispute Resolution (5)	3-13
Documents	

Volume III: SPEECHES AND NATIONAL PARK CONTROVERSY CORRESPONDENCE

Part 4: Speeches	
Contents Listed Chronologically	4-1
Overview	4-2
Annotations	4-2
Documents	
Part 5: National Park Controversy Correspondence	
Overview	5-1
Background	5-1
Annotations	5-3
Documents	
Part 6: Miscellaneous Personal Documents	
Overview	6-1
Annotations	6-1
6.1 Biographical Material	6-1
6.2 Public Perceptions	6-2
6.3 Wills and Trusts	6-3
Documents	

Volume IV: CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO BAXTER STATE PARK

Part 7: Correspondence Related to Baxter State Park

Overview	7-1
Annotations	7-2
7.1 Baxter State Park History	7-2
7.1.1 History of Baxter State Park	7-2
7.1.2 Nomenclature	7-4
7.2 Baxter State Park Administration	7-4
7.2.1 Authority's Autonomy	7-4
7.2.2 Oversight and Vigilance to Deeds of Trust	7-5
7.2.3 Trust Funds	7-6
7.2.4 Publicity	7-7
7.2.5 Leases	7-7
7.2.6 Miscellaneous	7-8
7.3 Baxter State Park Facilities and Improvements	7-8
7.3.1 Buildings and Structures	7-8
7.3.2 Gatehouses	7-9
7.3.3 Roads	7-9
7.3.4 Miscellaneous	7-10
7.4 Baxter State Park Uses and Resources	7-11
7.4.1 Wilderness Values	7-11
7.4.1.1 "Natural Wild State" and "Sanctuary"	7-11
7.4.2 Cultural Values	7-11
7.4.2.1 Plaques, Memorials and Museums	7-11
7.4.3 Forest Values	7-12
7.4.3.1 Reforestation and Scientific Forestry	7-12
7.4.4 Recreational Values	7-12
7.4.4.1 Hunting and Fishing	7-12
7.4.4.2 Snowmobiles and Motorcycles	7-13
7.4.5 Air Values	7-14
7.4.5.1 Aircraft and Airspace	7-14
7.4.6 Water Resource Values	7-14
7.4.6.1 Float Planes and Motor Boats	7-14
7.4.6.2 Water Power, Dams and Flowage Issues	7-14
Documents	



AUTHORITY MEMBERS

STEVEN ROWE, CHAIR
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ROLAND D. MARTIN
COMMISSIONER OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

ALEC GIFFEN
DIRECTOR OF MAINE FOREST SERVICE

INFORMATION

(207) 723-5140

PARK HEADQUARTERS

ADMINISTRATION (207) 723-9616
IRVIN C. CAVERLY, JR., DIRECTOR

64 BALSAM DRIVE
MILLINOCKET, ME 04462
(207) 723-9500

FOREWORD

Baxter State Park first inspired awe and fascination in me more than twenty years ago. It was then that my family and I first climbed Katahdin and camped at Roaring Brook. Subsequent treks to Russell Pond and Wassataquoik Lake, climbs up North Traveler and Doubletop, dips in the frigid kettles of Howe Brook and volunteer weeks at Daicey Pond deepened my respect for Baxter State Park, its visionary donor and the philosophy that guides its management.

The history of Baxter State Park is as complicated as it is remarkable. Governor Percival Baxter was not just a visionary. He was also one of the most determined, persistent and patient persons ever to live. It took him more than thirty-two years and more than two dozen separate land acquisitions to assemble all of the pieces of his “puzzle”. The acquisition process was marked not only by Governor Baxter’s tenacious persistence, but also by considerable negotiation and compromise. The result was one of the most unique public parks in the world: more than 200,000 acres of majestic mountains and forests.

Governor Baxter’s gift to the people of Maine included not only a vast wilderness sanctuary but also an area designated for scientific forestry management. The Governor knew that controversy, political and otherwise, would inevitably surround management of the Park. That is why in 1939, he had the Park’s enabling legislation amended so that responsibility for Park management would lie in the hands of the independent, three-person Baxter State Park Authority.

There have been, and undoubtedly will continue to be, controversies surrounding the wilderness concept that Governor Baxter evoked for much of the Park. The contextual meaning of trust phrases such as “natural wild

state” and “sanctuary for wild beasts and birds” has been the subject of a great many discussions over the years. So has the operation of scientific forest harvesting within Park confines. Until his death in 1969, Governor Baxter himself expressed his desires on the interpretation of the deeds of trust in a number of situations. Since his death, it has been necessary to research the various deeds of trust, a multitude of legal opinions and other documents in order to glean the Governor’s intent with respect to certain Park management issues. To conduct such research required substantial effort since not all of the source documents were easily accessible.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the independent group Friends of Baxter State Park, all of the source documents that chronicle Governor Baxter’s vision and intent for the Park have been collected and compiled in this four volume collection. The collection includes the deeds of trust, judicial opinions, Attorney General opinions, as well as Governor Baxter’s speeches and correspondence. The collection also includes annotations by Professor Howard R. Whitcomb.

This collection is important because it will increase the clarity of, and accessibility to, these primary source documents. Such documents are critical because they reveal Governor Baxter’s original thinking and trace its evolution over time. The collection will also increase the public’s understanding and appreciation for the detailed information gathering and analysis that have accompanied Park management decisions over the years.

On behalf of the Baxter State Park Authority and the People of Maine, I congratulate and thank the Friends of Baxter State Park for undertaking and successfully completing this project. I particularly recognize and thank Professor Whitcomb for his fine work in managing the project and authoring the annotations. These volumes of annotated materials will help future generations of Maine people to better understand, appreciate and protect the very special gift given to them by Governor Percival Baxter.

G. STEVEN ROWE
Maine Attorney General
Chair, Baxter State Park Authority
April 2005

Preface

Friends of Baxter State Park is enormously pleased to contribute to public discourse and scholarship this four-volume annotated compilation of original sources, collectively conveying Governor Percival P. Baxter's intent and vision for the park, his unparalleled gift to the people of Maine. Herein are gathered together for the first time in one source the Deeds of Trust, legislative interpretations, opinions of Attorneys General, appellate court opinions, and Baxter's voluminous speeches and correspondence.

Purpose

Baxter State Park is unique among parks. It was conceived and created by one man, Governor Percival P. Baxter, who today is the hero of park users and conservationists from near and far. It was Baxter who:

- Doggedly bought and paid for every single parcel, amounting to 201,000 acres as of his last gift in 1963,
- Specified the governing structure and ground rules for park management as he gifted his "building blocks" to the state,
- Capitalized a trust fund for its operation and long term survival, and
- Guided policy and operations until his death in 1969.

Baxter was both a visionary and pragmatist. The conditions upon which he gave the park to the State of Maine are specific. Even if some of his words are not always consistent, taken as a whole, they are clear: his foremost purpose was to retain and enhance the park's wild state, for nature itself, as it were. Within that context, he also wished to provide opportunities for the people of Maine to experience this wildness apart from development.

But what does this mean today, especially when few alive actually knew the man and heard his ideas, and when technology has changed the ways in which we use the out-of-doors? How may the public trust remain as true as possible to the Governor's wishes? While current Park Director Irwin "Buzz" Caverly certainly had the privilege of first-hand instruction from the Governor, his successors most surely will not. Nor will other officials and citizens involved in the administration, management, and safeguarding of the park.

Friends of Baxter State Park offers these annotated materials in the belief that this knowledge is vital to ensuring that the Governor's wishes continue to endure in park management and administration. Much of the material herein has not been previously available to the public. Locating and using it should be easy for anyone.

We first began the project as a means of understanding within our own organization the basis for the Governor's intent and actions in establishing a wilderness park, even as he made concessions for hunting and forestry in acquiring some parcels, to get the job done. Our mission as an independent citizen's group is to help preserve, support, and enhance the wilderness character of the park, in the spirit of its founder. In carrying out this mission, we must ensure that we have our facts straight. This valuable resource will help us immeasurably. We hope you likewise will find it useful.

Organization

The seven parts of this compilation are organized into four volumes. Each part begins with an "Overview;" followed by brief "Annotations." The "Documents," copied from copies of originals from the sources consulted, complete each part.

Volumes I — II, Parts 1-3: Legal Documents

The first three parts are legal documents through which the park was created and by which the Governor's intent and transactions have been interpreted. These include the Deeds of Trust and Judicial Opinions (Volume I, Parts 1-2), presented chronologically, and Attorney General Opinions (Volume II, Part 3), treated by subject matter.

Volumes III — IV, Parts 4-7: Speeches and Correspondence

Three of the last four parts contain private exhortations and ideas that the Governor expressed about the park in speeches and correspondence. Hopefully, most of the countless extant materials are contained herein. The other part, in addition to personal items pertaining to Baxter himself, consists of documents recognizing his accomplishments such as letters of commendation from former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court William O. Douglas.

Speeches about Katahdin comprise Part 4 (Volume III).

Correspondence related to the attempt in the mid-1930s to create a national park in the Katahdin area, that the Governor headed off, make up Part 5 (Volume III). This correspondence is separated from that of Part 7 (Volume IV) because of its particular content.

Part 6 (Volume III) includes personal items, including his will and trust documents, and awards bestowed upon Governor Baxter.

Part 7 (Volume IV) comprises the remainder of his correspondence, selected for its bearing on his vision and intent for Baxter State Park. It is organized by subject matter to aid the user.

Research Limitations

Professor Whitcomb attempted to avoid interpretative judgments in his annotations, leaving such to the users of the four volumes, and the courts and attorneys general of the state.

Professor Whitcomb was not asked, nor did Friends of Baxter State Park expect him to conduct, independent research as an historian might do. Friends directed his efforts to the documents willingly made available by the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Maine, Baxter State Park Headquarters, and the Maine State Library which holds the Percival P. Baxter Collection. The State Library's guide to that collection appears as an Appendix in Volume I of this compilation. Professor Whitcomb did not use the Baxter scrapbooks that were in the process of restoration. That restoration will be completed soon and interested parties should consult the excellent index that is included in the aforementioned guide.

Availability

Thanks to the generosity of the Davis Conservation Foundation and other donors including Jon Lund, Robert Morrell, and Rupert White, copies will be made available to the Office of the Attorney General and Baxter State Park Headquarters. The general public will have access to the four-volume set at the Maine State Library, Maine State Law Library, Cleaves Law Library (Cumberland County), Maine Historical Society, and public libraries in Bangor, Portland, and Presque Isle (Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library).

A Word of Thanks

Finally, we acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of Dr. Howard Whitcomb, Emeritus Professor of Political Science of Lehigh University, in bringing the material to publication. With little compensation, but much support from state and park officials and others whom he has named in his Acknowledgments, and the Friends of Baxter State Park subcommittee who guided his effort, Dr. Whitcomb painstakingly compiled, organized, and annotated the 1500 page set. We are grateful to him and to all who have helped him in his research.

Friends also commissioned Lou Mucci to paint a watercolor reflecting the park's capacity to inspire. It is his watercolor that graces this work, and we thank him.

May Governor Baxter's beloved park remain forever wild!

Charlie Jacobi,
President, Friends of Baxter State Park
Bar Harbor, Maine

Acknowledgments

I was pleased to have been asked by the Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP) to take primary responsibility for this documentary project. My half-century of hiking and camping experiences in Baxter State Park began as a 13 year-old when my summer camp party climbed Katahdin via the Cathedral Trail. I even had the good fortune a few years later to meet Governor Baxter. I have been drawn back regularly to explore some of the Park's more remote locations and in each of the intervening decades I have climbed Katahdin. As a retired political scientist, I felt comfortable accepting the FBSP's invitation to undertake this project, while at the same time hoping that my efforts would be worthy of the confidence that had been shown in me.

For the past several years, it has been a distinct pleasure to work closely with three of the founding members of the FBSP's Board of Directors — John Neff, Holly Dominie, and Don Hudson. They have provided valuable guidance and, at times, much needed prodding. John Neff's extensive knowledge of and research on Katahdin helped point me in the right direction on a number of occasions. Likewise, the Board of Directors provided encouragement and unflagging support. My son, Gerald R. Whitcomb, with whom I share wonderful memories of the Park, provided invaluable assistance by critiquing my annotations.

The compilation of materials was greatly facilitated by the cooperation of the State Library, the Department of the Attorney General, and Park Headquarters in Millinocket. In particular, I would like to thank Maine State Librarian, J. Gary Nichols, and his staff, notably Ben Keating, Elaine Stanley and Louise Hinkley, for the courtesies extended to me on my many visits to the Baxter Collection at the State Library. Attorney General Steven Rowe and his deputy, Paul Stern, shared documents in their possession that were unavailable elsewhere. Finally, Park Director Irvin C. (Buzz) Caverly, Jr. was of enormous assistance. The multi-colored maps that accompany the annotations for the deeds of trust (Vol. I), were produced specifically for this project by Director Caverly and his staff. Furthermore, it was Buzz's suggestion that I include Attorney General opinions in my annotated compilation (Vol. II). The project would have been much less comprehensive without the inclusion of those documents.

Lou Mucci of Alna, ME was commissioned by the FBSP to do a painting of Katahdin. His beautiful watercolor appears as the Frontispiece in each of the volumes. Lou also designed the miniature maps of the Park that identify the parcels affected by the twelve sets of Acts of Acceptance from 1931 – 1963.

The generous support of the Davis Conservation Foundation enabled the FBSP to think more expansively about both the appearance of the volumes and the scope of their distribution throughout the State of Maine. Additional contributions to help underwrite the publication of these Baxter materials have been received from Jon Lund, Robert Morrell and Rupert White.

I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge the usefulness of John W. Hakola's *Legacy of a Lifetime* and Neil Rolde's *The Baxter's of Maine: Downeast Visionaries* in preparing the annotations. When I was uncertain about particular individuals or events, I invariably found the information I needed by consulting these excellent sources. Those two volumes, along with Trudy Irene Scee's *In the Deeds We Trust: Baxter State Park 1970 – 1994*, are the principal accounts of the Park's evolution and its benefactor's extraordinary life.

I would also like to thank Attorney General Steven Rowe for generously consenting to write the *Foreword*. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Sandy Knowles and Sue Bulger at J.S. McCarthy Printers in Augusta. Sandy oversaw all phases of the volumes' production, whereas Sue's expertise in graphic design enhanced their appearance.

Howard R. Whitcomb
Georgetown, Maine
April, 2005

*Seldom has a more generous gift been presented
to a people than has been given by
Percival Proctor Baxter . . . to the State of Maine.*

*It is incumbent upon them, the recipients, to preserve
the trust impressed upon them, to ensure for themselves
and for future generations the fullest use of Baxter State Park
consistent with the desires of the donor.*

Part 4

Speeches

VOLUME III
Speeches and National Park Controversy
Correspondence
Part 4: Speeches

CONTENTS LISTED CHRONOLOGICALLY

1. "Mount Katahdin Centennial State Park, 1820-1920"
Edited draft manuscript by Senator Percival P. Baxter, circa late 1920, pp. 1-6
2. "Mount Katahdin State Park"
An address by Percival P. Baxter, President of the Senate, at the annual meeting of the Maine Sportsmen's Fish and Game Association, Hall of Representatives, State Capitol, 27 January 1921, pp. 1-14
3. "Mount Katahdin"
Draft manuscript by Governor Percival P. Baxter, circa early 1921, pp. 1-3
4. "Inaugural Address"
Excerpts from Governor Percival P. Baxter's inaugural address, 9 February 1921, cover page and pp. 10-11
5. "State Finances"
Excerpts from Governor Percival P. Baxter's message to the 80th Legislature, 10 March 1921, cover page and pp. 11-13
6. Untitled Address
Excerpts from an "untitled address" by Governor Percival P. Baxter at the State Chamber of Commerce, Bangor, 20 May 1921, pp. 1-2 and 7-8
7. Untitled Address
Excerpts from an "untitled address" by Governor Percival P. Baxter at the Joint Field Day of York County Farm Bureau and Pomona Grange, West Kennebunk, 25 August 1921, cover page and pp. 7-8
8. "Forests of Maine, Legislative Lobby and State Contingent Fund"
An address by Governor Percival P. Baxter at the annual meeting of the Maine Forestry Association, State House, 6 January 1922, pp. 1-18
9. "Inaugural Address"
Excerpts from Governor Percival P. Baxter's inaugural address, 81st Legislature, 4 January 1923, cover page and p. 25
10. "Farewell Message to the People of Maine"
Excerpts from Governor Percival P. Baxter's farewell address, State Capitol, 7 January 1925, cover page and pp. 1 and 22-25
11. Untitled Address
Excerpts from an "untitled address" by former Governor Percival P. Baxter's at the Lions Club, Bangor, 14 September 1927, pp. 1-2

12. "Baxter State Park, Mount Katahdin"
Undated manuscript by former Governor Percival P. Baxter, circa 1939 – early 1940s, pp. 1-4
13. "Baxter State Park At Katahdin Now Complete With 112,945 Acres"
Newspaper article by former Governor Percival P. Baxter, 30 November 1941, *Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald*, p. 1
14. "The Purchase of the Land" – Part II of "Three Views of Roadless Katahdin"
Article by former Governor Percival P. Baxter in *The Living Wilderness*, published by the Wilderness Society, September 1944, pp. 6-7 (entire set of three articles by Benton MacKaye, Baxter, and Ronald L. Gower, respectively, attached, pp. 1-9)
15. "The Baxter State Park in Maine"
Signed manuscript by Percival P. Baxter for publication in the *National Park Magazine*, circa 1945, pp. 1-6
16. "Togue Pond Gatehouse Opening Ceremony"
Remarks prepared by former Governor Percival P. Baxter for the Togue Pond gatehouse opening ceremony, 10 August 1967, pp. 1-2 and attachment (remarks were delivered by BSP Commissioner Austin H. Wilkins)

OVERVIEW

During Baxter's years as prominent legislator and governor, from 1917 to 1925, he communicated with the general public primarily through speeches. Later he relied principally on press releases and formal communications with legislators and governors as he gradually extended the boundaries of Baxter State Park. The formal communications associated with the twelve sets of Acts of Acceptance from 1931 to 1963, through which Baxter deeded land to the state, are reproduced and annotated in Volume I. However, several speeches from his years in public office in Augusta, along with a few delivered after 1925, shed additional light on his intentions for Katahdin. It is these that are annotated in herein.¹

Some of the speeches are in draft manuscript form, while others are formally printed as a function of his legislative or executive positions. Some are reproduced in their entirety and others only in excerpted form. Several are articles written for magazines or newspapers. All but one date from 1920 through the mid-1940s. The outlying item is his brief remarks prepared for the Togue Pond gatehouse dedication ceremonies on 10 August 1967.

ANNOTATIONS

While the speeches herein are compiled in chronological order, the most significant one, "Mount Katahdin State Park," was delivered on 27 January 1921 at the State Capital to the annual meeting of the Maine Sportsmen's Fish and Game Association (see Speech 2). This speech contained the most expansive articulation of Baxter's early intentions for Katahdin. It emphasized the need for the state to develop a more progressive forest policy, including scientific forestry practices, and recreational opportunities.

The context of the speech is important. At the time Baxter, President of the Senate, was on the verge of introducing in the 80th Legislature his proposal to create a park at Katahdin. This represented his second legislative attempt to create a park and forest preserve at Katahdin. John W. Hakola recounted the circumstances surrounding the defeat of his bill in the 79th Legislature.² In anticipation of the introduction of "An Act Establishing the Mount Katahdin State Park," Baxter made two tactical moves designed to improve its prospects. First, using his prerogative as presiding officer of the Senate, he appointed his brother Rupert, a Senator from Sagadahoc County, to the Committee on State

¹ Several articles are included in this compilation of speeches.

² John W. Hakola, *Legacy of a Lifetime*, pp. 51-52.

Lands and Forest Preservation, which would be considering the legislation.³ In addition, he facilitated arrangements for an illustrated lecture on Katahdin by William F. Dawson of Lynn, Massachusetts.⁴ Due to the death of newly inaugurated Governor Frederick H. Parkhurst on 31 January 1921, the lecture scheduled for 2 February 1921 was cancelled. By virtue of the constitutional succession provisions, Baxter was automatically elevated to the position of Governor, a less desirable position from which to advocate for the creation of the park at Katahdin.⁵

Two undated manuscripts have similar content to that of the “Mount Katahdin State Park” speech. The first was originally entitled “Mount Katahdin Centennial State Park, 1820-1920” (see Speech 1).⁶ It was written by Senator Baxter either just prior to or during the first days of the 80th Legislature, but in either case, before he was chosen as President of the Senate. In his remarks he referred to his intentions to reintroduce the park proposal in the 1921 legislative session and he identified himself as State Senator. However, he appears to have used it again or reworked the speech, as his hand written editing of the title page and the manuscript post-date his elevation to the position of Governor. The insertion of a sentence on page six suggests that Baxter edited the manuscript sometime after the park proposal’s defeat in late March 1921:

Notwithstanding the fact that 168 members of the 1921 Legislature of Maine, out of a total of 182 members were Republican, the timberland owners had sufficient influence over legislative matters to defeat the park bill regardless of the Party’s pledge.⁷

The second undated manuscript, “Mount Katahdin,” borrowed language from and appears to have been delivered after the “Mount Katahdin State Park” speech and by then Baxter was the Governor. It would seem fair to say that Baxter was constantly re-working his remarks on Katahdin to reflect both the political reality and audience. It should be noted that while the typewritten speech indicates that Baxter delivered it as Governor, there is a hand written date of 1920 on the cover page, most likely by Baxter himself. This manuscript had to have been written sometime prior to the park proposal’s defeat in late March of 1921, but under no circumstance in 1920, since Baxter had not yet become Governor.

Returning to Senate President Baxter’s “Mount Katahdin State Park” speech, it was clearly intended to launch his park proposal in the newly convened 80th Legislature. As suggested earlier, the speech was framed within the broader context of the need for the state to practice scientific forestry while being attentive to the recreational needs of its citizenry. Baxter deplored the sale of the state’s “wild lands”⁸ that began shortly after statehood in 1820 and culminated in the “State Steal” of 1868 when 2,700,000 acres were deeded to the European and North American Railway Company for one dollar. In the intervening years, ownership of these timberlands passed to large corporate and individual holdings, leaving the state with just one-third of a million acres, principally in “Public Lots.” To remedy this situation, Baxter recommended that the state begin acquiring waste and burned-over timberlands so as to protect waterpower sources and provide recreational opportunities in the most picturesque region of the State.

Percival Baxter’s vivid description of Katahdin and the surrounding region was informed by his August 1920 trek to and ascent of the mountain, which was organized by a Patten lumberman, Burton W. Howe. This widely publicized trip was designed to build political support for Baxter’s “Centennial State Park.” By this time Baxter was a candidate for Senate President in the upcoming 80th Legislature. Charles P. Barnes, who was to become Speaker of the House of Representatives in the 80th Legislature, was also on the trip. Baxter, with a self-effacing posture, stated: “The passage of the Knife Edge requires a cool head and sure footing, and I am not ashamed to admit that I gladly availed myself of the friendly and reassuring hand of my companion, as I crept gingerly over the rough piles of loose and broken rock.”⁹

³ Neil Rolde, *The Baxters of Maine: Downeast Visionaries*, p. 159.

⁴ Hakola, *op. cit.*, p. 56.

⁵ See, *ibid.*, pp. 56-60, for an analysis of the bill’s consideration and ultimate defeat.

⁶ It is worth noting that the proposed boundaries of the park included Katahdin Lake (p. 5).

⁷ “Mount Katahdin Centennial State Park,” undated manuscript, (circa late 1920), p. 6.

⁸ Timberlands situated in the unorganized townships and plantations.

⁹ “Mount Katahdin State Park,” 27 January 1921, p. 10.

Baxter's description of the park was as follows:

The proposed park covers an area of 57,232 acres and comprises the whole of Mount Katahdin, and Katahdin Lake, of itself one of the most beautiful of all Maine's lakes, and which abounds with trout. The boundaries of the park can be extended later if succeeding legislatures deem such extension advisable. The park will prove a great attraction, not only to the people of Maine who will frequent it, but also to those who come from without our State to enjoy the free life of the out of doors. The park will bring health and recreation to those who journey there, and the wild life of the woods will find refuge from their pursuers, for the park will be made a bird and game sanctuary for the protection of its forest inhabitants. Roads, trails, and camps will be built in the most favored locations, and the camps will be rented for nominal sums to those who wish to use them. For those who want hard mountain climbing, trails will be laid out over difficult routes to the top of the mountain, while easier trails will be provided for those who do not desire to make the supreme effort. Katahdin then will become a great recreation center for those who seek the woods that are unspoiled by fashionable hotels with liveried attendants, or by costly club houses frequented by the devotees of tennis and golf.¹⁰

Baxter concluded his speech with a challenge to the corporate interests that owned vast acreage in the northern forests of the state and who sought to quash the park proposal:

Maine is famous for its 2500 miles of seacoast, with its countless islands, for its myriad lakes and ponds, and for its forests and rivers, but Mount Katahdin Park will be the State's crowning glory, a worthy memorial to commemorate the end of the first and the beginning of the second century of Maine's statehood. This park will prove a blessing to those who follow us, and they will see that we build for them more wisely than our forefathers did for us. Shall any great timberland or paper-making corporation, or group of such corporations, themselves the owners of millions of acres of Maine forests, say to the People of this State, "You shall not have Mount Katahdin, either as a memorial of your past or as a heritage for your future?"¹¹

One can not help but acknowledge Baxter's stalwartness in holding to this early vision for his park at Katahdin despite formidable opposition.

In his Inaugural Address on 9 February 1921 Baxter called for the establishment of the Mount Katahdin State Park and in doing so cited his predecessor's endorsement.¹² However, in his message on "State Finances" just a month later, he noted that financial conditions forced him to withdraw the \$100,000 appropriation for the establishment of the park, thereby further damaging the legislation's prospect.¹³ On 23 March 1921 the Senate accepted the Committee on State Lands and Forest Preservation's recommendation that the legislation "ought not to pass," effectively killing the park proposal. The governor's brother, Rupert, was among a minority of three on the committee that supported the legislation.

A year later on 6 January 1922, Governor Baxter spoke to the Maine Forestry Association on a variety of topics, including the "Forests of Maine".¹⁴ At the outset, he referred to the transforming experience of standing at the summit of Mount Katahdin in August of 1920:

A few months ago I stood spellbound upon the top of Mount Katahdin, and looked across the great forest areas of northeastern Maine. Hundreds of thousands of acres of the finest timberland in the world lay at my feet, and the black growth of the evergreens, patched with the lighter growth of hard woods, stretched forth in every direction. Here and there the bright waters of the rivers threaded their way through the woods on their long journey to the sea, and the foam of the waterfalls and rapids, catching the rays of sun, spanned

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 13.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

¹² "Inaugural Address," Percival P. Baxter, Governor of Maine, 80th Legislature, 9 February 1921, p. 10-11.

¹³ "State Finances," Percival P. Baxter, Governor of Maine, 80th Legislature, 3 March 1921, pp. 11-13.

¹⁴ The full title of the speech was "Forests of Maine, Legislative Lobby and State Contingent Fund," January 6, 1922.

these waters with glistening bands. I was in the heart of Maine, on the highest peak of land within the State. Standing there all alone I was carried away by the prospect before me. To me Maine seemed to be nothing but forests. The memory of the busy cities and towns faded from my mind. I forgot about our great industries, our farms and our seashore resorts; for Maine was a State of the Woods. I felt a certain fellowship with the wild life about me, and when my companions called me to return to camp I took a final survey of the panorama, and impressed it indelibly upon my mind.¹⁵

By then, however, Governor Baxter's second attempt to obtain legislative approval of his state park at Katahdin had failed, and he returned to the promotion of scientific forestry practices and the forestry program at the University of Maine.

The "Farewell Message" on 7 January 1925 provided a final occasion for Governor Baxter to speak as an elected public official about Katahdin. He attributed the defeat of his proposals during previous legislatures to the opposition of the large timberland companies and argued forcefully that the forest areas of Maine not become "private hunting preserves to be enjoyed only by the friends and sycophants of powerful interests."¹⁶ He proceeded to challenge the 82nd Legislature:

To prove my interest in this project, if the 82nd Legislature will enact a law under which some duly constituted public body or agency is given power to condemn "wild" and forest land for public park and forest reserve purposes, and will appropriate \$10,000 annually for the coming two year period, for that purpose, I myself will pay to the State Treasurer my salary for the years 1923 and 1924 being the total sum of \$10,000 as a personal contribution toward meeting the land damages for the first park and reserve areas thus condemned and acquired by the State.

He attached several stipulations, including one that specified that the \$30,000 was to be spent acquiring land that would include within its boundaries not less than the entire NW quadrant of T3 R9. This quarter township included Monument Peak, South Peak, the Knife Edge, The Chimney, Pamola Peak, and North Peak, all on Mount Katahdin as well as Chimney and Basin Ponds.¹⁷ The nearly 6,000 acres of T3 R9 that Governor Baxter would eventually deed to the State of Maine in 1931 encompassed, in large measure, the boundaries of the parcel delineated in his "Farewell Message" The 82nd Legislature did not accept Governor Baxter's challenge.

The remaining six documents in this compilation span the balance of Baxter's career as a private citizen. Among them are articles written by Baxter for *The Living Wilderness*, a publication of The Wilderness Society, and the *National Park Magazine*, a publication of the National Parks Association. Both articles provide an abbreviated account of his efforts, both as a public official and private citizen, to establish a state park at Katahdin. Both conclude with a variation of the oft-quoted passage that appears on the plaque at Katahdin Stream:

The works of men are short lived. Monuments decay, buildings crumble and wealth vanishes, but Katahdin in its massive grandeur will forever remain the mountain of the people of Maine. Throughout the ages it will stand as an inspiration to the men and women of this State.¹⁸

Finally, in 1967 in what were to be his last formal remarks on Katahdin, Baxter sent a letter that was to be read by BSP Commissioner Austin H. Wilkins at the dedication ceremony for the Togue Pond gatehouse. The remarks themselves were quite predictable; however, his instruction of Wilkins to "please read this in a strong, loud voice as I want them all to hear it"¹⁹ was a poignant reminder that Governor Baxter remained determined to have his wishes carried out in his posterity. In his words, "[t]he responsibility will rest upon you Governor Curtis and those who follow you."²⁰

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

¹⁶ "Farewell Message to the People of Maine," State Capitol, 7 January 1925, pp. 22-23.

¹⁷ See, *ibid.*, p. 24 for a map of the NW 1/4 of T3 R9.

¹⁸ See, for example, "The Purchase of the Land," *The Living Wilderness* (September 1944), p. 7. This is a slightly edited version of an article that appeared on the front page of the 30 November 1941 issue of the *Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald*.

¹⁹ Letter from Baxter to Austin H. Wilkins, 10 August 1967.

²⁰ "Togue Pond Gatehouse Opening Ceremony, 10 August 1967, p. 2.

MOUNT KATAHDIN ~~CENTRAL~~ STATE PARK.

Marie

Percival P. Baxter

of Portland.


Mt. Katahdin is but a name to most people. Its inaccessibility and the lack of roads and trails make the trip to the mountain and the ascent of its peaks so difficult that but few travelers are willing to undergo the expense and the hardships of the journey. Its rugged grandeur, extraordinary geological formations and diversified coloring make it a unique mountain, and its wonderful scenery is unsurpassed and probably unequalled by that of any mountain east of the Rockies.

Mt. Katahdin has no foothills to detract from its dignity for it rises abruptly out of the surrounding plain and attains a height of 5,273 feet above the sea level. To climb the highest peaks requires both strength, ~~and~~ endurance and a mountaineering experience and skill equal to that required in the ascent of some of the highest peaks of the Swiss Alps. From the summit of the mountain, as one looks down upon the forests and lakes of Maine, the view extends in all directions. No grand-

er view of primeval nature can anywhere be found.

The State of Maine once owned the vast areas of timberlands that extend in all directions from the slopes of Mt. Katahdin, together with their countless lakes and rivers, but many years ago the title to this great inheritance passed into the hands of private owners. In the early half of the last century Maine sold its timberlands and the money received was used to build roads and schools and to pay ministers of the Gospel. For a number of years no taxes were levied by the State as the proceeds of these sales paid all the expenses of the State government. When the State Capitol was built twelve townships comprising about 264,000 acres of land were sold to provide the necessary funds. One sale of more than two million acres of land was made at the price of twelve and one-half cents per acre. There are 20,000,000 acres of land within the State of Maine and 14,200,000 of these acres are timberlands. The ownership of these forests is gradually falling into the hands of a few large interests so that eighteen different ownerships to-day hold title to more than 5,200,000 acres of land, while two of these ownerships hold more than 1,000,000 acres each. Two ownerships therefore hold one-tenth, and eighteen ownerships hold one-quarter of the State of Maine.

In 1919 an Act for the establishment of the Mt. Katahdin Centennial State Park was introduced in the State Legislature by the author of this article. This Bill provided for a Park which included Mt. Katahdin and the district extending northerly therefrom, the total area within the Park limits to be approximately 115,000 acres.



A recent survey has been made of about 150,000 acres in this vicinity including the proposed Park area with its highest and most picturesque portions. This survey shows that fifty-three per cent of the land is burned over timberland, fifteen per cent is bare rock and stunted growth, fifteen per cent is cut over land, twelve per cent is virgin growth now being cut and five per cent is timberland under one hundred years old.

A large part of this entire area is precipitous while the scenery equals and in many respects surpasses that of the White Mountains in New Hampshire. This Park is destined to become a scenic resort unequaled east of the Mississippi River; it will be made a refuge for wild game, a sanctuary for birds and ^{also} will prove a practical investment for the State of Maine.

About seventeen years ago one of the most extensive forest fires recorded in the history of the State raged around the base of Mt. Katahdin and in the forest area to the North. 270,000 acres of timberland were burned over at that time. Standing on the top of the mountain an observer can distinctly outline the area swept by this fire as the line between the old black growth of evergreens and the light green growth of the new poplar and hard wood is well defined. In a few years this crop of poplar and other pulp wood can be harvested to advantage the proceeds of which will be used by the State in purchasing additional land for the Park.

The mountain itself is valueless from a timber standpoint. The great plateau on the top of the mountain is wind-swept and covered with huge boulders while there is in places a thick growth of scrub

pine about three feet high. This bleak and barren plateau closely resembles the sub-arctic tundra, and it once was the home of a great herd of caribou all of which were destroyed or driven out of the State by hunters. The 1919 Park Act was defeated by the opposition of one of the large Timberland Companies, but a similar Act has been introduced in the 1921 Session of the State Legislature.

To make the trip to the mountain and return is a tramp of not less than seventy miles. The journey is a hard one and requires six days. The trail lies through the dense woods and over unused and abandoned tote roads that are hardly passable for a pack mule. At the end of the third day the tired traveler comes suddenly upon a beautiful pond called Chimney Pond located in the crater or basin of the mountain. This Pond about three acres in extent is fed from springs, but the water is so cold and the pond is at such a high altitude that no fish can live in it. From this basin the walls of the mountain rise almost perpendicularly 1,500 feet forming a well defined half circle around the southerly shores of the Pond. The color of the cliffs is brown, grey, pink and purple according to the position of the sun, and the clouds hanging over the mountain peaks now and then rise above them revealing sharp serrated edges which resemble the volcanic formations of the mountains in the Hawaiian Islands. From the highest points of Mt. Katahdin the Laurentian Mountains on the North can be seen bordering the St. Lawrence River and it is asserted on good authority that on a clear day the Atlantic Ocean can be seen one hundred miles to the South.

The ascent to the mountain is difficult even for an accomplished mountain climber, while the trip across the Knife Edge requires a cool head and sure footing. With a stiff wind blowing from the North or South the passage across this bridge-like section is perilous and must often be made on the hands and knees. This Knife Edge averages from four to six feet in width with precipitous slopes on each side having a sheer drop of from five hundred to fifteen hundred feet. The Edge over which one climbs to the peaks above is sharp, scarred and splintered by countless bolts of lightning, the marks of which are unmistakable at every step. Where difficult places are to be scaled in the Alps and in other mountaineous regions frequented by tourists, certain aids to climbing such as ladders and railings have been provided, but on Katahdin none of these welcome appliances have been installed and nature must be faced and conquered without their aid by man's coolness and endurance.

The people of Maine have awakened to the fact that these vast timberlands should have been retained as State property for the benefit of future generations. The awakening came too late but the establishment of this Park will lay the foundation of a constructive State Forest Policy for the future.

The Mt. Katahdin Act provides for an appropriation sufficient for the immediate purchase of the mountain itself together with Katahdin Lake, a beautiful lake six miles away and on the line of the proposed road to the mountain. ~~It is stated that~~ An amount of money will be appropri-

ated annually to be used in extending the holdings of the State so that ultimately there will be included within the Park a large portion and perhaps all of the burned over area already mentioned. The Commissioners who will handle the Park are empowered to purchase such rights of way as may be necessary for approaches and they are authorized to build camps, roads and trails and to harvest timber in a manner not to interfere with the scenery of the region.

Although Mt. Katahdin Park has no connection with the Party politics of the State the Republican Party at its State Convention in March 1920, just one hundred years from the time Maine became a separate State, indorsed the project and gave its pledge to the people of Maine that the Park would be established. *Notwithstanding the fact that 168 members of the 1921 Legislature of Maine, out of a total of 152 members, were Republicans.*

Maine is famous for its twenty-five hundred miles of sea-coast and its thousands of islands, for its millions of acres of forests and its numberless lakes and streams all of which afford recreation and out-door life to those who care to enjoy them, but the Mt. Katahdin Centennial State Park will be the crowning glory of the State, the center of attraction and a worthy memorial to commemorate the closing chapter of the first and the opening chapter of the second century of Statehood.

the timberland owners ~~had~~ had sufficient influence over legislative matters to defeat the park bill regardless of the Party pledge.

Mount Katabdin State Park

AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY

Hon. Percival P. Baxter of Portland

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

At the Annual Meeting of the
Maine Sportsmen's Fish and Game Association

Hall of Representatives, State Capitol
Augusta, Maine



January 27, 1921

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

When your Committee invited me to appear before you and speak upon the proposed Mount Katahdin State Park, I accepted the invitation with pleasure, for I well knew there was no organization in our State to whom this project would appeal with more force than to the Maine Sportsmen's Fish and Game Association. You know the out-of-doors; you study the hillsides, the valleys, and the wild life of the woods, and you, of all our citizens, appreciate that spiritual, as well as physical, benefits are to be derived from a close contact with nature.

Mount Katahdin is located in the very heart of the great timberlands of Maine, the "wild lands" as they usually are called, and in view of this it is fitting that in my remarks I should outline to you the history of these wild lands, in which we are now beginning to take an interest. The history of these lands is fascinating. It is a story of violent speculation in which fortunes were lost and men's reputations ruined, and in which fortunes were won and great timber-owning families were established, and made wealthy for generations to come. It is a story of intrigue and corruption, where powerful and selfish men often took that to which they had no right, from those too weak to defend themselves and their property. It is a story in which the rights of the people in a princely inheritance were given away or bartered for a song, for the folly of which future generations forever will pay.

There are today in Maine about 14,000,000 acres

of timberlands of which 9,100,000 comprise the so-called "wild lands" which are situated in unorganized townships and in plantations. The greater part of these lands was once the property of the people of this State, and, had our forefathers handed down to us this great domain, what a transformation would have been wrought in the life and institutions of our State!

In the early years these lands were sold for trifling sums per acre to pay current expenses of the State Government, to build roads, to pay ministers of the gospel, and in 1828, twelve townships were sold in order to raise funds with which to build the State House. From 1836 to 1839 these lands were sold by the State so freely that no taxes were levied, because a sufficient number of townships were disposed of to provide the revenue necessary for State purposes. In 1793 the State sold the so-called Bingham lands, comprising 2,100,000 acres, and the price paid for them was twelve and one-half cents per acre. As late as the year 1813 the people of the State of Maine owned more than 11,000,000 acres of the finest timberland. The final act in this tragedy occurred in 1868, only 53 years ago, and this was the crowning calamity of all. This transaction has been known as the "State Steal." The Legislature of that year passed an act to "aid in the construction of the European and North American Railway" and for the munificent consideration of "one dollar paid by said Railway Company," granted to that Company "all the timber and lands belonging to the State and situated upon the waters of the Penobscot and St. John rivers to be used by said Company to aid in the construction of its contemplated line of railway," which was to provide

means for the defense of the Northeastern frontier. In this deed it is recited that about 1,000,000 acres of land "more or less" are conveyed to the railway "for the purpose named in the act." A careful estimate shows that about 2,700,000 acres were given away by that deed, which the Governor of the State signed. The railroad, as a matter of fact, was constructed for a distance of about twelve miles, but the deed had been signed, sealed and delivered, and thus ended the rights of the people in all that was left to them of a great inheritance.

These facts are of the past; they are incidents of a by-gone day, and regrets are fruitless. Today it is necessary for us to face the situation as it now exists, so that we may plan to build for future generations better than our ancestors built for us. Today the State of Maine, out of this vast area of millions of acres of timberland, is owner of but the paltry amount of 330,837 acres. This land is situated in what is called the "Public Lots" scattered all over the forest area.

The timberlands of Maine are fast passing into the control of a few large corporations and individual holdings. One company today owns more than 1,000,000 acres of land, and as there are about 19,000,000 acres in the entire State, this great company owns one-nineteenth of the whole State of Maine. Thirty-one timberland ownerships own 5,800,000 acres in Maine, which comprise 30% of the entire acreage of the State, or 64% of all the wild lands of the State. This concentration of ownership prevails in other New England States, for the United States authorities show that fifteen ownerships in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont own more than 15,500,000 acres of timberlands, or

one-fourth of the combined forest areas in those three states. These large ownerships create a great monopoly, which controls prices, dictates terms to the owners of small areas, stifles competition, and at times dominates State legislation by means of their arrogant lobbies. The powerful business and political connections of these great corporations, together with their undoubted control of the supply and distribution of news print paper, gives them a position of extraordinary influence over many of the activities of our State.

Having in mind the fact that the people of Maine once owned these great areas of timberland, is it not fitting that, upon payment of a fair price therefor, the grandest and most beautiful portion of all this great area which the people of the State once possessed, should again become their property?

The Mount Katahdin National Park project was under consideration by Congress for some years. Ex-Congressman Frank E. Guernsey of Dover when a member of the National House, introduced an act providing for the creation of a Federal Forest Reserve in the Katahdin region, but this failed of passage. In 1919 I introduced into the State Legislature an act establishing a State Park in the Katahdin region. I believed that the State of Maine should establish the policy of acquiring waste and burned-over timberlands, in order to make a beginning toward maintaining and increasing the supply of timber and pulp, and in order to provide a recreation ground in the most picturesque region of the State. If this policy is established and continued, the State in the years to come will acquire large areas of lands which are now practically worthless, but which in the future will yield a

harvest that will bring to the State an annual income on the investment. This land can be bought at a low price today, as much of it is of little use to its owners, and the State can afford to carry it until it is ready to be cut in a proper and scientific manner. This purchase by the State will prove a profitable investment, and a direct income will be derived from it when the crop of timber is harvested, while an indirect income will be obtained from the tourist travel that is bound to come to these forest areas if this land is purchased in mountainous and rugged regions, such as that of Katahdin. In addition to these advantages, protection will be afforded to the sources of the waterpowers of the State.

The policy of the State's acquiring these lands is approved by both Federal and State authorities. Notwithstanding today's tendency to decry public ownership, a cry that is often raised by those who seek to perpetuate their long-standing private ownership of natural resources, Mr. H. S. Graves, the Chief Forester of the Federal Government, says: "The States should acquire large forest tracts," and Hon. Forrest H. Colby, Forest Commissioner of this State, a practical forester of wide experience, says: "Federal or State ownership of timberlands particularly of cut-over and neglected lands is to be desired and in a great measure will help to insure a future supply of lumber." Maine with every opportunity and with all conditions favoring such a policy, has done nothing while other states have made splendid beginnings. New York has acquired 2,000,000 acres of timberland and thus controls 60% of the available pulpwood in that state. Pennsylvania has bought 1,000,000 acres, while under the Weeks Act 1,800,000 acres have been purchased

by the United States at an average price of \$5.26 per acre. The Federal Government considers these purchases a good investment and an annual income already is assured from them. Now is the time to establish this policy in Maine, and a trip to the Mountain will convince even the most skeptical. The value of timberlands is increasing constantly, while the owners are becoming more reluctant to sell. In a short time the land we can buy today will be beyond our reach, and Maine will have lost its opportunity. The Great Northern Paper Company was responsible for the defeat of the 1919 act, but that act like many worthy projects, once defeated comes back to the 1921 Legislature with renewed vigor, with a strong and growing public sentiment behind it, and with a fair prospect that those who caused its defeat before may not be able to do so again.

To most people Mount Katahdin is but a name. To those who have both seen and climbed the Mountain it is a wonderful reality, and the memories of a trip to its summit remain vivid through the years. At present the great Mountain, weather-beaten by time and scarred by the avalanche, is almost inaccessible, the journey entailing expense, hardship and discomfort. The grandeur of the Mountain, its precipitous slopes, its massive cliffs, unusual formation and wonderful coloring cannot be surpassed or even equalled by any mountain east of the Mississippi river. Katahdin rises abruptly from the plain to the height of 5,273 feet, and, without foothills to detract from its solitary dignity, stands alone, a grim gray tower overlooking the surrounding country for hundreds of miles. It is small wonder that

the aboriginal Indians believed it to be the home of the spirits of wind, storm and thunder.

The scenery of the White Mountains in New Hampshire is tame and ordinary when compared with that of Mount Katahdin and the range beyond, and Katahdin is not unworthy of a place among the great mountains of the world. To reach the base requires a tedious tramp of from fifty to sixty miles over old and abandoned tote-roads, through fords and swamps, with but an occasional well defined path leading over pleasant ridges covered with great trees, that give welcome shade to the weary traveler. At best it requires from six to seven days of steady walking to make the trip from civilization to the Peak and return. There are several approaches to the Mountain, but the most picturesque is that which leads from the East into the South Basin, where is located Chimney Pond, a beautiful sheet of water, which, among ponds, is as unique in its coloring and setting as Katahdin is among its sister mountains. This pond is surrounded on the South and West by a grand amphitheatre of perpendicular cliffs rising from 1500 to 2000 feet. The water in this remarkable pond is so clear and cold that fish cannot live in it, and it is as uninhabited as the salt brine of the Dead Sea. Its surface mirrors the ever-changing aspects of the clouds and the multi-colored cliffs towering around it. These cliffs are gray, blue, pink, or brown, according as the atmosphere changes from hour to hour, or as the position of the sun is altered.

By day man stands spellbound in that solitude where man himself is an atom at the base of one of nature's noblest creations; by night he is inspired by the majesty of the moon as it rises and

moves westward in a stately curve over the serrated peaks, which throw themselves up into the deep blue of the night as though to join the company of the stars.

The climb to Pamola Peak by a rough trail through stunted pine, over great granite boulders that lie spilled in endless drifts on the side of the Mountain, up the steep slope to the summit, down into the "Chimney" where the rush of air threatens to tear one's feeble grasp from the cliffs to which one clings, and then across the treacherous "Knife Edge" to Mountain peak, is both difficult and dangerous.

The passage of the Knife Edge requires a cool head and sure footing, and I am not ashamed to admit that I gladly availed myself of the friendly and reassuring hand of my companion, as I crept gingerly over the rough piles of loose and broken rock. On every hand were countless marks of the lightning's work, which looked like the spattering of lead from bullets that had struck upon the stone leaving a grayish film surrounded by the shattered rock. Lightning has bombarded this Mountain top for ages, but Katahdin, unconquered and unafraid, still holds aloft its noble head.

Here man has provided none of those aids to mountain climbing which one finds conveniently placed in the difficult passes of the Alps, or in some portions of the Rockies. On Monument Peak is heaped up a pile of stones to mark the summit, in the crevices of which is kept a copper box, and those who have the courage and strength to attain that peak are supposed to deposit their names in the box, as proof that at last they are numbered among those genuine mountain climbers who possessed

the endurance to climb the highest and the roughest mountain in New England.

The great plateau extends for miles from the South Peak to the North Peak. It is wind-swept and strewn with huge granite boulders that seem to have been shaken from the clouds by a giant hand. It is covered in places with a dense growth of knee-high scrub spruce and pine, through which it is impossible for man to pass. This plateau once was the home of a large herd of caribou, all of which were killed or driven northward by the relentless hunter. I have talked with woodsmen who distinctly remember these strange animals as they grazed over this elevated feeding ground, or stood on the edge of the Mountain looking over into the great space beyond.

There is a growth of moss and small plants in places, that gives this area the appearance of the sub-Arctic tundra. Standing here one sees the Laurentian Mountains on the north bordering the St. Lawrence River, and the Atlantic Ocean on the south. At one's feet is a panorama of endless forest, of great lakes that melt away into the distant haze, countless ponds and winding streams with their white markings of falls and rapids, while the dark evergreen growth, here and there outlined by the lighter growth of the hardwoods, extends in all directions. The wilderness of the forest seems endless.

It is interesting to know that on this tableland are springs of water flowing out from the rocks at the height of 5000 feet above the surrounding country, and on the hottest day in summer the water is cool and refreshing. Here in August, 1920, in the shade of a huge boulder and by the side of these

running springs, gathered a little group of tired men, among whom were Charles P. Barnes, Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, Arthur G. Staples and Sam E. Connor of the Lewiston Journal, Willis E. Parsons, Commissioner of Inland Fish and Game, Burton W. Howe of Patten, Nathaniel C. Howe of Ashland, Charles A. Fogg of Houlton, George A. Houghton of Bangor, and the writer of this address, who discussed the Mount Katahdin Park from every angle and pledged their support to the cause.

In 1903 a huge forest fire, the most destructive in the history of the State, destroyed about 270,000 acres in this mountain region. Of this area 115,000 acres were surveyed recently by the United States Government and it is in this area that Mount Katahdin Park is to be located. Today the conditions for the establishment of this park are ideal. The cost of the land should be low, as its value for timber purposes is trifling. The park is in the very heart of the mountain where the scenery is the grandest and most varied. Whatever timber there is on the slopes of the mountain is so inaccessible as to make it valueless, for its removal is impossible; while at the base of the mountain in one section of the park is a new growth of poplar, birch and other woods, which in a few years will become of value, and when properly harvested will furnish an income to the State. The land will be worth to the State, as land only, all that it costs and will prove a good investment. Unlike certain great institutions of the State that are a constant drain upon its resources with their ever-increasing demands, this project will prove self-sustaining, and of increasing value in the passing years.

The proposed park covers an area of 57,232 acres and comprises the whole of Mount Katahdin, and Katahdin Lake, of itself one of the most beautiful of all Maine's lakes, and which abounds with trout. The boundaries of the park can be extended later if succeeding legislatures deem such extension advisable. This park will prove a great attraction, not only to the people of Maine who will frequent it, but also to those who come from without our State to enjoy the free life of the out of doors. The park will bring health and recreation to those who journey there, and the wild life of the woods will find refuge from their pursuers, for the park will be made a bird and game sanctuary for the protection of its forest inhabitants. Roads, trails, and camps will be built in the most favored locations, and the camps will be rented for nominal sums to those who wish to use them. For those who want hard mountain climbing, trails will be laid out over difficult routes to the top of the mountain, while easier trails will be provided for those who do not desire to make the supreme effort. Katahdin then will become a great recreation center for those who seek the woods that are unspoiled by fashionable hotels with liveried attendants, or by costly club houses frequented by the devotees of tennis and golf.

The establishment of this park is not connected with party politics, but the Republican platform of 1920 endorsed it, and the Democrats of the same year favored State ownership of burned-over and denuded timberlands. Governor Parkhurst in his inaugural message to the Legislature stamped it with his approval; your Fish and Game Association has adopted resolutions supporting it, and all the

while public sentiment is rapidly being crystalized in its favor.

Maine is famous for its 2500 miles of seacoast, with its countless islands, for its myriad lakes and ponds, and for its forests and rivers, but Mount Katahdin Park will be the State's crowning glory, a worthy memorial to commemorate the end of the first and the beginning of the second century of Maine's statehood. This park will prove a blessing to those who follow us, and they will see that we built for them more wisely than our forefathers did for us. Shall any great timberland or paper-making corporation, or group of such corporations, themselves the owners of millions of acres of Maine forests, say to the People of this State, "You shall not have Mount Katahdin, either as a memorial of your past or as a heritage for your future?"

32
B...
MOUNT KATAHDIN

By

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER,
GOVERNOR OF MAINE

1920

To most people Mount Katahdin is but a name. To those who have both seen and climbed the Mountain it is a wonderful reality, and the memories of a trip to its summit remain vivid through the years. At present the great Mountain, weather-beaten by time and scarred by the avalanche, is almost inaccessible, the journey entailing expense, hardship and discomfort. The grandeur of the Mountain, its precipitous slopes, its massive cliffs, unusual formation and wonderful coloring cannot be surpassed or even equalled by any mountain east of the Mississippi river. Katahdin rises abruptly from the plain to the height of 5,273 feet, and, without foothills to detract from its solitary dignity, stands alone, a grim gray tower overlooking the surrounding country for hundreds of miles. It is small wonder that the aboriginal Indians believed it to be the home of the spirits of wind, storm and thunder.

The scenery of the White Mountains in New Hampshire is tame and ordinary when compared with that of Mount Katahdin and the range beyond, and Katahdin is not unworthy of a place among the great mountains of the world. To reach the base requires a tedious tramp of from fifty to sixty miles over old and abandoned tote-roads, through fords and swamps, with but an occasional well defined path leading over pleasant ridges covered with great trees, that give welcome shade to the weary traveler. At best it requires from six to seven days of steady walking to make the trip from civilization to the Peak and return. There are several approaches to the Mountain, but the most picturesque is that which leads from the East into the South Basin, where is located Chimney Pond, a beautiful sheet of water, which, among ponds, is as unique in its coloring and setting as Katahdin is among its sister mountains. This pond is surrounded on the South and West by a grand amphitheatre of perpendicular cliffs rising from 1500 to 2000 feet. The water in this

remarkable pond is so clear and cold that fish cannot live in it, and it is as uninhabited as the salt brine of the Dead Sea. Its surface mirrors the ever-changing aspects of the clouds and the multi-colored cliffs towering around it. These cliffs are gray, blue, pink, or brown, according as the atmosphere changes from hour to hour, or as the position of the sun is altered.

By day man stands spellbound in that solitude where man himself is an atom at the base of one of nature's noblest creations; by night he is inspired by the majesty of the moon as it rises and moves westward in a stately curve over the serrated peaks, which throw themselves up into the deep blue of the night as though to join the company of the stars.

The passage of the Knife Edge requires a cool head and sure footing, and I am not ashamed to admit that I gladly availed myself of the friendly and reassuring hand of my companion, as I crept gingerly over the rough piles of loose and broken rock. On every hand were countless marks of the lightning's work, which looked like the spattering of lead from bullets that had struck upon the stone leaving a grayish film surrounded by the shattered rock. Lightning has bombarded this Mountain top for ages, but Katahdin, unconquered and unafraid, still holds aloft its noble head.

Standing on the summit of Katahdin one sees the Laurentian Mountains on the north bordering the St. Lawrence River, and the Atlantic Ocean on the south. At one's feet is a panorama of endless forest, of great lakes that melt away into the distant haze, countless ponds and winding streams with their white markings of falls and rapids, while the dark evergreen growth, here and there outlined by the lighter growth of the hardwoods, extends in all directions. The wilderness of the forest seems endless.

The proposed park covers an area of 57,252 acres and comprises the whole of Mount Katahdin, and Katahdin Lake, of itself one of the most beautiful of all Maine's lakes, and which abounds with trout. The boundaries of the park can be extended later if succeeding legislatures deem such extension advisable. This park will prove a great attraction, not only to the people of Maine who will frequent it, but also to those

who come from without our State to enjoy the free life of the out of doors. The park will bring health and recreation to those who journey there, and the wild life of the woods will find refuge from their pursuers, for the park will be made a bird and game sanctuary for the protection of its forest inhabitants.

Maine is famous for its 2500 miles of seacoast, with its countless islands, for its myriad lakes and ponds, and for its forests and rivers, but Mount Katahdin Park will be the State's crowning glory, a worthy memorial to commemorate the end of the first and the beginning of the second century of Maine's statehood.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

of

Percival P. Baxter

Governor of Maine,

to

The Eightieth Legislature

State of Maine

February 9, 1921

by the present Legislature, I framed, and the Legislature submitted to our Supreme Judicial Court, certain water power questions. The Court, in answering these questions, gave its opinion that the development by the State of storage reservoirs and basins and of the undeveloped water powers incident thereto would be at variance with the existing provisions of our State constitution. The State constitution was adopted in the first instance by the people of the State, and consequently is subject to amendment by them. In view of the court's opinion, before actual development can be undertaken by the State, it is necessary for the Constitution to be amended. I believe in the passage of such an amendment and urge upon you its serious consideration. During the period that such an amendment is before the people for deliberation and discussion, the Waterpower Commission should continue its work of investigation.

Maine should not fall back into its former state of indifference to this vital question. Maine must advance. Private development should be encouraged and property rights must be respected. It need never be feared that the State of Maine will take property or rights from lawful owners without returning to them lawful compensation therefor. The construction of storage reservoirs and basins and the development of the undeveloped waterpowers incident thereto by the State, should, in my opinion, be begun under proper safeguards after present restrictions are removed. Maine needs the benefit of its waterpowers and the need becomes more pressing as years go by. My deep interest in this issue continues, but it must of necessity be in an executive, rather than in a legislative capacity.

MT. KATAHDIN PARK

The forests of Maine, with our waterpowers, constitute the great natural resources of the State. The waterpowers in their nature are perpetual, while the forests may be and have been, wantonly destroyed by wasteful management and by fire. A century of statehood has passed, during which period the millions of forest acres once publicly owned have passed to private hands. In the heart of the wilderness of these woods stands Mt. Katahdin, the greatest monument of nature

east of the Mississippi river. This mountain raises its head aloft, unafraid of the passing storm, and is typical of the rugged character of the people of Maine. The purchase of this mountain will constitute a fitting memorial to the past century and an inspiration to the new.

Unlike most projects that call for the expenditure of a considerable sum of money, this park will prove to be an asset to the State from which will be derived both direct and indirect income. The establishment of some great institutions by the State creates for all time a burden on the public treasury but this park will prove a safe investment in lands and timber, an investment which will increase in value with the passing years.

I bring this project to your attention as one which our late governor endorsed without reservation. In his inaugural he says:

"By sound principles of public policy, reinforced by party pledge, we are committed to the establishment of a State park and forest reserve, to the conservation of our forests, to a program of reforestation of cut-over and burned land, and to the development of waterpower resources within the State."

The establishment of this park will lay the foundation of a policy whereby the present generation will deliver a great inheritance to the generations to come.

WILD LAND VALUES

In 1905, during my first Legislative session, an appropriation of \$2500 was made for the purpose of cruising the wild lands of the State in order to ascertain their value for the purpose of taxation, and since then an increased appropriation has been made by succeeding Legislatures. This work has been conscientiously done under the supervision of the board of State assessors. Two hundred and sixty-three townships out of a total of about 441 already have been surveyed. I doubt if the State ever has made as wise an expenditure of the public money as this has proven to be. Since 1905 the total amount of \$90,000 has been spent upon this work and the State already has received from it in taxation, not including interest, the sum of \$575,765.42. This shows a net tax income from this item of \$485,765.42. It is readily seen that an appropriation larger

STATE FINANCES

MESSAGE

of

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

GOVERNOR

to the

Eightieth Legislature

State of Maine

March 10, 1921

Augusta

and also would not advise the construction of a new school-house costing \$25,000 at the State School for Boys.

The building of a dormitory for women at the University of Maine, to cost \$45,000, is not of vital importance and it is desirable that the University straighten out its financial affairs before additional buildings are erected there by the State.

By accepting these recommendations you will save on these special appropriations \$540,000.

SALARIES

The question of increased salaries is for you to determine after due consideration. The salaries paid by the State of Maine are modest, and those of certain State officials and heads of departments are not adequate for the services rendered. The successful administration of the State's affairs depends upon the conscientious work of these faithful men, and the State after training them in the public service can ill afford to lose them. Funds are not available for a general increase of salaries, but some attempt to equalize them should be undertaken. The total annual amount required to do this would not be large and I recommend this problem to you for your thoughtful discussion. As this question is pending before you and as its present status is somewhat involved, I have refrained from suggesting changes in the Budget items.

MOUNT KATAHDIN PARK

In my Inaugural Address of February 9th, I advocated the establishment of the Mount Katahdin State Park, and then a member of the Senate introduced a bill calling for an appropriation of \$100,000 for that purpose. This park in my opinion will prove of inestimable benefit to the State of Maine, it will prove a wise investment and will be more than self-sustaining. The financial condition of the State at the present time, however, will not warrant the expenditure of this sum of money, which, however, would mean an increase of but 1-13 of a mill in the State tax. If I ask you gentlemen to sacrifice some of the projects you consider of importance to the State I should be prepared to do likewise. I propose a plan whereby at this session you can establish the principal of this park without increasing the Budget recommendations.

The Budget calls for an appropriation for cruising wild lands which will immediately produce a substantial increase in the

State's revenue. One-half of this increased revenue can be used for the purchase of park land and there will be no increase in the rate of taxation. The Budget in another item recommends that \$25,000 be appropriated for "the purchase of land and for general forestry purposes." A resolve similar to this has been passed by several preceding Legislatures but the money never has been used for the "purchase" of land as was originally contemplated. If one-half of this appropriation also is set aside for the Mount Katahdin Park no increase in the Budget need be made. If you adopt these two suggestions, sufficient funds will be forthcoming to establish the Park and this Legislature will always be remembered for its farsighted action. Katahdin Park will be for Maine what the Yosemite is for California.

At the hearing on this bill before the Committee on State Lands and Forest Preservation it was suggested that one of the great timberland-owning paper companies might make a gift to the State of a certain amount of land in Mt. Katahdin township. In so far as I have heard this suggestion was indefinite, having been brought to my attention through the newspaper accounts of the hearing. This paper company owns an undivided $\frac{3}{4}$ interest in Mt. Katahdin township, and if it should seriously consider giving a portion of this $\frac{3}{4}$ interest to the State such portions of the township as contain timber or pulpwood would probably be reserved from the gift. It is to be regretted that this great company, which itself has been given rights of untold value in the water resources of Maine, should oppose this park. It is generally understood that this opposition does not come from a desire on the part of this company to save the State of Maine from the expense of a park, but that it seeks to prevent the State from exercising its sovereign right of eminent domain. The legislative agents of this company have decreed that this Legislature shall not establish a park, for to do so the State must use its power to take land for public purposes. It should be remembered, however, that the very company which opposes this bill has repeatedly been given rights of eminent domain by the State, which rights have been exercised by that company for private gain and not for public uses, and it is unfortunate that an attempt to dominate the Maine Legislature should be made by the representatives of this powerful corporation. I often have thought that perhaps these leg-

islative agents do not always represent to their principals the true situation on this and similar public matters. I respect those individuals who honestly believe it inexpedient that this park be established at the present time, but the people of the State resent the attempt which the Great Northern Paper Co. is making to prevent the State's exercising the right of eminent domain, especially in view of the fact that that company, to its own great profit, has been freely given this right by the State. The Budget has divided the coming period of two and one-half years into one of six months, and two periods of one year each. I believe it will be more convenient if the two and one-half years are divided into two periods, the first for eighteen months and the second for twelve months, and the summary of income and expenses submitted herewith are in this form.

All departments of State except that of the Adjutant General and State Land Agent and Forest Commissioner are under the supervision of the Governor and Council, and their accounts pass through the Auditor's Office. In my opinion it would be for the interest of the State if these departments were brought in line with the others.

In looking over the appropriations and actual expenses of the various State departments for the years 1919 and 1920 it appears that overdrafts were made amounting to \$1,517,927.82, and the Governor and Council were called upon to make provision to meet these overdrafts out of the Contingent Fund. Shortly after assuming the office of Chief Executive I invited the heads of departments to a conference and impressed upon them the fact that the Legislature, not the Governor and Council, was the appropriating body, and I explained that hereafter each department must plan to live within the income provided for it by the Legislature. The Governor and Council cannot assume the responsibility of enlarging legislative appropriations and the Contingent Fund should be drawn upon in case of real emergency only.

The amount of cash on hand March 1st in the State Treasury was \$3,937,223.26. This money is deposited in the various banks and trust companies of the State and the State receives interest on its daily balances.

If the affairs of this State are conducted upon the somewhat reduced appropriations of the accompanying schedule the estimated income to the State, less these appropriations,

B.A.
Folger 133
d.r.

Frederic P. Baxter Governor

Bangor May 20/1921

I am glad to be present at this meeting of the citizens of Penobscot County who have come together to discuss what can be done for the welfare of the State of Maine. These meetings of the State Chamber of Commerce ought to be of real benefit to our state. The citizens of Maine have a strong sense of loyalty to our respective counties. I take pride in my county of Cumberland and you have reason to be proud of your County of Penobscot. We should, however, never overlook the fact that above all we are citizens of the state of Maine and our pride in and loyalty to our counties must ever be secondary to our interest in the state as a whole. What benefits one county directly benefits the other 15 counties indirectly and these meetings will do much towards bringing together all the counties from Arcoostook to York and from Oxford to Washington. I have often felt that the petty jealousy^s which sometimes has^t sometimes cropped out in state affairs has^t done much towards retarding the growth and welfare of our state. I am especially

I am especially glad to be in Bangor today for this is the first opportunity I have had of coming to your city since the tragic days of last January. Governor Parkhurst was your Governor and my Governor. For twenty years he had the laudable ambition to serve this state as Chief Executive. Although he met with several discouragements he never allowed them to embitter him and he kept steadily at work until at last he achieved his goal. You citizens of Penobscot have every reason to be proud of his record and I join with you in paying my respect to his memory. Had he lived he would have filled the office of Governor with credit to himself and to the honor of his native state. I did not seek the office I now hold and the burdens that were his have been placed upon me. As long as I am Governor I shall carry these burdens and responsibilities and pledge to the public service whatever ability there is within me. You citizens of Penobscot County will ever cherish the memory of your departed Governor and it was my privilege this morning to visit his

grave and in the name of the people of the State of Maine place a wreath upon his tomb.

APPOINTMENTS.

I come here today to present to you certain large issues which in my opinion are of great importance to the people of our state. I believe that the State Chamber of Commerce if it takes up these issues and discusses them freely and frankly and in an unprejudiced way can contribute something definite to our state. These questions must be discussed fearlessly and without reserve. While I am Governor I propose to take the people of this state into my confidence and as I have opportunity to go about among them and tell them what is in my heart. I shall not be content to sit comfortably in the sunny corner office in the State Capitol but shall present my issues to the people of the state so that they may study them and I have faith in their ultimate decision.

Upon coming into office a Governor is faced by many problems. Among the most difficult of solution is the problem of appointments. In some cases there are more men available for state offices than there are offices to be filled. In other cases there sometimes seems to be a scarcity of available material. Coming into this position as I did, free from any obligations expressed or implied, unhampered by the usual complications that inevitably surround a successful candidate in a hard-fought campaign, I shall appoint to office only those men who in my opinion are thoroughly qualified for the position. One principle has been definitely established in the State of Maine, and that is, that no public servant shall serve two masters. It became my duty to call upon the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission to resign. I found that while he was drawing an ample salary from the state he was also in the employ of private corporations. His usefulness to the state had ceased, and although he made a somewhat ungentlemanly reply to the communication I addressed to him he nevertheless resigned his office and his successor has not yet been appointed. I hope for the good name of the State of

tion should be paid for the charter itself and the franchise it contains, which the State gave freely and for which the State received no return. One of the Senators of the last Legislature in a debate had the opportunity to state that I was opposed to private development, when there sat beside him another Senator who had in his pocket a charter signed by me ~~concerning~~ ^{on that very occasion} which was worth to him not less than one-half a million dollars. This charter contained the two clauses above referred to and I was glad to sign it so as to encourage a large development in Aroostook County. If the State Chamber of Commerce will face this question without reserve and without fear of antagonizing powerful interests of the State they will perform a public service. I want to see every water power in Maine developed to its full capacity. I want to see the people of the State deriving a direct as well as an indirect benefit from these developments. But I shall always oppose taking any of this power out of the State of Maine for we can use every ounce of it within our own borders.

MAINE KASABIA AND REGENERATION.

The State of Maine is primarily a forest state and the ownership of these forests is to a large extent centered here in Bangor. Of the nineteen million acres in Maine fifteen million acres are covered by trees and the harvesting of these timberlands furnishes the means of livelihood to a large proportion of our people. You all know something of the history of the wildlands. It is not so very many years ago that the people of the State themselves owned nine million acres and it requires no imagination to picture the benefits that would have accrued to our people if this inheritance had not been squandered. These, however, are bygones but they serve to impress upon us the need of building for the future better than our ancestors built for us.

Up in the heart of Maine there stands a mountain called Katahdin. It is the Grandest monument of nature east of the

Mississippi River. It was my good fortune last summer to stand upon the summit of this mountain and in looking down on the forests, the rivers, the lakes, waterfalls and streams below I realized as never before that the State of Maine really is. As I stood there there seemed to be below me enough timber to supply the needs of all New England for centuries to come, but when I was told that timber experts had estimated that Maine's supply would last but twenty or thirty years and that from 100,000 to 200,000 acres were stripped and denuded each year I realized that the days of Maine's forests were numbered unless something was done to check the distribution and to replenish our timber supply. For years we have talked about

reforestation. Our forest commissioners have advocated it, money has been appropriated "for the purchase of lands" but the Forest Commissioners who have advocated it have never used the funds that were available. It has always ended in an annual report and in high sounding phrases.

Maine must begin to do something about these timberlands. In the Republican platform adopted here in Bangor just a year ago there was one and only one constructive plank.

That party promised ^{and} the people of Maine that it would adopt a policy of acquiring waste ~~timber-land~~ ^{and} timberland for the protection of their watersheds for reforestation, for a game sanctuary and for a state park. Notwithstanding this promise and regardless of the fact

that 100 members of the last Legislature out of 182 were Republicans the bill which should have carried out the party pledge was defeated. The timberland interests centered here in Bangor were so strong that they blocked the passage of this bill and Maine must wait another two years to see this policy established. It is encouraging to note that Maine now has a new Forest Commissioner, born, bred and educated in Maine, trained under foresters of the National Department and thoroughly competent to handle the forest problems, that will ^{soon} ~~be~~ before ^{him} ~~you~~.

I have hopes that under his administration the people of the State will learn more of their forest resources and will at last begin to appreciate what these resources mean to them.

ADDRESS OF PERCIVAL P. BAXTER,
GOVERNOR OF MAINE,
AT JOINT FIELD DAY OF YORK COUNTY FARM BUREAU AND POMONA GRANGE
AT THE FARM OF JOSEPH RUSSELL, WEST KENNEBUNK,
AUGUST 25th, 1921.

I have come here today to discuss with you certain problems. I am glad that we have problems in the State of Maine for if we had no problems we should soon become a very soft and easy going people. With a state, just as with an individual, if we have problems and vexatious questions to decide we face them and decide them, and by doing so become better able to carry on the work of life. It is not to be regretted that there are serious problems in the State of Maine but all we have to do is to cooperate and face them squarely, and we will all be better for having done so. Most of the troubles that come about in this world arise from jealousy and misunderstanding and these meetings will smooth over these jealousies and misunderstandings to a very great extent. I want to help in every way that I can; I want to help bring the different groups in the State together, so that after coming together they will have just one thing in mind, and that is the advancement of the highest interests of our State of Maine.

I want to take the people of Maine into my confidence; tell them what I have in mind; discuss questions squarely and freely with them; present the facts as I see them, and then let the people of the State decide what is to be done. I believe a Governor, if he has convictions, if he has ideas he believes are for the best interests of the State, should tell the people of the State about them. While I am Governor, this year and next, I am going to devote my time to going over the State and staying right in the State of Maine, meeting the people of the State talking things over with them, and then leaving the questions for their decision. I shall not be content to remain in my comfortable office in the State Capitol and do just the routine work of the State, but I am going out whenever I can to meet the men and women of our State, and then my work will have been done.

the State constructs storage reservoirs, which is as far as I believe it ought to go at the present time, it will help every water power owner on the rivers of the State. These water power owners cannot afford to build these dams themselves, on account of the divided ownership of the water powers, but the State can step in and build the dams, sell the water to the power owners at a fair price, and thus encourage them to bring industries into Maine.

FORESTS.

Maine is primarily a forest State. We have great areas of forest land, and I have always been interested in the forestry problem. I want the State of Maine to begin to buy up waste and burned over timberland to be used for reforestation, so that in the years to come we may have forest resources that will provide such forest products as are required by our State. I have advocated this now for three sessions, but like many good projects it takes a long time to get them through. We should adopt a State policy that will ultimately regain waste lands in every part of the State, and thus begin reforesting in a practical way, to the end that in generations to come, the people in the State will control, under State ownership, a forestry domain of which they may be proud. The people of Maine once owned over 9,000,000 acres of timberland. The State now owns 200,000 acres and this is so cut up and distributed in small parcels that it represents comparatively small areas in various parts of the State. Group these areas together and they can be used as a nucleus for the purposes I have outlined. If we had a State forest domain it could be so managed that the State could derive a splendid revenue from it. I have seen it stated in one of the large daily papers that it takes fifty-four acres of timberland to provide enough paper for one edition of Chicago's great newspapers. That seems quite a large acreage for one edition, but there are many persons who are interested in the paper business who can tell you whether or not that paper exaggerated the statement.

A year ago it was my privilege to climb Mount Katahdin and I shall never forget my sensation when I viewed the tremendous expanse of lakes and forests which formerly were the property of the people of Maine.

As I stood there, below me there seemed to be enough timber to supply the needs of all New England for centuries to come, but when I was told that timber experts had estimated that Maine's supply would last but twenty or thirty years, and that from 150,000 to 200,000 acres were stripped and denuded each year, I realized that the days of Maine's forests were numbered unless something was done to check this destruction and to replenish the supply. This is evidence of the immediate need of taking such steps as will take care of our future needs, and keep Maine's forests what they should be. Some day I want the State of Maine to own Mount Katahdin. It is one of nature's wonder spots.

FARMS.

One of the really great problems of the State of Maine is that of its farms. When I took up the census and saw that there were 11,778 fewer farms being operated in Maine in 1920, than in 1910, I was amazed. This means that approximately 100 farms a month were abandoned in the State for a period extending over ten years. What can we do to remedy this condition; what steps can be taken to reclaim and repopulate lands which are now neglected? Perhaps the question of taxation affects the farms as much as any other question. We should plan to aid the farmer in securing the enjoyment and conveniences that are so easily obtained by men and women in our larger centers. This can only be done by making accessible to them the use of modern inventions, and our water power, if developed, will place them in a position to take advantage of electricity in their farm work thus eliminating the drudgery and long hours now necessary to the farmer's success. I believe that the question of electricity will have a very important bearing upon the question of farm life in Maine. I own a farm just out of the City of Portland. I have lived on it in the summer for thirty-three years and for twenty-seven years stumbled around in the dark, using old-fashioned lamps, both morning and night. I lived in a house without modern conveniences and without enjoying any of those appliances which eliminate drudgery and which it is now possible for the farmer to enjoy. Since electricity came, life is different. Today on the modern farm, made modern by the use of electricity, would

Address

OF

HON. PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

Governor of Maine

ON THE

FORESTS OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE LOBBY

AND

STATE CONTINGENT FUND

Delivered at the Annual Meeting

OF THE

MAINE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

STATE HOUSE, AUGUSTA

January 6, 1922



Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Maine Forestry Association:

It gives me pleasure to welcome you here today, and I am glad to know that the Maine Forestry Association is again to take up its activities that were interrupted by the late war. I congratulate those of you who arranged this successful meeting, and predict that your association will do much for the forestry interests of our State. Maine primarily is a forest state, and it is fitting that this Association be revived so that it may take a leading part in promoting the State's welfare.

THE TREE

The growth and harvesting of our forest products has always been a subject that especially appealed to me. In my opinion the tree is the most beautiful object of nature, and although some people would give this distinction to the river, mountain, lake or waterfall, the tree always has been my preference both from a sentimental and practical viewpoint. To me it outranks all of nature's creations. Whether it be the tree standing alone in graceful outline, offering shade to man or beast and a place of abode for the birds of the air, or the grove or forest teeming with wild life, I maintain that the trees of Maine are its proudest possessions. Trees clothe the barren earth and make it fruitful and habitable for man and beast. With Joyce Kilmer:

"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree;
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree."

From a practical point of view the tree is indispensable to modern life. The products of our forests are used daily by all citizens who seldom appreciate the great extent to which these products enter into the life of the home, and into the prosperity of the industrial and commercial interests of the nation. Although I never have had any financial interest in timberlands, or in the products therefrom, I fully realize how important it is for the State of Maine to have a continuing and dependable supply of timber. In so far as I am able I desire to contribute towards the establishment of a State forestry program that will assure to future generations an adequate supply of forest products.

MAINE'S FORESTS

This Association is composed both of timberland owners and of those having no ownership in timberlands. Its membership is open to anyone who loves the trees of Maine, for second perhaps to its water powers, trees are Maine's greatest natural resource. We Maine people have not appreciated what our forests mean to us, and too often have taken them as a matter of course. Trees abound on every hand; when cut down nature gives us others, and our supply seems almost inexhaustible. Visit the far West where the great American desert stretches north and south the entire length of this country between the prairies of the western states and the mountains of the Pacific Coast; visit China or other far-away countries where trees are almost unknown, and you then will realize how favored is the State of Maine.

A few months ago I stood spellbound upon the top of Mount Katahdin, and looked across the great forest areas of northeastern Maine. Hundreds of thousands of acres of the finest timberland in the world lay at my feet, and the black growth of the evergreens, patched with the lighter growth of hard woods, stretched forth in every direction. Here and there the bright waters of the rivers threaded their way through the woods on their long journey to the sea, and the foam of the waterfalls and rapids, catching the rays of the sun, spanned these waters with glistening bands. I was in the heart of Maine, on the highest peak of land

within the State. Standing there all alone I was carried away by the prospect before me. To me Maine seemed to be nothing but forests. The memory of the busy cities and towns faded from my mind. I forgot about our great industries, our farms and our seashore resorts; for Maine was a State of the Woods. I felt a certain fellowship with the wild life about me, and when my companions called me to return to camp I took a final survey of the panorama, and impressed it indelibly upon my mind.

THE TOWNS IN THE WOODS

The people of Maine who are not timberland owners are as vitally interested in timberlands and their products as are the owners of these lands, for timber is the only raw material found within the State, and the future prosperity and stability of many of our communities and our industries depend upon our having a dependable supply of it. Cities and towns have sprung up in the wilderness because forceful, far-seeing men have had the courage to invest their money in pulp, paper and lumber mills. Places that today would be uninhabited, had it not been for the splendid developments of the last generation, are now cheerful, prosperous towns and villages in which men and women build their homes and bring up their families. The mills bring the operatives; then come the traders, storekeepers, professional men, teachers and all the other groups that go to make up our towns and cities. Railroad lines are necessary to take away the manufactured products, and today the railroads of Maine depend upon forest products more than upon anything else that is produced or manufactured within the State. Cut off Maine's supply of wood, and our railroads could not meet their running expenses.

COOPERATION NEEDED

Every citizen of Maine should have an intelligent understanding of our forestry problem and should be willing to cooperate with the owners of the timberlands so that Maine's business future may be assured. In the past there have been unfortunate misunderstandings and jealousies. The people of eastern Maine sometimes have felt that those

of the western and southern portions of the State have wanted to tax the timberland owners out of existence; while western and southern Maine people have looked with misgivings upon the dominance of the east in legislative matters. There has been altogether too much pulling and hauling, too much distrust among those who, from common self-interest, ought to work together. Those days are rapidly passing, perhaps have already passed, and I feel that the people of Maine today are more united than ever before. In my own legislative experience I have witnessed a marked lessening of sectional antagonisms.

The rights of property and of legitimate ownership at all times must be respected. This is fundamental, and always must be the basis of any cooperation between the citizens at large and the land owners. The timberland owners must be convinced that there is no ulterior motive in the cooperation that is offered them. The people of Maine do not seek to wrong those whose property is invested in timberlands. There are, however, public-spirited citizens who have the State's future at heart, who stand ready to defend the right of private property, and who favor legislation that will help and encourage the land owners properly to control and harvest their crops.

There is no fear of Maine's losing its growth of trees, for, except in rare instances where fires destroy the thin soil covering the rocky base, a new growth soon appears after a cutting or a fire. This growth, however, may be of little value; and even though valuable, unless proper care is given it, a long period of years may be lost, and a loss of time is a loss of money. Reforestation perhaps is not the best word to use, for Maine forests to a certain extent reforest themselves. Scientific control and management of forests from the moment the tree starts as a seedling until its harvest, is what we need in Maine.

MODERN FORESTRY

Some of the large companies have adopted modern forestry methods and thus are making a definite contribution to the State's future. Companies of large means and with broad-minded men in charge, like the Great Northern Paper

Company, the American Thread Co., the Brown Company and others, have experts of high standing who plan for years ahead, and who are not carried away by the desire for immediate profit. Some companies are systematically planting young trees as an experiment. All this work is excellent. The smaller land owners, however, cannot afford the expensive organizations that are required for this scientific work, and that is where the State Forestry Department will be of real assistance to them. I believe it would be wise to broaden the scope of our forestry laws by giving more encouragement to tree planting, both within and without our Forestry District. The planting of a thousand acres of trees involves a heavy expenditure for labor and material, while taxes and interest charges for a period of from twenty to forty years make the expense of this good work almost prohibitive. The State may well make concessions where planting is carried on systematically and according to the best forestry methods.

I have seen the forestry of Japan where the steep, rough slopes of the mountain sides are planted with the studied regularity of a checkerboard, and where every seedling or young tree is carried up the mountain on the backs of men who must struggle hard to obtain a foothold. Trees in Japan are as much a crop as is the rice of their country and they are planted, cared for and harvested with the same precision that is given the raising of their great staple. I have seen the forests in the Ural Mountains on the borders of Europe and Asia marked off into rectangular areas with broad fire stops between them looking like great avenues that extended for miles into the wilderness beyond. Other countries have been forced to adopt modern forestry methods, while we in Maine have neglected to husband the resources that nature has so prodigally bestowed upon us.

THE LOBBY

I have spoken of the misunderstandings of the past. In my opinion these to a considerable extent have been caused by a certain type of man who is employed as a professional lobbyist. These lobbyists of the old school, and there are still a few left us, get their living by unearthing what they

often imagine to be plots against them, and by engineering counterplots. Often I have thought that such men have deliberately stirred up trouble in order to justify their being employed to look after it. These men cause confusion, and are distrusted by the members of the legislature. They thrive on legislative warfare. I believe the time is not far distant when such lobbyists will be no more. They become arrogant and boastful and often pool their interests for offensive and defensive purposes. When this is done legislative questions seldom are decided upon their merits. I believe if the business men who employ lobbyists of this type could see them at work, or if perhaps these business men could serve a term or two as members of the legislature, some of our leading lobbyists would soon find themselves without employment. I have faith in the public spirit and honest purpose of the big men who own the large business enterprises of Maine, but these men often have been deceived by the lobbyists employed by them. If the Governor of the State and the members of the legislature could see and talk with the actual owners of our large industries, there would be but few misunderstandings or even differences of opinion. Legislators do not wish to injure business, and they always will listen to the advice and counsel of the business men who come before them. Legislators, as well as others, realize that the prosperity of the State's affairs depends upon the prosperity of its business and farming interests.

There are some lobbyists who represent large interests who have been in attendance upon legislative sessions ever since I have been connected with the State Government, and who are entitled to the respect of our legislators. I have in mind several such men whose opinions on forestry and on other large questions I often have sought, and in whom I have confidence. These men appear before committees and present their arguments; they collect valuable information for the legislature and attend strictly to their own affairs. They are a valuable addition to legislative gatherings, and I should not want to see them leave legislative halls. These men are lobbyists of the new school, and I wish that all those who feel the need of bringing

facts to the attention of the legislature would employ men of this character.

If the large interests of Maine would follow the example of one of the leading public utility companies of the State there soon would be an end to the wrong kind of lobbying. The company I refer to is controlled by far-sighted, broad-minded men. When these men came into power they abolished the old-time lobby that had been maintained for a generation, and openly stated that whenever measures in which they were interested were to come before committees, their representatives would take the morning train for Augusta, would appear before the committees and return home after the hearing. Notwithstanding the fact that this company was severely attacked in the locality it served, shortly after the new management took control, and notwithstanding the temptation offered it to revert to its old-time methods in defense of its rights, the management of the company adhered strictly to the principle it had adopted. The storm passed, and the company now has the confidence of the community it serves. I refer to the company operating in Portland and vicinity.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

The University of Maine has done excellent work in its Forestry School. Young men who have taken the forestry courses have been thoroughly equipped and the work of the school has grown with each year. Forestry schools are of comparatively recent growth, just as is the science of modern forestry, but the school at the University is firmly established and its work justifies the money spent upon it. Bates College also has a Forestry Department that is developing rapidly. Our State with two schools well equipped for this work is doing much toward solving forestry problems.

FIRES AND FIRE CONTROL

Of all branches of forestry work the control of fires is the most vital. The spectre of fire haunts the timberland owner for several months each year. The growth and hopes of half a century often have been destroyed in a day. Insurance is either impossible to obtain, or prohibitive in cost,

and all the owner can do is to hope that fate will be kind in furnishing plenty of moisture. Our fire control is well managed, its activities are Statewide and its look-out stations cover the principal forest areas both within and without the forestry district. The year 1921 has been disastrous, for fires have raged more fiercely than at any period since 1903. It may be advisable to give the Governor additional power so that he may prohibit the taking of fire arms into the woods and may restrict the building of fires at all seasons of the year. This matter should be presented to the next legislature. The new Slash Law is being worked out by the Forestry Department and will accomplish immediate results.

There are serious problems now confronting the Governor and Council in connection with payment for services rendered, and for money advanced to put out the forest fires of 1921. Certain timberland owners have advanced more than \$105,000 to pay these fire bills, while the taxes assessed upon the forestry district are insufficient by this amount to pay these accounts. There has been some question as to how the State should meet this situation. A former Attorney General has ruled that the Forestry District is not a component part of the State Government, and there is some doubt as to whether money in the Contingent Fund legally may be used to make these payments. The Governor and Council, however, are not inclined to hold to technicalities, for a real emergency confronts the State and at our meeting on January 3d, 1922, voted to loan to the Forestry District sufficient money to pay 50% of these claims, with the understanding that the money is to be repaid to the Contingent Fund from the 1922 Forestry District taxes. If the year 1922 should have a bad fire record the situation then will have to be approached from a different angle. Later on in the year the Council hopes to be able to make provision to care for the remaining 50% if cash is available in the State Treasury. Above all else it is for the interest of the whole State to have it understood that prompt payment is to be made for work done in extinguishing fires, and the Governor and Council wish to cooperate in every way with the timberland owners.

STATE CONTINGENT FUND

I have spoken of the State Contingent Fund, the most talked of fund in Maine. Everybody who is familiar with State finances or with State departments or institutions knows of the existence of this Fund. As a legislator I knew something of it for the four years from 1917 to 1920 inclusive, but as Governor for the past year I have become intimately acquainted with it. I believe the possibilities in this fund constitute a menace to sound finance. As you know, this fund is made up of balances of unexpended appropriations that lapse into it, and small and large sums of money are transferred to this fund when the books are closed at the end of the year. Also, whatever actual income there is over and above current expenses is credited to this fund. A mystery always has surrounded the Contingent Fund, and I desire to dispel that mystery. There are to be no skeletons in the State closet while I am Governor. I want the people of Maine to understand just what is involved by the existence of this fund.

The basis of our government is representation, and the legislature that directly represents the people is responsible for the money that is raised and expended. In a representative government the responsibility of the legislature must be emphasized constantly, and when this responsibility is lacking the Government is likely to revert to a bureaucracy. I firmly believe that the legislature that levies the taxes and makes the appropriations should decide how these appropriations should be expended and how much should be expended. Any other system strikes at the root of popular government, and is fraught with danger. I want the people of the State to realize the situation before it is too late, and so I now take them into my confidence.

The State Contingent Fund, according to an estimate given me by the State Auditor, now amounts to one million dollars and even may be considerably more than that. The exact figures will be determined when the State's books are closed. This large sum of money is subject to appropriation by the Governor and Council, who now have power similar to that of a legislature. It is true that the law provides that this money only can be used when the legis-

lature makes an insufficient appropriation for a given purpose, or when an "emergency" exists, but the Governor and Council's decision as to what constitutes an emergency is conclusive. Almost anything can be construed as an emergency if the Governor and Council wish it so. The building of a new road, the employment of additional assistants in the departments or institutions, the payment of overdrafts for printing, traveling and charity work all have been called "emergencies." The door is wide open for the Governor and Council to do anything they see fit, and after the act is accomplished there is no appeal.

Of course it gives a Chief Executive a feeling of security and of power to have this large sum of money to draw upon, for he realizes that if anything happens he has ample funds at his command. I, however, do not want to hold this power at the expense of true popular government. If you could sit in my office and listen to the daily appeals for money from this fund you would appreciate the dangers of the situation. Not a day passes without such a request being made. We never have a Council meeting without many requests coming to us to take money from the State Contingent Fund. It is easy to say "yes" when friends ask for money for this or that cause, while it is not pleasant, nor does it make friends to say "no." The man or woman to whom you say "No," remembers it much longer than the man or woman to whom you say "Yes."

The Fund law doubtless was passed with the best of intentions but in my opinion should be amended at the first opportunity. It now creates a constant source of temptation, trouble and unrest. Drafts as large as \$180,000 have been made upon this fund for a single purpose during the recess of a legislature, and there is hardly a department or institution of the State that has not called upon it for assistance. I am of the opinion that apart from the Contingent Fund problem, it would make for sounder finance if all large expenditures of money, such as the building of a State Garage, were first sanctioned by the legislature, even though a department has the legal right to make such an expenditure without direct legislative authority. Of course the legislature might have approved these expenditures

had they been brought to its attention, but I believe that notwithstanding this, it is not the function of the Governor and Council to appropriate money for purposes for which the legislature actually did not provide. I do not hesitate to say that a designing Governor, with a pliant or indifferent Council, has the power to use this fund to build up a personal political machine that it would be hard to overturn. By yielding to one appeal or another, by adding to the list of employees of the State under the guise of extending the State's work, by catering to this or that section of the State, or to this or that group or cause, or by being generous with the people's money, any skilful Governor can play fast and loose with this fund of more than a million dollars and it would be difficult, in fact impossible, to expose his schemes. This situation must end.

In my opinion the old system was the best and the safest. This often proves to be the case. For 95 years the State had no such Contingent Fund Law. Where the legislature provides that a certain amount shall be spent in a given department, let the head of that department lay out his work as the legislature directs. Let the State's garments be cut to fit the cloth. The Constitution and Statutes of the State are very definite in regard to State officials over-drawing their accounts. The Constitution of Maine, Art. V, Part 4, Sec. 4, provides, "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but by warrant from the Governor and Council and in consequence of appropriations made by Law;" * * * * *

The Revised Statutes, Chap. 2, Secs. 100 and 103, provide:

Sec. 100. "Money appropriated for the various branches of expenditure in the public service, shall be applied solely to the object for which the appropriation is made."

Sec. 103. "No agent or officer of the state, or of any department thereof, whose duty it is to expend money under an appropriation by the legislature, shall contract any bill or incur any obligation on behalf of the state in excess of the appropriation, and whoever exceeds in his expenditure ment." * * * * * The State Contingent Fund Law, however,

destroys the effect of these stringent provisions and today they are of little or no value as safeguards of the State's Treasury. It would have a wholesome effect upon the State's finances if these provisions of our Constitution and Statutes were adhered to.

It may be said, however, that some real emergency unforeseen by the legislature may arise. In such an event, if the legislature is in session, the State Constitution gives it the power to borrow \$800,000. There is a safety valve in this provision, for when money is borrowed by the State it must be done openly, and the purpose for which the loan is made must be disclosed. The citizens of Maine are always interested when the State makes a loan, and they hold public officials to strict accountability for the same. It might be desirable to give the Governor and Council a small contingent fund, not exceeding \$300,000, to use in case emergencies arise during the legislative recess, and if such a fund is created a detailed account of all money taken from it should be submitted to the legislature so that everyone would know what the Governor and Council had done. Another plan would be to give the Governor and Council power to borrow up to \$300,000 in case emergencies arise during the legislative recess, and the publicity incident to such a borrowing would make it reasonably certain that everyone would know for what purposes the money was used. Today imaginary and fictitious emergencies can be handled by harmless looking Council Orders, fair on their face but unsound at heart. Whatever appropriations lapse into the State Treasury should be used to pay off the State debt by retiring bonds, or for some other equally good purpose as the legislature may provide.

In addition to the financial side of this important question there is grave doubt as to the constitutionality of the appropriations made by the Governor and Council from the present contingent fund.

DEFICIENCY BILLS

In previous years if a department overdrew its appropriation the matter was referred to the next legislature and a deficiency bill was introduced. If this is done the 182 members of the legislature are very likely to examine these bills and pick out any flaws in them. This scrutiny exercises a wholesome effect on overdrafts. The present administration is faced by several large overdrafts for what properly may be considered real emergencies. As an example the Livestock Sanitary or cattle testing work will call for not less than a \$75,000 overdraft, the forest fire situation requires \$105,000, and the State Board of Charities and Corrections will doubtless be given a large sum to take care of the State's dependent and neglected children and to provide pensions for those mothers who are now entitled to them under the State law, and for whom adequate provision was not made by the legislature. All this work is excellent and the Governor and Council will draw upon the Contingent Fund to carry it on, but hereafter the legislature should control and plan for it just as any good business house would do. I believe that if the State Contingent Fund law is amended the legislature will then definitely order how much money is to be appropriated and spent for the work for the several departments and institutions of the State.

Whatever money is left in the State Contingent Fund at the close of the year will be subject to legislative action, and it might well be used toward paying off the State debt or for some other equally good purpose. The Governor and Council must continue under the present system until the legislature takes action, but meanwhile drafts upon the Contingent Fund will not be made unless actual emergencies, such as are mentioned in the preceding paragraph, exist. Much depends upon the budget presented to and adopted by the legislature. If this is arranged so that the State's requirements are adequately provided for, the number of real emergency overdrafts in the future ought to be reduced to a minimum. I want to emphasize the point, however, that in my opinion our State departments and

institutions are making commendable efforts to live within their legislative appropriations and are cooperating with the Chief Executive in his endeavors to conduct the State's business on a sound basis.

KATAHDIN

For five years I have advocated the establishment of a State Park in the Mount Katahdin region. Such a park in my opinion will prove of great benefit to the State. It will attract tourists from all over the country and from Canada, will provide a recreation center for our own people and will enable the State itself to conduct scientific experiments in forestry. Such a park also will serve as a suitable Centennial Memorial for which future generations will bless us. The 1920 platform of the Republican party gave its pledge to the people of Maine that a beginning would be made in State park work. The contest waxed hot during the last legislature, the old time lobbyists herein referred to became active, and nothing constructive was accomplished. The smoke of the battle now has cleared away, feelings have cooled down, and saner councils are likely to prevail in the future. I believe that a beginning soon will be made upon Katahdin park.

The timberland owners have nothing to fear from this project for not over two townships, or at the most from 45,000 to 50,000 acres, will be required. The value of the land will be determined in the usual way and the owners will be paid every dollar that the land is worth. The State of Maine will never confiscate anybody's property. At the last session of the legislature when I realized the condition of the State's finances I voluntarily took out of the Katahdin Bill the clause calling for an appropriation, for I would have been satisfied to have had the principle of the park plan established even without any appropriation. Notwithstanding my sacrifice the bill was defeated. A game preserve has been established in the Katahdin region by the Commissioner of Inland Fish and Game. This is helpful, but does not meet the real issue. Katahdin to be developed as a resort, should be owned by the State and developments there should be made by the State. Proper access to the

park must be provided, camps and small hotels will be built at the most beautiful locations upon land leased to the builders by the State, and everything must be done to advertise the great natural attractions of that region. When this is done the burden of building the roads should not be placed upon the land owners, but should be borne by the State, for the owners of the land through which these roads pass probably would not be benefited to any extent, even if at all, by reason of the park developments. Whatever is done, the rights of the land owners are to be considered and undue burdens must not be placed upon them. I believe that a modest beginning should be made and am hopeful of the future.

TAXES

The present State administration has taken a step forward in the reduction of taxes and doubtless this is appreciated by the land owners as well as by other property owners in the State. I realize that excessive taxation destroys private initiative, and that the business conditions of the State soon would become deplorable if the individual should lose all stimulus to greater efforts. The man who makes a profit by reason of his own work and foresight is entitled to retain it.

I believe that every citizen of our State is proud of the fact that we are a forest State and I want our citizens to realize that the future prosperity of the State is closely interwoven with our forest problem. I want the people of Portland and Biddeford to take as active an interest in forestry as do those of Bangor and Houlton. I want them all to realize that there is no dividing line between the timberland owner and the farmer, or between the timberland owner and the merchant. The timberland owner is entitled to reap the reward of his efforts, just as much as is the farmer, the banker or merchant. The great forest counties are the pride of the State, and I never realized this quite as vividly as I did during my recent trip the length and breadth of Aroostook and Northern Penobscot counties. As Governor of this State and in administering its affairs I recognize no county lines. To me the map of Maine is a

map of one great State, not a map of sixteen counties. Above all else we should seek a proper understanding of Maine's forestry situation so that for generations to come our State may hold first place in the Nation as a forestry State.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

of

Percival P. Baxter

Governor of Maine

to

The Eighty-first Legislature

State of Maine



January 4, 1923

KENNEBEC JOURNAL CO., AUGUSTA, MAINE.

a township. This method of ascertaining values is fair both to timberland owners and the State and the investment that the State makes produces a generous income. I recommend a liberal appropriation for the next two years.

KATAHDIN

In my opinion the State should establish a forest reserve or park in the Katahdin country. This would provide a wonderful recreation center and afford a suitable location for experiments in scientific forestry. Some progress already has been made toward establishing a refuge for wild animal and bird life in this section.

In 1919 and 1921 I advocated an appropriation for Katahdin, and if I thought the State could now afford it, should do so again. As I appeal to you to forego matters in which you are interested, I shall not ask an appropriation for the Katahdin project. It, however, would be well to recognize the principle of a State Forest Reservation and a law could be passed so that purchases later can be made when funds are available. This Katahdin region has a rugged grandeur that is symbolic of strength and endurance. It is typical of the sturdy character of Maine's sons and daughters. I believe the people of the State have become interested in Mount Katahdin and this Legislature now can lay the foundations for the future without putting the State to any expense.

NATURAL RESOURCES: INLAND FISH AND GAME

In 1922 \$186,049.37 was spent by this Department. It has a wide field with unlimited opportunities for expansion. Our inland fish and game constitute an important natural resource that needs to be carefully conserved for our own benefit and that of those who follow us. This Department now receives a considerable portion of its fines, license fees and other collections, a plan that resembles the fee system of former days, long since abolished. The argument that if it is given its income those in charge will be more zealous in collecting it is a damaging one, for an Inland Fish and Game Commissioner should be as watchful of the interests of the whole State as he is of his particular department. All departments should be

Farewell Message

TO THE

People of Maine

BY

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

Governor



STATE CAPITOL

JANUARY 7

1925

FAREWELL MESSAGE
to
THE PEOPLE OF MAINE
by
PERCIVAL P. BAXTER
Governor

Fellow Citizens:—

Twenty years ago, on the fourth day of January, 1905, I came to the State Capitol as a member of the House from Portland. If the official records did not establish that fact I now should hesitate to admit it. During these years I have three times been elected to the House, twice to the Senate, once its presiding officer, and have been Governor for two terms lacking twenty-five days. Having acquired a considerable knowledge of public affairs it is appropriate that, as the retiring Governor, I deliver a parting message to the people of my Native State.

A Precedent

There is no precedent for this address. Usually a Governor has left office without referring to the past or commenting upon the future. It may be that the knowledge I have gained from twenty years experience will prove helpful to my fellow citizens, and I hope such may be the case. I never have hesitated to establish a good precedent, and hope that hereafter retiring Governors may deem it proper to deliver a parting message to the people who have honored them and whom they have served.

My first oath of office was taken under trying circumstances upon the day of Governor Parkhurst's death. After the ceremony Chief Justice Cornish grasped my hand, wished me a useful and pleasant term of office and said: "When I became Chief Justice of Maine I determined that I would not take myself too seriously, but that I would take my office very seriously." That maxim is one that every legislative and other public official should heed. It has guided and helped me throughout my service.

No Obligations

Coming into the Governor's office through an act of God, unhampered by any campaign or other selfish obligations,

hospitals, schools, charities and similar institutions. Moreover the care of insane patients should be paid for by the communities from whence they are taken for there are many abuses of the present law. Our State hospitals too often are used as dumping grounds to relieve municipalities of undesirables.

This change in the State's policy as to sectarian and private institutions and schools might be made gradual extending over a period of years so that such institutions would have time to arrange their finances without undue hardship. If it were arranged to reduce State appropriations and entirely stop them within a five or ten year period the public spirit of our communities would be stimulated, economies effected and abuses corrected.

Unless the proposed changes are made the State's burdens will become larger with each passing year, private institutions will clamor for more and more aid, for once their names are placed upon the State books they are there to stay and their demands are ever more insistent. This problem should be faced squarely, and politics and religion should have no place in its settlement. I regret that sectarian strife has been engendered in our State. It is unworthy of us. The Catholic, Protestant and Jew all are good citizens and should live harmoniously together. The bitterness that has been rampant among us for the past two years would have been avoided had sectarianism been kept in the background and had the discussions been confined to the issue of "public money for public purposes only."

Mount Katahdin

For four consecutive sessions I have endeavored to interest the Legislature and the people of Maine in Mt. Katahdin, and have attempted to secure an appropriation for the purchase of some of the waste land in its vicinity to be used as a State Forest Reserve or Park. Due to the opposition of the large timberland companies, especially the Great Northern Paper Company, no progress has been made other than to create considerable public sentiment in favor of the project. The timberland owners have repeatedly defeated the law under which the State would be empowered to condemn land after paying a fair price for it.

The Mt. Katahdin Forest Reserve or Park would be the State's greatest natural attraction. It would draw to us many people from beyond our borders, and would serve as a place of resort for thousands of our own citizens. It could be developed at moderate expense, year by year, all the while contributing to the health and recreation of those who use it.

The establishment of a game preserve in that territory

is a step forward, a feeble beginning. If, however, the orders recently promulgated by the above mentioned Company restricting the use of their lands to registered persons accompanied by licensed guides are held valid, Mt. Katahdin before long will be closed to hunters, fishermen and campers. The order referred to is the entering wedge of "regulation," that later will develop into "prohibition." The time never must come when the forest areas of Maine are made great private hunting preserves to be enjoyed only by the friends and sycophants of powerful interests. Such things savor of feudal times when the lords and barons of England claimed the sole right to the fish and game on their great estates. Before our woods are closed to us the people will be heard from.

A Beginning

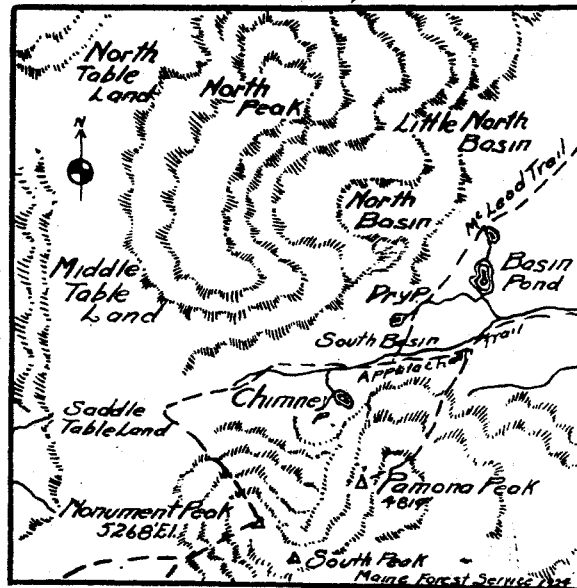
To prove my interest in this project, if the 82nd Legislature will enact a law under which some duly constituted public body or agency is given power to condemn "wild" and forest land for public park and forest reserve purposes, and will appropriate \$10,000 annually for the coming two year period, for that purpose, I myself will pay to the State Treasurer my salary for the years 1923 and 1924 being the total sum of \$10,000 as a personal contribution toward meeting the land damages for the first park and reserve areas thus condemned and acquired by the State.

The other conditions of my offer are: First, that condemnation proceedings be completed and good title to the land vested in the State through such proceedings within eighteen months after the adjournment of the 82nd Legislature, the said land to be forever dedicated to public park and forest reserve purposes; second, that the entire State appropriation for the two year period, together with my gift, be expended in acquiring an area of land that will include within its boundaries not less than the entire Northwest One Quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of Township 3, Range 9, Piscataquis County in which are located Monument Peak, South Peak, The Chimney, Knife Edge, Pomola Peak, Middle, Saddle and North Table Lands so-called, North Peak and North and South and Little North Basins, all on Mt. Katahdin, and Dry Pond, Basin Ponds, and Chimney Pond together with such additional land contiguous to said Northwest Quarter of Township 3, Range 9 as can be acquired for the sum of \$30,000 available for the purpose; third, that the public body to be created be given full power to develop the acquired land for public park and forest reserve purposes, and to extend the boundaries thereof, whenever funds are made available therefor either by succeeding legislatures or through the gift of individuals or corporations. I have had

a map prepared to show what I want the State to acquire as the nucleus or beginnings of the "State of Maine Mt. Katahdin Park and Forest Reserve."

MT. KATAHDIN

NW ¼ T3R9
PISCATAQUIS CO



PREPARED AT REQUEST OF
GOV PERCIVAL F. BAXTER
JANUARY 1925

It is interesting to remember that the Great Northern Paper Company in 1921 through its lobby intimated that it might donate to the State its undivided interest in some of the land in question. It was a gesture only, and nothing more ever was heard from it. Whatever it wanted as concessions in other directions evidently was not forthcoming. It is well in the future to bear this latter thought in mind.

Water Powers

I am deeply interested in the water power question. Whether or not the State gives away all its water privileges means nothing to me personally but I am concerned with the future of Maine and want the rights of our people protected.

There has been widespread discussion of this subject in the newspapers and elsewhere, and a vast amount of misinformation, inspired by selfish interest, has been spread abroad. With few exceptions the press stands with the water power owners and has failed to give proper presen-

tation of the people's side. From out of all this mass of discussion and argument, however, there has grown up a healthy public sentiment in favor of the State's retaining ownership of all its natural resources, which sentiment, though at times inexpressive, is strong and well defined. As one writer has said, "The time comes when through the very discussion that has been aroused the truth emerges."

There are two fundamental principles as to Maine water powers: First, the retention in Maine of the hydro electric energy generated within the State; and Second, the retention by the State of its ownership of its few remaining water resources. The development of our water powers should be and always has been encouraged and notwithstanding newspaper comment to the contrary, the only check ever placed upon development in Maine was in 1923, when the Kennebec Reservoir charter was defeated. Up to that time the corporations had been given everything they asked for. When the bill referred to came before me I believed it was better to stop that particular development than for the State to deed away its most valuable water resource. A public calamity was prevented by my veto of the bill referred to. If Maine holds fast to the two principles above mentioned succeeding generations will be grateful to those responsible for it. -

The Interests Not Consistent

The water power corporations are carrying on extensive propaganda in their own interest. They gradually have obtained a strong influence over business and politics throughout the State and have become exceedingly powerful. Constant attacks are made against every form of public ownership, and the advantages that accrue from private ownership are emphasized upon every occasion. It is interesting to note the opposition to public ownership on the part of certain groups who are not averse to unloading on the State unprofitable ventures such as piers and ferries, while those that promise rich returns are closely held for private profit.

Without entering upon a discussion of the broad question of public ownership, I believe that the State itself should develop water storage in our lakes and great reservoir basins, all of which belong to the people, and sell in large blocks to distributing companies such hydro electric energy as may be generated on public power sites. This can be done safely, profitably and without bringing politics into competition with business. If however public sentiment has not advanced to my point of view the State should retain ownership of all its water resources, permitting them to be developed under leases that thoroughly safeguard the public interest.

Former Governor Baxter

at Lions Club, Bangor,

Wednesday, September 14, 1927.

Hold for release on Wednesday Evening.

My numerous visits to Bangor have been made under many and varied conditions. The first was thirty and more years ago as a member of the Portland High School Foot Ball team. Those school games were great occasions and furnished much more of a thrill than any of the many visits made since. The boys on the competing foot ball teams thought the whole world was awaiting the result of the Bangor-Portland game. It was first advocated in 1921 and adopted in 1927.

The first official visit was in 1921, when in a speech advocating a State Park at Mt. Katahdin, the retention of Maine Water Powers for Maine People and the construction by the State of a Water Storage System to conserve the flow of our rivers, I raised a storm of protest from certain of your local newspapers. The next day they came out with glaring head-lines that "Baxter would launch the State on a Sea of Socialism". Such a statement was ludicrous in the extreme for nobody in Bangor was, or is more opposed to socialism than myself. After that amusing outburst things have gone along more smoothly at subsequent visits to the Queen City.

KATAHDIN PARK.

No progress has been made on the Katahdin Park and with the

strong opposition centered in certain quarters it would seem as though nothing would be accomplished. The Legislature even declined a proffered gift of my two years salary as Governor toward the park project. It, however, would mean much for Maine if a modest beginning could be made in this direction, for a State Park in the Katahdin country soon would prove to be one of our great recreational attractions.

WATER STORAGE

Progress has been made on Water Storage. The principle has been established that hereafter the State will not DEED away its storage rights, but will LEASE them to responsible Companies for development over a long term of years at a cash rental to be paid in to the State Treasury. This principle was first advocated in 1921 and adopted in 1927.

POWER EXPORT and "COMPACT".

As for the EXPORT OF POWER, the Fernald Law is still in effect notwithstanding the many attacks made upon it. It should be definitely understood that my views on this matter have not changed. To-day I am as much opposed to POWER EXPORT as ever because as yet no plan has been proposed that would permit the export of surplus power and at the same time give the State the right to recall that power when Maine people and Maine Industries needed it. The State never should surrender its control over the power situation, and I ~~regard every attempt to break down the Fernald Law as being against the best interest of the State.~~

BAX
Folder
63

BAXTER STATE PARK

MOUNT KATAHDIN

"More than thirty years ago as a young member of the Maine Legislature I began to study the wild forest lands of Maine, large areas of which once belonged to the people of the State. I found that the State in years long since passed had parted with its title to all these lands and that the title to them had passed into the hands of private owners.

"During my service in five legislative sessions and throughout my two terms as Governor I did my best to induce the State to repurchase some of these forest lands in the Katahdin region to be held as a great primitive recreational area and wild life sanctuary, but the opposition always was too strong for me and my bills invariably were defeated. After leaving public office I determined that if anything was to be done I must do it myself without the assistance from the State. After long negotiations I now have acquired 76,351 acres of forest land surrounding and including Mount Katahdin. The former owners who sold me these areas were reluctant to sell, but realizing that I am not seeking to acquire the land for private gain and that my purpose is to do something worth while for Maine, these owners were very broad-minded and helpful in co-operating with me. They have sold me the land that now comprises BAXTER STATE PARK, amounting in all to 119 square miles. I am grateful to these land owners for the fine spirit they displayed in these transactions.

5267 feet

"Katahdin, and the area about that mountain is Maine's most picturesque and spectacular section and within the boundaries of this

State Park are other interesting mountains, such as ^{the} Traveler's over ^{and 5500} 4,000 feet, Double Top and O.J.I. each about 3,600 feet, Russell ^{2801 feet} and ^{the} Turners about ^{3323 and 3122} 3,800 feet each, and several others of impressive height, together with lakes large and small, rivers, swamps, many beaver ponds, and all the other natural features of a Maine wilderness. The map published by the Appalachian Mountain Club records that there are ^{more than} thirty different mountains and peaks in this area. This country abounds in wild life, moose, bear, deer, foxes, wildcats and all the lesser animals of the woods. The deeds of gift as accepted by the State Legislatures and published in the Laws of Maine provide an unbreakable trust so that this land shall "be forever held by the State as Trustee in Trust for the benefit of the people of Maine". The only other restrictions imposed in the gift are that the land shall "forever be left in its natural wild state, forever be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds and forever be used for public forest, public park and public recreational purposes".

"Wilfred A. Hennessey, Secretary of the Banger Chamber of Commerce, in the Banger and Aroostook Railroad's hand book "In the Maine Woods, 1933", wrote as follows:- "As the years advance, civilization with its motor cars, hot-dog stands, highway advertising and other devastating influences gradually will encroach upon the forests and great open spaces with which Maine is now so richly endowed. Katahdin is Maine's greatest natural attraction. It stands above the surrounding plain unique in grandeur and glory. The works of Man are short lived. Monuments decay, buildings crumble and wealth vanishes, but Katahdin in its massive grandeur will forever remain the mountain of the people of Maine. Throughout the ages it will stand as an inspiration to the men and women of this State".

"By Legislative Act of 1933, the areas donated to the State by me are officially named "BAXTER STATE PARK", and as a State Park these areas always will remain. In this connection Governor Lewis C. Barrows in a communication addressed to the 1939 State Legislature used these significant words which established this section of our State as a State Park for all times. "These areas are accepted under the terms of a definite, unbreakable Trust. A State Trust of this character is a solemn obligation and I am confident that the word of the sovereign State of Maine, once given, never will be broken".
All the
Every State official, with whom I have worked on this project, ~~Governors, Forest and Game Commissioners and Attorney Generals~~ have done everything in their power to assist me in forwarding my plans and I want to express my appreciation to these men for their unfailing helpfulness.

"That portion of these lands acquired by me and not as yet actually conveyed to the State will later be decided by the Legislature when the Legislatures are in session and as I straighten out the boundary lines and fill in ^a few gaps. In case of my sudden decease, provision has been made in my Will not only for all these remaining areas to pass at once to the State, but also for funds to be used by the State for the purchase of additional areas and for the development thereof by the building of trails, camping grounds and other accessories to a wild forest area forever dedicated to recreational and forestry purposes. I hope soon to enlarge the boundaries of Baxter State Park by further purchases, negotiations for which now are under way. When my project is completed I want it to contain ^{at least} ~~not less than~~ 100,000 acres of wild, spectacular, mountainous forest land. The area already acquired for this Park extends a distance of eighteen miles on the

north and south line and is from four and one-half to twelve miles wide, east and west.

"Katahdin always should and must remain the wild, storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is; that is its great charm. Only small cabins for mountain climbers and those who love the wilderness should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or horseback, a place where nature rules and where the creatures of the forest hold undisputed dominion.

"As modern civilization with its trailers and gasoline fumes, its unsightly bill-boards, its radio and jazz, encroaches on the Maine wilderness, the time yet may come when only the Katahdin region remains undefiled by man. To acquire this Katahdin region for the people of Maine has been undertaken by me as my life's work and I hope as the years roll on, that this State Park will be enjoyed by an ever increasing number of Maine people and by those who come to us from beyond our borders."

11/30/41

SECTION C Foreign Comment
Features
Fashions Garden

191,162

Portland Sunday Press

PORTLAND, MAINE, SUNDAY

Baxter State Park At Katahdin Now After 24 Years Of Untiring Effort, Maine Now

By Percival P. Baxter

In 1905 as one of the younger members of the State Legislature I began to learn something of my native State, its people, its resources and its possibilities for the future. It was not, however, until 1917 that I attempted to induce the State Legislature to acquire by purchase the mountainous regions around Mt. Katahdin.

For eight years both as a Legislator and as Governor I worked unceasingly to secure legislation for the establishment of a State Park at Katahdin, but the opposition proved too strong and the Legislators of those days were not interested. During the years from 1917 to 1925 time after time my State Park plans were defeated.

In 1925 those who opposed me no doubt felt relieved when I retired from the Governorship to private life; but oftentimes defeats later turn into victories, and so it was in this Park project. After leaving Augusta I gave up all thought of securing any park legislation and determined to buy the land myself and give it to the State. It is interesting to observe that the very people who while I was in office were my strongest opponents later became my firm friends.

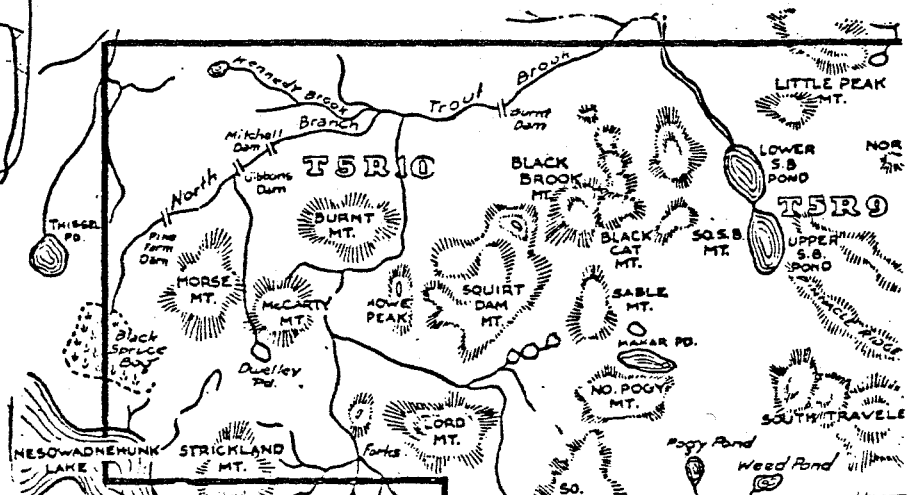
Well Treated

When I went to these land owners asking them to sell me their lands they treated me courteously and fairly. They told me that while they did not care to sell their lands they would do so because they had come to realize that I was trying to do something worth while for Maine. These land owners have shown a remarkably fine spirit and I want the people of Maine to know how splendidly they have cooperated with me in selling me their forest lands.

Up to the time my first purchase of 6,000 acres was made in 1930, I never had owned any forest or timber land. My Park started from absolutely nothing and every acre has been bought since 1930. Today the land acquired for the State totals 112,945 acres, all in one piece and comprising almost the whole of the



No. 1—Lofly Katahdin Mountain, looking southwest and showing its dominant peak. Countless gorges and crevices indent its rugged face.



they have cooperated with me in selling me their forest lands.

Up to the time my first purchase of 6,000 acres was made in 1930, I never had owned any forest or timber land. My Park started from absolutely nothing, and every acre has been bought since 1930. Today the land acquired for the State totals 112,945 acres, all in one piece and comprising almost five townships. A township in Maine roughly speaking contains 36 square miles.

For all practical purposes, after 24 years of effort the Park is complete. Maybe, however, I shall be able to enlarge it from time to time for there are one or two areas it would be well to acquire. The Park stands right in the center of the northern portion of our State, a wild mountainous country forever set aside and held in Trust by the State as a public park, forest reserve and wild life sanctuary for present and future generations of Maine people.

The distance from Portland to the summit of Mt. Katahdin is 250 miles. There are several foot trails leading to the summit, and a rough but passable motor road passes through the westerly portion of the Park. All along the way there are grand views of Katahdin and the other 30 peaks within the Park area. This district is typical of the wild lands of Maine. It has within its borders, lakes, swamps, beaver dams, rivers, mountains, good timber lands and burnt-over lands, meadows and boulders in profusion. Moose, deer, wild cats, bears, foxes and all the smaller animals and birds abound therein. All these creatures are safe from the hunters and the sound of the axe and of falling trees never will echo through these forests.

Katahdin always should and must remain the wild storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is; that is its great charm. Only small cabins for mountain climbers and those who love the wilderness should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or horseback, a place where nature rules and where the creatures of the forest hold undisputed dominion.

As modern civilization with its trailers and gasoline tugs, its untidily subberds, its raucous and jazz encroaches on the Maine wilderness the time yet may come when only the Katahdin region remains undisturbed by man. To acquire this Katahdin region for the people of Maine has been undertaken by me as my life's work, and I hope as the years roll on that this State Park will be enjoyed by an ever-increasing number of Maine people and by those who come to us from beyond our borders.

Katahdin stands above the surrounding plain unique in grandeur and glory. The works of man are short lived. Monuments decay, buildings crumble and wealth vanishes, but Katahdin in its massive grandeur will forever remain the mountain of the people of Maine. Throughout the ages it will stand as an inspiration to the men and women of this State.

NOTE: The area enclosed totals 118,712 acres of which an undivided interest of 5,767 acres in the So. West corner has not been acquired for the Park. The net area of the Park therefore is 112,945 acres

to GREENVILLE
60 miles

click

click

West

use this

Branch Penobscot River

APPALACHIAN TRAIL

in add to previous lines

21 miles to MILLIN

28 mile

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

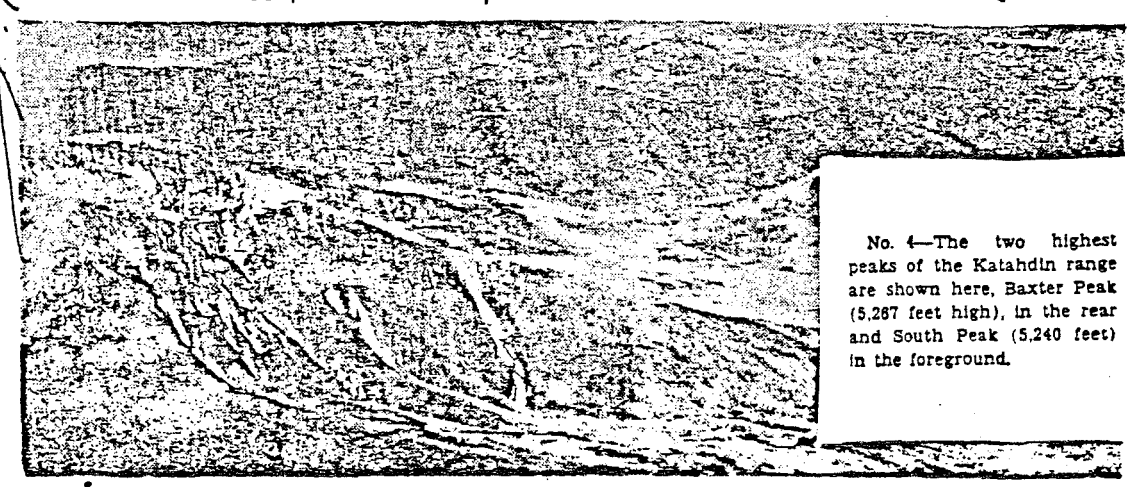
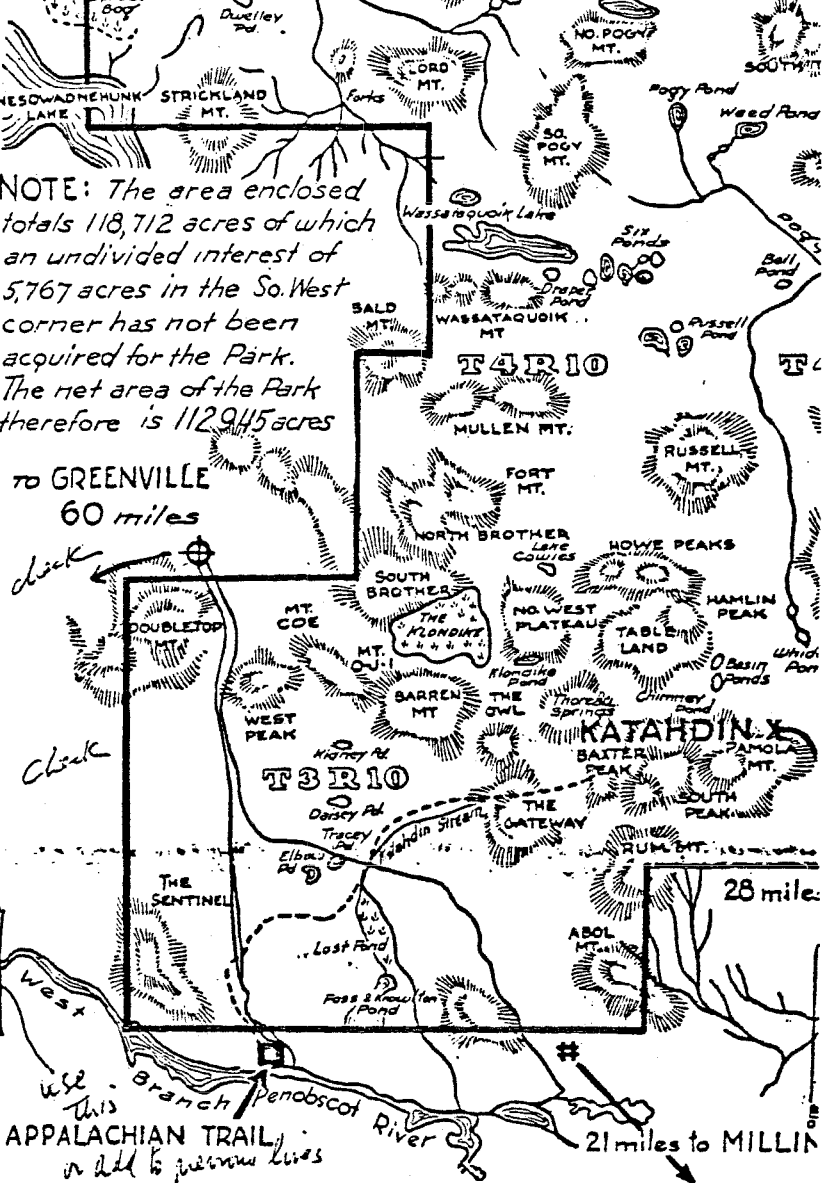
21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

21 miles to MILLIN

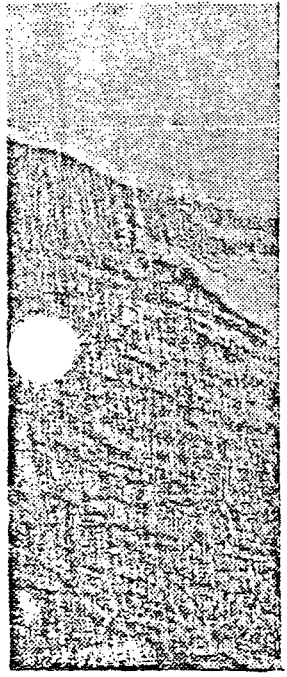


No. 4—The two highest peaks of the Katahdin range are shown here, Baxter Peak (5,287 feet high), in the rear and South Peak (5,240 feet) in the foreground.

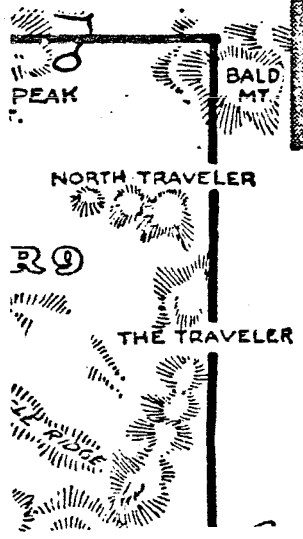
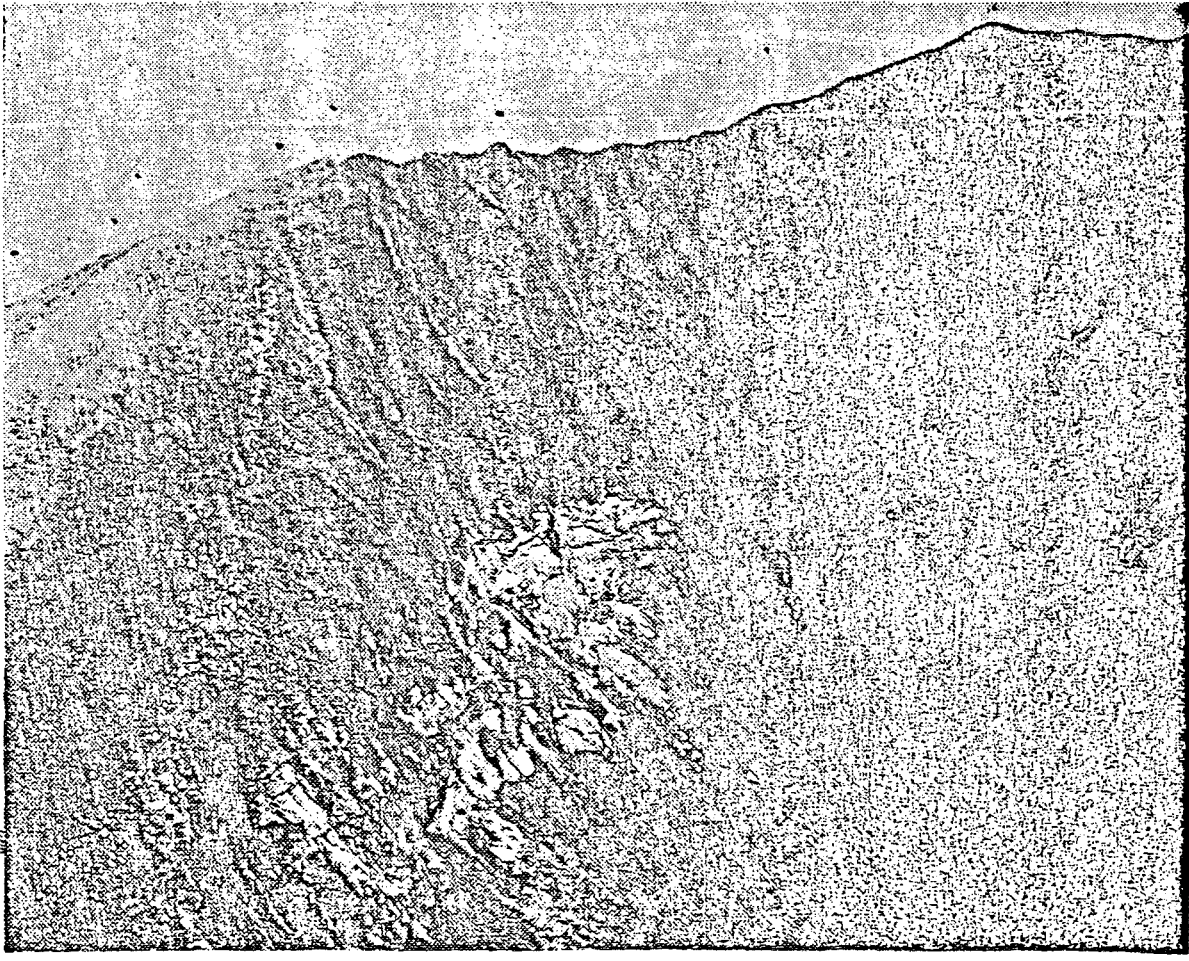
DAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1941

Now Complete With 112,945 Acres

Now Has State Park Second To None In East



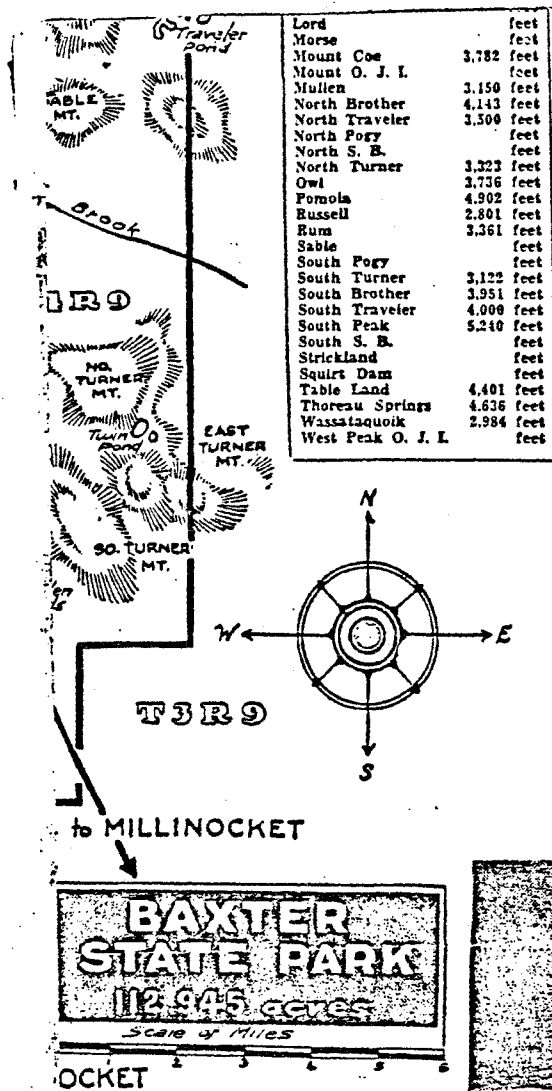
ant point, Baxter



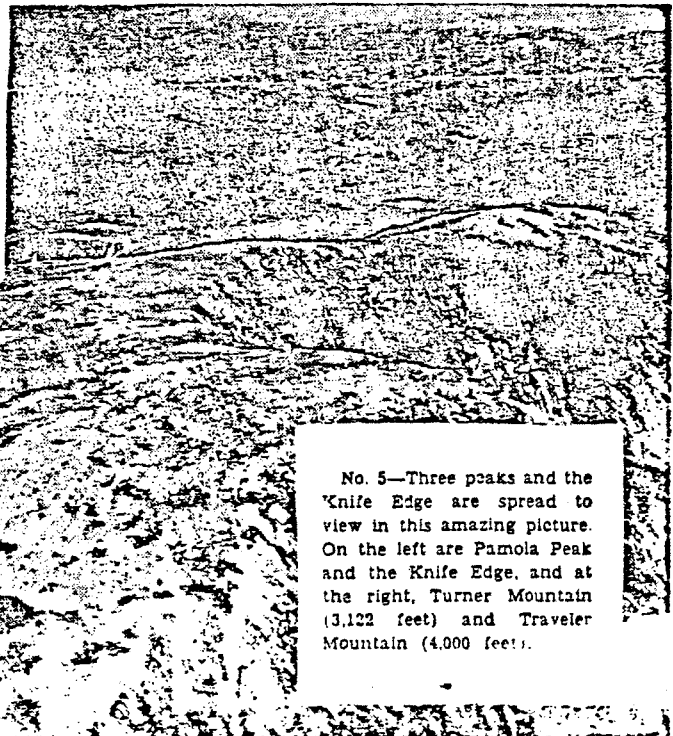
Altitude Of Mountains	
Abol	2,306 feet
Barren	3,681 feet
Black Brook	feet
Black Cat	feet
Bald Mt.	2,820 feet
Baxter Peak	5,267 feet
Billfish	feet
Burnt	feet
Double Top	3,600 feet
Fort	3,861 feet
Gateway	4,209 feet
Hamlin Peak	4,751 feet
Howe Peaks	4,734 feet

No. 2—Showing Pamola Peak (4,902 feet) on the left, and Baxter Peak on the right, with the knife edge between. At the center is The Chimney, granite-walled gorge leading down the mountains.





No. 3—Chimney Pond and the east wall of Katahdin. The majestic Katahdin range pushes its wooded peaks more than 5,000 feet into the air to overlook a picturesque area of wilderness kept in its primeval beauty for the people of Maine and their visitors.



No. 5—Three peaks and the Knife Edge are spread to view in this amazing picture. On the left are Pamola Peak and the Knife Edge, and at the right, Turner Mountain (3,122 feet) and Traveler Mountain (4,000 feet).

The LIVING WILDERNESS

ROBERT STERLING YARD, *Editor*
PUBLISHED BY THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

VOLUME IX

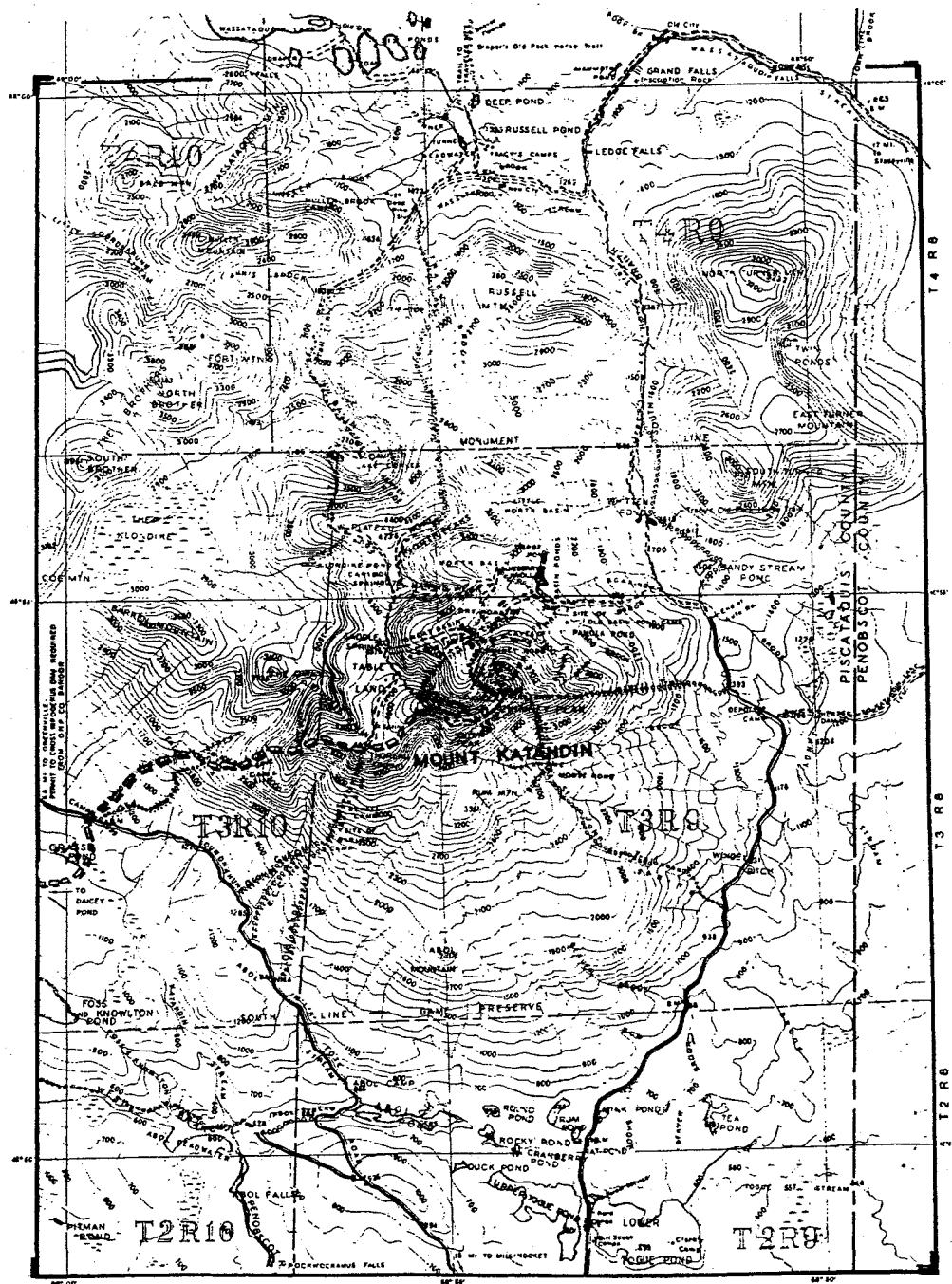
SEPTEMBER, 1944

WHOLE NUMBER 11



MT. KATAHDIN, GIFT TO THE STATE OF MAINE FOR PRESERVATION FOREVER

Photograph by U. S. Dept. of Interior



MAP of KATAHDIN

SCALE IN MILES

LEGEND	
	OBSCURE TRAIL
	MARKED TRAIL
	A.T. TRAIL
	OLD ROAD
	AUTO ROAD

TRACED AND REVISED 1941 BY H.W. LEAVITT, H.A. PRIEST, AND W.W. MOHRMAN FROM THE 1917 REVISION OF W.C. ROBBINS' ENLARGED SECTION OF THE 1930 U.S.G.S. TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF THE KATAHDIN QUADRANGLE.

Three Views of Famous, Roadless Katahdin



Photograph by Robert C. Anderson

KATAHDIN MOUNTAIN, FROM KIDNEY POND, AND ONE OF THE INNUMERABLE LAKES SURROUNDING IT. HERE ONE CAN VACATION, FISH, HIKE, REST, CANOE, OR START OUT ON EXTENDED TRIPS INTO THE WILDERNESS.

I Thoreau on "Ktaadn"

EDITED BY BENTON MACKEYE

LET us turn to the first sentence of the first chapter of the first all-round exploration of the Ktaadn wilderness—*The Maine Woods* by Henry David Thoreau:

On the 31st of August, 1846, I left Concord in Massachusetts for Bangor and the backwoods of Maine, by way of the railroad and steamboat, intending to accompany a relative of mine . . . as far as a dam on the West Branch of the Penobscot. . . . From this place, which is about . . . five miles beyond the last log hut, I proposed to make excursion to Mount Ktaadn. . . .

And so he did. And within a short but significant fortnight he was back home again in his Walden cabin (whose door he had casually left unlocked). This trip of his, therefore, may be considered as an incident of his two-year career as philosopher of that now world-noted Pond. Thoreau in his account of this little excursion shows himself to be a traveler viewing the Mountain and its wild environs as part and parcel of the stage and setting of three distinct and long separated periods.

First Thoreau views Ktaadn as part of the setting of the contemporary history of his own homeland (Nineteenth Century New England). Let's tag along with him and hear what he has to say as a traveler in A.D. 1846.

There it was, the State of Maine, which we had seen on the map, but not much like that,—immeasurable forest for the sun to shine on. . . . No clearing, no house. It did not look as if a solitary traveler had cut so much as a walking-stick there. Countless lakes,—Moosehead in the southwest . . . like a gleaming silver platter at the end of the table; Chesuncook . . . without an island; Millinocket, on the south, with its hundred islands; and a hundred others without a name; and mountains, also, whose names, for the most part, are known only to the Indians. . . .

According to the *Gazetteer*, which was printed before the boundary question was settled, this single Penobscot County, in which we were, was larger than the whole State of Vermont. . . . We are concerned now, however, about natural, not political limits.

He goes on to say that what is most striking in the Maine wilderness is the "continuousness" of the forest.

Thoreau's trip and account pertain of course to this whole "Maine wilderness" of which Katahdin was merely the focus and destination. He ponders on humans and their activities as well as on the landscape. Maine in 1846 was winning her name—"Pine Tree State"; she was in the hey day of her illustrious log drives. The peak or wave of American "timber mining" had not yet left the Northeast for its migration across the continent—first to the Great Lakes forests, next to the Southern pines and hence to the North Pacific firs. The log driver or "riverman" of the Northwoods was the picturesque counter hero of the "cow puncher" of the far western Plains. Thoreau was impressed with this river life of our northern frontier.

It was easy to see that driving logs must be an exciting as well as dangerous business. All winter long the logger goes on piling up the trees which he has trimmed and hauled in some dry ravine at the head of a stream, and then in the spring he stands on the bank and whistles for Rain and Thaw, ready to wring the perspiration out of his shirt to swell the tide, till suddenly, with a whoop and halloo from him, shutting his eyes, as if to bid farewell to the existing state of things, a fair proportion of his winter's work goes scrambling down the country, followed by his faithful dogs, Thaw and Rain and Freshet and Wind, the whole pack in full cry, toward the Orono Mills. . . .

He (the log driver) must be able to navigate a log as if it were a canoe, and be as indifferent to cold and wet as a muskrat. He uses a few efficient tools,—a lever commonly of rock maple, six or seven feet long, with a stout spike in it, strongly ferruled on, and a long spike-pole, with a screw at the end of the spike to make it hold. The boys along shore learn to walk on floating logs as city boys on sidewalks. Sometimes the logs are thrown up on rocks in such positions as to be irrecoverable but by another freshet as high, or they jam together at rapids and falls, and accumulate in vast piles, which the driver must start at the risk of his life. Such is the lumber business, which depends on many accidents, as the early freezing of the rivers, that the teams may

get up in season, a sufficient freshet in the spring, to fetch the logs down, and many others.

Thoreau comments on the men of the wilderness in not uncomplimentary contrast with those of his own rural bailiwick:

In fact, the deeper you penetrate into the woods, the more intelligent, and, in one sense, less countrified do you find the inhabitants; for always the pioneer has been a traveler, and, to some extent, a man of the world; and, as the distances with which he is familiar are greater, so is his information more general and far reaching than the villager's. If I were to look for a narrow, uninformed, and countrified mind, as opposed to the intelligence and refinement which are thought to emanate from cities, it would be among the rusty inhabitants of an old-settled country, on farms all run out and gone to seed with life-everlasting, in the towns about Boston, even on the high-road in Concord, and not in the back woods of Maine.

Thoreau emulates the Single Taxer in one brief remark on a basic economic law of the frontier:

Let those talk of poverty and hard times who will in the towns and cities; cannot the emigrant who can pay his fare to New York or Boston pay five dollars more to get here . . . and be as rich as he pleases, where land virtually costs nothing, and houses only the labor of building, and he may begin life as Adam did?

* * * *

In these ways Thoreau views Katahdin and the Maine wilderness as part of the stage and setting of his own Nineteenth Century New England. Next he views them as of the setting of the aboriginal history of a continent (Pre-Columbian North America). Again let's tag along with him—this time as a would-be traveler in about A.D. 1000.

I am reminded by my journey how exceedingly new this country still is. You have only to travel for a few days into the interior and



MT. KATAHDIN FROM POCWOCAMUS HILL

Copyright by Bicknell Mfg. Co., Portland, Maine



United States Department of the Interior

MT. KATAHDIN AT CLOSE RANGE

THE LIGHT STREAK ON THE CENTER RIDGE IS A PART OF THE ST. JOHNS TRAIL UP KEEP RANGE TO THE ROUNDED DOME OF PAMOLA. OVER THE SADDLE IS SEEN MT. COE WITH ITS CONSPICUOUS SLIDES. IN THE BACKGROUND IS THE DOUBLETOP RANGE. THE LIGHT-COLORED STREAKS ON THE UPPER SLOPES OF THE KLONDIKE ARE LAND-SLIDES.

back parts even of many of the old States, to come to that very America which the Northmen, and Cabot, and Gosnold, and Smith, and Raleigh visited. If Columbus was the first to discover the islands, Americus Vesputius and Cabot, and the Puritans, and we their descendants, have discovered only the shores of America. While the Republic has already acquired a history world-wide, America is still unsettled and unexplored. Like the English in New Holland, we live only on the shores of a continent even yet, and hardly know where the rivers come from which float our navy. The very timber and boards and shingles of which our houses are made grew but yesterday in a wilderness where the Indian still hunts, and the moose runs wild.

Thus a man shall lead his life away here on the edge of the wilderness, on Indian Millinocket Stream, in a new world, far in the dark of a continent, and have a flute to play at evening here, while his strains echo to the stars, amid the howling of wolves, shall live, as it were, in the primitive age of the world, a primitive man. Yet he shall spend a sunny day, and in this century be my contemporary; perchance shall read some scattered leaves of literature, and sometimes talk with me. Why read history, then, if the ages and the generations are now? He lives three thousand years deep into time, an age not yet described by poets. Can you well go further back in history than this? Ay! ay!—for there turns up but now into the mouth of Millinocket Stream a still more ancient and primitive man, whose history is not brought down

even to the former. In a bark vessel sewn with the roots of the spruce, with hornbeam paddles, he dips his way along. He is but dim and misty to me, obscured by the aeons that lie between the bark canoe and the batteau. He builds no house of logs, but a wigwam of skins. He eats no hot bread and sweet cake, but musquash and moose meat and the fat of bears. He glides up the Millinocket and is lost to my sight, as a more distant and misty cloud is seen flitting by behind a nearer, and is lost in space. So he goes about his destiny, the red face of man.

* * * *

Finally Thoreau views this wilderness as part of the setting of the cosmic history of a planet (Pre-Cambrian "Earth"). This time he might be some visitor from the heavens say half a billion years ago. Hear what he says from the sides of Katahdin:

The mountain seemed a vast aggregation of loose rocks, as if some time it had rained rocks, and they lay as they fell on the mountain sides, nowhere fairly at rest, but leaning on each other, all rocking stones, with cavities between, but scarcely any soil or smoother shelf. They were the raw materials of a planet dropped from an unseen quarry, which the vast chemistry of nature would anon work up, or

work down, into the smiling and verdant plains and valleys of earth. This was an undone extremity of the globe; as in lignite we see coal in the process of formation. . . .

Vast, Titanic, inhuman Nature has got him (the traveler) at disadvantage, caught him alone, and pilfers him of some of his divine faculty. She does not smile on him. . . . She seems to say sternly, Why came ye here before your time. This ground is not prepared for you. . . . I have never made this soil for thy feet, this air for thy breathing. . . . Why seek me where I have not called thee, and then complain because you find me a stepmother?

The tops of mountains are among the unfinished parts of the globe, whither it is a slight insult to the gods to climb and pry into their secrets. . . .

Perhaps I most fully realized that this was primeval, untamed, and forever untamable *Nature*, or whatever else men call it, while coming down this part of the mountain. We were passing over "Burnt Lands," burnt by lightning, perchance. . . . We have not seen pure Nature, unless we have seen her thus vast and drear and inhuman. . . . I looked with awe at the ground I trod on, to see what the Powers had made

there, the form and fashion and material of their work. This was that Earth of which we have heard, made out of Chaos and Old Night. Here was no man's garden, but the unhandseled globe. It was not lawn, nor pasture, nor mead, nor woodland, nor lea, nor arable, nor waste land. It was the fresh and natural surface of the planet Earth.

* * * *

Thus we glean some glimpses of the original Ktaadn wilderness through the eyes and mind of Thoreau. And where pray could we find a better guide than this mind, the greatest interpreter perhaps in all time of the wilderness environment? Here we have the true Ktaadn—"an undone extremity of the globe": as it was before the tourist found it, as it was before the white man found it,—as it was and ever must be as a solitary segment of the ages wrought in the "vast chemistry of nature."

II

The Purchase of the Land

BY FORMER GOVERNOR PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

AT A TIME when man appears to be chiefly concerned not only with the destruction of his fellowman, but much of the beauty of the world as well, it is especially heartening to read a story such as that which former Governor Percival P. Baxter of Maine personally tells of his unique gift to mankind as well as to "the lesser brethren."

"In 1905 at the age of 26 as one of the younger members of the State Legislature I began to learn something of my native State, its people, its resources, its wild life and its possibilities for the future. It was not, however, until 1917 that I attempted to induce the State Legislature to acquire by purchase the mountainous region around Mt. Katahdin.

For eight years both as a legislator and as Governor I worked unceasingly to secure legislation for the establishment of a State Park at Katahdin to be held as a great primitive recreational area and wild life sanctuary but the opposition proved too strong and the legislators of those days were not interested. During the years 1917 to 1925, time after time, my State Park plans were defeated.

In 1925 those who opposed me no doubt felt relieved when I retired from the Governorship to private life; but oftentimes defeats later turn into victories, and so it was in this Park project. After leaving the Governor's office I gave up all thought of securing any park legislation and determined to buy the land myself and give it to the State. It is interesting to observe that the very people who while I was in office were my strongest opponents later became my firm friends.

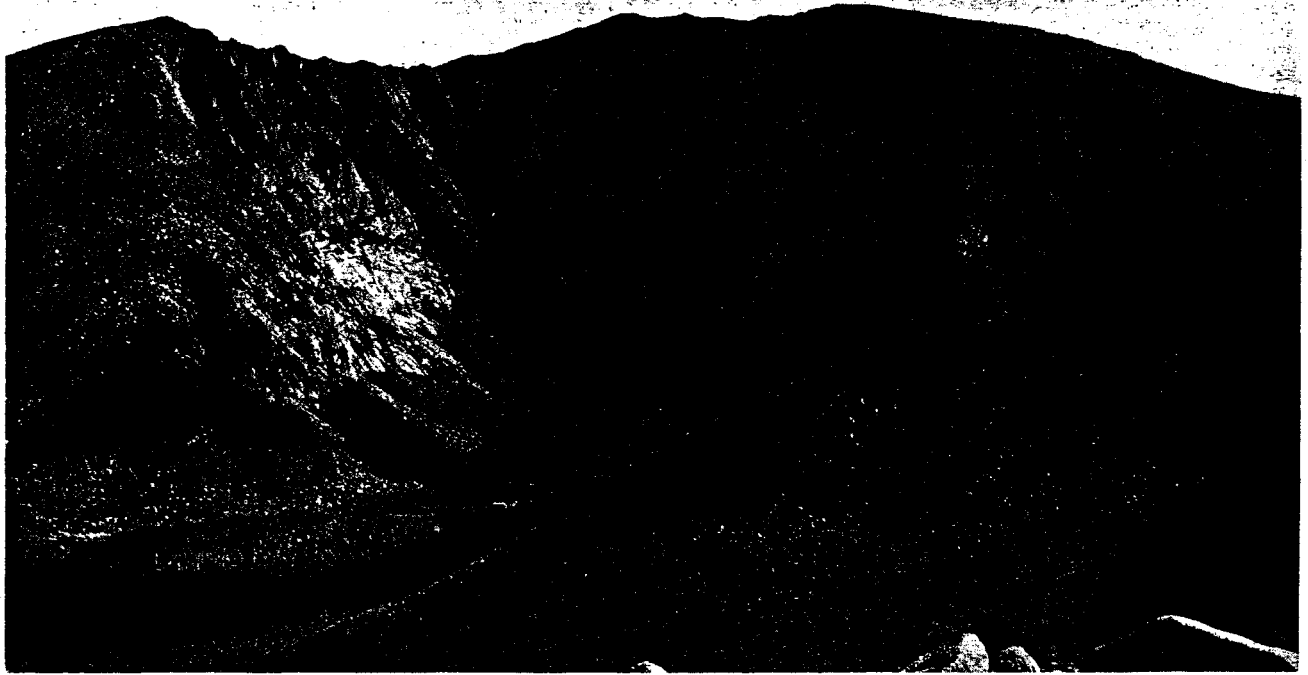
When I went to these land owners, asking them to sell me their lands, they treated me courteously and fairly. They told me that while they did not care to sell their lands they would do so because they had come to realize that I was trying to do something worth while for Maine. These land owners have shown a remarkably fine spirit and I want the people of Maine to know how splendidly they have cooperated with me in selling me their forest lands.

Up to the time my first purchase of 6,000 acres was made in 1930, I never had owned any forest or timber land. My Park started from absolutely nothing and every acre has been bought since 1930. Today the land acquired for the State totals 114,040 acres or 178 square miles all in one piece and comprising almost five townships. A township in Maine, roughly speaking, contains 36 square miles.

For all practical purposes, after twenty-seven years of effort, the Park is complete. Maybe, however, I shall be able to enlarge it from time to time for there are several areas it would be well to acquire. The Park stands right in the center of the northern portion of our State, a wild mountainous country now forever set aside and held in trust by the State as a public park, forest reserve and wild life sanctuary for present and future generations of Maine people. The State Legislature very generously has named this area Baxter State Park.

The distance from Portland to the summit of Mt. Katahdin is 250 miles. There are several foot trails leading to the summit, and a rough but passable motor road passes through the westerly portion of the Park. All along the way there are grand views of Katahdin and the other thirty peaks within the Park area. This district is typical of the wild lands of Maine. It has within its border, lakes, swamps, beaver dams, rivers, mountains, good timber lands and burnt-over lands, meadows and boulders in profusion. Moose, deer, wildcats, bears, foxes and all the smaller animals and birds abound therein. All these creatures are safe from the hunters, and the sound of the axe and of falling trees never will echo through these forests. Katahdin always should and must remain the wild storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is; that is its great charm. Only small cabins for mountain climbers and those who love the wilderness should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or horseback, a place where nature rules and where the creatures of the forest hold undisputed dominion.

This area was donated to the State on three conditions.



Photograph by Robert C. Anderson

THIS PICTURE, WHICH BEST SHOWS THE GREAT BASIN OF KATAHDIN, WAS TAKEN SOUTHWEST FROM THE NORTH RIM OF LITTLE NORTH BASIN, ONE OF THE THREE GLACIAL CIRQUES, WHICH FACE THE EAST AND NORTHEAST. THE GREAT BASIN IS THE LARGEST OF THE CIRQUES, FORMED BY THE ACTION OF GLACIAL ICE ACTING LOCALLY. THE WHOLE OF KATAHDIN WAS PLANED OFF BY LARGE GLACIERS COMING FROM THE NORTH, AS IS EVIDENCED BY THE GREAT TABLELAND AND BY ROCHE MOUTONNÉS TO BE FOUND THERE. THIS BASIN CAME TO BE THE SOCKET OF A GREAT TOOTH OF ICE, FED BY SNOWFALL, WHICH WORKED ITS WAY DOWN TO THE LOWER GROUND. IN SO MOVING IT PLUCKED OUT LARGE CHUNKS OF THE GRANITIC ROCK, DEPOSITED THEM, VERY BROKEN AND FRACTURED, IN A LINE MARKING WHERE THE ICE STOPPED.

First that it shall be held by the State in trust forever; second, that it shall be used for public parks, forests and recreation; third, that it shall ever be kept in its natural wild state and as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds.

A map published by the Appalachian Mountain Club records that there are more than 30 different mountain peaks within this area.

As modern civilization with its trailers and gasoline fumes, its unsightly billboards, its radio and jazz, encroaches on the Maine wilderness the time yet may come when only the Katahdin region remains undefiled by man. To acquire this Katahdin region for the people of Maine has been undertaken by me as my life's work, and I hope as the years roll on that this State Park will be enjoyed by an ever-increasing number of Maine people and by those who come to us from beyond our borders.

Katahdin, 5,267 feet, stands above the surrounding plain unique in grandeur and glory. The works of men are short lived. Monuments decay, buildings crumble and wealth vanishes, but Katahdin in its massive grandeur will forever remain the mountain of the people of Maine. Throughout the ages it will stand as an inspiration to the men and women of this State."

This, then, is what Governor Baxter has accomplished. Not only to the citizens of Maine has been dedicated this natural monument to his everlasting memory, but a reservation has been established where the people of an entire nation may glory in the rugged aspects of nature where the wilderness will hold sway and wild life may dwell in peace without fear of gun, trap or other human encroachment.

III

Katahdin Today

By RONALD L. GOWER

KATAHDIN, the "greatest mountain" of the Penobscot Indians, rearing its vast bulk from out the rolling wilderness at its foot, is a solitary mountain as first viewed from the South. The climber, weary of the flat

country of the lower Penobscot valley sees the fulfillment of his high hopes in the great mass sharply lined against the northern sky. Yet, approached from the East or West, Katahdin is not alone but is the culminating thrust of a long line of peaks,

some of which rise above 4,000 feet, while coming from the North the traveler becomes so involved in smaller mountains and hills as to be scarcely aware of this giant of the great north woods.

Of itself, however, the mountain is roughly in the shape of an anchor with a broad shank; the right fluke (or hook) being somewhat larger than the left, while the stock or crossbar at the top is formed by the westerly thrust of the Northwest Plateau, and its easterly counterpart the projecting Howe Peaks ridge. With this sketch in mind we shall place the summit ridge with its two high peaks (5267 ft. and 5240 ft.) near the base of the anchor's shank about where it joins the flukes. Then the Southwest (Hunt) spur will form the left fluke and the great curving wall of the Knife Edge ending in Pamola will be the right.

It must be confessed that north of the stock of the "anchor" there is still half of the mountain and our imagery rather falls down here.

"Katahdin is a great irregularly shaped mountain mass rising abruptly from comparatively flat country to a gently sloping plateau above the tree growth and topped on its southeasterly margin by an irregular series of low summits."¹ This "gently sloping plateau" is the Table Land, barren, rockstrewn, nearly four miles long and falling away abruptly from 1,000 to 2,000 feet on all sides, after which the slopes become more gentle. The great cliffs in the Great Basin below the summit ridge are sheer for nearly 2,000 feet, where, at the foot of the talus slope nestles Chimney Pond, a sapphire gem in a setting of rock. This gray and pink granite cliff-belt swings in a great arc to form the famous Knife Edge, a thin wall of vertically fractured rock, some 1,500 feet above Chimney Pond and so narrow in places along its top that one may sit astride it. The Knife Edge ends in a rock pyramid called Chimney Peak, immediately beyond which, and separated from it by a sharp cleft is a broader rock peak, Pamola, (4,902 ft.) named for the Indian deity of the mountain.

North of the summit ridge two great rock buttresses, the Cathedrals, fall away in great sweeping leaps to the floor of the Basin. At their foot lies tiny Cleftrock Pool, reflecting the glory of its surroundings. From the Table Land great arms stretch out embracing other glacial cirques, here known as basins. Adjoining the Great Basin is the North Basin (3,100 ft.) with its high, smoothledged sides and barren boulder-strewn floor in which are two tiny ponds. It has been estimated by geologists that a local glacier occupied this Basin as recently as some ten thousand years ago.

Next to the North Basin, but still on the eastern slopes of the mountain is the rarely visited Little North Basin with its tremendous boulders. From this point north, the east side of Katahdin is clothed in thick forests which continue around the massive northern end and into the little known Northwest Basin with its sheer cliffs, interesting central ridge, waterfalls and its five ponds on great shelves of various levels. One of these ponds, the "disappearing pond," was thought to be in the process of being slowly converted into a spongy heath because of the intrusion of plant life. After having been carefully

watched for some 35 years, learned conclusions were about to be drawn when beavers entered the picture, dammed up the outlet and greatly enlarged the pond!² Forming the southern boundary of this vast basin, rises the broad and high Northwest Plateau which shoulders its way far out into the Klondike. This latter is a forbidding, elevated valley (2,800 ft.) about 3 by 1½ miles, lying between Katahdin and the Brothers range to the West. It was named by a local Indian who, it is reported, used to hunt moose here for the heads, but whether he noted some resemblance to the Canadian Klondike, or whether the sale of moose heads became a "gold-mine" to him has never been revealed. The valley is exceedingly difficult to enter being well guarded by the most execrable going, and it is doubtful if more than a dozen white men ever have traversed it.³ On an elevated shelf of the Klondike lies lovely, narrow Klondike Pond protected against visitors by great cliffs and dense scrub.

The great barren gulch of Witherle Ravine has been carved into the mountain's southwest flank just south of the farthest eastward reaching of the Klondike. Almost never visited, this trailless section has waterfalls of singular beauty, streams, cliffs and in its lower reaches virgin forests. South of this, the long Southwest (Hunt) spur stretches out into the valley of the Sourdnehunk and rounding this the massive southern slopes come into view, long scarred by repeated avalanches.

All about Katahdin glisten lakes, ponds and streams the number of which is incredible—literally hundreds. As one writer has phrased it, "It is as if a mirror had been broken and scattered over the mantle of the dark green of the spruce and fir forest cover, for so do the myriad lakes heliograph to the summit."⁴ A great extent of country is visible from the upper parts of the mountain which dominate all that part of the State. Winthrop says, "Katahdin's best part is what Katahdin sees."⁵

The rugged reputation of Katahdin has always been enhanced by its remoteness. For over 150 years after Mt. Washington was first ascended by Darby Field in 1642, Katahdin remained unclimbed by white men, shunned by the Indians as the abode of evil spirits,⁶ and relatively unknown to the out-

²Appalachia, vol. xxvi p. 392, see also The Maine Naturalist, vol. 10, no. 3.

³Appalachia, vol. xxvi pp. 385-389.

⁴Mt. Katahdin in Maine, 2nd edition, 1935. Maine Development Commission.

⁵Theodore Winthrop, Life in the Open Air.

⁶Memoirs of Odd Adventures, Strange Deliverances, etc., in the captivity of John Gyles, Esq., Boston, 1736, Spiller and Gates, Printers. "I have heard an Indian say that he lived by the River at the foot of the Teddon (Katahdin), and in his wigwam, seeing the top of it thro' the Hole left in the top of the Wigwam for the passing of Smoke, he was tempted to travel to it: accordingly he set out early on a Summer's Morning, and laboured hard in ascending the Hill all Day, and the Top seem'd as distant from the Place where he lodged at Night, as from the Wigwam whence he began his Journey; and concluding that Spirits were there, never dared make a second Attempt."

"I have been credibly inform'd that several others have fail'd in the same Attempt: particularly, that three young men tow'd the Teddon three days and a half, and then began to be strangely disordered & delirious, and when their Imagination was clear, and they could recollect where they were, and had been, they found themselves returned one Days Journey: how they came so far, they can't guess, unless the Genii of the Place convey'd them."

¹Appalachian Mountain Club Katahdin Guide (1938) p. 1.

side world. When in 1804 it was climbed by a party of eleven persons there was no record of anyone having reached the summit before. Charles Turner, a surveyor of Scituate, Mass., has left an account of this ascent which was by the southern slopes of the mountain.⁷ (He estimated the height to be 13,000 ft., but it is not known just how much his personal feelings were taken into consideration in arriving at this truly fantastic figure!)

In the early days Oldtown, over 100 miles distant, was the nearest town of any size. This meant coming to Bangor by coastal schooner, then travelling by stagecoach for the few miles of road north of Bangor and Oldtown and then paddling and poling up the river. The swift current, windswept lakes and many carries along the upper stretches made this an excursion not to be undertaken lightly. Bangor was finally reached by the railroad in 1855,⁸ and 14 years later the European and North American Railroad was opened from Bangor to Mattawamkeag, thus cutting the distance roughly in half. But the railroad covered the easier half and actually helped out far less than it would seem, as a highway of sorts had already been built to Mattawamkeag. The building of the Bangor & Aroostook R.R. in 1894 placed Stacyville in the position of being a railroad station which was only 30 miles from Katahdin, but this distance was so full of natural obstacles that most travelers still preferred the water route, although a path through to the mountain from the East had been cut as early as 1848,⁹ but was not maintained.

In 1921 the Great Northern Paper Company, in connection with a pulpwood operation on the eastern slopes of the mountain, extended an existing wood road from Millinocket to the Basin Ponds (2,400 ft.), which are 1½ miles below and east of Chimney Pond. As most of this became passable (just barely!) for automobiles during succeeding years, cars were driven ever closer to Katahdin and may now be operated to within 5½ miles of Baxter Peak on both the east and southwest sides of the mountain. It is, however, still 30 miles from the nearest town and the rate of travel is necessarily slow over the rough dirt roads.

For 1,500 feet below Baxter Park most of the mountain is bare, hence the appearance of this part has changed little, but the wooded lower slopes repeatedly have been swept by fire and cut by man. One of the earliest accounts of fire ravage is that of Joseph C. Norris, Sr., a surveyor, who in 1825 wrote, "We see a large extent of country contiguous to . . . Mt. Katahdin . . . being SW of the great range of hills which we are passing over. It is old burnt land."¹⁰ There are records

of several other large fires which have denuded the slopes of the mountain.¹¹

Lumbering has harvested repeated growths of mature trees from the slopes. As a matter of fact, outside of the Klondike there are few areas on or about the mountain which have not been cut over at some time or another. The most recent cuttings were: northern slopes 1914, eastern 1923 (except a small birchwood operation in 1939-1942) and southern 1938. The west slopes are protected by Klondike barriers which make it impracticable (if not impossible) to get the wood out. Despite burnings and cuttings however, the spruce and fir come back in an amazingly short time, as this region is a perfect nursery for these species. Protected as they now are against their two worst enemies, fire and man, the trees on the mountain will soon give the impression of being ancient forests.

Before Mr. Baxter gave the mountain to the State, little supervision was exercised. Trails grew up as required and a few badly needed shelters were built by one organization or another. Now, however, the Baxter State Park Authority through their efficient Park Supervisor, Harold J. Dyer,¹² have begun to take carefully planned steps to conserve the natural features and to make them properly accessible where deemed advisable. But there will always be areas about the mountain which will be only for those who can make their own way through the natural obstacles.

A system of trails has grown up to meet various needs, so that it is now possible to reach the summit from a number of different points, to traverse most of the ridges, and to enter several of the basins. Both the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Appalachian Trail Conference have taken over the maintenance of specified trails which together make up most of the paths on the mountain. Signs are placed at intersections and the trails are well marked. Many shelters have been built at Chimney Pond and at Katahdin Stream Campground on opposite sides of the mountain. There is also a shelter two miles up the Hunt Trail and another at Davis Pond in the Northwest Basin. For those who do not wish to carry their own food and bedding, there are five sporting camps located near enough to enable guests to complete an ascent during the daylight hours. These unique outfits furnish splendid meals in large common dining cabins, and sleeping accommodations are to be found in smaller individual cabins which are pleasantly located nearby overlooking some pond or lake.

Katahdin as it is today and as it will be tomorrow (through the farseeing generosity of ex-Gov. Baxter) furnishes facilities for rugged recreation amid scenery of inspirational grandeur. Whether in the utter loneliness of the Klondike, the savage beauty of the Northwest Basin, the wild loveliness of the Klondike Pond Ravine, the great open sweep of the Table Land, the dizzy, exposed heights of the Knife Edge, the rocky desolation that is the North Basin, or gazing across Chimney Pond up to that incomparable sweeping curve of sheer cliffs, one can say with the apostle of old, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."¹³

⁷Expert opinion differs as to the exact location of the route of ascent. Avery in the *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine*, 4th edition, p. 5—2 claims, "Charles Turner . . . reached the summit by the Hunt Spur . . .", while Leavitt in *Katahdin Skylines*, p. 12, states, "The record left by Charles Turner . . . of his trip up the mountain on August 13, 1804, leads the reader to believe that he followed up Abol Stream and scaled the cliffs near the position of the Slide, which did not occur until about twelve years later."

⁸Edward E. Chase, *Maine Railroads*, Portland, Maine. 1926.

⁹Myron H. Avery, *The Keep Path and Its Successors*, *Appalachia*, vol. xxii, pp. 135-141.

¹⁰*Appalachia*, vol. xxi, p. 37.

¹¹Partial list 1795, 1884, 1903, 1923, 1941.

¹²On leave of absence to U. S. Army Mountain Troops.

¹³Matthew xvii, 4.

W. H. H. H.
National Park Magazine

THE BAXTER STATE PARK IN MAINE.

Mr. Devereux Butcher, Executive Secretary of the National Parks Association has asked me to write something about the Park that I have created here in Maine, the Baxter State Park so named by the State Legislature. He wants from me "a picture of what you have done, how you have done it, and why".

Although reluctant to speak of a project that is peculiarly my own, a brief statement informing those lovers of the wide open spaces who live beyond the borders of the State of Maine, may not be out of place.

First of all, this Park includes within its boundaries Mt. Katahdin (5,267 ft.) and more than thirty lesser peaks many of which are over three thousand feet in height. The acquisition and establishment of this area came about naturally and gradually, but not painlessly. In this work many obstacles were overcome and the history of the project extends over a period of years from 1905 to 1945.

As a member of the Maine Legislature (1905) in my early twenties I became interested in the wild forest areas of Maine, which once belonged to the people of my State, but which in the earlier years were exploited and taken from the people by scheming politicians and their beneficiaries. In those days some of the finest timber lands were sold by the State for but a few cents per acre. Those were rough times ^{AND} rough men ruled the forests. ~~and the State of Maine was stripped of what remained of its lands.~~ The end came at last and the State of Maine was stripped of what remained of its lands.

The final and most flagrant act of all was what now is termed "THE GREAT LAND STEAL of '66." Not long before that time there had been serious friction between the United States and Canada over the question of the Canada-Maine boundary. Troops had been called out and feelings ran high. Capitalizing on this, certain schemers who wanted to secure the 1,600,000 acres of timber

lands then remaining to the State went to the Legislature and agreed to build at their own expense a military railroad of about 125 miles from central Maine to the New Brunswick boundary to be used in case of war with Canada. As compensation for the promise to build this railroad the State of Maine gave these schemers all the land the State then owned on the watersheds of the Penobscot and St. John Rivers totaling about ^{the} 1,600,000 acres herein referred to. Twelve miles of railroad were built, only twelve, and the language of the Act was so cleverly worded that the State had no redress for breach of contract. The land was lost forever.

After serving in the Legislative House in 1905 I returned as State Senator in 1909 and later again became a Member of the House in 1917. My plans began to crystalize and then and there I determined to have the State purchase what I consider the most spectacular and beautiful part of Maine, Mt. Katahdin and the surrounding mountainous territory. The bill I introduced was ignominiously defeated because of the opposition of the timberland owners and their allies the water power interests. In 1919 again being in the House I tried again but my bill met the same sad fate. So also in both 1921 and 1923, during which years I was Governor (1921-1924), even though I addressed Special Messages about it to the Legislature. After these defeats it certainly seemed a lost cause. In January 1925 I left office and returned to private life. Not to be defeated, however, shortly after that I came to the conclusion that if my plans were to succeed I must buy the land myself and then donate it to the State so that a small portion of the peoples heritage might be returned to them.

In 1930 the first purchase and gift of 6,000 acres was made, others followed up to and including 1945. To-day a total of 116,288 acres have been purchased and donated by me to the State of Maine to be held in Trust for all time for the benefit of the People of Maine. The other conditions of the gift are that the land shall be left in its natural wild state, shall be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds, that no roads or ways for mo-

tor vehicles shall be built therein and that no aircraft shall be allowed to land thereon. This is the short and simple story of how it all came about, but a vivid imagination is not required to picture the details involved in a one-man project of this sort where all the forces for long periods were overwhelmingly hostile and victorious.

The land that now comprises this State Park is one solid area or block bounded by straight north-south and east-west lines. ~~There are no other persons or corporations who own land in the area.~~ As time passes I hope to acquire substantial areas adjoining the present park in order to enlarge it. In a project of this magnitude there is never an end, and the only obstacle to immediate enlargement of the Park is the ^{NATURAL} reluctance of certain timber land owners to sell their lands to me. For their willingness to sell me in the past I am grateful, and want the people of my State to know that since this Park became a reality the land owners have been ^{both} friendly and co-operative.

The 116,288 acres now owned by the State of Maine from the very first deed in 1930 to the most recent in 1945 were transferred to and accepted by the State as Trustee in Trust for the People of Maine. Notwithstanding the solemn covenants in all these Trust Deeds certain persons for reasons best known to themselves but which I could never understand commenced an agitation to upset these Trusts and sought to turn over to the Federal Government the land that had been given by me to, and accepted by the State. The plan behind this move called for the construction of roads, of great "log-cabin hotels" and similar structures; in fact to make it a tourist resort of the typical kind with filling stations, lunch rooms, amusement places and the trappings that go with such developments.

The people of Maine were aroused. Meetings were held, resolutions passed and the plan to nationalize this area was killed. As a matter of fact the whole proposition was illegal, ~~extraneous~~

and absurd, but plans actually were prepared in Washington with a printed map of the "Mt. Katahdin National Park", and a bill was introduced in Congress. After a while the whole matter quieted down and the proponents seeing the error of their ways voluntarily and generously came and assured me that they would never take it up again.

The State Park has grown in stature from year to year, the deeds of gift are carefully worded so that no encroachment by Federal Authority is ever possible and Peace now reigns in the haunts of the bear, the moose, the deer and the wild cat.

A distinguished Maine citizen who held an important Federal office, Hon. George Otis Smith, wrote as follows when he learned of the proposal to take this Park from the State and give it to the Federal Government.

"The heritage of Maine folks includes neither trust ~~nor~~ betrayal nor inferiority complex. Yet, the recent proposal to convert a State Park into a National Park contains both a shady repudiation of a contractual obligation duly acknowledged by Act of Legislature and a covert confession of inability to manage the State's own affairs. The proposed surrender does not fit the Maine character, and even were it legal, would surely fail of popular endorsement. I have no patience with the compliant attitude toward breach of trust that seems the fashion of the day. I would be ashamed of my native State if we considered that a forested peak up in Northern Maine could be better administered as a public reservation from Washington than from Augusta."

Mr. Ronald L. Gower of the Appalachian Mountain Club, the authority on Katahdin, says that

"The first recorded ascent of Katahdin was over 150 years after that of Mt. Washington. Consequently it was virtually unknown, even at a time when the White Mountains were the playground of New England. Due to the lateness of the region in becoming well known, the wilderness aspect fortunately has been preserved in a large measure for us even down to to-day. There are areas adjacent to the mountain which are rarely visited, and some which have never

been explored. The mountain's wildness and isolation combined with its natural grandeur have ever been the charm of Katahdin. True mountain lovers have for nearly a century repeatedly made their way through the surrounding wilderness to rejoice in the obstacles that must be surmounted in achieving various objectives."

~~It is a fact that the Katahdin region is one of the most beautiful in the State. It is a region of wild beauty, of great natural interest, and of great scientific value. It is a region of great natural beauty, of great scientific value, and of great historical interest. It is a region of great natural beauty, of great scientific value, and of great historical interest.~~

This State Park with Mt. Katahdin as its dominant feature, stands in the center of the northern portion of Maine, a wild mountainous country, forever set aside and held in Trust by the State as a Public Park, Forest Reserve and Wild Life Sanctuary for present and future generations of Maine people.

The distance from Portland to the summit of Mt. Katahdin is 250 miles. There are several foot trails leading to the summit, and a rough but passable ^{motor} road passes through the westerly portion of the Park. All along the way there are grand views of Katahdin and the other 30 or more peaks within the Park area. This district is typical of the wild lands of Maine. It has within its borders, lakes, swamps, beaver dams, rivers, mountains, good timber lands and burnt-over lands, meadows and boulders in profusion. Moose, deer, wild cats, bears, foxes and all the smaller animals and birds abound therein. All these creatures are safe from the hunters and the sound of the axe and of falling trees never will echo through these forests.

Katahdin always should and must remain the wild storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is; that is its great charm. Only small cabins for mountain climbers and those who love the wilderness should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or horseback, a place where nature rules and where the creatures of the forest hold undisputed dominion.

As modern civilization with its trailers and gasoline fumes, its unsightly billboards, its radio and jazz, encroaches on the Maine wilderness the time yet may come when only the Katahdin region remains undefiled by man. To acquire this Katahdin region for the people of Maine has been undertaken by me as my life's work, and I hope as the years roll on that this State Park will be enjoyed by an ever-increasing number of Maine people and by those who come to us from beyond our borders.

Katahdin stands above the surrounding plain unique in grandeur and glory. Its topmost peak is the first point of land in all the United States to greet the rising Sun as it comes up out of the great waters to the Eastward.

The works of man are short lived. Monuments decay, buildings crumble and wealth vanishes, but Katahdin in its massive grandeur will forever remain the mountain of the people of Maine. Throughout the ages it will stand as an inspiration to the men and women of this State.

Emmett Porter Baxter

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER
PORTLAND, MAINE

August 10, 1967.

Hon. Kenneth M. Curtis, Counselors,
Park Commissioners, Atty General Erwin
and Friends;-

You all must know how much I regret not being here with you to-day. I would like to tell you something of my lifes' work in the northern forests of our state. This is a long story briefly told. I have asked Chairman Wilkins to read this report and give you my message.

In 1903 I first saw Katahdin while on a fishing trip with my late father. We came to Kidney Pond by railroad, tote team and on foot. It was an interesting experience. Commissioner Stevens had not put his magic touch on the rock and mud of that region.

I was warned by advisors that land owners would not sell. Undiscouraged I first went to the most important of them all, the Great Northern Paper Company. At first this company hesitated but my cause was good and the officials sensed the spirit of my project. This company and other large land owners sold me various areas which with other purchases totalled 202,000 acres.

Beginning in 1931 to 1965 I donated all this purchased land to the State of Maine and now wish to make proper acknowledgement to that company and to those other owners who showed their fine public spirit in selling to me. Without their co-operation this area could never have been purchased.

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER
PORTLAND, MAINE

You are here to-day to see the three Gate Houses and the 3.06 miles of road which I have donated to the state. I have confidence that the State of Maine will honor its commitment to keep this land in TRUST in its natural wild state for Public Park, Public Forests, Public Recreation purposes and for the study and practice of scientific forestry, also as a sanctuary for wild life.

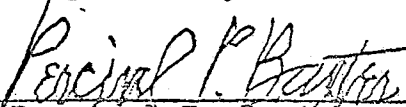
These gates will be used in the years ahead to protect the Park from exploitation. My particular concern is that this area will never be used in any way to violate this TRUST I have established. These restrictions will go far to protect it.

The responsibility will rest upon you Governor Curtis and those who follow you. The Park Commissioners, Mr. Wilkins, Mr. Speers and Mr. Erwin will share this responsibility with you.

To emphasize the spirit of the Park I suggest the following few lines which came to me while walking the trails of this vast wilderness.

Man is Born to Die, His Works are Short Lived -
Buildings Crumble, Monuments Decay, Wealth Vanishes -
But Katahdin in All its Glory - Forever shall remain
The Mountain of the People of Maine.

Respectfully,



Percival P. Baxter

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER
PORTLAND, MAINE

August 10, 1967.

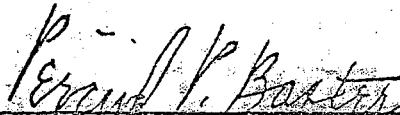
Hon. Austin H. Wilkins,
Forest Commissioner,
State House,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Austin:-

The enclosed letter is for you to read at the Park exercises on August 17th. As I suggested to you please read this in a strong, loud voice as I want them all to hear it.

It would be well if you would make a copy of this and send to some of the newspapers-- Bangor News, Portland Press Herald and any others that you feel would like to have it.

Cordially,



Percival P. Baxter

B/c
Enc.

Part 5
National Park Controversy
Correspondence

Volume III

Speeches and National Park Controversy Correspondence

Part 5: National Park Controversy Correspondence

OVERVIEW

Percival P. Baxter (1876-1969) donated the collection of his personal papers to the Maine State Library in Augusta. The Baxter Collection was received by the library in February 1971 and catalogued during 1971 and 1972.¹ The collection is vast and includes general correspondence and related papers, 28 bound scrapbooks (separately indexed), four bound volumes of speeches, and various miscellaneous items including maps.

Baxter was a prodigious correspondent and nowhere is this more evident than in his half-century quest to establish and develop a state park at Katahdin. The single most valuable component of the Baxter Collection for ascertaining his vision for Baxter State Park is his correspondence that can be found in 134 subject-related folders. This correspondence relating to Katahdin and Baxter State Park (BSP) will be focal point of the Volume IV in this annotated compilation. A template has been developed for organizing that correspondence, i.e., Baxter State Park history, administration, facilities and wilderness values.

However, there is a single subject in his park-related correspondence that warrants separate treatment, namely that of the national park controversy of the 1930s. The volume and intensity of his correspondence on that issue, as well as the public policy implications thereof, warrant independent examination. If the National Park Service (NPS) had been successful in either acquiring land contiguous to Katahdin or taking over BSP as a portion of a larger area to be made into a national park, the park as we now know it would not exist.²

BACKGROUND

By the 1890s a forest conservation movement in the Maine forest emerged in response to the paper industry's consolidation of landholdings. According to John Hakola "events on the national level, particularly the conservation work carried on during the administration of Theodore Roosevelt, . . . helped to publicize the forest resources of Maine and to spur local action."³ Congressman Frank E. Guernsey of Dover-Foxcroft led efforts during 1910 – 1916 to create either a forest reserve or national park at Katahdin. A 1913 resolution of the Maine Legislature supported Guernsey's congressional initiatives.⁴ However, it was not until Percival P. Baxter returned to the state legislature in 1917⁵, that he spearheaded efforts to preserve Mt. Katahdin and surrounding areas. Even at this early point in his political career, Baxter was a critic of the expansion of federal power and preferred acquisition by the state.

Although Baxter's efforts, both as a legislator and Governor, to create a state park at Katahdin were unsuccessful, there was a very propitious action taken by the legislature in 1919 that would eventually help facilitate Baxter's deeding

¹ See *Guide to the Use of the Percival Proctor Baxter Collection*, Maine State Library, 1972. It is attached as an appendix to Volume I: *Deeds of Trust and Judicial Opinions*.

² Neither the annotator nor The Friends of Baxter State is suggesting any relationship between these events of 1930s and current efforts to create a national park in the north Maine woods.

³ John W. Hakola, *Legacy of a Lifetime: the Story of Baxter State Park*, p. 48.

⁴ Guernsey's unsuccessful congressional initiatives are recounted by Hakola, *ibid.*, pp. 49-50.

⁵ Baxter had previously served a terms in the House of Representatives (1905-1906) and Senate (1909-1910).

of land to the State. That year Baxter's bill proposing a "Mount Katahdin Centennial Park" commemorating Maine's Statehood (1820-1920) was defeated; however, a substitute measure⁶ created a mechanism whereby the forest commissioner, with the advice and consent of the Governor and Council, could accept gifts for the establishment of state parks and forest. That enabling statute was used as the means for the state's acceptance of Baxter's 1931 deed of gift of nearly 6,000 acres that included Mt. Katahdin.

Election results in 1932 complicated the situation for former Governor Baxter. With Democratic administrations in power in both Augusta (Governor Louis J. Brann) and Washington, D.C. (President Franklin D. Roosevelt) there was renewed interest in creating a national park at Katahdin. Furthermore, Governor Brann was an *ex-officio* member of the newly created Baxter State Park Commission. Despite Baxter's aversion to federal interference, he accepted the assistance of what was to become the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which set up a camp in the Millinocket area. Neil Rolde, the author of *The Baxters of Maine: Downeast Visionaries*, attributed this cooperative attitude with federal officials to Baxter's smart political acumen.⁷ The State Park Division of the NPS, U.S. Department of the Interior, coordinated the work of the CCC in the Katahdin area.

In 1934 the NPS undertook an exhaustive study of the recreational development of the Mount Katahdin region. The final report entitled, "A Report on the Recreational Development, Mount Katahdin Region, Millinocket, Maine," was completed in April of 1935. It rekindled the debate over the creation of a national park at Katahdin. As Hakola stated, "[a]long the way, the National Park Service became deeply involved in plans for the creation of a second national park in Maine."⁸

The annotations that follow are based exclusively on documents from the Baxter Collection at the State Library in Augusta and the Office of the Attorney General. They don't deal with earlier attempts to have a federal presence at Katahdin. Those interested in a more detailed treatment of the national park issue should examine Chapter II "The Drive to Create a Park at Katahdin" and Chapter VI "The National Park Controversy" in John Hakola's *Legacy of a Lifetime*.

Percival P. Baxter was a relentless correspondent. No other subject matter in his correspondence reveals these qualities more clearly than his lobbying efforts beginning in the spring of 1937 to head-off a congressional initiative to create a national park at Katahdin. As the attached correspondence reveals, he purposefully used every means at his disposal to influence governmental officials, environmental groups, and corporate landowners, with whom he was negotiating additional purchases, to defeat the national park proposal that had been introduced by Congressman Ralph Owen Brewster of Dexter.

The one hundred plus documents reproduced herein, consisting principally of correspondence between Baxter and the aforementioned officials, were written between 1935 and 1952. The documents are organized chronologically and should be read in their entirety so as to gain the full impact of his dogged determination to protect the integrity of the newly established park and the land that he was negotiating to purchase. The reader may use the annotator's reference to the dates of individual documents to locate key items of interest. Interspersed among the Baxter correspondence one will find additional documents. They include, among others, the NPS's recreational development plan for the Katahdin region; Ralph O. Brewster's proposed congressional legislation; and advocacy pieces by Myron H. Avery for the Appalachian Trail Conference and Ronald L. Gower for the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Although these documents in their aggregate are quite substantial, there invariably are other items pertaining to the national government's interest in Katahdin that are not included here. One should examine, in particular, Hakola's Chapters V, "The First Decade: The 1930s", and the aforementioned Chapter VI for references to these additional sources. Nevertheless, this compilation, however incomplete, gives the reader a remarkably clear picture of Governor Baxter's efforts to resist this serious threat to his newly established park at Katahdin. While the bulk of the documents

⁶ "An Act to provide for the acceptance by the State of gifts of land and for the establishment of a State park and forest within the State of Maine," Public Laws of Maine, 1919, Chap. 166.

⁷ Neil Rolde, *The Baxters of Maine: Downeast Visionaries*, p. 251.

⁸ Hakola, *op. cit.*, p. 129.

are from 1937, the controversy lingered on for several years before Percival P. Baxter could say with confidence that the park service had given up its plan to take over BSP. The compilation ends with poignant correspondence between Baxter and Attorney Ralph W. Ferris in the midst of the 1952 Republican Senate primary campaign in which Ralph Owen Brewster was seeking re-election to his U. S. Senate seat.

ANNOTATIONS

The initial documents pertain to the 1935 report on recreational development of the Mount Katahdin region that was prepared under the auspices of the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. The project manager was Arthur C. Sylvester of the State Park Division. Sylvester sent the report to Governor Baxter on 16 May 1935 with a cover letter in which he alluded to progress in establishing conservation camps in the Katahdin area. The report's various components, including maps and architectural sketches, warrant careful attention for they reveal not only the scope of the planned development, but also recount the CCC projects completed in 1934 and those planned for 1935. The general scheme for developing the Katahdin region, according to the report "should consist of motor roads skirting the base of the mountain for entrance, foot and horse trails for penetrating the interior, and adequate accommodations at studied locations."⁹ Ambitious features included a motor road through the valley between Katahdin and Turner mountains; a horse trail from Katahdin Stream up the valley between Barren Mountain and The Owl to the Northwest Plateau; and a lodge at Basin Ponds, just outside the existing park boundary. Sylvester's description of the development of the Basin Ponds site included the following:

The promontory which lies between the two Basin Ponds is an ideal and unique location for a large lodge and cabin development for the accommodation of visitors. This development will help to decentralize the traffic which is becoming congested at Chimney Pond. The North Basin Pond can be used as a water supply and the South Basin Pond for recreational purposes. There is ample space to construct many individual cabins on the shores of the South Basin Pond. The lodge should be connected with the Roaring Brook Terminal and Chimney Pond, by tote-road for transporting supplies, and by foot trails for the use of visitors. A horse trail should be located from the lodge to connect with the proposed one from Roaring Brook leading up to the tableland.¹⁰

It is important to recognize that while this report was prepared under the auspices of the NPS, it did not recommend the creation of a national park. Rather it foresaw supervision of a recreational area by state officials whose responsibilities would be similar to those of national park rangers. Cost of operation and maintenance were to be in large measure offset by user fees. However, the development of the region was to be federally funded and the labor provided by the CCC.

Examination of the work completed under the auspices of the National Park conservation camps in 1934 reveals many improvements. These included improvements to the Sourdnaunk-Millinocket tote road, the Katahdin Stream campground, and the Hunt Trail, including the log footbridge constructed across Katahdin Stream approximately one mile from the campground.

The 1935 work program included a series of proposed improvements on the eastern side of Katahdin, including the extension of the Togue Pond road to Roaring Brook where a campground was to be established. It also included a number of ambitious projects that never were carried out. They included a tote road from Roaring Brook to Chimney Pond, via the Basin Ponds. This road was to be used for the transportation of supplies and "possibly passengers by buck-board." Once the tote road was completed to the Basin Ponds, site work could begin for the cabins and lodge that were to be constructed the following year. Finally, a horse trail was proposed that would ascend from the Basin Ponds to the tableland just north of the monument line that formed the northern boundary of BSP.

As one sees in Baxter's letter of 5 August 1936 to Governor Louis J. Brann, work was progressing on the east side of Katahdin, but on a more modest scale than had been proposed the preceding April. The CCC's efforts out of

⁹ *Report on General Policy*, p. 4, in U.S. Department of the Interior, *A Report on the Recreational Development, Mount Katahdin Region, Millinocket, Maine* (April 15, 1935).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

Millinocket were focused on the Roaring Brook – Chimney Pond trail maintenance and the construction of shelters at Chimney Pond. Baxter seemed comfortable in asking Governor Brann for \$200 for “nails and hardware” to supplement the in kind services provided by the forest commissioner.¹¹

However, Governor Baxter’s letter of 15 August 1936 to Dr. E. A. Pritchard, an Associate Recreation Planner at the NPS, had a markedly different tone with respect to the federal government’s ambitions for the Katahdin area. During a visit to Maine, Pritchard had asked Baxter his views about either the NPS acquiring land contiguous to Katahdin or taking over BSP as a portion of a larger area to be made into a national park. In no uncertain terms, Baxter rejected both notions and told Pritchard, “[i]f your Park Service wants a National Park in Maine there is available much land and many lakes and streams in Washington and other counties, with no State Park to restrict and limit your purchases.” Baxter concluded by saying: “Do allow me, with the assistance of old ‘Father Time’, to handle this matter as I have planned, for what has been accomplished here has been done only after a long and tiresome contest, absolutely single-handed and in the face of abuse and bitterness that you would not believe possible where a man merely was trying to do something worthwhile for his Native State.”¹²

The 15 January 1937 letter from Baxter to the newly inaugurated Governor Louis O. Barrows marked a dramatic turning point in the controversy. In this letter Baxter shares comments he had received the previous day from Myron H. Avery, Chairman of the Board of the Appalachian Trail Conference, regarding conditions at Katahdin. Avery, a native of Lubec, decried the lack of adequate supervision within BSP and called for state appropriations to remedy the situation. Avery described conditions at Chimney Pond as being “short of chaotic” and that the “seeming *laissez faire* policy is bound to produce — and has already produced — consequences which are close to irreparable.”¹³ Baxter asked the Governor for a \$2,000 appropriation to be used by the park commission to employ caretakers on the eastern and western sides of the mountain and also provide for additional camping shelters. Little did Baxter know when he departed for a late winter European vacation that a budgetary crisis in Augusta would result in the rejection of his modest request.¹⁴

An even more damaging development during Baxter’s overseas trip was the introduction of legislation by Representative Ralph O. Brewster to create a Katahdin National Park.¹⁵ The enabling legislation provided a ten-year window whereby the U. S. could secure these lands from public or private donations. The legislation prohibited the purchase of land with public funds. A literal firestorm ensued upon the former governor’s return and for the next year his correspondence was devoted almost entirely to lobbying efforts to defeat the legislation.

Maine’s U.S. Senators, Frederick Hale and Wallace H. White, Jr. were quickly enlisted in the fight against the Brewster proposal.¹⁶ Baxter received a letter from Brewster on 14 April 37 in which the congressman stated, somewhat disingenuously, that “I did not realize you were returning so soon or I should have been happy to defer

¹¹ In a letter of 7 September 1933 to Governor Brann, several years before the national park controversy surfaced, Baxter applauded the CCC’s road work and said it would be of permanent advantage to the State. He also requested more equipment from the Governor: “The two motor shovels you sent proved of great help and are eating their way through the rocks and stumps. . . . In order that these shovels be used to the greatest advantage, four additional dump trucks are needed. They also need a compressor drill with 100 ft. of hose to be used with the drill, and a man to operate it who understands its mechanism.”

¹² Baxter letter of 15 August 1936 to Dr. E. A. Pritchard.

¹³ Baxter letter of 15 January 1937 to Governor Louis O. Barrows.

¹⁴ Baxter refers to the legislative rejection of the appropriation in letters to Acting Director A. E. Demaray, NPS, Department of Interior, 15 May 1937, and Governor Barrows, 21 May 1937.

¹⁵ H. R. 5864, 75th Congress, 1st Session (March 23, 1937). The legislation was superseded by H. R. 6599, 75th Congress, 1st Session (April 22, 1937). The new legislation had slightly different boundaries than its predecessor. Hakola reported that the planned park encompassed all or parts of sixteen townships, that is, a total of approximately 400,000 acres (*Legacy of a Lifetime*, p. 146). A letter of 15 December 1937 from A. E. Demaray, Acting Director of the National Park Service, to Robert Sterling Yard of The Wilderness Society referred to the discrepancies in the boundary lines of the two Brewster bills.

¹⁶ See, for instance, Baxter letter 8 April 1937 to both Senators. There are numerous other letters exchanged with both Senators over the course of the next year.

introduction of legislation here until opportunity for a conference.”¹⁷ In his reply of 16 April 1937, Baxter said he was disturbed by the national park proposal, but graciously stated, “[o]f course when you introduced your bill you were not aware of my plans and of the establishment of a definite Trust in regard to the Mountain.”¹⁸ It was not, however, until Brewster’s follow up letter of 19 April 1937 that the implicit nexus between the Appalachian Trail Conference’s concerns, as expressed earlier in the year by Avery, and the enabling legislation surfaced. Brewster spoke to the “increasing influx of visitors incident to recent developments” and stated that the NPS was more appropriately suited than the state to provide proper protection and development of the Katahdin region.¹⁹

Baxter was quick to confide in his nephew, John L. Baxter of Brunswick. In a precautionary letter of 14 April 1937, he entrusted his nephew with relevant correspondence. He stated: “Nothing has disturbed me for a long time as much as this and although I feel confident that while I am alive and well nothing can be done, of course something might happen to me and then Brewster might accomplish his purpose.” Governor Baxter attributed Brewster’s motives as “first to injure me and second to get some political advantage by being instrumental in having a National Park in Maine.”²⁰

In an interview with the *Portland Press Herald* on 3 May 1973, Baxter went public with his objections to the Brewster “national park” proposal. In the very strongly worded interview Baxter stated:

Katahdin should and must always remain the wild, storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is; that is its great charm. Only small cabins for mountain climbers should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or on horseback, a place where nature rules and where the creatures of the forest hold undisputed dominion. As modern civilization with its trailers and hot dog stands, its radio and jazz, encroaches on the Maine wilderness, the time yet may come when only the Katahdin region remains undefiled by man.²¹

It was not long before surrogates began speaking for the two principals. Brewster used his Extension of Remarks privilege in the *Congressional Record* on June 9, 1937 to reprint an article by Myron H. Avery of the Appalachian Trail Conference. This was a carefully developed advocacy piece supporting federal intervention at Katahdin, using the Smoky Mountain National Park as the model for ceding park land to the federal government. The very next item in this compilation of documents, *The Baxter State Park in Maine*, is an undated rebuttal by Ronald L. Gower, editor of the Appalachian Mountain Club’s *Katahdin Guide*. There was also an attachment in the form of a statement adopted by the Appalachian Mountain Club in May of 1937 and published in the June 1937 issue of *Appalachia*, its official publication.

One of the most interesting responses to Baxter’s pleas for support came from Dr. George Otis Smith, a Skowhegan resident and former head of the U.S. Geological Service. In a strongly worded letter Smith expressed his distrust of federal officials intent on intervening in the affairs of local self-government. More pointedly with respect to Brewster, Smith stated:

It has been difficult for me to believe that the suggestion could be made seriously, much less formalized into a Bill and sponsored in Congress by a former Governor of our State, supposedly cognizant of the State Legislation relation to the acceptance of the Katahdin deed of trust.²²

Governor Baxter also began to exert pressure on officials within the Department of Interior, including Secretary Harold Ickes.²³ However, most of Baxter’s correspondence was with either Arno B. Cammerer, Director of National

¹⁷ Representative Ralph O. Brewster letter of 14 April 1937 to Baxter.

¹⁸ Baxter letter of 16 April 1937 to Brewster.

¹⁹ Brewster letter of 19 April 1937 to Baxter.

²⁰ Baxter letter of 14 April 1937 to John L. Baxter.

²¹ “*Baxter Vigorously Protests Proposal To Make Katahdin Area National Park*”, *Portland Press Herald*, 3 May 1937. This article was cited as extrinsic evidence in Justice Scolnik’s dissent in *Normand et al. v. Baxter State Park Authority*, 508 A. 2d 640, 655 (1986).

²² George Otis Smith letter of 7 June 1937 to Baxter.

²³ See, for example, Baxter letter of 25 May 1937 to Ickes, in which he invoked the support of Maine congressional delegation, i.e., Senators Hale and White, and Representatives James C. Oliver and Clyde H. Smith.

Parks, or A. E. Demaray, Acting Director.²⁴ This correspondence was quite prolific and coextensive with the NPS's active interest in Katahdin. Baxter received a bit of a reprieve from the 25 May 1937 letter from Charles West, Acting Secretary of the Interior, to Rep. Rene L. Derouen, Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, House of Representatives. In his letter Secretary West reported that further study of the Katahdin region as an "administrative, biological, and recreational unit" was needed and that the department would withhold its recommendation until the investigation was completed. In the meantime, the Department of the Interior recommended that no further action be taken on H.R. 6599. West, in reply to Baxter's 25 May 1937 letter to Secretary Ickes, reiterated the decision to delay the department's recommendation on Brewster's bill.²⁵

Baxter also developed a very cordial relationship with Robert Sterling Yard, President and Permanent Secretary of The Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C. Upon learning of the society's willingness to oppose the national park legislation, Baxter sent a modest check for his membership.²⁶ Over the course of the next five years numerous letters were exchanged between these two men. Most noteworthy among them were those of 8 - 16 July 1937 in which they shared strategies on how best to deal with the NPS's ambitions. Yard shared knowledge of the inner working of the NPS with Governor Baxter:

The expansion group, now in the saddle, is most expectant of acquiring Katahdin, but nothing has been said or done yet openly. These men are active opportunists, keen to rival the Forest Service in influence, even in size of appropriations, and ready to jump with encouragement. The state situation as you describe it, if brought to their attention in some official way which may appear incidental, will kill the alertness that now inspires them.²⁷

There was another exchange of significance during 4 - 10 October 1937. In the initial letter, Yard reported, rather ominously that the NPS's forthcoming report on Katahdin would recommend the taking of the whole mountain as a national park. Yard went on to say that a well organized, in-state campaign must be mounted if the NPS is to be headed off. Baxter confidently responded that the state legislature would never violate the deeds of trust during his lifetime, and that he came from a "long lived family." Yard replied, that "[o]ther fights like it have been lost largely because no one of eminence in the home state had the interest or the nerve to stand out against political shouting for state income at national expense."²⁸ Yard attached a copy of a report on Katahdin he had written for the *Wilderness News*, a publication of The Wilderness Society.²⁹

The surrogates of Baxter and Brewster remained active during late 1937 and early 1938. Myron H. Avery continued his advocacy on behalf of the Brewster legislation in the October issue of *Nature Magazine*. The article, "Katahdin and Its Country," was accompanied by an editorial supporting the creation of the national park at Katahdin.³⁰ Ronald

²⁴ See, for example, Baxter letter to 26 April 1937 to Cammerer and Demaray reply of 5 May 1937 in which he described the differing strategies used by the NPS to establish parks in the West (purchase with public funds) and East (public and private donations to the federal government). Baxter used his letter of 15 May 1937 to Demaray as an opportunity to respond to Avery's concerns and the failed \$2,000 appropriation. Baxter stated: "The failure of a small appropriation gives a trifling reason to advance for the Sovereign State of Maine to surrender its ownership of its grandest mountain."

²⁵ West letter of 7 June 1937 to Baxter. Acting Director Demaray reported in a letter of 28 September 1937 to Baxter that the comprehensive field survey had been completed and that a final report would be forthcoming. As late as 14 December 1937 Assistant Secretary Oscar L. Chapman, Department of the Interior, wrote Baxter that it is impossible to forecast the substance of department's report to the Public Lands Committee of the House of Representatives. No final report, if ever written, could be found in the documents available to the annotator.

²⁶ Baxter letter of 27 May 1937 to Yard.

²⁷ Yard letter of 16 July 1937 to Baxter.

²⁸ Yard letter of 4 October 1937 to Baxter, Baxter letter of 6 October 1937 to Yard, and Yard letter of 12 October 1937 to Baxter.

²⁹ Excerpts from the report, pp. 5-8, appear in this compilation immediately after Yard's letter of 12 October 1937 to Baxter. The origins of Avery's cooperation with the NPS were described by Robert Sterling Yard in a letter of 21 December 1937 to Governor Baxter.

³⁰ These two items can be found as the last entries during the month of October 1937.

L. Gower, for his part, wrote an article in the 24 April 1938 issue of the *Portland Sunday Telegram and Press Herald*³¹ that Governor Baxter sent to Demaray on 28 April 1938 and others including Robert Marshall of the U. S. Forest Service. Marshall, a leading conservationist, responded to Baxter in a letter dated, 18 May 1938, in which he stated:

I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the marvelous public spirit which you have shown in giving this glorious area to the people of Maine to be kept in a wild condition. It is a great contribution to the cause of wilderness. I climbed Mt. Katahdin in 1932 and remember vividly the grand spectacle looking northwest from its summit toward what is the largest forest area in the United States without any roads in it.³²

Baxter sought further assurances from the NPS that it had abandoned the idea of a national park at Katahdin. In the waning days of the 75th Congress, Baxter wrote NPS Director Cammerer asking if he were “correctly informed that when a Bill is introduced into Congress and no action is taken on it that the Bill automatically dies at final adjournment and that it is necessary to introduce a new Bill if the subject is to be revived at the next Congress?”³³

The legislation was never reintroduced in subsequent Congresses. By 25 November 1939 Baxter in a letter to Robert Sterling Yard, hand-marked “confidential,” stated that he was “confident that the proposed nationalization of Katahdin had been abandoned.”³⁴ Baxter reported that he had received assurances from Congressman Brewster that he had no intentions of pursuing the matter. Several years later, in a letter to William A. Whitcomb, President of the Great Northern Paper Company, Baxter stated “[i]n all modesty I can say that had it not been for my opposition, Brewster’s bill would have become law.”³⁵ Never passing up an opportunity to purchase additional land, Baxter told Whitcomb that he had already had five townships and that he would like to have 10,000 more acres in T2 R9 to control the approaches to the park. It would not be until 1963 that Baxter deeded 7,764 acres in T2 R9 that he had acquired from GNP to the state. That would be his last gift of land for BSP.

This compilation of documents concludes with an exchange of letters between Baxter and Ralph W. Ferris in the midst of the 1952 Republican Senate primary campaign in which Ralph O. Brewster was seeking re-election to the U. S. Senate. At Baxter’s insistence, Ferris agreed not to raise in the midst of the campaign the Senator’s role in proposing a national park at Katahdin. Governor Baxter explained his reasons for such a request:

It is now fifteen years since Senator Brewster, then a Representative, introduced the Bill for the establishment of this Park. In view of his having made complete amends and of his having assured me that he would withdraw the Bill and would never take any further action to interfere with Baxter State Park, it would seem unwise and unfair to bring the matter into the present political campaign.³⁶

Senator Brewster lost the primary to Governor Frederick G. Payne, who went on to win the U. S. Senate seat in the general election.

³¹ This newspaper article is not included in this compilation.

³² Robert Marshall letter of 18 May 1938 to Baxter.

³³ Baxter letter of 6 July 1938 to Cammerer.

³⁴ Baxter letter of 25 November 1939 to Yard.

³⁵ Baxter letter of 27 January 1944 to William A. Whitcomb.

³⁶ Baxter letter of 6 May 1952 to Ralph W. Ferris.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STATE PARK DIVISION

18 Boston and Maine RR Bldg.
Concord, New Hampshire
May 16, 1935

Mr. Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Baxter,

It is with pleasure that I am presenting you with a copy of the Mount Katahdin Report which has recently been prepared.

The conservation camps are being established as rapidly as possible and it is expected that the new Katahdin camp will move in during the next few weeks. This camp as you know will be located in the vicinity of the Old Depot Camp beyond Windey Pitch.

Professor Hamblin of Harvard University, School of Landscape Architecture, is anxious to climb Katahdin this Spring to see and photograph the alpine plants in bloom. I also wish to visit Katahdin this Spring and we may make the trip to-gether over Memorial Day week-end.

Most sincerely yours,



Arthur C. Sylvester
Project Manager

A REPORT ON
THE RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MOUNT KATAHDIN REGION
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report on General Policy
Report on Completed Work
Report on Proposed Work
Photographs-Master Plan
Detail Plan and Sketches

REPORT

GENERAL POLICY

RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MOUNT KATAHDIN REGION

GENERAL POLICY FOR THE RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE
MOUNT KATAHDIN REGION

Mount Katahdin, which towers majestically above the numerous lakes and streams, impressive mountains, and seemingly endless forests of the Maine wilderness, offers, without exception, the most inspirational, spectacular, and beautiful mountain scenery east of the Rocky Mountains. This massive granite monolith was carved centuries ago into its present form by titanic forces of nature which have left behind a vast museum for the geologist, botanist and entomologist in the form of glacial erratics, arctic flora, and insect life. It is a playground of the highest order, contributing not only opportunities of inspirational and educational value, but also exceptional opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The Katahdin region is rich in history, legend and tradition, developed by those who have preceded us; the Indian, that romantic figure the old-time lumber jack, and men such as Turner, Thoreau, Kepp and numerous others who have left their names behind. It has long been nationally

famous for its peerless canoe trips, abundance of wild life and vast forests. It is a region with a marked personality of its own, and because of its extraordinary scenic beauty and opportunities for nature education and active recreation, should be set aside and protected for the use and enjoyment of the people for all time.

In 1931 ex-governor Percival P. Baxter presented to the State of Maine the present Baxter State Park of 5,960 acres. This gift was made with the express condition that it "shall forever be used for public park and recreational purposes, shall forever be left in the natural wild state, shall forever be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds, that no roads or ways for motor vehicles shall hereafter ever be constructed therein or thereon." Fortunately this tract includes the greater portion of Mount Katahdin and the major areas of greatest scenic beauty. However, most of the present park is above timber line and actually little inhabited by wild life. In order to include the entire mountain, other desirable mountains, lakes, streams and forests for the conservation of wild life, and to offer protection against adverse types of occupancy,

to control roads, trails, campsites, structures, etc., it is of paramount importance that additional lands be acquired. The lands which should be acquired to protect and enhance the present park and the recreational facilities already established are largely those of Township 3, Range 9; Township 3, Range 10; Township 4, Range 9; and Township 4, Range 10. The greater portion of this area has been cut over for timber, burned over by forest fire, or is mountainous, being without timber or impracticable to operate. At the present time lumber companies are operating the well-timbered areas, and it is estimated that all marketable timber will have been removed within a period of five years. These lands desirable for acquisition should be investigated by the Baxter Park Commission, and an attempt made to acquire them as rapidly as possible, either by gift or by purchase.

Henry David Thoreau visited Katahdin in the year 1846 by ascending the West Branch of the Penobscot River by bateau to the mouth of the Abol Stream a few miles south of the mountain. From the Abol Stream he forced his way on foot northward to the summit. Since that date trails and roads have been gradually developed until today a fairly complete trail system has been

PUBLIC
LOT
1000 A.

T.4.R.10.

GRAND NORTHERN PAPER CO.
WELL TIMBERED
WILL BE CUT IN FOUR YEARS.

T.4.R.9.

EASTERN MANUFACTURING CO.
LARGELY BURNED OR CUT
OVER FOR PULP.
SEWALL'S ESTIMATE 1921.
22,460 CORDS PULPWOOD.

PUBLIC
LOT
1000A.

DAKOTA
STATE
PARK

ROSS

T.3.R.11.

T.3.R.10.
GRAND NORTHERN PAPER CO.

PUBLIC
LOT
1000A

- 1/2 MOUNTAIN AREA.

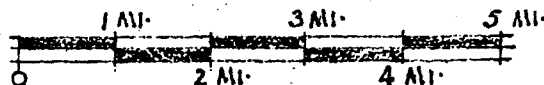
T.3.R.9.

90% BURNED

G.N.P.
CO.
WILL BE CUT
2-4 YRS.

PROPERTY MAP

THE KATAHDIN REGION.



4/15/35 ENR.

established, and it is possible to drive an automobile to within a short distance of the mountain. The Killineocket-Sourdnamunk road was opened to automobiles in 1934 and hundreds of visitors passed over it, regardless of its rough condition. Because roads are rapidly being constructed and are consequently rapidly changing the aspect of the region, it is indispensable that accommodations be developed to care for the increasing number of tourists.

The Katahdin Region should be developed so that annually thousands of visitors will be able to enjoy the benefits of outdoor life and contacts with Nature. The general scheme should consist of motor roads skirting the base of the mountain for entrance, foot and horse trails for penetrating the interior, and adequate accommodations at studied locations. The natural wild state of the country should be disturbed with only such roads, trails, structures, et cetera, as are absolutely essential for the comfort and security of its visitors. The roads should be located to avoid grades, unnecessary construction, and to take full advantage of views. They should be park-like in character, being careful to protect the trees and ground cover at the sides. In special places tote-roads are prefer-

able to automobile roads. Trails should give access to points of interest, points of intensive use, and adjacent areas. They should be adequately cleared, marked and signed. Particular attention should be given to complete marking of trails on the tableland of the mountain for the security of travelers under adverse conditions. Each trail leading from the automobile roads should have at its foot a parking area, overnight shelters, opportunities for tenting, water supply, and provision for sanitation. These campsites should be under the supervision of competent rangers. Just below the timber line on each trail there should be at least one shelter near a water supply for emergency purposes. There should be at least one main refuge shelter on the tableland near one of the springs, and minor refuge shelters in such places as the Northwest Basin. All structures should be constructed of local materials and designed to harmonize with the character of the landscape. Areas for intensive use should be limited and a liberal portion of the region left completely undisturbed. All recreational facilities should be developed from a well-conceived plan prepared by competent advisors.

The Togue Pond road should be continued to

Roaring Brook. At this point a terminal should be established with parking area and garage with storage space. Gasoline and other motor necessities should be offered for sale. Eventually a motor road will probably be extended northward through the valley between Katahdin and Turner mountains, as this is a logical location for a road to connect with those from the Patten region. A tote-road should be constructed from the Roaring Brook terminal to Basin and Chimney Ponds for the transportation of supplies and possibly passengers. In order that elderly persons or those who do not wish to exert the necessary energy may climb Katahdin, a horsetrail should be constructed up the east side of the mountain near the Monument Line. A horsetrail can also be constructed from the vicinity of Katahdin Stream campsite up the valley between Barren Mountain and The Owl to the Northwest Plateau.

The limits of the present game preserve should be extended to include even more of the Katahdin Region. Fishing should be allowed in the region, but wild beasts and birds should be hunted only with the camera. It is advisable at some later date to establish a fish hatchery so that over-fished streams and lakes may be stocked.

The wild animals add much to the enjoyment of the visitors and an attempt should be made by the rangers to tame deer and black bear by feeding, as has been done successfully in the western parks. The introduction of caribou, now extinct in the region, would also increase the interest in wild life.

The existing sporting camps in the region should continue to be accessible only by trails and tote-roads. Parking areas and garages should be located nearby the automobile roads. This procedure will allow these camps to retain the privacy and clientele that they have enjoyed in the past, and at the same time protect them from undesirable tourists.

The Conservation Camp buildings at the Foster's Field, which were used during the summer of 1934 but are now abandoned, should be remodeled so as to serve as a camping unit. Foster's Field should be developed also as a tenting area to relieve the load from the campsites along the Millinocket-Sourdnaunk road. All future conservation camps buildings should be located and constructed so that they can eventually be used as camping units.

Because of the increasing number of visitors to Katahdin, and the almost absolute lack of accommodations for the non-camper in close proximity to the mountain, it is indispensable that adequate accommodations be established. These accommodations should be large buildings along the lines of the Appalachian Mountain Club huts in the White Mountains. There should be separate dormitories for men and women and meals served by attendants. These buildings should be operated by the State or leased by the State to competent individuals as concessions.

The promontory which lies between the two Basin Ponds is an ideal and unique location for a large lodge and cabin development for the accommodations of visitors. This development will help to decentralize the traffic which is becoming congested at Chimney Pond. The North Basin Pond can be used as a water supply and the South Basin Pond for recreational purposes. There is ample space to construct many individual cabins on the shores of the South Basin Pond. The lodge should be connected with the Roaring Brook Terminal and Chimney Pond, by tote-road for transporting supplies, and by foot trails for the use of visitors. A horse trail should be

located from the lodge to connect with the proposed one from Roaring Brook leading up to the tableland.

Chimney Pond holds the key position and is the most scenic portion of all the Katahdin Region. The tremendous granite buttressed ramparts of the Great Basin are similar to those of the High Sierras themselves. Because of the grandeur of the Great Basin and its accessibility, Chimney Pond is the favorite camping site for Katahdin climbers. In order to relieve the congestion and to preserve the interesting tree forms and ground cover, it is advisable to encourage the majority of visitors to stop overnight at Basin Ponds. The development at Chimney Pond should be designed largely for these hardy individuals who wish to cook their own meals and sleep out in the open or in lean-tos. There should be a main building constructed and operated along the lines of a country store or Hudson Bay Post where campers may purchase supplies and swap yarns in the evening. There should be a ranger's cabin and several individual cabins for less hardy visitors. Numerous lean-tos are necessary, and there should be groups of them isolated from the main development for the use of boys and girls. It will be necessary to pipe a water supply from Cleftrock

Pool or the spring nearby Dudley's trail. Sanitary facilities should be established, and firewood provided in order to conserve the existing growth.

It will be possible to develop the Katahdin Region to a large extent along recreational lines during the next two or three years by Federal funds, and labor in the form of conservation camps. The State should cooperate closely so that it will be in a position to carry on and maintain the recreational work after the Federal Government has completed its work. The State should also work out a plan to maintain the recreational facilities by collecting fees from the visitors. It is important that lands be acquired by the State on which to locate conservation camps, as the probability of securing such camps is greater if there is State land on which to locate them.

The supervision of the Katahdin Region should be under the direction of a competent superintendent and several assistants whose duties would be similar to those of the National Park rangers. These men should supervise the entire region, enforce regulations, impart information to visitors, and represent the State in the protection and

enjoyment of its greatest resource.

The larger part of the cost of operation and maintenance of the recreational areas should be borne by the users of the region in the form of reasonable fees for the use of shelters, parking areas and other recreational facilities. The lodge and cabin development proposed at Basin Ponds will produce a sizeable amount of revenue. However, there should be areas provided where people may park and camp absolutely free of charge. Adverse concessions and exclusive use leases should not be permitted in the region.

The Katahdin Region is one of the few remaining vast wilderness areas, and it should be preserved in its natural wild state so that posterity may have the use and enjoyment of a great primeval park. However, it is indispensable that necessary additions and alterations be made in order that visitors may be assured of access, comfort and security. The region has remarkable potentialities for recreation, and it is feasible that it will become a great winter sports center similar to that of Mount Washington. Today there are hundreds of visitors, but very shortly, because of the new roads that are making the country accessible, there will be thousands. The State

of Maine should make every effort to prepare the Katahdin region for this increase of visitors, and consequently boost its greatest asset.

Respectfully submitted,



ARTHUR C. SYLVESTER
Project Manager
Land Program Division

April 15, 1935

REPORT

COMPLETED WORK 1934

MOUNT KATAHDIN REGION

BAXTER STATE PARK

WORK COMPLETED SUMMER 1934

NATIONAL PARK CONSERVATION CAMP, MAINE SP-2

During the Summer of 1934 a National Park Conservation Camp was located at Foster's Field for the purpose of improving the Sourdnhunk-Millinecket road and establishing recreational facilities on the southwestern side of Mount Katahdin. The Camp was established on June 1, 1934, but, for the following two weeks practically the entire camp was engaged in fighting a devastating forest fire which burned over thousands of acres of forest lying south of Katahdin. From the middle of June, projects of a recreational nature were carried on until October fifteenth, at which time, the camp returned to its permanent quarters in Alfred, Maine.

The Sourdnhunk-Millinecket Road was improved from Abol Field to the Greenville Road by removing obstructions, gravelling the surface and clearing the roadsides. A vehicle bridge of logs with hewn pine planking was constructed across the Katahdin Stream and numerous existing bridges were repaired.

At Katahdin Stream a campsite was developed

to accommodate approximately eighty campers. The campsite consists of a parking area for automobiles, six tables with shelters and fireplaces, tenting spaces and four log lean-tos with fireplaces. The campsite was arranged so as to take the best advantage of the space and view of the mountain. A log cabin was constructed on the east bank for the use of a ranger whose duties it will be to supervise the campsite, patrol for fire protection and impart information to campers. As it becomes necessary to enlarge the camping facilities, it will be possible to locate additional shelters along the east side of the stream. The campsite was equipped with latrines and a water supply for drinking purposes. Signs were set up giving the distances to Baxter Park, Millinocket, Greenville and other points of interest. All possible precautions were taken to protect the ground cover and existing trees, including, the picturesque white pine which form a part of the skyline silhouette as seen from the campsite.

The large depression above the bridge caused by the Spring freshets was developed into a pool by constructing a log-crib dam across the stream. This procedure was a practical method to relieve the unsightliness of the area and to enhance the

the campsite with an attractive pool of water deep enough for bathing purposes.

The Appalachian Mountain Club or Hunt Trail was relocated for the distance of one mile on the west side of Katahdin Stream, because of better footing, to avoid steep grades and to take advantage of excellent views along the stream. One mile from the campsite a log footbridge was constructed across the stream. Just above this bridge the trail passes by a deep gorge and beautiful fifty-foot waterfall. Continuing, the trail passes along a ridge with extended views into Witherle Ravine and to Double Top and other mountains to the southwest. Approximately one and one-half miles from the road the new trail connects with the old Hunt Trail and continues to the top of the mountain. One-half mile above this junction on the bank of a small stream which crosses the trail at elevation 2,450.00, a lean-to log shelter was constructed for emergency purposes. The Hunt Trail from Katahdin Stream to Baxter Peak was blazed and marked with white paint and metal markers as used by the Appalachian Mountain Club. The blazes and markers were removed from the old trail on the east side of the Katahdin Stream. The trails on the tableland and the east side of the mountain were

marked with light blue paint and special features were designated with wooden signs. Various features such as, rocks, outstanding trees, brook scenes and distant views were accentuated by opening up vistas.


The Abol Trail was relocated a few hundred yards to the east of the old cut-off to avoid passing through areas in which the Great Northern Paper Company have recently lumbered. The new trail follows an attractive stream and connects with the old trail approximately one and one-half miles from the road. This trail is shorter and more attractive than the old one. An automobile parking space was constructed at the foot of the trail and it is proposed that a campsite with shelters be developed later on. The trail was blazed and marked with light blue paint. The Sewall Camp just inside the southern boundary of the Baxter State Park was repaired for the use of the campers. It is proposed that additional shelters be added as this location is well sheltered, commands excellent views and has a good water supply.

In order to obtain information as to how many individuals use the Hunt and Abol Trails, boxes were placed in conspicuous places for depositing names and addresses. In eight weeks, during

July and August, 749 names representing nineteen different states were deposited on the Hunt Trail and 436 were deposited on the Abol Trail. Many Katahdin enthusiasts visited the mountain by the way of Windey Pitch and Chimney Pond and approximately 1,000 persons registered at Roy Dudley's Camp at Chimney Pond during the season.

The camping facilities are adequate for the present on the Hunt Trail. The Abol campsite should be completed and shelters constructed nearby the location of the Sewall Cabin. In order to conserve and maintain the campsites, trails, structures and forest trees and cover about these recreational facilities, it is essential that a competent ranger be established at the Katahdin Stream campsite during the months that the roads are passable by automobile.

Respectfully submitted,


ARTHUR C. SYLVESTER
Project Manager
Land Program Division

April 10, 1935

REPORT

PROPOSED WORK 1935

MOUNT KATAHDIN REGION

BAXTER STATE PARK

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM-SUMMER 1935

NATIONAL PARK CONSERVATION CAMP, MAINE SP-2

The Park Camp to be established for recreational projects on the east side of Mount Katahdin during the Summer of 1935 should be located at the old Depot Camp on Avalanche Brook or if possible on Roaring Brook so as to be as near as possible to the work projects. The camp should be located and constructed so that it can be used in the future as a recreational unit.

The Togue Pond road should be continued and a terminal established at Roaring Brook with a parking area for automobiles. Later a garage and a cabin for an attendant may be added. It will be necessary to maintain and improve the road and bridges from Roaring Brook to the Sourdnhunk-Millinoeket Road for the use of camp trucks and automobiles. This work should be done under careful supervision keeping the right-of-way as near as possible to its present width and protecting the trees and ground cover on the road sides.

A campsite should be established on Spring Brook at the foot of the St. John's Trail with,

parking area, shelters, fireplaces and provision for fire protection and sanitation. The St. John's trail should be cleared, marked, and signed. A second campsite should be established on the Brook which crosses the trail at approximately elevation 2,250.00. This is a particularly scenic area and a logical place for several shelters. The St. John's trail passes through a beautiful forest of white birch which should be carefully protected.

The foot trail from Roaring Brook to Basin Ponds and Chimney Pond should be improved and relocated in several places. Roaring Brook is a unique feature and the trail should follow it as much as possible. A tote-road should also be constructed from Roaring Brook to Basin Ponds and Chimney Pond for the transportation of supplies and possibly passengers by buck-board. It is advisable to have the foot trail and the tote-road separated from one another. The tote-road should follow the present trail on the south side of Roaring Brook with the foot trail relocated on the north side.

In order that elderly persons or those who do not wish to expend the strenuous efforts necessary to climb Katahdin may reach the tableland with as little effort as possible a horse trail should be constructed up the mountain side. This trail

should lead from Roaring Brook with a branch leading into it from Basin Ponds and ascend to the tableland just north of the monument line which forms the northern boundary of Baxter State Park. At this point the contours are not so steep and the trail can be constructed with less difficulty. In the future a horse trail should also be constructed leading up from the west side of the mountain. A hovel should be built at the terminal at Roaring Brook but located apart from the development. This building can be used for the working horses on the development during the Summer. In due time a hovel should also be constructed at Basin Ponds.

When the tote-road is completed to Basin Ponds so that supplies and tools can be transported there, sites for cabins and the lodge should be located and the ground cleared. Particular attention should be given to the protection of ground cover. Time will not permit the completion of the proposed development but at least the site should be made accessible, cleared, and possibly a few individual cabins constructed. It will be advisable to construct the main lodge and other important units during the Summer of 1936.

The natural stone causeway between the two Basin Ponds which is almost passable at the present


time should be enlarged. This will serve as a dam and raise slightly the level of the north pond which can be used as a water supply for the Basin Ponds development. Cabins should be confined to the shores of the South Basin Pond and the pond itself used for such recreational purposes as bathing and canoeing. The causeway will also serve as a bridge for a new foot trail which should be constructed to Chimney Pond.

Eventually groups of cabins and lean-to shelters will be constructed at Chimney Pond for the use of campers. This development will probably also necessarily be detained until 1936. However, Chimney Pond should be made accessible at once by an adequate tote-road and foot-trail from Basin Ponds. Care should be taken to preserve the interesting tree forms and if necessary wood should be cut from other sources and supplied for the use of campers. The entire trail system should be inspected and if necessary, cleared, marked and signed.

During the Summer of 1935, the development on the east side of Mt. Katahdin will be largely the building and improvement of automobile roads, tote-roads and trails in order to make the various points of interest accessible. It will be advisable to construct the proposed accommodations

at Basin Ponds and Chimney Pond during the Summer of 1936 when these sites are accessible. A camp-site with shelters should be developed on the St. John's Trail, and if time permits, a few cabins built at Basin Ponds. Because of the nature of the region and the work involved, several teams of horses can be used effectively. In carrying out the Summer's work program the master plan of the Katahdin region should be studied carefully, also, the character of the country and the existing structures and conditions so that the region will eventually develop into a unified, well designed recreational system. Every precaution should be taken to conserve the trees and especially the ground cover and the interesting growth at Chimney Pond which has already suffered at the hands of thoughtless individuals. Those working in an administrative position on the recreational development of the Katahdin region should instruct their sub-ordinates and visitors at proper times so that they will realize the responsibility of conserving the works of nature.

Respectfully submitted,

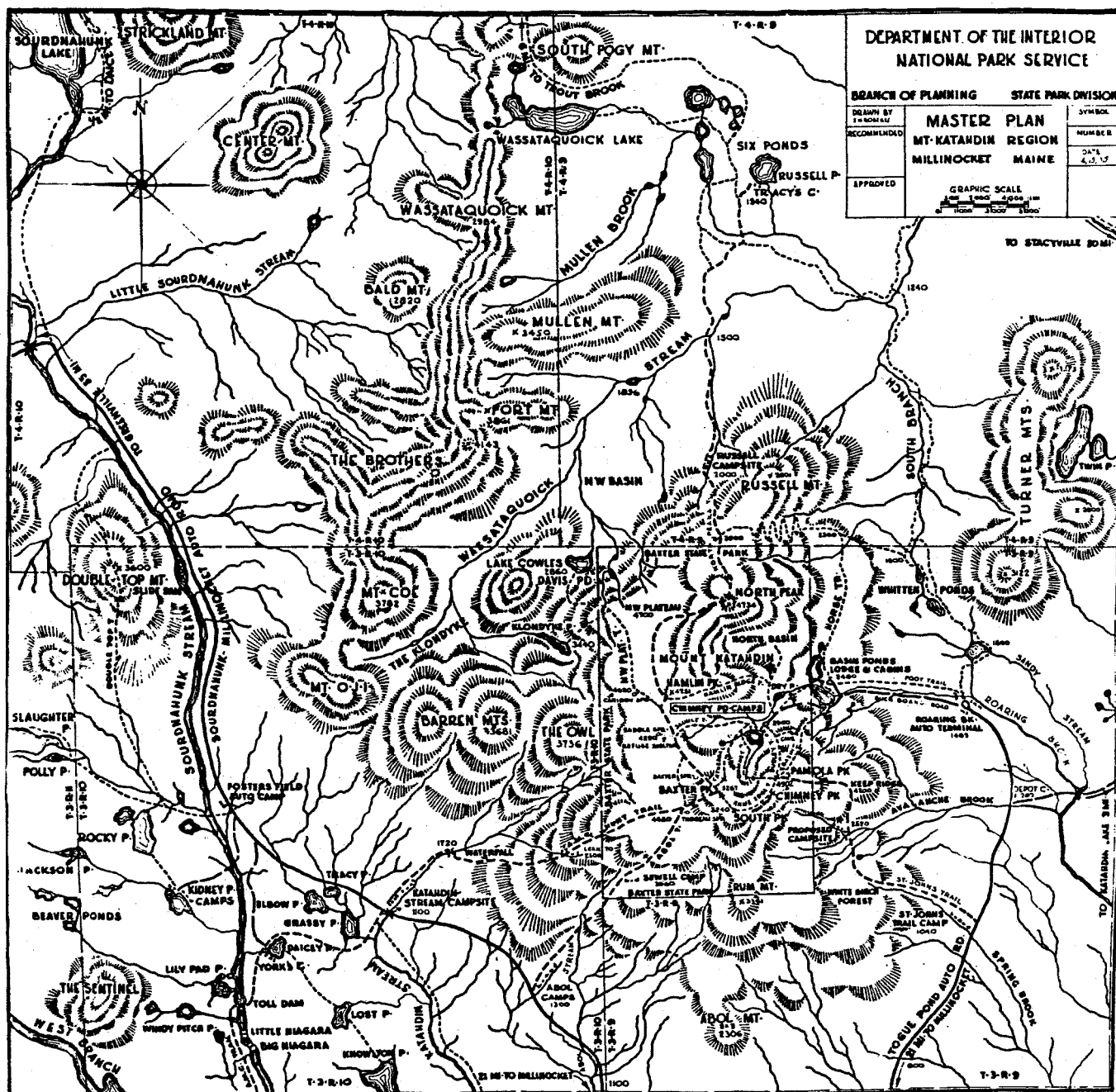

ARTHUR C. SYLVESTER
Project Manager
Land Program Division

April 10, 1935

MASTER PLAN

MOUNT KATAHDIN REGION

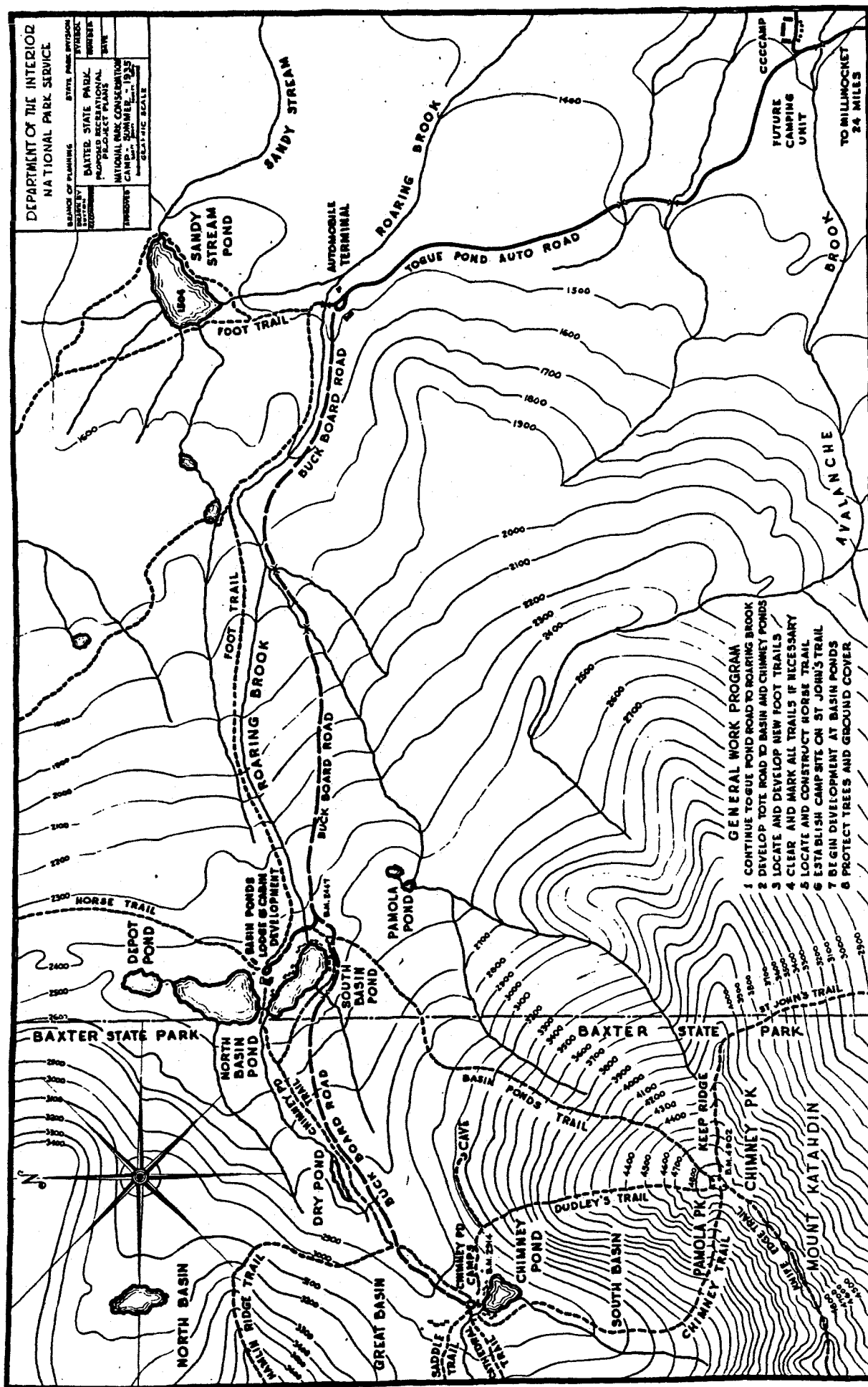
MILLINOCKET, MAINE



DETAIL PLAN

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM

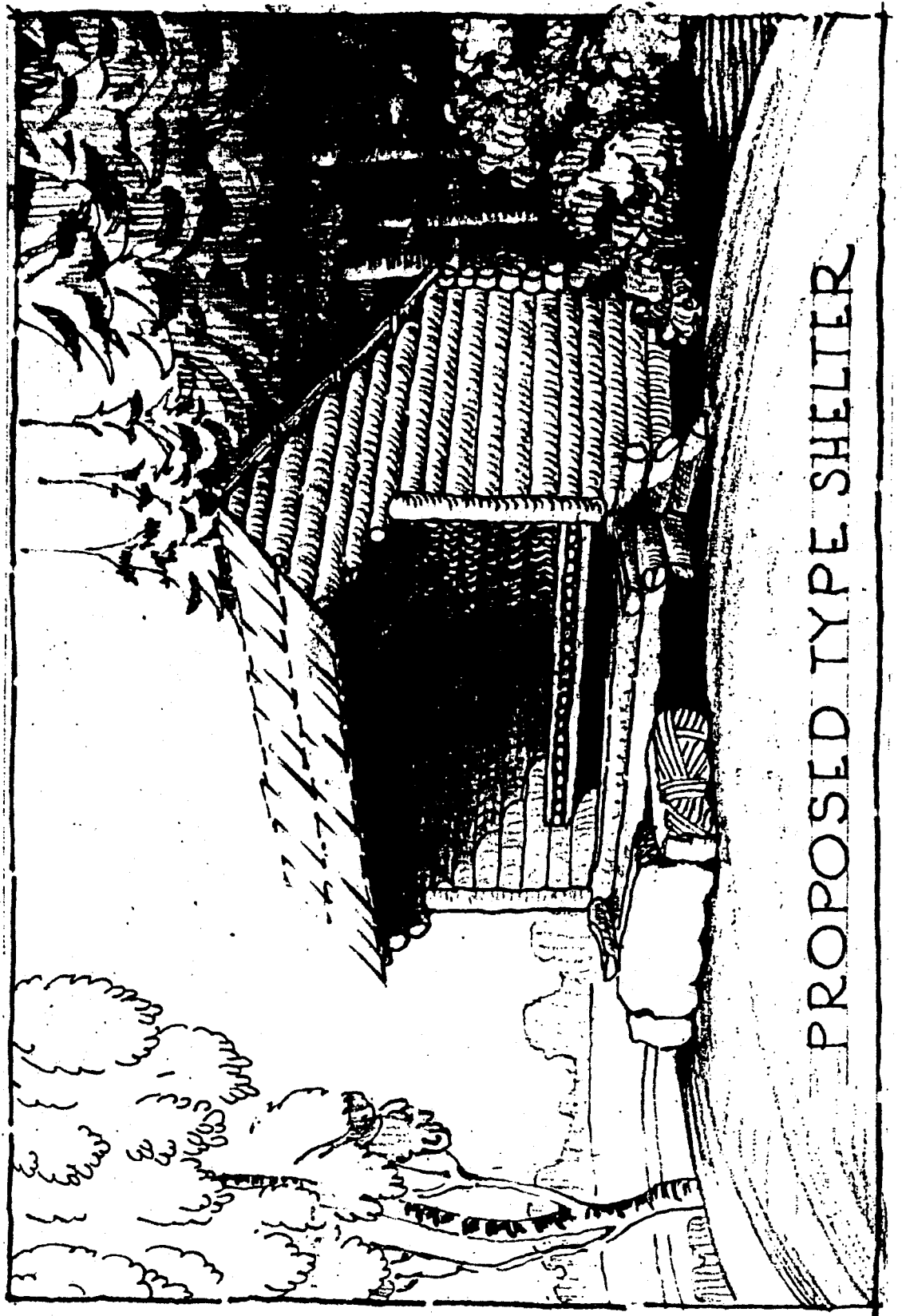
SUMMER 1935



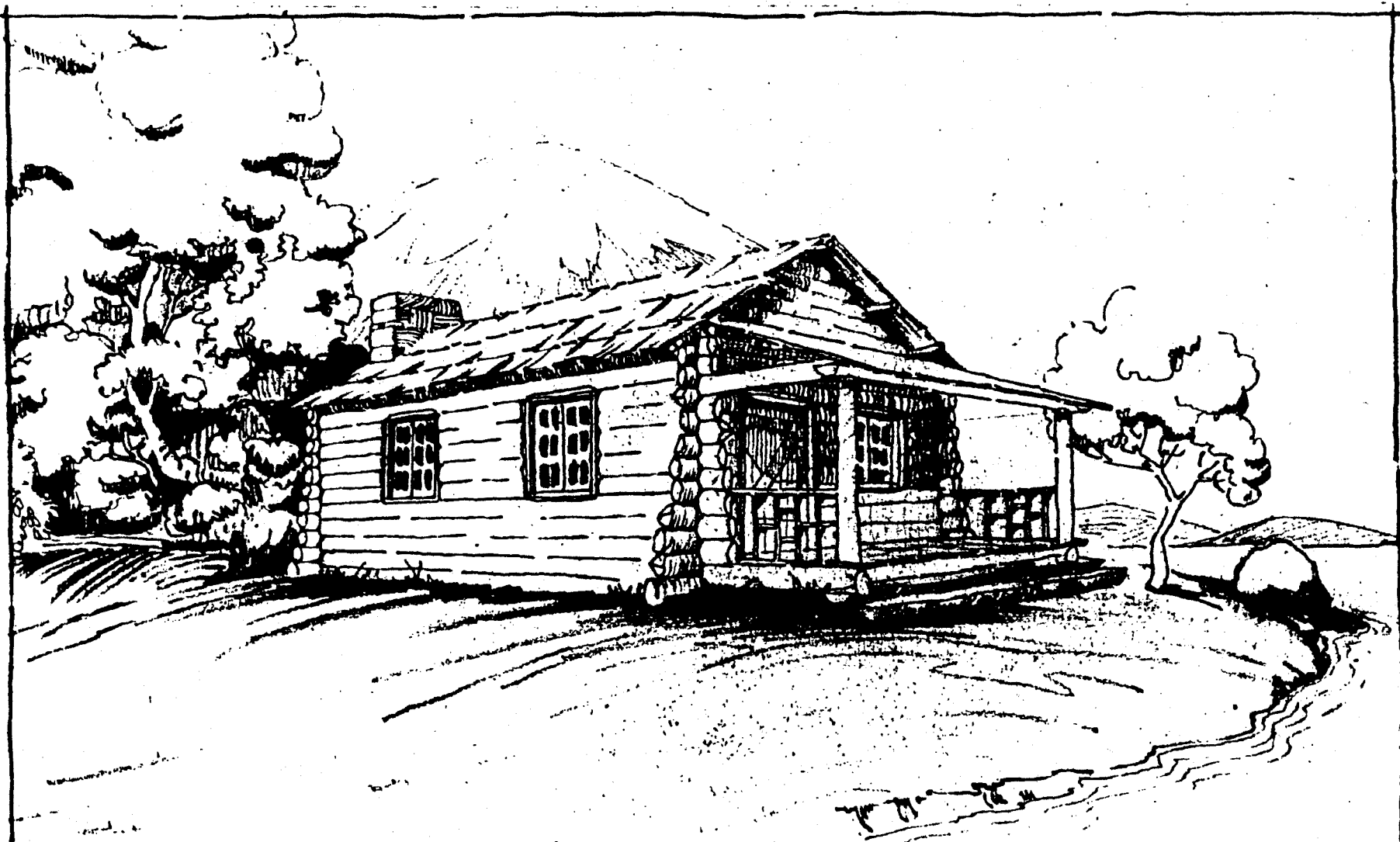
SKETCHES

PROPOSED TYPES OF STRUCTURES

MOUNT KATAHDIN REGION

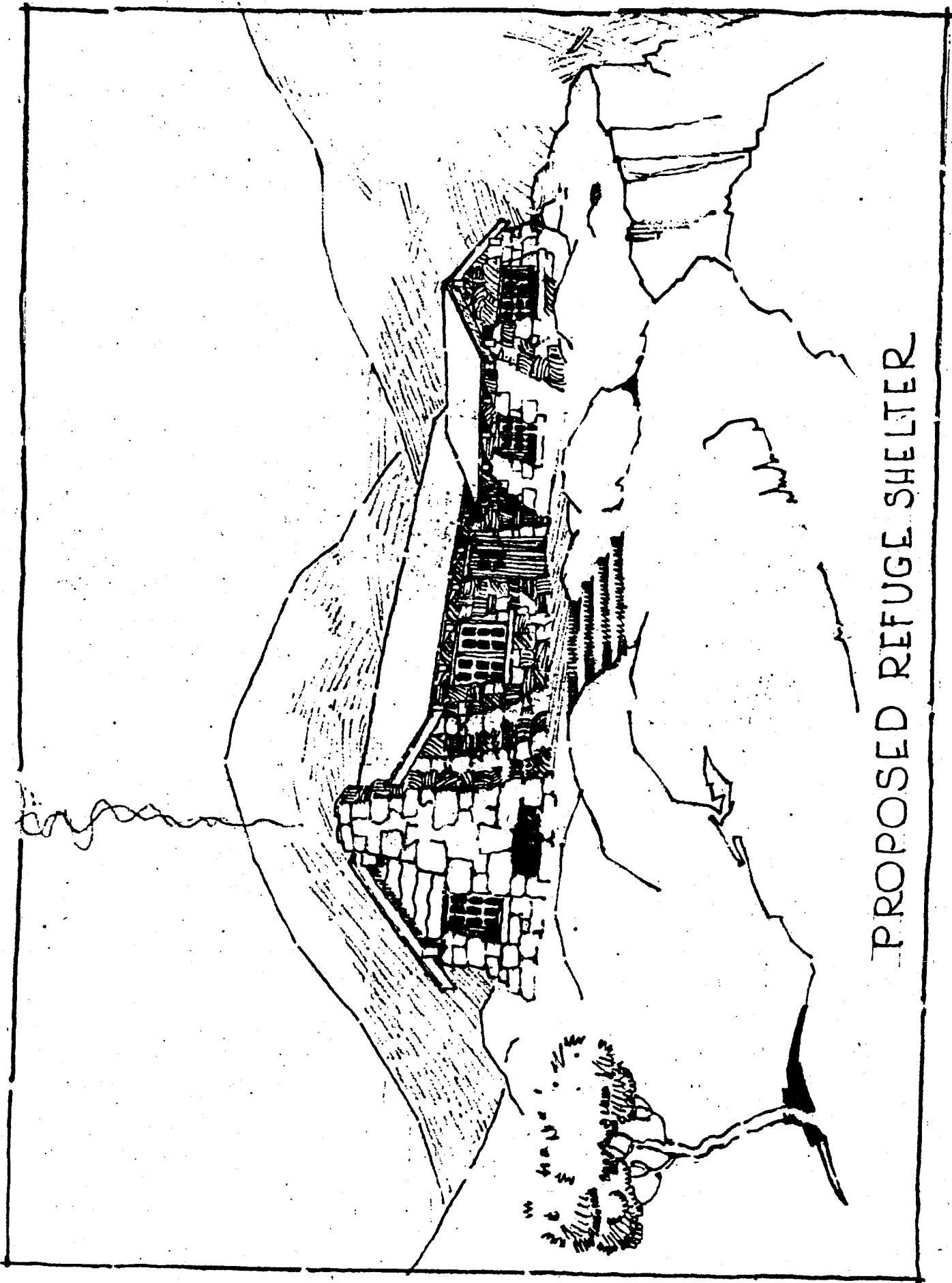


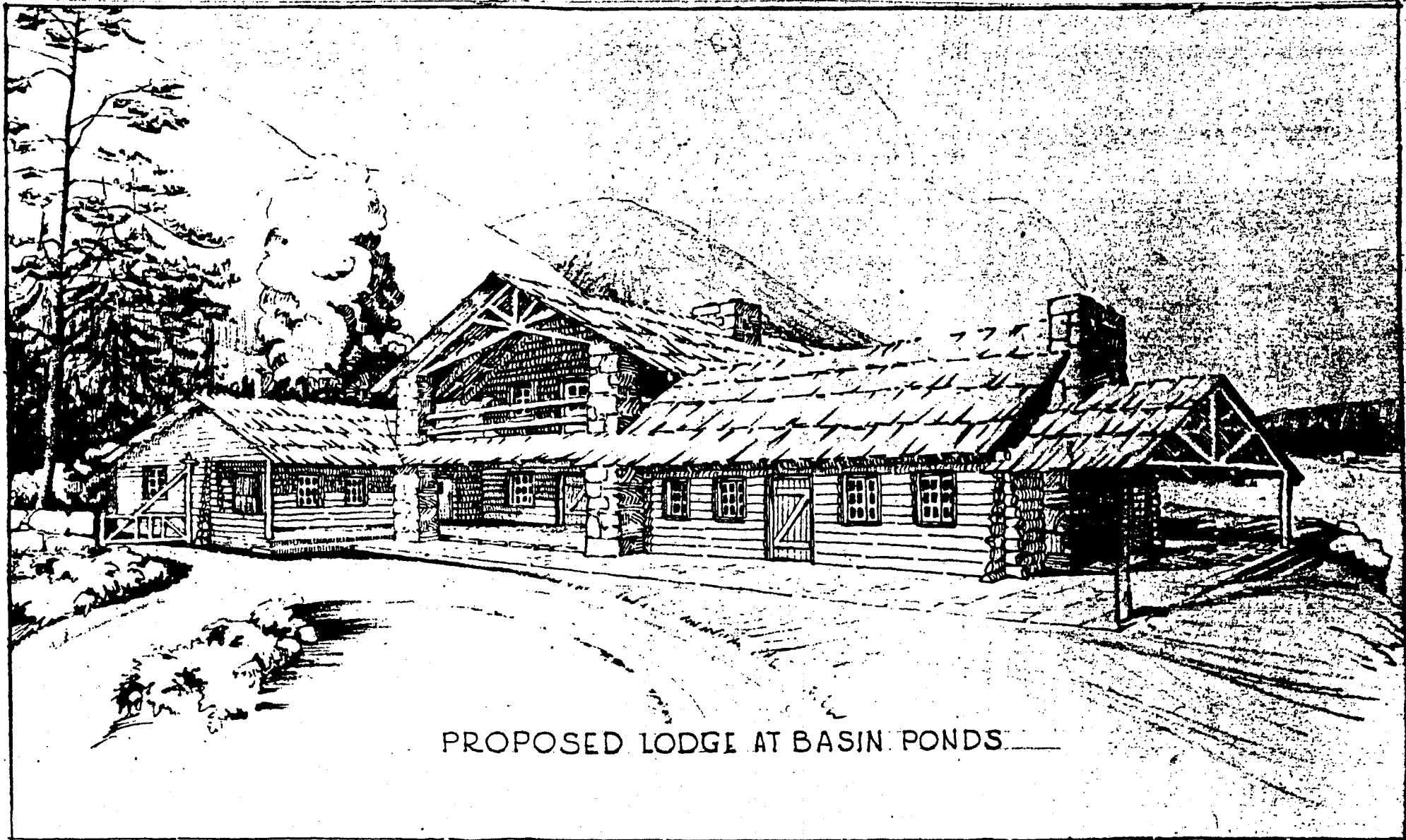
PROPOSED TYPE SHELTER



PROPOSED FAMILY CABIN

PROPOSED REFUGE SHELTER





PROPOSED LODGE AT BASIN PONDS

BAX
Folder

Baxter

1936
Aug 5

August fifth
1936

Dear Governor Brann -

A few weeks ago I suggested to Mr. Abrahamson of the WPA that if he had a few men at Millinocket to whom he would like to give employment they could be used to great advantage in cleaning up the Trail leading from Basin Pond to Chimney Pond in the Katahdin region and in erecting a few shelters in Chimney Pond to care for the numerous mountain climbers who go there during the Summer season. Mr. Abrahamson has looked kindly upon the project and is about to start.

There are one or two details, however, that need to be attended to and I write to ask your assistance.

Mr. Seavey our Forest Commissioner approves of this work and will provide transportation, axes and one or two tents but about two hundred dollars more is needed in order to buy nails and some hardware so I write to ask if you will arrange for this through an order of the Governor and Council.

Mr. John F. Ward of the Board of Selectmen of Millinocket a man who is thoroughly reliable in every way, has interested himself in this matter and has taken care of many of the details. He writes me that they are ready to go to work but require this slight assistance in order to carry it through successfully. This will mean much both to Millinocket and Greenville for from these two towns the travel goes through to the mountain.

If the money is given to Mr. Seavey he will see that it is properly used and he and Mr. Ward will see that it is used to good advantage.

There are one or two other matters I am anxious to talk over with you at your convenience if you will kindly let me know when I can come to Augusta.

To-

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Louis J. Brann
State House
Augusta
Maine.

August fifteenth
1936

Dear Mr. Pritchard -

I was much pleased to meet you on your recent visit to Portland and you gave me a great deal of helpful information about National and State Parks. Moreover you were very kind in what you said about my gift of a State Park to the people of Maine.

You ask my views 1- about the possible acquisition by the National Park Service of land contiguous to Katahdin and 2- as to my views about your taking over Baxter State Park (Laws of Maine 1933 Chapter 103 Resolves, Page 677) as a portion of a larger area to be made into a National Park. As to the first, for the reasons given below I certainly hope the Federal Government will not come into this region and as to the second suggestion that Baxter Park be merged into a National Park it just cannot be done as I will explain.

When I first went to the State Legislature as a member in 1905, a date that ante-dates the establishment of many of our National Parks I had in mind the establishment of State Parks and in this with all modesty I can say that I was a pioneer. Bills sponsored by me were repeatedly killed by the land owners in the Maine Legislature. Finally I concluded to take the matter into my own hands and after years of patient waiting and the exercise of some tact I acquired Katahdin, a feat considered impossible by all those familiar with the situation.

Under Laws of Maine 1933 Chapter 5, Page 460 the State formally accepted my gift of the Mountain "to be forever held by the said State in Trust for the People of Maine for State Forest, Public Park and Recreational purposes", subject to certain conditions that these lands "shall forever be used for State Forest, Public Park and Recreational purposes, shall forever be left in the natural wild state, shall forever be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds and that no roads or ways for motor vehicles shall hereafter ever be constructed therein or thereon". I am pleased that you approve of these binding restrictions for I thought them out carefully all by myself. From this you will understand that the faith and honor of the State of Maine are pledged for all time, and if I know the people of Maine they never will break the solemn covenant they made with me, whether I be alive or dead. I stand squarely on this and have no fear of any change. The Federal Government cannot condemn, and would not attempt to condemn State land held under such a promise.

August fifteenth
1936

I told you in confidence of my present negotiations for certain land contiguous to Katahdin and also of what is to be done in case of my decease, and now I ask you and your associates to be patient and leave this area to me. In due time from these plans of mine a large and suitable State Park will develop in the Katahdin region. Moreover, with the Mountain, which is the key to it all, forever remaining, a State Park there is nothing of any value or interest left in the adjoining region that in my opinion would interest your Park Service. The spectacular scenic area of that region is comprised within the limits of the State Park as it now exists, and all the land outside is just more wild land, such land as can be found in countless places within our State. If your Park Service wants a National Park in Maine there is available much land and many lakes and streams in Washington and other counties, with no State Park to restrict and limit your purchases.

You spoke of our other State Parks, which by the way are hardly of sufficient size to warrant the name. You will be interested to know that most of these were acquired at my suggestion and under my direction as Governor. These are Fort Knox on the Penobscot, Fort Popple and Fort Baldwin on the Kennebec, Fort Edgecomb on the Coast, Fort Lachias in the East, Fort McFlary at Kittery and others, so you see my interest in State Parks is of long standing and is far flung.

You are at liberty to explain the plans I disclosed to you to your associates for I know you all will be discreet. I have told the story to our Governor Bramm and he has given me his word he would not favor the National Government's entry into the Katahdin region. I depend upon his word in this matter.

It now appears that certain landed interests in their desire to sell their holdings to the Federal Government are posing as being interested in Parks and are agitating to make a sale. For twenty and more years these very people were the bitterest opponents of the Park idea in any form. They fought against the public's having any of the forest lands of Maine, for they were fearful lest the people of the State who by the way once owned millions of acres of our best forest lands should become park or forest-minded. Incidentally these interests have succeeded in using the C.C.C.'s to build roads to their private lands and strange as it may seem these very people formerly so hostile now see a great light and have suddenly become park-minded and public-spirited! If I know anything about the undercurrents here in Maine, these recent converts have but one thought and the interest now shown by them is solely for the purpose of selling their property to the government. You have no conception of the political strength of this opposition in our Maine Legislature. From long experience they know just how to handle anything that they consider is likely to trespass on their sacred privileges. They to-day are as strong as ever and their re-

penitence and reform is too recent to be genuine.

In speaking so plainly of certain groups I want you to know that there are some land owners in our State who are public-spirited and broad-minded and these I respect; they are fine people. I want some time to tell you of what is called "The Great Steal" whereby 1,600,000 acres of our finest lands were stolen by a powerful, lawless group of political robbers.

If you and any of your specialists come to Maine again I shall be happy to get the benefit of your special knowledge, for I want my plans to be laid out properly with a long time view for the future. Do allow me, with the assistance of old "Father Time", to handle this matter as I have planned, for what has been accomplished here has been done only after a long and tiresome contest, absolutely single-handed and in the face of abuse and bitterness that you would not believe possible where a man merely was trying to do something worthwhile for his Native State.

My sole desire is to serve my State as a private citizen by providing a great Park and Forest Reserve for future generations. Something big and lasting that will be the State's greatest natural asset. You and your associates and I speak the same language, so let us continue to do so without interference from those we may not too disrespectfully call outsiders.

Believe me

Faithfully,

(Signed) PERCIVAL P. BAXTER.

To-

Dr. E.A. Pritchard,
National Park Service
Bronxville
New York.

August
seventeenth
1936

Dear Governor Brann -

My two letters to you of recent date asking for an appointment so I might come to Augusta and see you, no doubt are among the mass of correspondence that accumulates on the Governor's desk at a time like this waiting to be answered. I know something of the pressure and anxiety incident to a political campaign so write you this letter. Later on I will come to Augusta at your convenience.

A newspaper story in the "Press-Herald" of July sixteenth last tells of an airplane flight over Katahdin by some people connected with the National Park Service, and one section of the story saying "it is understood that Governor Brann is interested in having the Katahdin section, now a State Park, becoming a National recreation area", disturbs me.

You recall our conversation of some time ago when I disclosed to you in confidence my plans for the enlargement of the State Park. At that time you gave me definite assurance that in view of what I already had done and am to do, not only would you use your influence against any acquisition by the National Government of any land in the Katahdin area but also you would see to it that nothing of this sort is done.

My one great interest in our State is to carry out my Park plans, and I am depending upon you to prevent any encroachment upon them. As the pioneer in acquiring and donating to the State the most spectacular scenic area within our borders, and in view of the solemn covenant entered into between the People of Maine and myself that Katahdin "forever be held by the State in Trust for the People of Maine" the mountain stands forever as State property.

I am aware that certain landed interests, formerly very bitter against any Park, State or National, now seek to sell their land to the Federal Government. Their

August
seventeenth
1936

- 2 -

land, however, is absolutely valueless for National Park purposes unless such a Park has as its central and one great attraction the mountain itself, and that cannot be. As a matter of fact, the land these people now desire to dispose of is just more land with no unusual features connected with it, and in other parts of Maine there are countless areas more interesting and more scenic. Their conversion to the Park idea is too recent and their motive too apparent to be taken seriously.

As one who has been Chief Executive of our State, who like yourself is intensely loyal to its highest interest and who insists that its solemn covenants be scrupulously observed in spirit as well as in letter, I ask you to assure me that on this matter you are of the same mind and intention as you were when we formerly spoke together as herein referred to. I await your reply with interest.

Faithfully,

To -

Hon. Louis J. Brann
State House
Augusta
Maine.

BAX
Folder
58

Pritchard

1936
Aug. 29

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

August 29, 1936

Mr. P. Baxter,
22 Monument Square,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

Thank you for your good letters which caught up with me only yesterday.

It was to be regretted that an urgent call to Washington made it impossible for me to complete my work in Augusta and later to be able to report to you how well things were working out to meet your objectives.

I appreciate very much having your statements relative to the conditions which you foresee in the development of the whole Mt. Katahdin area, only regretting that you had not included a statement of your willingness to see the area turned to the administration of the State Park Commission if and when its resources are augmented sufficiently to meet the proper uses of this important park. It is my hope that you or the State Park Commission would request the National Park Service to send the proper technicians up to Katahdin for an evaluation which would show the adequate size, appropriateness of land and the proper buffer area that would be required for the best use in making this an outstanding scenic and wildlife recreation area for the State of Maine.

We of the National Park Service are anxious only to be of co-operative service in helping the state of Maine to plan for the best feasible recreation developments.

Thanking you for your favor and with personal regards I remain

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Pritchard

E. A. Pritchard
Associate Recreation Planner

1937
Jan. 15

January fifteenth
1937

Dear Governor Barrows -

I received yesterday an interesting letter from Byron H. Avery of the United States Maritime Commission giving his views as to conditions in the Katahdin country.

Mr. Avery is Chairman of the Board of the Appalachian Trail Conference and for many years has been deeply interested in Maine, particularly in the Katahdin region. He writes as follows --

"I note with much interest that you hope to be at Chimney Pond next summer and see what 'improvements' have been made there. I may perhaps save you from disappointment by saying directly that I fear that the situation is quite the reverse. Many of us who are interested in the Katahdin region have become quite concerned over its future. There seems to us to be a very pressing problem. First, the tremendous increase in visitors to Katahdin makes inevitable provision for supervision over the area. With all that Dudley -- who has no authority at all -- is able to do, conditions at Chimney Pond are short of chaotic. The people take drinking water from the same end of Chimney Pond as may be used for bathing. Cutting trees for firewood at Chimney Pond should be absolutely stopped. Tree growth there requires a long time. The State does a great deal in the way of inducing visitors to come to Katahdin and yet there are no adequate facilities such as people expect to find there, and in fact, everyone who lights a fire in that area breaches the State regulations.

"I have had occasion to talk over these matters with many of my friends who are interested in the region. We feel most strongly the need of supervision of the locality and the adoption of a definite plan. If it is necessary to emphasize the latter. The Legislature is in session and despite the depressed condition of the State finances, as this is a matter of protecting for all time the greatest resource of the State, with your well-known influence and interest, it might be possible to obtain the necessary appropriation for supervision of the Katahdin area.

"I do not want to under-emphasize our apprehension and our feeling that the seeming laissez faire policy is bound to produce -- and already has produced -- consequences which are close to irreparable."

I send you the above paragraphs from Mr. Avery's letter to me to supplement my suggestion that the modest sum of two thousand (\$2,000.) dollars annually be appropriated for the MAINE A.P.T.

-- 2 --

January
fifteenth
1937

PARK COMMISSION.

With this money the Commission can employ a caretaker both on the East and West side of the mountain and can also provide a few additional camping shelters for the several thousand visitors who each year make the ascent of the mountain.

I am sure that the appropriation of this money will prove a good investment for the state.

With kind regards.

Faithfully,

To-

Hon. Louis O. Barrows
State House
Augusta
Maine.

I did not tell him you were abroad; I want to see you. I would reply to this letter upon your return, and would reply to this letter upon your return.

73
75TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5864

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 1937

Mr. BREWSTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Public Lands and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Katahdin National Park in the State of Maine, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That when title to all of township 6, ranges 8 and 9; section
4 3 to 6, inclusive; 9 to 12, inclusive; 15 to 18, inclusive; 21
5 to 24, inclusive; 27 to 30, inclusive; 33 to 36, inclusive;
6 township 6, range 10; all of township 5, ranges 8, 9, 10,
7 and 11; all of township 4, ranges 8, 9, 10, and 11; all of
8 township 3, ranges 8, 9, and 10; all of township 3, range 11,
9 north of the West Branch of the Penobscot River; all of
10 township 2, range 10, north of the West Branch of the

1 Penobscot River; and all of the north half of township 2,
2 ranges 8 and 9, in Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties, in
3 the State of Maine, shall have been vested in the United
4 States, such lands shall be, and are hereby, established, dedi-
5 cated, and set apart as a public park for the benefit and en-
6 joyment of the people and shall be known as the "Katahdin
7 National Park": *Provided*, That the United States shall not
8 purchase by appropriation of public money any land within
9 the aforesaid area, but such lands shall be secured by the
10 United States only by public or private donations.

11 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby author-
12 ized, in his discretion and upon submission of evidence of
13 title satisfactory to him, to accept on behalf of the United
14 States title to the lands referred to in the previous section
15 hereof: *Provided*, That no land for said park shall be ac-
16 cepted until exclusive jurisdiction over the entire park area,
17 in form satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior, shall
18 have been ceded by the State of Maine to the United States.

19 SEC. 3. The administration, protection, and development
20 of the aforesaid national park shall be exercised under the
21 direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National
22 Park Service, subject to the provisions of the Act of August
23 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), entitled "An Act to establish a
24 National Park Service, and for other purposes", as amended:
25 *Provided*, That the provisions of the Act of June 10, 1920,

1 known as the "Federal Water Power Act", as amended,
2 shall not apply to this park: *Provided further*, That no
3 general development of the area shall be undertaken until
4 all the lands described in section 1 hereof shall have been
5 accepted by the Secretary: *And provided further*, That the
6 Secretary of the Interior may, in his discretion, accept for
7 administration and protection by the National Park Service
8 title to the area comprising the existing Baxter State Park
9 or such other portions of the area described in section 1
10 hereof subject to the agreement by the State of Maine that
11 if at least 90 per centum of the lands described in section 1
12 of this Act as may be designated by the Secretary of the
13 Interior as satisfactory for park purposes shall not have
14 been conveyed to the United States within ten years from
15 the date of the passage of this Act the establishment of the
16 aforesaid national park shall be abandoned and the said
17 State shall accept a reconveyance of title to it by the Secre-
18 tary of the Interior who is hereby authorized to execute an
19 appropriate deed or deeds for said purpose on behalf of the
20 United States of America.

Boxter

1937
April 8

73

(this letter was sent to Senators Hale and White on April 8, 1937)

C O P Y

April
eighth
1937

Dear Fred -

I am writing you this letter and also am sending it to Wallace so that you both will understand what I have in mind. Although the letter and its enclosures both are long please read them carefully because it means a great deal to me to have you understand the situation that has arisen.

On my return to Portland from a brief trip abroad I was immediately confronted with H.R. 5864 introduced by Brewster, and relating to Mt. Katahdin and the adjoining territory in the State of Maine.

For twenty years I worked very hard to get the State of Maine to buy Mt. Katahdin for a public park and without success. Then I determined to take the matter in my own hands and so I bought the Mountain myself and gave it to the State in 1931, as you are aware.

The State accepted this gift by formal act of the Legislature "to be forever held by the said State in TRUST for the people of Maine for State, Forest, Public Park and Recreational purposes". This constituted a solemn promise on behalf of the State that it would hold this in Trust forever.

It now appears that for some time past certain people have been agitating to have the National Park Service take over the Katahdin area. Last Summer a representative from the National Park Service called on me and discussed the situation. From him I found out who were behind the movement and I told him very definitely that I would never consent to have Mt. Katahdin surrendered by the State to the National Government.

The man who called upon me was Dr. E. A. Pritchard, and in confidence I disclosed to him my plans for this area, and he assured me that in view of what I had done and said, the National Park Service would not interfere in this region and would drop the matter. Dr. Pritchard asked me to write him a letter which I did on August 15, 1936, and an abbreviated copy is enclosed for your records.

It now appears that somebody is trying to revive this matter. The National Government, however, if I understand the law, cannot condemn State property without the consent of the State Legislature. If I am any judge of the temper of the people of Maine, the State Legislature will never break its promise to me and the People of the State.

My one great interest in this State is the Mt. Katahdin area. I shall be glad to tell you of my plans for the future but owing to their personal nature prefer not to put these plans on paper. All I ask is that the Federal Government leave this area alone and in due time the State will have a splendid Park that will be a credit to the State, to be held forever for the use of the people. I want nothing from the people of the State of Maine other than their respect and I am no longer interested to hold any public position whatsoever.

Nothing could be more unfair and unkind than to advocate a bill of this sort after what I have done for Maine. As I said in my letter to Dr. Pritchard, if the Federal Government wants to establish a National Park in Maine they have twenty million acres other than Mt. Katahdin, from which to make a selection.

Nothing of a public nature could arise that touches me more intimately than this bill and I shall not rest in peace until I am convinced that it is definitely killed and that there will be no further agitation in regard to it.

Faithfully,

(SIGNED) PERCIV L P. BAXTER

To-

Hon. Frederick Hale
Senate Office Building
Washington
D. C.

Return please
To
John L. Albright

Box 69

Brunswick Maine
04011

April
ninth
1937

Dear Mr. Albright -

Having just returned from a short trip abroad I have before me your letter of the seventh and am glad to give you my views on the proposal to establish a National Park in the Mt. Katahdin region.

I enclose you copy of a letter I wrote to Dr. E. A. Pritchard of the National Park Service, written August fifteenth last and also a copy of a letter written to Senators Frederick Hale and Wallace H. White, Jr. under date of the eight of April. Although these letters which I am enclosing you are long, I ask you to please read them carefully so that you will understand my position in the Katahdin proposal.

I am much disturbed that there is agitation in regard to the Katahdin region becoming a part of the National Park Service. As you will see from the enclosures, as far back as 1905 I became interested in Parks and have worked conscientiously for them. The National Government has had ample opportunity to establish a Park in the Katahdin region throughout all these years and it seems unfair to me now to have them enter this region.

I will not go into details in my letter to you because the correspondence with Dr. Pritchard and Senators Hale and White will thoroughly explain the matter.

When you come to Maine this Summer I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you and then I will be pleased to tell you in detail my plans for the future. I hope that you will stand with me on this matter.

With kind regards.

Faithfully,

To-

Mr. Horace M. Albright
Room 3517
No. 30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York City.

BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT., CHAIRMAN
ELLISON D. SMITH, S. C.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.
M. M. NEELY, W. VA.
WILLIAM H. DIETERICH, ILL.
AUGUSTINE LONGERAN, CONN.
FRED H. BROWN, N. H.
HOMER T. BONE, WASH.
VIC DONAHEY, OHIO
SHERMAN MINTON, IND.
A. HARRY MOORE, N. J.
HARRY S. TRUMAN, MO.
C. O. ANDREWS, FLA.
EDWIN C. JOHNSON, COLO.
H. H. SCHWARTZ, WYO.

WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE
JAMES J. DAVIS, PA.
WARREN R. AUSTIN, VT.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE

April 13, 1937

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

M. W. MITCHELL, CLERK

Honorable Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

My dear Percy:

On my return to Washington after an absence of a few days I found your letter of April 8 with its enclosures.

I do not have a copy of the Brewster bill before me but it is my understanding that it is only an enabling act, i. e., one authorizing the Federal Government to take over the property in the event the State should determine to give it to the Federal Government for park purposes. However, in view of the gift of this area to the State by you and of your present attitude and future purposes, I should be reluctant to see passed even such a bill as Mr. Brewster has introduced and I am writing him to this effect. I have the very definite feeling that your desires in this matter should be respected. I shall try to do so.

With assurances of regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

Wallace H. White

W/C

BAX
Folder 74
RALPH O. BREWSTER
THIRD DISTRICT MAINE

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
252 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

HOME ADDRESS:
DEXTER, MAINE

Brewster

April 14
COMMITTEES:
NAVAL AFFAIRS
INSULAR AFFAIRS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
INVALID PENSIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

April 14, 1937.

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland,
Maine.

My dear Governor:-

I spoke to Senator White regarding the possibility of National recognition and cooperation in the preservation of the Katahdin region and asked him to communicate with you regarding the matter. Senator White reported back that you were in Europe and I accordingly went forward with the proposed Bill here, of which I enclose copy.

As you will note, this contemplates a period of ten years in which determination could be made as to what will be the best method of preserving the charms of the Katahdin region for future generations without prejudice meanwhile to the full freedom of action of all the interests that are concerned.

I did not realize you were returning so soon or I should have been happy to defer introduction of legislation here until opportunity for a conference.

Both Senator Hale and Senator White have called me since hearing from you and have suggested the desirability of a discussion of the situation.

I expect to be in Augusta on Friday of this week and should be glad to go over the matter with you if it were convenient for you to be there. I am going up by air in order to save time on account of the congestion here and this does not make it very practicable to stop over in Portland or I would plan to stop there to see you if that were more convenient.

Cordially yours,

Ralph Brewster

C/C to Hon. Frederick Hale
Hon. Wallace H. White, Jr.

1937
April 14

April fourteenth
1 9 3 7

Dear John -

Rupert tells me that he showed you the copy of the letter I wrote to Senators Hale and White in regard to Brewster's proposal to have Mt. Katahdin and Baxter State Park absorbed by the National Park Service. Nothing has disturbed me for a long time as much as this and although I feel confident that while I am alive and well nothing can be done, of course something might happen to me and then Brewster might accomplish his purpose.

When I next see you I want to sit down with you and explain my plans so that if anything should happen to me you can represent me and stand up for the honor of the family. As you are about twenty years younger than I am, perhaps between us we can outlive friend Brewster and thus defeat his plans.

I ask you to put the enclosed correspondence in a safe place after you have read it carefully for you might want to refer to it in the future.

The letter of August 15th, 1936, to Dr. E. A. Pritchard explains itself. He disclosed to me here in my office the plans of certain timberland owners to sell their land to the Government and he also spoke of Brewster's proposal even as far back as last August.

The letters to Senator Hale and White of April 8th also explain themselves.

The letter of April 9th to Hon. Horace M. Albright who was the former Director of the National Park Service will be received by him sympathetically because he is a very fine man and his friendly toward me.

To show you how Brewster is trying to dig in, he has taken the matter up with the Appalachian Club and I have a letter from Mr. Ronald L. Gower who is prominent in the Club, and I replied to him about as I did to Senators Hale and White and also enclosed him copies of the correspondence.

Of course Brewster's motive is apparent and is two-fold;

April
fourteenth
1937

- 2 -

first to injure me and second to get some political advantage by being instrumental in having a National Park in Maine.

I shall never consent to have my gift to the State transferred to the National Government because I have no desire to do anything for them. My sole interest is to do something for the State of Maine and its people, and as I am the pioneer in this matter I intend to hold the State of Maine to its solemn promise.

With every good wish to you, Connie and the boys.

Affectionately

your uncle

To-

Mr. John L. Baxter
Brunswick
Maine.

ENCLOSURES

BAX
Folger
73

Baxter

1937
April 16

April
sixteenth
1937

Dear Governor Barrows -

I was in Augusta yesterday on a private matter and wanted to call upon you but felt that with all the problems pressing upon you I had better come later after the Legislature adjourns. I hope, however, you are well and that everything will come out all right.

On my return from abroad I found that Congressman Brewster had introduced a bill for the National Government to take over Mt. Katahdin. This disturbs me very much because I want this to forever remain a State Park and I have some ambitious plans for the future in connection with it.

As a matter of fact the State, by Legislative Act, accepted this property to be forever held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people of Maine and if I am any judge of the temper of Maine people they will never break this trust.

For more than twenty years I endeavored to induce the State to purchase this region but finally came to the conclusion that if it was to become State property I myself must buy it and present it to the people of Maine. Certainly if the National Government want to establish a National Park in Maine they have millions of acres apart from Katahdin from which to choose.

I hope that Governor Brewster will not press this matter but will leave it to me and I assure you it will be well taken care of. Some time when I come to Augusta I will take you into my confidence in regard to this area.

With my kindest wishes.

Faithfully

To-

Hon. Lewis O. Barrows
State House
Augusta
Maine.

BAK
Folder
74

Baxter

1937
April 16

C O P Y

April
sixteenth
1937

Dear Congressman -

I received your letter and unfortunately it is not convenient for me to come to Augusta to-morrow as you suggest because Monday being a holiday I have made plans for the week-end.

When I returned home from a brief trip abroad I found on my desk a copy of your bill, which a friend in Washington sent me. This disturbs me very much because I have plans for the Katahdin area, which if I could disclose to you I am sure would meet with your approval.

I am hoping you will not press this matter because everything is going along well at present and the State is under little or no expense. Of course when you introduced your bill you were not aware of my plans and of the establishment of a definite Trust in regard to the Mountain.

The Mountain was accepted to be forever held in Trust for the people of Maine and this was done deliberately so that it must always remain a State Park. If the Federal Government wants to have a National Park in Maine let them choose some of the twenty million acres away from Katahdin. There is ample room for such a Park in Arcostook and Washington Counties.

I am sending this letter to Governor Barrows' office as you probably will call upon him as you pass through Augusta.

Faithfully,

To-

Hon. Ralph O. Brewster
c/o Hon. Lewis O. Barrows
State House
Augusta
Maine.

(Signed) PERCIVAL P. BAXTER.

L.H.
Follett
73

Baxter

1757
April 16

April
sixteenth
1937

Dear John -

Your letter of yesterday is fine and I am grateful to you for it.

Before long we will get together and then we can talk the matter over.

Your thought about Jack's continuing the good work is most encouraging and between us all we should constitute a pretty good team.

Affectionately

your uncle

To-

Mr. John L. Baxter
Brunswick
Maine.

LAX
Folder
73

Baxter

1121
April 17

April
seventeenth
1 9 3 7

Dear Fred -

Your telephone message encouraged me much and although I could not go to Augusta to meet Congressman Brewster as he requested I sent him a letter copy of which is enclosed to you so that you will be informed.

Wallace writes me that he will stand with me on the Ketchikan matter and with you and him on my side there is nothing to fear.

I am hoping that Congressman Brewster will withdraw his bill and of course whenever he wants to talk the matter over with me I shall be available.

Next year is going to be a critical one for Maine and we must all work together to prevent the National Administration securing control. I feel that they will do everything in their power to carry our State and Governor Brann's friends are very hopeful.

Although 1940 is some distance away, time passes rapidly and I want to say to you now I hope you will continue in the Senate for an indefinite period and I shall be very happy to help you in every way. Please do not for a minute think of withdrawing because you are needed in Washington and Maine is fortunate in having two Senators as conscientious, able and effective as you and Wallace.

Believe me

Faithfully,

To-

Hon. Frederick Hale
Senate Office Building
Washington
D. C.

ENCLOSURE

BAX
Folder
RALPH O. BREWSTER '74
THIRD DISTRICT MAINE

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
252 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

HOME ADDRESS:
DEXTER, MAINE

Brewster

1751
April 19
COMMITTEES:
NAVAL AFFAIRS
INSULAR AFFAIRS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
INVALID PENSIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

April 19, 1937

Hon. Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

My dear Governor:

I missed your letter in Augusta but received it on my return here this morning. I am sorry that there was not opportunity to talk over the situation as I am quite sure that we all have the same objective in view and that is to preserve the Mount Katahdin region in the best possible manner for the service of present and future generations.

The fact that the Mount Katahdin area is more and more recognized as one that is entitled to national recognition is a demonstration of your foresight in taking steps to preserve this area.

There is increasing concern among nature lovers that the increasing influx of visitors incident to recent developments may mar very greatly its attractions and possibly render it impracticable in the future to secure the recognition which would put it on a parity with the other areas that have been recognized as of national concern.

The problem of proper protection and development, I am sure, is a matter of concern to all alike and the unique availability of the National Park Service and all its background of experience and trained personnel in handling the problems incident to such a project seems almost impossible for any state or individual to parallel.

It is a matter, however, upon which my own mind is entirely open with only the one objective in view of the greatest good of the greatest number and I shall be very glad to discuss the matter with you at any time it may prove convenient.

I am sure every citizen of Maine is appreciative of the interest which you have taken in the preservation of this great heritage.

Cordially yours


Ralph O. Brewster, M. C.

BAX
Folder
73

Barrows

1937
April 19



State of Maine
Executive Department
Augusta

LEWIS O. BARROWS
GOVERNOR

April 19, 1937

Charles S. Hichborn, President
First National Granite Bank
Augusta, Maine

Dear Charles:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the fifteenth in relation to the suggestion of making a National Park of Mt. Katahdin.

I had understood there was, and in fact I had seen, a bill which had been presented to Congress by Congressman Brewster, suggesting the establishment or designation of a National Park in that area, although I had no previous information.

The only copy of the proposed act which I have seen I gave to Commissioner Seavey of the Forestry Department at his request and he advised me that he was proposing to send it to Mr. Baxter.

There is no other information that I have that I could give you in this connection.

Very truly yours,

Lewis O. Barrows

Lewis O. Barrows
GOVERNOR

LOB/s

BAX
Folder
73

Barrows

1937
April 19



State of Maine
Executive Department
Augusta

LEWIS O. BARROWS
GOVERNOR

April 19, 1937

Honorable Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

Dear Governor Baxter:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the sixteenth and would advise that the first I knew or heard of any suggestion of the establishment of a National Park was when I received a copy of the bill that had been presented by Congressman Brewster.

There is really not much information that I can give you in relation to it. The only copy of the proposal which I had I gave to Commissioner Seavey who asked me for it for the avowed purpose of forwarding it to you. I have no further information.

Very truly yours,

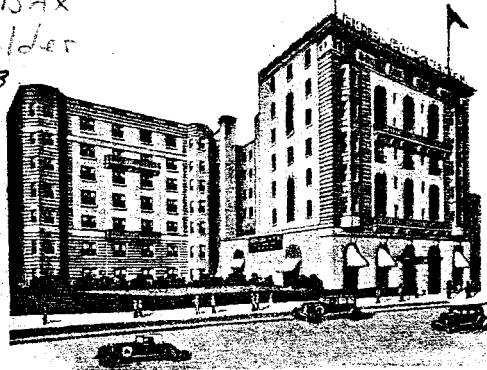
Lewis O. Barrows
Lewis O. Barrows
GOVERNOR

LCE/s

Fireproof and Modern
Made in Connection

BAX
Folder
73

Nichols



FACING THE CAPITOL PLAZA

WITHIN A RADIUS OF A MILE FROM THE HOTEL ARE LOCATED THE CAPITOL, HOUSE AND SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, UNION STATION, SMITHSONIAN AND NATIONAL MUSEUM, WHITE HOUSE, TREASURY, WASHINGTON MONUMENT AND THE THEATRICAL AND SHOPPING DISTRICT.

250 ROOMS
All Fireproof and With
Outside Exposure

1937

April 20

HOTEL CONTINENTAL

C. J. COOK
MANAGER

Washington, D.C.

April 20 1937

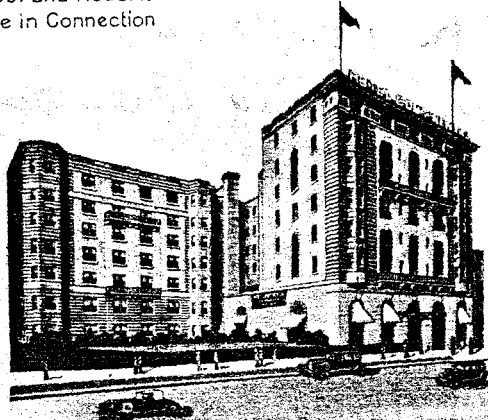
Dear Governor

Had a long talk with Senators Hale and White today relative to Brewster but to take over Mt Katahdin Park. While they both understood that you had made a substantial gift to the state of Maine and both of them thought your wishes should be carried out in the matter. They were very uncertain whether they could head Brewster off from having a hearing before the Committee. Brewster position is that you have made no provision for the upkeep of the Park. That it will be a source of expense to Maine - that of the government takes it over together with other land and maintains a National Park there. It will be a great thing for Maine. I told them that you were intending, in fact had almost an option on another adjoining tract as soon as

Certain details ² could be worked out. - Hale
thought that you ought to see Brewster.
And have a talk with him.
Thought that you ought to come on here
and see certain members in the Department.
I told him that I had understood that
if one of the heads of the department had
seen you and knowing your position had
recommended or agreed to recommend that
the Government ~~should~~ should do nothing about it.
I told Hale that its acceptance by the Maine Legislature
provided no auto roads be built - but that it
be preserved in its natural state. - Hale said of
course something has to be done some time to keep it
clearly cleared somewhat. In fact the title to
the real estate was given to the State in trust, to hold
forever and I could not see that the State had any right
to surrender that back to the US Government. If you can
come on and see members of the department and the Committee
sometime before April 30 - that the Senators Hale & White
might be able to stop a hearing before the Committee. In
any event, if a hearing is assigned - you should know
about it and appear before the Committee.
Mr. Dulles and I are leaving tomorrow with friends
from a walk through Virginia. Expect to be in
Williamsburg Va. next Friday ~~and~~ Saturday. Leave Saturday

Fireproof and Modern
Garage in Connection

250 ROOMS
All Fireproof and With
Outside Exposure



HOTEL CONTINENTAL

C. J. COOK
MANAGER

Washington, D.C.

FACING THE CAPITOL PLAZA

WITHIN A RADIUS OF A MILE FROM THE HOTEL ARE LOCATED THE CAPITOL, HOUSE AND
SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, UNION STATION, SMITHSONIAN AND
NATIONAL MUSEUMS, WHITE HOUSE, TREASURY, WASHINGTON MONUMENT AND THE
THEATRICAL AND SHOPPING DISTRICT.

3

*You might write me there if necessary.
Fidelity. Ben Delivery Williamsburg Va. -
However I do not expect to come back
via Washington. but come north through
Winchester and Gettysburg.
 kindest regards or ever Sincerely
Quibbs*

BAX
Folder 73

Hale

1751
April 21

CARTER GLASS, VA., CHAIRMAN
KENNETH MC KELLAR, TENN.
ROYAL S. COPELAND, N. Y.
CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ.
ELMER THOMAS, OKLA.
JAMES F. BYRNES, S. C.
MILLARD E. TYDINGS, MD.
RICHARD B. RUSSELL, JR., GA.
ALVA B. ADAMS, COLO.
PATRICK MC CARRAN, NEV.
JOHN H. OVERTON, LA.
JOHN H. BANKHEAD, ALA.
JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY, WYO.
WILLIAM GIBBS MCADOO, CALIF.
HARRY S. TRUMAN, MO.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
EDWARD R. BURKE, NEBR.
HERBERT E. HITCHCOCK, S. DAK.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.

FREDERICK HALE, MAINE
GERALD P. NYE, N. DAK.
FREDERICK STEIWER, OREG.
JOHN G. TOWNSEND, JR., DEL.
H. STYLES BRIDGES, N. H.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

April 21, 1937.

KENNEDY F. REA, CLERK
JOHN W. R. SMITH, ASST. CLERK

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
22 Monument Square,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Percy:-

I have your letter of April 17th enclosing copy of
your letter to Brewster.

Yesterday I saw Charles Nichols and he gave me
certain information that I wanted. I then had a talk with
Brewster and Wallace White. Brewster is still very strong
for having his bill passed and he thinks if he could have an
opportunity to talk to you, you would approve of much of the
legislation that he is seeking to bring about. He tells me
that the Appalachian Club is very much interested in the project
and that he is hopeful of building up the section around
Katahdin for a winter sports center, and that the National Park
people would be able to take care of the whole property in a
manner that the state never could afford to do. I told Brewster
that I would try to get you to come on to Washington and talk
the situation over with the delegation here and this I think
you ought to do. Before talking with Brewster, I told Charles

Hon. Percival P. Baxter, #2

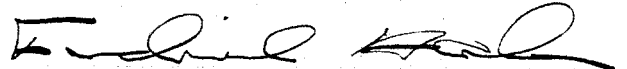
Nichols the same thing.

Both Wallace and I think that you ought to come down to Washington sometime within the next two weeks and go over the whole matter with the delegation and also with the National Park people. Neither Wallace nor I want to see you treated in any way unfairly and Brewster tells us that he does not.

Brewster is apparently working up considerable support for his measure in the eastern part of the state and unless something is done to take care of the property given by you to the state, either by you, by the state, or by the Federal authorities, he will soon work up strong public sentiment for his bill. I am hopeful that when you come down, something satisfactory can be arranged.

Sincerely yours,

H/L

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Percival P. Baxter", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

75TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6599

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 1937

Mr. BREWSTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Public Lands and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Katahdin National Park in the State of Maine, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That when title to all of township 6, ranges 8 and 9; sections
4 3 to 6, inclusive; 9 to 12, inclusive; 15 to 18, inclusive;
5 21 to 24, inclusive; 27 to 30, inclusive; 33 to 36, inclusive;
6 township 6, range 10; all of township 5, ranges 8, 9, and 10;
7 all of township 4, ranges 8, 9, and 10; all of township 3,
8 ranges 8, 9, and 10; east half township 3, range 11, north
9 of the West Branch of the Penobscot River; all of township 2,
10 range 10, north of the West Branch of the Penobscot River;
11 east half township 4, range 11; east half township 5, range

1 11; and all of the north half of township 2, ranges 8 and 9,
2 in Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties, in the State of Maine,
3 shall have been vested in the United States, such lands shall
4 be, and are hereby, established, dedicated, and set apart as
5 a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people
6 and shall be known as the Katahdin National Park:
7 *Provided*, That the United States shall not purchase by
8 appropriation of public money any land within the aforesaid
9 area, but such lands shall be secured by the United States
10 only by public or private donations.

11 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby author-
12 ized, in his discretion and upon submission of evidence of
13 title satisfactory to him, to accept on behalf of the United
14 States title to the lands referred to in the previous section
15 hereof: *Provided*, That no land for said park shall be
16 accepted until exclusive jurisdiction over the said land, in
17 form satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior, shall have
18 been ceded by the State of Maine to the United States.

19 SEC. 3. The administration, protection, and development
20 of the aforesaid national park shall be exercised under the
21 direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National
22 Park Service, subject to the provisions of the Act of August
23 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), entitled "An Act to establish a
24 National Park Service, and for other purposes", as amended:
25 *Provided*, That the provisions of the Act of June 10, 1920,

1 known as the "Federal Water Power Act", as amended, shall
2 not apply to this park: *Provided further*, That no general
3 development of the area shall be undertaken until all the
4 lands described in section 1 hereof shall have been accepted
5 by the Secretary: *And provided further*, That the Secretary
6 of the Interior may, in his discretion, accept for administra-
7 tion and protection by the National Park Service title to the
8 area comprising the existing Baxter State Park or such other
9 portions of the area described in section 1 hereof subject
10 to the agreement by the State of Maine that if at least 90
11 per centum of the lands described in section 1 of this Act
12 as may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior as
13 satisfactory for park purposes shall not have been conveyed
14 to the United States within ten years from the date of the
15 passage of this Act the establishment of the aforesaid national
16 park shall be abandoned and the said State shall accept a
17 reconveyance of title to it by the Secretary of the Interior,
18 who is hereby authorized to execute an appropriate deed
19 or deeds for said purpose on behalf of the United States
20 of America.

Box 100
23
April
twenty-sixth
1937

Dear Director Cammerer -

You no doubt have heard of the Bill that Congressman Brewster has introduced (HR 5864) the ultimate object of which is to have the State of Maine give Mount Katahdin to the National Government. The bill as now drawn is an entering wedge and later can be amended to serve the purpose of those behind this movement.

You may have in mind some of the history of Mt. Katahdin here in Maine. After long years of effort and against relentless opposition, I tried to have the State of Maine purchase the Mountain for a State Park, but failing in this, finally purchased it myself and deeded it to the State "to be forever held by the said State in Trust for the people of Maine for State, Forest, Public Park and Recreational purposes". This Trust was formally accepted as a Trust by the State Legislature, the exact Trust language in the Deed being used in the Act of Acceptance (Laws of Maine 1933, Chapter 3 P & S).

I want you as the Chief of all our National Parks to know the facts in this case and also to know how I, as the former owner and as donor of the Mountain feel about this matter. For this purpose and in order not to repeat myself I enclose you a copy of my letter of August 15, 1936 to Dr. E. A. Pritchard of your Department and a copy of the major parts of my recent letter to Senators Hale and White of Maine. These letters are long, but I ask you to read them carefully. Later in the week I will send you a newspaper interview that is to appear in our Maine papers.

It has been suggested by certain good friends that I hurry on to Washington to oppose this bill in question. It seems to me, however, that the man who gives to his native State its highest and grandest mountain, its chief natural attraction, in Trust to be forever held by said State, should not be called upon to defend his gift. Both ethically and legally the gift should defend itself against any attack such as that in HR 5864.

April
twenty-sixth
1937

-2-

I have sent your predecessor in office, Hon. Horace M. Albright, copies of the above mentioned letters for he also is familiar with the Maine situation and once spoke very kindly to me in regard to the gift I had then but recently made.

You may remember that last Summer you very kindly gave me letters to your Park Superintendents in the West and Alaska and these were appreciated. My Park trip was most satisfactory in every way and the letters opened all doors.

Very truly yours

To-

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer
Director of National Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington
D. C.

enclosure.

B. A. V.
Folder
73

Baxter

1757
May 3

May
third
1937

Dear Director Cammerer -

I enclose you an interview in regard to the proposed Katahdin Park bill which appears to-day in the leading newspapers of Maine. I am confident that it will meet with a cordial reception among the men and women of this State. I want you to have this for your records.

With kind regards.

Very sincerely

To-

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer
Director of National Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington
D.C.

(ENCLOSURE)

BAX
Folder
73

Baxter

1937
May 3

May third
1937

Dear Governor Barrows -

I am sending you the enclosed interview which you may have seen. It is appearing to-day in the leading newspapers of our State and shows you just how I feel toward Brester's Katahdin bill. Before long I want to come to Augusta and talk with you about this matter and I shall be happy to tell you in confidence of my plans. I told of them in the years past to Governors Gardiner and Brann and you should know about them.

It is unbelievable to me that the State should ever break its solemn pledge and as I view it, it is far better for Maine to be free from Federal control in regard to its Parks. Katahdin State Park is only four years old and I know that the people of Maine appreciate the gift.

With kindest regards.

Very sincerely,

To-

Hon. Lewis O. Barrows
State House
Augusta
Maine.

(ENCLOSURE)

Baxter Vigorously Protests Proposal To Make Katahdin Area National Park

Points Out State Holds Land Under Deed Of Trust And Asserts Erection Of Hotels Would Be Sacrilege

Prompt and vehement objection was voiced Sunday by former Gov. Percival P. Baxter to the proposal made in Washington recently by Representative Ralph O. Brewster relative to the future status of Mt. Katahdin. Mr. Brewster would have the federal government acquire a substantial acreage, including Mt. Katahdin for a national park. Former Governor Baxter points out that his gift of Mt. Katahdin is now held "under a very definite deed of trust" by the state, and that development of Katahdin under the Brewster plan would commercialize the area and constitute not only a breach of terms of the deed of trust but "nothing less than sacrilege."

In an interview Sunday he made the following statement:

"The Bill recently introduced into the United States Congress by Congressman Ralph O. Brewster seeks as its ultimate purpose to have the National Government take Mt. Katahdin from the State of Maine. Moreover, according to a recent newspaper account from Millinocket, the same Congressman also advocates the location in this area of great log cabin hotels similar to those which have been established in the Yellowstone and Yosemite Parks."

"I feel that the Maine Legislature, quite properly, has taken the position of certain powerful political and business groups. As my one great interest in Maine lies in this region, I feel it proper to make this explanatory statement through the medium of the newspapers of our State."

Held In Trust Forever

"My fellow citizens should be reminded of the fact that the gift of Katahdin to the State is under a very definite Deed of Trust, which by both the Deed itself and the Legislative Act accepting it (Laws of Maine, 1933) provides that the area donated was accepted by the State 'to be forever held by the said State in trust for the people of Maine.'"

"A Deed of Trust is and always has been considered sacred and inviolate, and if I am any judge of the temper of Maine men and women they never will transfer Katahdin to the United States Government and thus violate the trust solemnly entered into by their Governor and Legislature. This mountain is the property of the People of Maine forever to be held by the State for their benefit. As donor of this area I wished to do something that for all time would benefit my native State, and thus express my appreciation for the honor it conferred upon me. In planning for this over all those years my sole interest was in the State of Maine, not in the National Government."

"As a question both of ethics and of law, a trustee cannot sell or otherwise dispose of Trust property, nor can the United States Government take by eminent domain the property of the Sovereign State of Maine. When the Legislature of 1933 passed its Act of Acceptance and Gov. Louis J. Brann signed it on Feb. 9 of that year, the matter was settled then and there. As Congressman Brewster may not have been aware of these trust provisions at the time he introduced his bill, I have written and also have talked with him recently explaining it all to him and have asked him to withdraw his bill."

Must Not Be Spoiled

"As to the second suggestion made by Congressman Brewster about building 'great hotels' in the Katahdin region, it is definitely provided both in the Deed of Trust and in the Act of Acceptance that the area donated 'shall forever be left in its natural wild state, shall forever be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds, that no roads or ways for motor vehicles shall hereafter ever be constructed therein or thereon.' Even if these binding provisions in the deed of gift did not exist, it would be a shame to desecrate Maine's great mountain with hotels and similar places of amusement."

"Katahdin should and must always remain the wild, storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is; that is its great charm. Only small cabins for mountain climbers should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or on horseback, a place where nature rules and where the creatures of the forest hold undisputed dominion. As modern civilization with its trailers and hot dog stands, its radio and jazz encroaches on the Maine wilderness, the time yet may come when only the Katahdin region remains undefiled by man."

Hotels, Sports Not For Katahdin

"If Maine or the National Government wishes to provide resorts for winter and summer sports there are ample opportunities available elsewhere in Maine, such as at Poland Spring, the hills and valleys of Central Maine, the wilds of Aroostook and Washington Counties, the lakes of Franklin and Oxford, the rugged shores of Hancock and also nearby in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, all beautiful locations, many already equipped with fine hotels eager for more guests."

"To commercialize this magnificent area, to desecrate it with 'great hotels' with their noisy social life, their flaming signs, the roar of motor cars and airplanes coming and going to break the peace of that great solitude would be nothing less than sacrilege. The people of Maine, even if it were possible to do so, will not permit it."

"Maine has 20 million acres outside of Katahdin where countless hotels and 'great log cabins' can be built, if required, to care for all the sports, Winter and Summer, that Maine ever will need, and where the National Government can establish several National Parks if it sees fit to do so."

Future Of Katahdin

"As for myself, I have definitely retired to private life, and want nothing from my fellow citizens other than their respect. All I ask of the State of Maine is that it does not prove faithless and break its given word. Maine was a State for 113 years, from 1820 to 1933, and during all that period Katahdin was ignored until it was bought by me and given to the State as a trust forever. Many people claim that it is the state's greatest natural attraction. The State Park is only four years old and naturally some time is required gradually to complete the project. If the Federal Government will keep out of Katahdin, I have interesting plans for the future that will mean much to Maine."

"The solemn Trust created for the benefit of the people of this State must not be broken. God made Katahdin; let not man despoil it."

BAX
Folder
23

Wardwell

1937
May 3

BURDETT, WARDWELL & RANNEY

J. OTIS WARDWELL
SHELDON E. WARDWELL
THOMAS ALLEN
DUDLEY P. RANNEY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

800-808 INDIA BUILDING

84 STATE ST. BOSTON

TELEPHONES
HUBBARD { 2943
2944

May 3 1937

Hon. Percival Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

My dear Governor Baxter:

My attention has just been called to H.R. 6599 introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Brewster on April 22nd providing for Katahdin National Park.

In looking into this matter I was informed that you were in favor of this bill, but on discussing it with Mr. Whitcomb this afternoon he stated that he believed my information was incorrect, and that while you might have favored a small state park on Katahdin, he did not for a moment think that you would favor a Federal park which would sterilize some 330,000 acres right in the midst of our operating territory and he suggested that if I felt any doubt about your attitude I might write you.

It is true that this bill is permissive and only provides for the acceptance of gifts, with no provision for expenditures for acquisition. However, we regard the bill as an opening wedge and fear that once the limits of a park are defined, there will be pressure for appropriations to buy or take the area. Being in the heart of the operating territory of the Great Northern Paper Company and nearly half the acreage owned by it, we believe the bill is very dangerous and that the result would be to put the Great Northern Paper Co. on a liquidating basis instead of a basis of continuous operation. In other words, the company needs the lands for growth and use and does not want to see them sterilized by the Government by creation of some sort of a fancy park idea. If it is not trespassing on your good nature, I would very much appreciate an expression of your views with regard to this bill.

Very truly yours,

Sheldon E. Wardwell

SEW/C

Folder
73
PERCIVAL P. BAXTER
PORTLAND, MAINE

May 4

May
fourth
1937

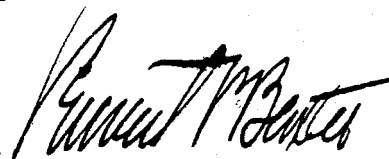
Dear Dr. Pritchard -

No doubt you have heard of the bill recently introduced into Congress by Congressman Brewster of Maine, the purpose of which is to have the Federal Government take Mt. Katahdin from the State of Maine.

I recall our conversation of last August and think you will be interested in the enclosed interview which appeared yesterday in the leading newspapers of Maine. This statement already has been well received by our citizens and I am hoping that Congressman Brewster will withdraw his bill.

If you journey to Maine this Summer I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you.

Very truly yours



To-

Dr. E. A. Pritchard
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington
D.C.

(ENCLOSURE)

73
D

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

May 5, 1937.

Mr. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

My dear Mr. Baxter:

I have read with a great deal of interest your letter of April 26, with its enclosures, and I appreciate your deep personal concern in the Mount Katahdin project. Certainly, one who has labored as you have to provide a great public park for the State of Maine would be vitally interested in any proposal that might affect that project in any way.

As you probably know, the National Park Service does not have funds with which to purchase national parks. In the West, they have been established by Congress setting aside suitable areas from the public domain. In the East, they have been established by Congress only after the necessary lands were purchased and donated to the Federal Government. The Great Smoky Mountains project, for example, has been made possible through the efforts of the States of Tennessee and North Carolina and by the generosity of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and others who have contributed from their own private funds. Many people were able to contribute only enough to purchase one acre of land. But, whatever the individual contribution might be, the project has been made possible largely by private contribution and by the efforts of public spirited citizens and organizations. Their efforts have extended over more than ten years and acquisition of the necessary lands has not yet been completed. I tell you this merely to emphasize the long road that lies ahead before the Mount Katahdin National Park, proposed by Mr. Brewster, could be established.

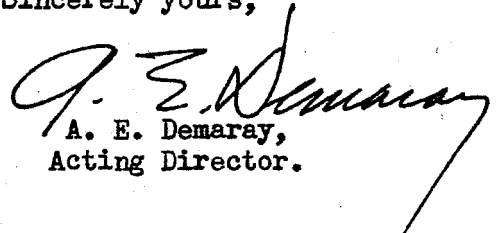
Last summer, at the request of Governor Brann, the Department sent two representatives to investigate the Mount Katahdin region to determine its eligibility for national park status. They reported that an area comprising the mountain itself would not, in their judgment, be sufficient for national park status. Considering the region generally, however, they recommended that if a

minimum area of approximately five hundred square miles, including the mountain and numerous scenic lakes and streams, could be acquired for park purposes, it would be worthy of national park status and would provide an opportunity to restore and preserve an area of great inspirational, scientific, and recreational value. Such a park would protect an outstanding example of the northern Appalachian range with its native fauna and flora, its geologic story and its scenic charm. It would be unduplicated by any other area in the national park system and, in time, would become a great economic asset to the State of Maine.

The Department has not yet reported upon the bill, H. R. 5864, and it will probably desire to study the project from all angles before a final report is made. I am sure it would not be the desire of either Mr. Brewster or this Department to jeopardize the Baxter State Park or to undo in any way the public spirited work that you have done.

We are delighted to know that your trip through the parks last year was enjoyable and we shall be glad to do for you whatever we can at any future time.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

13
C O P Y

May
fifth
1937

Dear Mr. Wardwell -

I sent you a telegram in no uncertain terms on receipt of your letter and I cannot understand how anybody could give you the impression that I favored the Brewster bill.

No one feels more strongly against the Federal Government invading the State than I do and whatever parks we have in Maine in my opinion should be State rather than National Parks. Whatever I can do to defeat the Brewster bill will be done and I already am carrying on an extensive correspondence with our Congressmen and others in Washington.

With the Great Northern against this bill it certainly ought not to make any progress whatsoever. The Great Northern is the finest industry we have in Maine both as to its size and the character of its management and no one appreciates more than I do what this Company means to our State. Of course President Whitcomb will write or already has written to Senators Hale and White, and he will find that they are on our side.

I enclose you a vigorous protest I gave out on May third of this week. It appeared in the "Bangor News", the "Portland Press-Herald", the "Lewiston Sun", "Kennebec Journal", "Bath Times" and several other papers. This has been well received and I am hearing from it from different sections of the State.

You may quote me in any way that will help our cause and if you have suggestions to make I will be happy to receive them.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

To-
Sheldon E. Wardwell, Esq.
c/o Burdett, Wardwell and Ranney
No. 84 State Street
Boston.

(Signed) PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

P.S. The number of Brewster's bill is H.R. 5864. I see that you used H.R. 6599. Both may be correct, but I call this to your attention.

BAX
Folder
73

Baxter

1937
May 7

May seventh
1937

Dear Wallace -

I have your letter of May fifth and thank you for it. The last sentence of your letter, however, disturbs me a little for it indicates that there might be a possibility of your changing your views with respect to the Brewster bill.

I am calling upon you to stand by me through thick and thin because our side is the right one and there can be no compromise.

You will be interested to know that the Club Council of the Appalachian Mountain Club at its meeting yesterday passed the following vote:-

"VOTED - That the Appalachian Mountain Club go on record as being opposed to the passage of H.R. 5864 (a bill to establish a National Park at Katahdin) that a copy of this vote be sent to the Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands of the House of Representatives, and that the delegate (if appointed) to the forthcoming Appalachian Trail Conference be instructed to vote in accordance with this action."

This is very significant because the Appalachians are a fine group of men and women, with no axes to grind, and deeply interested in the great out-of-doors. You can appreciate how much influence they have in matters of this sort.

When you have the time please reassure me because I have been very anxious about this matter.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours

Hon. Wallace H. White, Jr.
Senate Office Building
Washington
D.C.

BAX
Folder
73

White

1937
May 7

BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT., CHAIRMAN
ELLISON D. SMITH, S. C.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.
M. M. NEELY, W. VA.
WILLIAM H. DIETERICH, ILL.
AUGUSTINE LONERGAN, CONN.
FRED H. BROWN, N. H.
HOMER T. BONE, WASH.
VIC DONAHEY, OHIO
SHERMAN MINTON, IND.
A. HARRY MOORE, N. J.
HARRY S. TRUMAN, MO.
C. O. ANDREWS, FLA.
EDWIN C. JOHNSON, COLO.
H. H. SCHWARTZ, WYO.

WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE
JAMES J. DAVIS, PA.
WARREN R. AUSTIN, VT.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE

May 7, 1937

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

M. W. MITCHELL, CLERK

Mr. William E. Wing
Deering High School
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Wing:

This acknowledges your letter of May 4.

You do not have to apologize for writing me about any matter in which you are interested. Your real offense is not in this letter but in the fact that you have not let me know before and from time to time what you think about things down here.

I have something of the same feeling you do about this Park Bill. If Governor Baxter gave it to the State in trust and on conditions, it would seem to me the State ought not to convey it away without Governor Baxter's approval. This is my present feeling about the matter. I don't want you to regard this as a positive commitment against the legislation, for I do not like to close my mind until I have heard the whole matter threshed out and know all sides of it.

With assurances of regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

Wallace H. White

WHW:W

134X
Folder 73

White

1937
May 7

BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT., CHAIRMAN
ELLISON D. SMITH, S. C.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.
M. M. NEELY, W. VA.
WILLIAM H. DIETERICH, ILL.
AUGUSTINE LONERGAN, CONN.
FRED H. BROWN, N. H.
HOMER T. BONE, WASH.
VIC DONAHEY, OHIO
SHERMAN MINTON, IND.
A. HARRY MOORE, N. J.
HARRY S. TRUMAN, MO.
C. O. ANDREWS, FLA.
EDWIN C. JOHNSON, COLO.
H. H. SCHWARTZ, WYO.

WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE
JAMES J. DAVIS, PA.
WARREN R. AUSTIN, VT.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE

May 7, 1937

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

M. W. MITCHELL, CLERK

Hon. Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

My dear Percy:

This acknowledges your letter of
May 5.

A representative of the Great Northern,
whose name has for the moment escaped me, called
on me some days ago and made clear the attitude
of his Company toward the Brewster proposal.

With assurances of regard, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Wallace H. White

WHW:w

BAX
Folder
74

Marshall

1937
May 8

ROBERT MARSHALL
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 8, 1937.

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Governor Baxter:

I had already read with tremendous interest and delight your statement concerning the preservation of primitive conditions around the parks which you so generously gave as a present to the State of Maine.

I think your evaluation of what the National Park Service does to an area when it goes into it is fair. You state: "Katahdin should and must always remain the wild, storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is; that is its great charm." I think you are right in presuming that if the Park Service goes in, judging by what it has done to the primeval national parks, Katahdin will no longer remain in this condition. Indeed I understand from quite direct sources that some of the Park Service people are already greatly annoyed that they can not go in there with their development programs.

I wish I could meet you some day. It is a great thing when a man who has risen so high in public life as you gives in such a substantial manner to the preservation of the wilderness. Those of us who believe that is one of the most vital fights in the country today are all very much encouraged by your splendid actions.

Many thanks for your kind praise of my wilderness article.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Marshall

73
BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT., CHAIRMAN
ELLISON D. SMITH, S. C. WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y. JAMES J. DAVIS, PA.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY. WARREN R. AUSTIN, VT.
M. M. NEELY, W. VA.
WILLIAM H. DIETERICH, ILL.
AUGUSTINE LONERGAN, CONN.
FRED H. BROWN, N. H.
HOMER T. BONE, WASH.
VIC DONAHEY, OHIO
SHERMAN MINTON, IND.
A. HARRY MOORE, N. J.
HARRY S. TRUMAN, MO.
C. O. ANDREWS, FLA.
EDWIN C. JOHNSON, COLO.
H. H. SCHWARTZ, WYO.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

M. W. MITCHELL, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE

May 10, 1937

Honorable Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

My dear Percy:

This acknowledges your letter of May 7.

I have reread my letter of the 5th and especially the last sentence of it. I had no special reason for putting in the language which troubles you. I suppose I did it simply out of that Yankee caution which recognizes that the future is a long while and that one never can tell what it holds.

I do not expect to see the Brewster bill passed by this Congress, and I have no reason now to think I shall ever have any other attitude than my present one.

With assurances of regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

Wallace H. White

W/C

BAX
Folder
73

Demaray

193
May

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1937.

Mr. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

My dear Mr. Baxter:

We have received your letter of May 3 in which was enclosed your newspaper interview regarding the proposed Mt. Katahdin National Park. We appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending us this statement for our records.

By this time you no doubt have received our letter of May 3 regarding this proposed project.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Demaray
A. E. Demaray.
Acting Director.

Copy

Baxter

May 3

73

Perceval P. Baxter

To

Hon. A. E. Demaray

May fifteenth
1937

Dear Director Demaray -

I received your letter of May tenth and thank you for it. I am anxious that you know how Maine people feel about Katahdin. Without exception all those who have written to or talked with me are opposed to having a National Park in this area. Not a single Maine citizen that I know of approves it.

Maine people are proud of and deeply interested in this mountain even though their Park be somewhat limited in extent. The State Park comprises in excess of 9 square miles, about 6000 acres, owing to the easterly and westerly side lines spreading slightly as they extend southward. This area includes within its boundaries all the spectacular scenery of the mountain. Our State is financially able to and will properly care for this region. There is no question whatsoever as to this being attended to. Last year two and at times three men were stationed in this area at the approaches at the eastern and western sides of the mountain, and although a small tree or two may have been cut down that is a trifling matter. No doubt such things happen in your great parks in the West.

The people to whom I referred as opposed to the bill now pending hope that the National Park Service will not look with favor upon the Katahdin project and they say to you and your associates "Please allow us to have our own little State Park in Maine even though it be not as large, as well kept or as elaborately laid out as yours". When people do something for themselves, when they have the pleasure of developing their own project it gives them vastly more satisfaction than to have someone take it over and manage it for them.

The Maine Congressman who sponsors the bill uses as an argument that a small appropriation of \$2,000. was not passed by the recent Legislature. The State Budget Committee, however, of which our present Governor is the principal member, approved the appropriation and all was going well until I went abroad. In my absence the Legislature made an ineffective gesture toward economy and the Park appropriation in the confusion of issues was lost. Had I been present I am confident all would have been well because our Legislators, without exception, appreciate the mountain and are glad that the State owns it. The failure of a small appropriation gives a trifling reason to advance for the Sovereign State of Maine to surrender its ownership of its grandest mountain. The Park is only four years old. Please give it time to "find itself".

May fifteenth
1937

- 2-

You are aware that the State Park is held under a definite Trust created by Act of the Legislature "to be forever held by the State in Trust for the People of Maine". We people in Maine may be somewhat old-fashioned, but we keep our solemn covenants. For this reason I am sure that no State Legislature will break the Trust created by the Act of 1933 in regard to the gift of this mountain. Certainly if it ever comes to me to consent to an Act of Annulment I will never do so. In addition to this some of my legal friends maintain that the Courts would not permit it.

Of course I realize that the proposed law is permissive only, but those who feel as I do regard it as an entering wedge that ultimately may deprive Maine of its control of a large area of forest land.

In order that you may have some idea of the feeling here I enclose you an editorial from the leading newspaper of the State, the Portland Press-Herald of May 10th. Others of our papers also have editorials against the National Park plan and in favor of respecting the Trust created for the benefit of Maine People. If I am any judge of public sentiment here in Maine, after having lived here all my life, and having been active in public affairs for thirty years, I unreservedly say that I believe our people want to manage this Park themselves and ask the National Government to respect their wishes.

After twenty-six years of patient persistent effort I acquired the mountain and although it may not interest the National Park Service I have certain plans for the future that if allowed to mature will provide our State with an area of which it will not be ashamed.

It is very significant that on May 6th last the Appalachian Club passed a Resolution against Nationalizing Katahdin, a copy of which already has been sent you, and yesterday the Federated Garden Clubs of Maine a State-wide organization with a membership of more than 2500 entirely non-political and absolutely unselfish passed another Resolution against the project. A copy is enclosed. Will the National Park Service care to enter a State when there exists such a strong opposition to the project now pending in Congress.

Very truly yours

To-Hon. A.E. Demaray *acting Director*
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Fredrick T. Baxter

BAX
Folder
73

Federated Garden Clubs of Maine

Federated Garden Clubs of Maine
(5000. Main St.) May 19/1937

1937
May 19

RESOLVED:

That the Garden Clubs of Maine are opposed to the bill recently introduced into Congress (H.R. 6599) to make Mt. Katahdin into a National Park. We feel that Mt. Katahdin is distinctly a Maine mountain and should forever remain a State Park, unspoiled by commercial exploitation according to the Trust created when it was accepted by the State Legislature.

BAX
Folder

Baxter

1937
May 18

3

May
eighteenth
1937

Dear Dr. Smith -

No doubt you have read something in the papers about the proposed National Park at Katahdin and I am interested to know how you regard such a project.

The Appalachian Clubs and the Federated Garden Clubs of Maine have passed resolutions in favor of the State's living up to the Trust of 1933 whereby the State accepted the gift of Katahdin, and of all the people who have written and spoken to me about the matter not one citizen of Maine opposes the nationalizing Katahdin except of course the man who introduced the bill.

I enclose you an interview that was recently given to the papers by me so that you will see how I feel about it. The Park is only four years old and I cannot for a moment believe that any Maine Legislature would violate the Trust that was made ~~four years ago~~ ^{at that time}.

With kind regards.

Sincerely

Hon. George Otis Smith
Skowhegan
Maine.

ENCLOSURE

BAX
Folder
73

Demaray

1937
May 19

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

May 19, 1937.

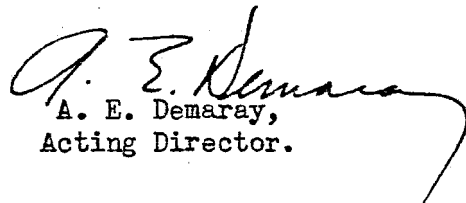
Mr. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

We have received your letter of May 15 regarding the proposed Mount Katahdin National Park, in which you enclosed a copy of the resolution of the Garden Clubs of Maine, and a clipping from the Portland Press Herald of May 14.

We appreciate this further expression of your point of view.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

LAX
Folder
73

Ex 76

May 2

May twenty-first
1937

Dear Governor -

On my return home after an absence of a few weeks abroad I was disappointed to find that the Legislature in its efforts to economize defeated the modest appropriation of \$2,000. which you and your budget committee recommended for the State Park at Katahdin. I should like to come to the next Council meeting and ask for a special appropriation for this season's work if this has your approval. Will you please let me know how you feel about it.

I have already written you previously about Congressman Brewster's proposal to make the Katahdin region, including the State Park, into a great National Park. I am entirely out of sympathy with any such plan. The State of Maine should retain this area and care for it itself even were it not for the Trust which the State created by Legislative Act of 1933. As to the Trust itself, I have consulted those who are well informed and am told that the State legally cannot transfer this area to the National Government, and certainly it is also under very strong moral obligation not to do so.

From various sections of Maine and from people outside our State I am receiving communications urging that the State hold fast to its own park and I hope you feel as I do about it. When next I come to Augusta we will talk this over.

With kind regards to Mrs. Barrows and yourself.

Sincerely

To-

Hon. Lewis O. Barrows
State House
Augusta
Maine.

BA
73
Saxton
1137
May 27
May twenty-fourth
1937

Dear Ed -

You have seen something of Brewster's project to bring Katahdin into a great National Park comprising something in excess of 500 square miles and in his proposition he proposes to have the State of Maine turn over to the Federal Government the State Park that was created by Act of the Legislature in Trust in 1933.

Naturally I am much opposed to Brewster's idea and shall not consent, if my consent be necessary, to the State's violating the Act of Acceptance which as you know is printed in the Laws of Maine.

If I could in some way complete the purchase from you of the Township that we have been talking about it would once and for all end any further discussion of Brewster's plan and I am hoping from day to day to hear from you that we can go through with this. I have a letter from the National Park Service saying that the Federal Government does not purchase land for National Parks and that it is always necessary that the land be donated. From this it would seem to me that there is no hope of certain timberland owners in that region ever selling their land to the National Government and I cannot understand why any of them would be interested in the project, unless they are willing to make a gift of their property to the United States of America. Moreover once the long arm of the Federal Government reaches down in the Maine timberlands nobody knows where the end will be and I should think that some of our paper companies would look upon Brewster's proposition with alarm.

When I hear favorably from you I will immediately crank up my old car and journey to Bangor because Katahdin is my one great interest and I am counting upon you to stand by me.

With every good wish to you and yours.

Sincerely,

To-
Edward M. Graham, Esq.
Eastern Manufacturing Company
Bangor
Maine.

COPY OF LETTER from PERCIVAL P. BAXTER
to HON. HAROLD L. ICKES, Sec'y. Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Portland, Maine,
May twenty-fifth
1937

Dear Secretary Ickes -

There is now pending before the National Park Service of your Department for recommendation or disapproval a bill H.R. 6599 that proposes to establish a National Park in the Katahdin region in Maine, and I desire personally to call your attention to it.

After twenty-six years of patient and persistent effort I acquired 6,000 acres of forest land which included Mt. Katahdin and in 1933 by Legislative Act the State of Maine accepted this as a gift "in trust for the People of Maine forever" (Laws of Maine 1933, Chapter 3). The bill now referred to would have our State transfer this donated area to the Federal Government as a portion of a much larger area surrounding the mountain.

Already I have corresponded with your National Park Service, to Director Hon. Arno B. Cammerer April 26, 1937, and Acting Director Hon. A. E. Demaray May 15, 1937, and have enclosed to them clippings from Maine newspapers and resolutions of Maine Clubs, all against the pending proposal. For your immediate information I enclose you copies of the Resolutions of the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Federated Garden Clubs of Maine and an editorial from the Portland "PRESS-HERALD", the leading newspaper of the State, which is typical of other editorials that appeared throughout the State. In fact all the citizens of Maine who have written to and spoken with me about this matter, and many have done so, are against the measure. Enclosed you also will find a statement, prepared by me and published throughout our State, which met with generous approval.

I know of your deep interest in the wide, open spaces and have before me extracts from your addresses made in 1935 wherein you advocate the preservation of our wilderness areas. In my gift of the mountain to Maine, the conditions in the Deed provided that it "shall forever be left in the natural wild state and that no roads or ways for motor vehicles shall hereafter ever be constructed therein or thereon."

Katahdin is Maine's greatest natural attraction. Maine will give it proper care and Maine people are happy that it is a State Park forever to be held as such for their bene-

-2-

Portland, Maine,
May twenty-fifth
1957

fit and for the benefit of the visitors who come to them.

In view of the binding trust provisions in the gift to the State and of the wide-spread opposition against this measure, I hope that your Department will disapprove the bill (HR.6599) for without your approval the bill has no chance of passing.

Our Maine Senators, Hon. Frederick Hale and Hon. Wallace H. White, Jr. will no doubt be glad to give you their views upon this matter, as will our Congressmen from the First and Second Maine Districts, Hon. James C. Oliver and Hon. Clyde H. Smith.

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

To-

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary, Department of the Interior
Washington
D.C.

ENCLOSURES

73
COPY

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 25 1937

Hon. Rene L. Derouen,
Chairman, Committee on Public Lands,
House of Representatives.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of April 29 enclosing a copy of H. R. 6599 entitled "A Bill to provide for the establishment of the Katahdin National Park in the State of Maine, and for other purposes", and requesting a report thereon.

At the request of the Hon. Louis J. Brann, Governor of Maine, the National Park Service, of this Department, conducted a preliminary investigation of the Mt. Katahdin region during July of 1936 and recommended national park status for the area if approximately fourteen townships could be acquired in fee simple for park purposes. However, the question of boundary lines involves a detailed study of the area as an administrative, biological, and recreational unit and of logging operations and other commercial uses of adjoining lands. Available time did not permit this detailed study last summer, and weather conditions will prevent its continuation until early this summer. For this reason, it is desirable that the report of this Department on the bill, H. R. 6599, be withheld until the investigation by the National Park Service is completed.

I recommend that no action be taken on H. R. 6599 until a further report is received from this Department.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) CHARLES WEST

Acting Secretary of the Interior.

tas/or

May twenty-seventh
1937

Dear Mr. Yard -

I am happy to have your letter of May twenty-first and am encouraged to know that you approve of the position I have taken in connection with the proposed establishment of a great National Park in the Mt. Katahdin region of Maine. Your Society can be of great assistance toward preventing the passage of the so called Brewster bill that seeks to spoil the most interesting wilderness area that we have in the State of Maine.

You will be glad to know that the Appalachian Club passed a vote against the measure and the Garden Clubs of Maine with a membership of more than five thousand also passed a resolution against it. As yet I have not heard from a single citizen of Maine who favors the project nor has a single Maine newspaper advocated it. In fact practically all of the leading newspapers of the State have carried editorials in opposition.

As I understand it, the measure is now pending for recommendation or otherwise before the National Park Service in Washington and if you and your members will write to Hon. Arno B. Cammerer, Director, or Hon. A. E. Demaray, Acting Director, telling them how you all feel about it I am sure that will be a great help.

Your suggestion that I become a member if your Society pleases me and I am glad to enclose you my modest check.

If anything develops I will keep in touch with you.

Believe me

Sincerely

To-

Mr. Robert Sterling Yard
Secretary-Treasurer
The Wilderness Society
1840 Mintwood Place
Washington
D.C.

BAV
74
Baxter
Copy of Letter from PERCIVAL P. BAXTER
to HON. A. E. DEMARAY, ACTING DIRECTOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Portland, Maine
June first, 1937.

My dear Director -

You will be interested to know to what an extent public sentiment is opposed to the establishment of a National Park in the Katahdin region here in Maine.

Early in April the Millinocket Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution favoring a National Park but apparently later it considered its action ill-advised and hasty, for on May 15th the Chamber by a unanimous vote withdrew its resolution and sent a letter informing Congressman Brewster, the father of the bill, of the action of the Chamber.

Millinocket is nearer the present State Park than any other community in Maine and its action certainly is very significant.

I write this letter in order that you may be fully informed.

Sincerely

(SIGNED) PERCIVAL P. BAXTER.

To-

Hon. A.E. Demaray
Acting Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington
D.C.

BAK
Folder 74
RALPH O. BREWSTER
THIRD DISTRICT MAINE

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
252 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

HOME ADDRESS:
DEXTER, MAINE

Brewster
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

193-7
June 3
COMMITTEES:
NAVAL AFFAIRS
INSULAR AFFAIRS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
INVALID PENSIONS

June 3, 1937

Mr. George P. Engelhardt
28 Clubway,
Hartsdale, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Engelhardt:

I am very glad to know of your interest in the Mount
Katahdin area.

The part now comprised in the Baxter State Park on the
top of the mountain includes about five per cent of the
area which it is believe must be prudently included in a
national park that would be very adequate in extent and
very typical of the forest regions of the northeast.

I do not know whether you have been to the region in
recent years but I have been a more or less regular visitor
for two decades now and the situation is growing increasingly
serious as last summer over ten thousand visitors swarmed
over the summit and did a great deal of damage in Chimney
Pond which is one of the gems of the region as you know.

It is the fear of many mountain lovers that unless it is
possible to provide some further protection the region will
be very greatly damaged in the next few years as the state
has not found itself in a position to provide any protection
of any character and there seems no other way for protection
to be provided.

An automobile road now runs around the base of the mountain
so that it is possible for unlimited numbers to pour in and the
number is constantly increasing.

Cordially yours


Ralph O. Brewster, M. C.

Smith

1937
June 7

C O P Y

Important
Baxter State Park

G. O. Smith

GEORGE OTIS SMITH
2 CUBURN AVENUE
SKOWHEGAN, MAINE.

June 7, 1937.

Hon. Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine.

My dear Governor:

In replying to your inquiry as to how I regard the project of nationalizing Maine's highest peak, I find it difficult to limit myself to polite phrases.

The heritage of Maine folks includes neither trust betrayal nor inferiority complex. Yet, the recent proposal to convert a State Park into a National Park contains both a shady repudiation of a contractual obligation duly acknowledged by Act of Legislature and a covert confession of inability to manage the State's own affairs. The proposed surrender does not fit the Maine character and even ~~if~~ it legal, would surely fail of popular endorsement.

It has been difficult for me to believe that the suggestion could be made seriously, much less formulated into a Bill and sponsored in Congress by a former Governor of our State, supposedly cognizant of the State Legislation relating to the acceptance of the Katahdin deed of trust.

Nearly 30 years ago, while speaking before the Maine State Board of Trade (Augusta, September 22, 1908) I was questioned on the advantages of making Mt. Katahdin a National Park. My answer was prompt and unequivocal; that I would be ashamed of my native State if we considered that a forested peak up in northern Maine could be better administered, as a public reservation, from Washington than from Augusta. I acknowledged my high regard for my friends and associates in the Government service, but I knew too well the many disadvantages, and weaknesses incident to absentee landlordism in the national forests.

That was my opinion long ago, and recent attempts at long-range control of local affairs have served only to intensify my distrust of Federal interference in local self-

government.

However charitable I may try to be toward those who have in these late years acquired so large a faith in centralized omniscience, I have no patience with the compliant attitude toward breach of trust that seems the fashion of the day. "To be forever held" is a strong phrase and four years would appear altogether too brief a period to make an Act of Legislature a dead letter in Maine, even if so desired in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Geo. Otis Smith.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN -7 1937

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

My dear Mr. Baxter:

I have received your letter of May 25 with reference to the proposed Mount Katahdin National Park.

Knowing of your untiring efforts to bring this splendid wilderness into public ownership, I can well understand your feeling of personal responsibility for its preservation.

Although this Department caused the National Park Service to investigate the Mount Katahdin region last summer at the request of Governor Brann, it will not be possible to render a final report upon the bill, H. R. 6599, until a more exhaustive study has been made of the proposal.

In considering the project, I appreciate having the benefit of your opinion.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Secretary of the Interior.

Congressional Record

SEVENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Katahdin National Park

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. RALPH O. BREWSTER

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1937

ARTICLE BY MYRON H. AVERY, OF LUBEC, MAINE

Mr. BREWSTER. Mr. Speaker, under the leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following article entitled "Katahdin National Park", by Myron H. Avery, of Lubec, Maine, chairman of the Appalachian Trail Conference, a federation of mountain clubs developing and maintaining a 2,050-mile foot trail extending from Mount Katahdin in Maine through the Appalachian Ranges of the eastern United States to Mount Oglethorpe in Georgia; co-author of 78-page bibliography of the Mount Katahdin region; Bowdoin College, 1920; Harvard Law School, 1923; traveled extensively and author of many articles on Katahdin and the mountain regions of the eastern United States; registered Maine guide; employed by Maine Forest Service for four summer seasons; supervisor of trails, Maine Appalachian Trail Club:

As Katahdin is the northern terminus of the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail, which has been developed and maintained as an amateur recreational project by the Appalachian Trail Conference, with which I am associated, the future of this outstanding region is a matter of very real concern to the Appalachian Trail Conference. Apart from this, as a resident of Maine and long familiar with the area, I have been extremely interested in the region. During the past years I have realized with growing apprehension the increasing problems at Katahdin and the need for some effective solution. These problems cannot be longer ignored. Since Congressman Brewster introduced a bill (H. R. 6599) to make the Katahdin area a national park there have appeared occasional statements which convey an entirely erroneous impression as to what this bill is intended to accomplish. This problem is one of so great an importance that I feel that the situation should be made entirely clear, so that the judgment of interested people may rest upon the true facts of the matter rather than upon some fanciful unsubstantial allegations which only confuse the situation.

In the first instance, this bill arises out of the necessity for preserving the Katahdin area. The motive is the same which inspired ex-Gov. Percival P. Baxter in 1931 to purchase the top of the mountain and donate it to the State. It is merely a further development of the original project. Except that the greater whole would bear the name of Katahdin National Park rather than the present Baxter State Park, there can be nothing inimical to the interests of ex-Governor Baxter. This bill, which it has been suggested is a menace to the "wilderness nature" of the Katahdin area, is the only guaranty of its protection which is now feasible. The need for action is imperative. Not merely the bare granite top of Katahdin (the present State park) but the whole area embraced by this bill, including some 69 distinct peaks and 55 lakes, as an outstanding type of the Maine north woods wilderness, should be forever preserved as a heritage of the American people. The area to be preserved should not be restricted and limited to the bare rock of the mountain top. Yet this is surely the situation if the present bill is defeated. It is clear beyond question that the State is in no position to care for this area and provide the necessary maintenance, protection, and other facilities so urgently required. The action of the Maine Legislature during the past few years has indicated that a national forest cannot be established in this area.

There seems to be some confusion as to exactly what the present State park, under discussion, comprises. This should be thoroughly appreciated. It is an area of only 9 square miles compris-

ing the mountain top. Its boundaries have not been precisely located but, presumably, on the eastern side the State park extends to near Basin Ponds; on the western side of the mountain it extends to "The Gateway" on the Appalachian Trail; from the north it extends 4 miles south from the north line of T. 3, R. 9. This is all, a very narrow restricted area, obviously insufficient for any purpose. Even if the Katahdin region were forever State owned, the surrounding territory is needed in order to properly protect the mountain. In 1931 a portion of this 9-mile tract was conveyed to the State by Governor Baxter. In 1933, after the conclusion of the litigation, following his conveyance to the State of an undivided interest in this area, Governor Baxter conveyed to the State, by a deed accepted by the legislature, some 9 square miles. This conveyance was subject to certain conditions. No road or way for motor vehicles was to be built in this 9 square miles and Governor Baxter reserved the right to determine what markers or inscriptions should be placed on the mountain as well as certain control over its nomenclature. The name of the highest peak, "Monument Peak", was changed to "Baxter Peak", and the area was given the name of Baxter State Park. By act of the legislature, it was placed under the supervision of the Baxter State park commission, of which Governor Baxter is a member. No expenditure has been made by the State in connection with the area. No custodian has ever been employed there. What there is in the way of trail systems and shelters is merely a result of a haphazard and casual development.

Katahdin is probably the outstanding mountain in the East, and its extraordinary geological formations and its Arctic flora have attracted Nation-wide attention. Last year, Congressman Brewster has said, there were 10,000 visitors to Katahdin. The recent increase in the visitors to Katahdin is startling. Apart from the majesty of the mountain itself, the visitor here is most impressed by the complete lack of any supervision or protection of the area. There is no custodian or anyone in the park area to represent law or authority or to prevent depredations. The stranger who is drawn to the region by its extensive publicity is astounded to find an utter lack of any public accommodations. The nearest approaches are the three open lean-tos built years ago at Chimney Pond and a small two-room log cabin, originally built in 1923 for the game warden, where LeRoy Dudley, well known to all Katahdin enthusiasts, without any authority or portfolio, attempts to provide sleeping space for 12 people in a space suitable for 4. That conditions are not more chaotic is due to the chance activity of the C. C. C. in 1933 and 1934, which established a camp site in the old gravel-washed field at Katahdin stream and built there some six lean-tos. The obvious inadequacy of this can be gleaned from the fact that over Labor Day some 400 people were at this particular spot. Apart from the chance of these conditions resulting in irreparable damage, this situation is a serious reflection upon the State. Visitors comment most critically upon this, pointing out that there is nowhere a region of the quality of the Katahdin area where such conditions prevail. The nearest regular fire warden at Togue Ponds, some 15 miles away, has no authority over the Katahdin State Park. In the Great Basin, that transplanted bit of the High Sierra, campers recklessly cut down and use for firewood trees which have been hundreds of years in growing. One camper may have just been washing where the next draws drinking water from Chimney Pond. Whoever wishes to open or cut trails at Katahdin does so without restraint. As far as he is able to do so, Dudley exerts himself to protect the area against such devastations, but he is powerless in the face of those who flout his warnings.

I recently noted the statement "God made Katahdin, let not man despoil it" as an argument against the proposed bill. It is just what man has done, is doing, and may do in the future in the Katahdin region, to despoil it, and the necessity of restraining man from these things, which makes imperative this bill or some similar effective action. No better argument could be advanced for the park bill than this very slogan. It is difficult to understand how anyone can urge that the present conditions and lack of any control or supervision over the area embraced by this bill constitutes any protection from despoliation. More so, how a desire to have the State retain control over the 9 miles of the Baxter State Park—one-fourth of a township—furnishes any reason for opposing a plan to bring the larger area of 504 square miles, or 14 townships, into public ownership. Apart from a manifested fear of a "spoliation" of the Katahdin area, there has been expressed a thought that the region is not of national-park caliber, which those who know the region strenuously deny. This viewpoint is inspired by comparison with the great western parks and a school of thought which holds that there is no wilderness in the East worthy of national-park

status, pointing out that portions of the region were lumbered many years ago, the existing haphazard development at Katahdin, and the fires in that region. These objections certainly emphasize the danger of a continuation of the present situation. The Katahdin area, like many other wildernesses, has suffered in the worst fires which have ravaged the State.

Pamola and part of the basin were denuded by a fire in about 1814. The 1884 fire burned 22,000 acres. The "great burn" of 1903 swept over 132 square miles. The damage done in 1923 Basin Ponds fire is a most decided scar in that area, but far more impressive is the stretch of fire-killed timber along the roads to Katahdin from Millinocket, resulting from the 1933 fire. The devastation around Togue Ponds and the near loss of the camps there is an all too vivid reminder of the necessity for action. These fire losses are inseparably connected with the existing economic situations. The Maine Forest Service has waged a gallant and most praiseworthy battle against the fire ravages, but the stake in this area is too great to risk the loss of a single acre.

The suggestion that this is a State matter and the larger region should be a State park has failed to appreciate the limitation in size on State parks in Maine—10,000 acres—established by the 1935 State Park Act. No progress can now be made in that direction.

If the State wishes to have the title of the 9 square miles remain with the State, as Governor Baxter has urged, there would seem no reason why the national park could not be created around the State park. Who owns the area is immaterial; the essential is public ownership and protection. A desire to have the State, rather than the Federal Government, hold title to 9 miles seems an extraordinary reason for opposing efforts to bring the surrounding area into public ownership.

Katahdin and the Katahdin area belong not only to the people of Maine but to the United States. As much as we regret to do so, we must honestly recognize that the great increase in the number of people who come to the mountain makes necessary certain regulations and supervision. For those who wish to get beyond this there is still the trailless untraveled country north of Katahdin embraced in this bill, which few ever see.

As an instance of the damage which has been wrought through ill-considered, haphazard development, we only need to refer to the occurrence of last fall which has been the subject of so much criticism. Thinking that it would relieve conditions at Chimney Pond, a detachment was sent in to build five lean-tos. The result was most unfortunate. Three of the shelters are located on an open, denuded knoll, exposed to every storm. The debris and slash left along the route was most unsightly, apart from the fact that the timber was cut in the Great Basin, where no trees should ever be cut. The situation would never occur in a national park. Those responsible for this situation should have considerable temerity in criticizing national-park standards.

We must recognize the fact that adequate provision must be made for the people who are coming to Katahdin. The improvement this year, by means of the legislative appropriation of \$5,000 for the Millinocket-Nesowadnehunk Road, can only increase travel to Katahdin. The Great Basin Ponds Road, extending to Boaring Brook, will also be completed this year. People cannot be kept away. Moreover, who has a right to do so? Specialists who have studied this area for the National Park Service have pointed out the necessity for eliminating any development at Chimney Pond and leaving this basin entirely wild and isolated. Sooner or later, however, ample public accommodations in keeping with the region must be provided for those who go to Katahdin. These should be away from the mountain, certainly as far down as Basin Ponds, and perhaps even nearer to the terminus of the road at Roaring Brook.

No one who has the least knowledge of Katahdin conditions will attempt to minimize their seriousness. The price of pulpwood is rising. Adjoining landowners feel that their holdings are endangered by the increased fire hazard of the Katahdin travelers. They need to realize upon their investment. Lumbering operations are creeping in from the west and the south. Soon the region to the north will be ripe for cutting. Last year the Abol Trail, the route of Thoreau's historic ascent of Katahdin, was blocked off, and unusable because of the recent lumbering operations there. The dam at Basin Ponds and the grim evidences of the fire around the moraines there, following the lumbering operations in 1921-23, are an all too eloquent reminder of the fate that may overtake the area. It seems incredible that anyone should wish to take a course of action which would enhance this possibility. And yet we are told that this course of action is a preservation of the wilderness.

The pending proposal to establish Katahdin National Park offers a solution of these problems. The large area embraced in the bill has already been noted. There had been earlier suggestions that the Katahdin area should be a national park, but then, with the exception of Acadia, there were no national parks in the East. Subsequently the Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountain areas were acquired through public donations and these regions forever preserved. This development undoubtedly paved the way for the consideration of the Katahdin area as of proper national-park caliber. Congressman Brewster's bill has been specifically designed to meet the problem at Katahdin. In other instances the National Park Service has insisted that a substantial area of the projected park be ceded to the Federal Government before it would undertake to protect and supervise that region. Recognizing the difficulties and the threatened danger to

the Katahdin region, Congressman Brewster's bill cares for this particular problem by providing that if the Baxter Park area should be placed in the control of the National Park Service by the State, with or without any other area, then the Secretary of the Interior, in his discretion, may administer and protect the area. The bill also provides that, if at the end of 10 years, the major portion of the contemplated national park has not been acquired, then the project fails, and the land is returned to the State. The State retains control through its power to cede.

When the background and the reasons for these particular provisions are examined it will be seen that there is nothing invidious in the Katahdin bill, as has been suggested by some of its opponents, but to the contrary it is a very practical means of meeting the problems, and the only one which seems workable.

The plain fact of the situation is that, with the exception of the 9 square miles of the mountain top, there is today no guaranty or no method of maintaining the wilderness of the Katahdin area. This is a fact which must not be lost sight of. There is nothing to prevent enterprising individuals from establishing on the private land around the mountain any type of obnoxious or offensive developments which may flourish under the patronage of those who come to the region. There is no possible control over this. And yet, with an astonishing blindness, we are told that the status quo will preserve the wilderness. The charge that under the National Park Service development the region would become "developed" with hot-dog stands and post-card emporia and other objectionable developments can be explained only as totally a fiction of the imagination of those who have never had the privilege of traveling in our great western parks or as an inexcusable attempt to frighten with the bugaboo of a nonexistent situation. There are no such things in the national parks. All buildings and structures there are carefully designed by architects, supervised and maintained by trained personnel. Every structure must harmonize and fit into the background of the locality. Is it likely that private interests would have donated the five millions for the Great Smoky Mountains National, acquired the additions to the Grand Teton and Yosemite National Parks if the National Park Service improperly administer these trusts?

The national parks, of which there are 26, totaling 8,744,447 square acres, in addition to the 78 national monuments, are an outstanding part of our American system. They are universally admired and other countries are attempting to create similar reservations. We have a national park in Maine—Acadia—presented to the people of America by the residents of Mount Desert, who recognized that this was the one method of preserving a unique area. Do Maine people regard Acadia as a stigma to the State? As to the point of view which attempts to condemn the national-park system in toto and would prefer that our wonderlands embraced in this system should have been left to whatever vicissitudes of fate would have ultimately overtaken them in the form of exploitation through uncontrolled lumbering, mining, grazing, erosion, and commercial development, and would, therefore, prefer to see the Katahdin region left to fire, lumbering, and unrestricted development, in preference to being embraced in the national-park chain, it seems only necessary to state that point of view. For an example nearest to us, had it prevailed, when the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was proposed, the primeval timber of this region, with more species than exist in all Europe, would now be a thing of the past. This policy was settled as far back as 1872, when Cornelius Hedges and other pioneers in Yellowstone decided to dedicate their findings to the American people rather than exploit them for private gain. I have noticed references to the "development" of Yosemite National Park. The fact is that the valley, the "developed area", where most people go, comprises 8 square miles. The rest of the park, 1,168 square miles, is the high Sierra wilderness. Such charges only manifest a total ignorance of the national parks.

Contrary to the suggestion that nature lovers and mountain lovers are well content with what they now have in the Katahdin area, the plain fact is that they are filled with the greatest apprehension lest this unique area be devastated and ruined beyond redemption. It is this feeling, and no other, which has prompted the bill to make the entire area a national park, in order to protect and preserve it. It is the people who best know the area who are asking for this action. Their efforts to obtain aid from those responsible for supervision of the area had been ignored. The records of the Committee on Public Lands, to which this bill has been referred, show that, with one exception, the out-of-door organizations have enthusiastically endorsed this bill.

Congressman Brewster has explained the need for this bill and what it will accomplish both for the area and the State. It is such a logical extension of the motive which inspired Governor Baxter that the project should receive his support. If there is any feeling that his interests are not properly cared for and that some revision might be made in the bill to more specifically provide for the preservation of the wilderness area in the Katahdin region—to allay the fear that the National Park Service will not justly and competently perform its duty—this should be the subject of discussion, so that we may have a cooperative effort to solve the Katahdin problems. Those who by opposing any constructive effort to go forward, encourage, and sanction the devastation which is becoming more threatening daily assume a very real responsibility for the future of the Katahdin area. Soon the Katahdin wilderness may be a thing of the past, and we shall have to answer for what we could have, but have failed to conserve.

1130

Thru 1933
and

Important

THE BAXTER STATE PARK IN MAINE.

Article by Ronald L. Gower, Editor of the Appalachian Mountain Club's KATAHDIN GUIDE, member of the Council of that organization and chairman of its Board of Excursions; brought up and educated in the State of Maine; of a family who have lived in Maine for nearly 200 years; traveled extensively in the wilderness regions of northern Maine, particularly about Katahdin, where he has conducted many expeditions for the A.M.C.; author of numerous articles on Katahdin and the adjacent regions, and has lectured on Katahdin in several States.

Maine has a mile high mountain, Katahdin, located in a glorious wilderness. It is a unique mountain, with great glacial basins carved into its flanks, high cliffs and an immense boulder-strewn table land. The people of the State of Maine are proud of this their highest mountain, particularly so since a former governor, the Honorable Percival P. Baxter, after twenty-six years of patient effort and at great personal expense, acquired most of the mountain and gave it to the people of his State "to be forever held by the said State in Trust for the People of Maine for State Forest, Public Park and Recreational purposes". Laws of Maine, 1933, Chapter 3.

Now comes a group of people, most of whom live outside of New England, and practically all of whom are non-residents of Maine, who have decided that this, Maine's mountain, shall forthwith be a National Park, and they are determined to cram this National Park bill down the throats of the people of Maine whether they like it or not. It is not a Maine characteristic to submit thus tamely; in fact, the State of Maine is rather well known for the independence of its citizens, as the last national election bore witness. It is believed that they are still able to take care of their own affairs in their own chosen way, and for groups of citizens of other states to try to bring pressure to bear upon what appears to be the sole business of the State of Maine, seems rather meddling.

An examination of the arguments advanced for the establishment of a National Park in this region does not disclose any reason why this step should be taken. Perhaps the real, underlying motives have not been made public. It is true that there have been some excited

poorly considered statements made which seem to have been the work of some disgruntled person or group, but the necessity for an immediate and drastic departure from the long-planned, orderly and undisturbed development of Mr. Baxter's program is not apparent. The important scenic features of Katahdin are already safe within the Baxter State Park area. True to his promise in the gradual unfolding of his plan, Mr. Baxter has just recently acquired title to approximately 18,000 acres (28 sq. miles) of additional land in the Katahdin region of a high order of scenic value, including Traveler Mountain and some superbly located ponds. This will quadruple the size of the present Park and justifies the faith in Mr. Baxter which so many of his fellow citizens have expressed. Thus the foundations of a magnificent State Park are being laid without recourse to the taxpayers' money, government interference and regimentation, or fervent appeals and campaigns for donations with which to pay shrewd land-owners fat prices. The control of a Maine Park will remain in the hands of Maine people.

The "threatening disaster to the region" and "fast approaching fate of Katahdin" which the supporters of the National Park Bill so publicly bewail, moved rather slowly for the first 113 years of the State's existence from 1820 to 1933. It might be well to allow it to move along at a dignified pace for a few years longer, inasmuch as a careful examination of the area fails to disclose any reasonable needs which are not being met. It should be remembered that the ^{Baxter} State Park is ^(Laws of Maine 1933, Chapter 103 Resolves) not yet five years old and that it requires some time to get public matters set in order and running smoothly. Much better to bear with underdevelopment for a while and build wisely and well for the future. Perhaps certain unimportant mistakes have been made ---- perhaps others will be; surely that is no worthy reason for placing the mountain beyond the control of the State forever! Even the National Park Service has been known to make mistakes. Contrary to public statements made to the effect that the State has done nothing toward the maintenance of the Baxter State Park, it should be recorded that the last Maine Legislature made an appropriation for this purpose: that the State fire and game warden service is maintained

in the Park as in all other Maine wild lands; and that shelters, trails, and other evidences of maintenance have been regularly constructed and kept in order since 1933.

It is the purpose of the deed of gift under which this Park was established to preserve the wilderness character of the area. Extensive development is not contemplated nor desired. Mr. Baxter has written that "only small cabins for mountain climbers should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or on horseback." It should be always borne in mind that this region has not yet been set apart for the type of use and development that exists in the National Parks. This is a wilderness area from which motor cars and all that they mean are forever barred by the terms of the gift to the State. No highways, no great log hotels, no skyline drives, no summit roads, no noisy social life, no flaming signs, no semi-commercialized recreation, no roar of civilization, no orders from Washington. This place does not beckon to great masses of pleasure seekers on wheels. For these there are ample hotels elsewhere in the State. The Baxter State Park invites those who are willing to walk to get there, to carry their necessities on their backs and who want solitude, close contact with nature and the mental and physical rebirth (not hackneyed "recreation") that comes of these things.

This Baxter area was accepted in trust by the Legislature of the State of Maine representing the people of Maine, which solemnly covenanted with the donor that, "these lands shall forever be used for State Forest, Public Park and Recreational purposes, shall forever be left in the natural wild state, shall forever be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds, and that no roads or ways for motor vehicles shall hereafter ever be constructed therein or thereon." (Laws of Maine 1933, Chapter 3.) With the above provisions, ^{faithfully} carried out, succeeding generations will have something worthwhile to enjoy at a time when the pressure of civilization will doubtless be greater than it now is; but if a National Park is established here, three of these four provisions in the Deed of Trust will be broken.

A distinguished Maine citizen who has held an important Feder-

al office recently wrote the following significant paragraphs; he says "The heritage of Maine folks includes neither trust betrayal nor inferiority complex. Yet, the recent proposal to convert a State Park into a National Park contains both a shady repudiation of a contractual obligation duly acknowledged by Act of Legislature and a covert confession of inability to manage the State's own affairs. The proposed surrender does not fit the Maine character and even were it legal, would surely fail of popular endorsement..... However charitable I may try to be toward those who have in these late years acquired so large a faith in centralized omniscience, I have no patience with the compliant attitude toward breach of trust that seems the fashion of the day. 'TO BE FOREVER HELD' is a strong phrase, and four years would appear altogether too brief a period to make an act of Legislature a dead letter in Maine, even if so desired in Washington.... I would be ashamed of my native State if we considered that a forested peak up in Northern Maine could be better administered as a public reservation from Washington than from Augusta. I acknowledge my high regard for my friends and associates (in Washington) but I knew too well the many disadvantages, and weaknesses incident to absentee landlordism in the national forests... It has been difficult for me to believe that the suggestion to make the State Park into a National Park could be made seriously, much less formulated into a Bill and sponsored in Congress by a former Governor of our State (Ralph O. Brewster) supposedly cognizant of the State Legislation relating to the acceptance of the Katahdin Deed of Trust."

Among the many glaring mis-statements put forth by supporters of the National Park Bill, is that there is a limitation in size on State Parks in Maine of 10,000 acres, made by the State Park Act, Laws of Maine 1935, Chapter 144, which created a State Park Commission as ^{entirely} distinct from "Baxter State Park." This law specifically provides that it does not apply to Baxter State Park. The State Park Commission has under its jurisdiction a few old abandoned fort locations (all of which were purchased under Governor Baxter's administration and by his direction) the largest of which is 100 acres and running down to three or four acres in extent. These were small areas where forts were built about the time of the Civil War and earlier, in fact some date back to

block house days. This law of 1935 limits the STATE Park Commission and no one else. Under the general laws of the State, however, the Governor and Council or the Legislature may accept any amount of land as a gift without limit. Outside of the above old fort locations, the State of Maine has no State Park other than Baxter State Park.

Another mis-statement made by National Park advocates is that Ex-Governor Baxter is a member of the Baxter State Park Commission. He is not nor has he ever been. Another is that there are no caretakers, whereas there have always been at least two and some times three protecting both the e-asterly and westerly approaches to the mountain. Another is that bathing is permitted in the water supply at Chimney Pond which practice was stopped years ago. Still another relates to the alleged cutting of trees in the Great Basin by campers for firewood, whereas only dead wood has been permitted to be used for years. Regarding the cutting of trees in the Chimney Pond section for the construction of the new shelters there, the inference gained from some recent statements made is that the entire forest anywhere near Chimney Pond has been destroyed, and that the resulting area is a sort of shambles. As a matter of fact, a relatively small cutting has been made, which is fast growing up and will leave no scars. This cutting does not run down to the shore of the Pond which is still encircled by virgin spruce. Likewise recent statements made as to the number of visitors to the Park are so grossly exaggerated as to be almost fantastic.

It is especially significant that the Chamber of Commerce of Millinocket, the town which is in a position to profit most by any great influx of visitors to Katahdin, has withdrawn its support of the National Park Bill and has gone on public record against it. Included in the roster of those organizations which have either gone on record against the Bill, or have expressly denied it support are:

Appalachian Mountain Club
Green Mountain Club (Wyanokie Section)
Brooklyn Institute of Art and Sciences
Cosmopolitan Club
The Wilderness Society
Explorer's Club
Massachusetts Forest and Park Association
New York Chapter, App. Mtn. Club

The Appalachian Mountain Club, oldest and largest mountaineering society in this country has long been interested in Katahdin and is familiar with the region involved. For over a half century this Club has been sending excursions into this region and among its members were many of the early explorers. The Club has for many years published the only guide book on Katahdin. Through these numerous contacts over such a long period, the Appalachian Mountain Club quite naturally has come to know the merits of any questions involving Katahdin and the surrounding territory. At the time the Council of the Club went on record against the National Park Bill, they authorized the following statement in publishing their action.

STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN APPALACHIA
JUNE 1937, THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB.

"A bill recently filed in the National House of Representatives provides for the establishment of a National Park at Katahdin.

"There is already a Baxter State Park there. In 1933 former Governor of Maine Percival P. Baxter gave to the people of Maine an area of nearly 6000 acres, including most of the mountain which was "to be forever held by the said State in trust for the people of Maine". Under Laws of Maine 1933 Chapter 3, page 460, the State formally accepted this gift thereby entering into a covenant with the donor that these lands "shall forever be used for State Forest, Public Park and Recreational purposes, shall forever be left in the natural wild state, shall forever be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds and that no roads or ways for motor vehicles shall hereafter ever be constructed therein or thereon."

"To go back to the beginning: for twenty-six years Mr. Baxter worked very hard to get the State of

Maine to buy Katahdin for a public park but without success. Bills sponsored by him in this connection were repeatedly killed by certain powerful political and business groups who were fearful lest the people of the State who, it might be noted, once owned millions of acres of Maine's best forest lands should become park or forest minded. Finally he determined to take the matter into his own hands, and after more years of patient waiting, the exercise of much tact, and the expenditure of considerable money, he acquired Katahdin.

"Since that time much has been done to make the mountain accessible, through the efforts of Mr. Baxter and Assistant Forester James W. Sewall, who obtained official sanction to make this a U.S.C. project. Both of the road approaches (S.E. and S.W.) have been made readily passable for automobiles, and have also been connected together. All the principal trails have been cleared and marked, those above treeline cairned and painted blue (except the Appalachian Trail which was done in white by the A.T.C.). Twelve new shelters, auxiliary structures, a ranger's cabin, bridges and a swimming hole have been constructed and one cabin rebuilt. The Baxter State Park is as yet only four years old and naturally some time is required gradually to complete the project. In fact, not much more should be added if the area is to be kept in its natural wild state. There are those who think too much already has been done.

"The first recorded ascent of Katahdin was over 150 years after that of Mt. Washington. Consequently it was virtually unknown, even at a time when the White Mountains were the playground of New England. Due to the lateness of the region in becoming well known, the wilderness aspect fortunately has been pre-

served in a large measure for us even down to today. There are areas adjacent to the mountain which are rarely visited, and some which have never been explored. The mountain's wildness and isolation combined with its natural grandeur have ever been the charm of Katahdin. True mountain lovers have for nearly a century repeatedly made their way through the surrounding wilderness to rejoice in the obstacles that must be surmounted in achieving various objectives. Many of the difficulties that formerly were encountered have been gradually removed. The experience of "going to Katahdin" is alas, not altogether what it used to be. However, much of the ruggedness of a trip into this region can still be saved if the "improvements" are stopped where they are and the replacement of existing facilities planned with careful thought for the future.

"Under National Park administration it is inevitable that many civilizing influences will of necessity be brought to bear upon Katahdin and the wild lands adjacent to it. Roads, skyline drives, concreted parking places at frequent intervals, and iron pipe balustrades are all right in their proper situation — so are sidewalks and office buildings. All would be equally out of place at Katahdin. There are so many other sections, both in and out of the National Parks, where one may roll along comfortably in one's motor car and view remarkable scenery without the bother of walking or climbing with a pack on one's back. There are also twenty million acres of wild land in Maine outside the Katahdin region, from which a National Park may be created. It is not clear to many why the National Park Service should be asked to interfere here where the present Baxter State Park

promises to take care of the needs of this region most admirably. All that is needed is a little patience and some faith in the donor of the present State Park, who has this area continually in mind, and is gradually working out what seems best for this particular section. Already he has promised "that if the Federal Government will keep out of Katahdin, I have interesting plans for the future that will mean much to Maine". His thirty years of devotion to this region backed up by something more tangible than conversation give a weight to his pledge which must be reckoned with. It is fitting to end these notes with his own words, "Katahdin should and must always remain the wild, storm-swept, untouched -by-man region it now is; that is its great charm. Only small cabins for mountain climbers should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or on horseback, a place where nature rules and where the creatures of the forest hold undisputed dominion. As modern civilization with its trailers and hot dog stands, its radio and jazz, encroaches on the Maine wilderness, the time may yet come when only the Katahdin region remains undefiled by man".

"After considering arguments for and against the proposed park and certain other information in addition thereto which it is not deemed prudent to set forth in a publication of this nature, the Council of the Appalachian Mountain Club on May sixth, 1937, VOTED: That the Appa-

(now lachian Mountain Club go on record as opposed to H.R. 5864 H.R. 6599). "To provide for the establishment of the Katahdin National Park", and that the Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands of the House of Representatives be notified, and the delegate, if appointed to the Appalachian Trail Conference, be instructed to vote in accordance with this motion."

COUNCIL

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

L. A. BARRETT
CALIFORNIA

HARVEY BROOME
TENNESSEE

IRVING M. CLARK
WASHINGTON

BERNARD FRANK
TENNESSEE

DOROTHY SACHS JACKSON
MARYLAND

ALDO LEOPOLD
WISCONSIN

BENTON MACKAYE
MASSACHUSETTS

GEORGE MARSHALL
NEW YORK

ROBERT MARSHALL
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OLAUS MURIE
WYOMING

ERNEST OBERHOLTZER
MINNESOTA

ROBERT STERLING YARD
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

1840 MINTWOOD PLACE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICERS

ROBERT STERLING YARD
PRESIDENT

PERMANENT SECRETARY

BENTON MACKAYE
VICE PRESIDENT

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
TREASURER

July 8, 1937.

Mr. Percival Baxter,
Portland, Maine.


Dear Mr. Baxter:

A trail conference was held in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park last week, to which trail organizations of Maine sent three delegates. The motion was made to work for a Mount Katahdin National Park. A number of trail organizations south of Maine were for it in a general way, but it was supposed that the Maine delegates would oppose the project. In that case the motion would not have passed. The three delegates from Maine, however, were silent. They neither favored nor opposed, and the resolution was passed.

Thus the Mount Katahdin National Park becomes a project of the general Appalachian Trail Conference and establishes the National Park Service as favoring it.

Is Maine going to let hikers from other states dispose of her wilderness without even lifting a voice?

Sincerely yours,



Permanent Secretary,

RSY:E

Folder 74

COUNCIL

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

L. A. BARRETT
CALIFORNIA

HARVEY BROOME
TENNESSEE

IRVING M. CLARK
WASHINGTON

BERNARD FRANK
TENNESSEE

DOROTHY SACHS JACKSON
MARYLAND

ALDO LEOPOLD
WISCONSIN

BENTON MACKAYE
MASSACHUSETTS

GEORGE MARSHALL
NEW YORK

ROBERT MARSHALL
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OLAUS MURIE
WYOMING

ERNEST OBERHOLTZER
MINNESOTA

ROBERT STERLING YARD
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Yard

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

1840 MINTWOOD PLACE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

5/12/12

OFFICERS

ROBERT STERLING YARD
PRESIDENT
PERMANENT SECRETARY

BENTON MACKAYE
VICE PRESIDENT

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
TREASURER

July 12, 1937.

Mr. Percival Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

Further details of the Trail Conference in the Great Smokies, of which I wrote you a couple of days ago, confirm what I then said and show that the Appalachian Mountain Club of Boston, by far the most influential organization of its type in New England, came to the Conference, like the Maine delegates, without any opinion on the proposal to make a national park of Katahdin. They left without any opinion but with the general understanding that one of their number, Ronald Gower of Newton, Massachusetts, had seen Katahdin and that they would follow his advice.

The impression that my new informant got was that Mr. Gower thought well of the National Park Service and would probably swing the Club in favor of the bill in Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Sterling Yard

RSY:E

July
fourteenth
1937

Dear President Yard -

I have your letters of the eighth and twelfth of this month and have read them with interest.

Perhaps I did not mention to you in my former correspondence that the Appalachian Club in Boston passed a strong resolution against nationalizing the Katahdin area and this resolution has been sent to the National Park Service. The National Park Service in so far as I am aware has not yet taken any stand on the project and the Congressman who introduced it is reported as having said that he was planning to do nothing more about it during the present session. I think we can rely upon this.

In your letter of the 12th you speak of Mr. Gower as favoring the National Park project but in this I am glad to say you have been misinformed because Mr. Gower is very much opposed to it and has taken a strong and definite stand. You see we are not without friends on our side. About all we can do at present is to remain on guard and await the next Session of Congress.

I recently visited both the East and West sides of Katahdin and found conditions excellent. There are a sufficient number of Adirondack shelters and fire-places and the toilet arrangements are such as are needed in a country like Katahdin. You will also be interested to know that the report that the State Legislature refused to make any appropriation for Baxter State Park is erroneous. The Legislature appropriated \$1,000. and the Park Commission will expend this prudently.

There is no truth in the report that any number of trees have been cut down or that the wilderness has been defaced. A few trees were cut to build shelters but nature already has healed the slight scars.

All this talk about Maine's not appreciating the gift and wanting to be rid of it is ~~false~~ propaganda for those who wish to make political capital for themselves.

Very truly yours

Mr. Robert Sterling Yard,
President The Wilderness Society

COUNCIL

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

L. A. BARRETT
CALIFORNIA

HARVEY BROOME
TENNESSEE

IRVING M. CLARK
WASHINGTON

BERNARD FRANK
TENNESSEE

DOROTHY SACHS JACKSON
MARYLAND

ALDO LEOPOLD
WISCONSIN

BENTON MACKAYE
MASSACHUSETTS

GEORGE MARSHALL
NEW YORK

ROBERT MARSHALL
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OLAUS MURIE
WYOMING

ERNEST OBERHOLTZER
MINNESOTA

ROBERT STERLING YARD
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

1840 MINTWOOD PLACE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICERS

ROBERT STERLING YARD
PRESIDENT
PERMANENT SECRETARY

BENTON MACKAYE
VICE PRESIDENT

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
TREASURER

July 16, 1937. ✓

Hon. Percival Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

My dear Governor:

Yours of the 14th is a great relief to me. We have had (and may still have) work of a difficult kind for the last two years helping a Vermont group, organized for the purpose, to keep the Green Mountains a state responsibility. The reports I had of the Appalachian Trail meeting made me fear that Maine was going the same way. You have set fears at rest and insured me a happy visit to Maine.

My intimate relations of many years with the National Park Service, not always sympathetic, permit me to confirm what you say of its attitude toward Katahdin. The expansion group, now in the saddle, is most expectant of acquiring Katahdin, but nothing has been said or done yet openly. These men are active opportunists, keen to rival the Forest Service in influence, even in size of appropriations, and ready to jump with encouragement. The state situation as you describe it, if brought to their attention in some official way which may appear incidental, will kill the alertness that now inspires them. "Not yet," I can hear them say a little grimly.

I promise myself a call on you as I pass through Portland. I want to meet state officials interested intimately in conservational development, and make some acquaintance among organized outdoor men. Perhaps you can suggest whom it would be helpful to know.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Sterling Yard

RSY:E

Box 105
74
Sept. 20
September
twentieth
1937

Dear Mr. Yard -

I received your letter and read it with interest. It is true that the National Park Service has had one or more men in Maine recently looking over the Katahdin area, and like yourself I shall be interested to learn what comes of this letter on.

It may be that the National Park people would like to take Katahdin but I do not see how they can do so unless I consent and there is no possible chance of my doing so.

If you occasionally go to the Congressional Library, I suggest that you look up the Laws of Maine 1933, Chapter 3, Page 460, in which you will see that the State of Maine accepts the gift of Katahdin "TO BE FOREVER HELD BY THE SAID STATE IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE OF MAINE FOR STATE FOREST, PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES". This language is as strong as can be made and I am confident that the State of Maine will never violate this Trust.

Since this discussion has arisen I have asked well informed lawyers in Maine what would happen if the State should ever attempt to divest itself of the title of Mt. Katahdin and they tell me that the mountain would then revert to me, the donor. I cannot conceive, however, of the Legislature of Maine passing a law such as has been suggested by one of our Congressmen. Notwithstanding this we must watch developments and be prepared for anything.

I am pleased that you enjoyed your trip in Maine and I am sure that your presence here was helpful.

With my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

To-
Mr. Robert Sterling Yard
President-Permanent Secretary
The Wilderness Society
No. 1840 Mintwood Place
Washington
D.C.

77
1

Demaray

Sept

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

B. 2

September 28, 1937

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland,
Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

As you know the National Park Service has recently completed a comprehensive field survey of the Mount Katahdin region. This work was required in order that we might more definitely ascertain and report upon the values of the region for national park purposes. It is considered proper that the final report by this Department for the House Public Lands Committee on Congressman Brewster's Bills H.R. 5864 and H.R. 6599 be prepared as soon as possible now that field work to date has been sufficient to provide a rather clear general knowledge of park potentialities and accompanying conditions.

Senator Frederick Hale has been kind enough to write in your behalf, calling our attention to your great interest in the Mount Katahdin country and indicating that you would appreciate an opportunity to discuss in Washington the viewpoint of the National Park Service on the subject of possible establishment of a national park, in line with Congressman Brewster's suggested legislation. We would be glad indeed to have the benefit of your advice at any time convenient to you.

The representative in charge of the recent field investigation desired to contact you in Maine but at the time of his various informal visits with authorities it was learned that you were busy in the Maritime Provinces. It is therefore especially pleasing to understand that you may be enabled to confer in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

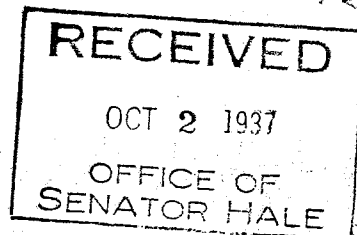
A. E. Demaray
A. E. Demaray
Acting Director

BAX
Folder
74

Demaray

1937
Oct. 2

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON



Hon. Frederick Hale,
United States Senator,
Portland, Maine.

My dear Senator Hale:

In the absence of Director Cammerer, I want to acknowledge receipt of your letter to him of September 20, on the subject of ex-Governor Baxter's apprehensions in relation to the future of Baxter State Park and surroundings.

The information conveyed to you by Mr. Baxter on recent activities of the National Park Service in the Mount Katahdin region is correct. We have been called upon to report in the usual manner on the merits of that area for national park purposes, and our field investigation was in line with that request.

The fine values of Baxter State Park and vicinity are fully appreciated by this Service. We have no interest in further development of Baxter State Park, and we shall, of course, be pleased to discuss with Mr. Baxter our findings through field investigation at any time convenient to him. Our representative desired to meet Mr. Baxter following completion of the recent work in Maine, but found at the time that Mr. Baxter was visiting the Maritime Provinces and therefore could not be reached.

Sincerely yours,

(SUD) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray
Acting Director.

74
COUNCIL

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

L. A. BARRETT
CALIFORNIA

HARVEY BROOME
TENNESSEE

IRVING M. CLARK
WASHINGTON

BERNARD FRANK
TENNESSEE

DOROTHY SACHS JACKSON
MARYLAND

ALDO LEOPOLD
WISCONSIN

BENTON MACKAYE
MASSACHUSETTS

GEORGE MARSHALL
NEW YORK

ROBERT MARSHALL
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OLAUS MURIE
WYOMING

ERNEST OBERHOLTZER
MINNESOTA

ROBERT STERLING YARD
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

1840 MINTWOOD PLACE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. 1 1
OFFICERS

ROBERT STERLING YARD
PRESIDENT
PERMANENT SECRETARY

BENTON MACKAYE
VICE PRESIDENT

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
TREASURER

October 4, 1937.

Honorable Percival P. Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

The Park Service examining committee which has recently returned from Katahdin went there in accord with the enclosed letter of last May, which explains itself. It consisted of five specialists, and they stayed there eight or ten days. The report will advise taking over the whole mountain as a national park. It will be used in putting over the scheme in Legislature and Congress.

The calmness with which the Park Service keeps after Katahdin; notwithstanding the conditions under which you presented it to the State, comes of the success by which, with one device or another, it has succeeded in recent years in getting all it wants from states. Proposing that the nation shall assume annual expenses forever is always popular in States.

Of course, land for a national park must be given to the nation, and what the State does not possess, it must first acquire. Maine will have to buy all the Katahdin property it does not now own. But it may, as Virginia did with Shenandoah lands and Tennessee and North Carolina with Great Smoky lands, fix by commission the price it will pay. It may, as those states did, force sales at its own terms on ground of public need. They went so far as to evict thousands of small farmers from homes owned by their families for generations.

To raise the ten millions which Great Smoky lands cost, the legislatures of North Carolina and Tennessee each appropriated a million dollars, the people of the state; each raised among themselves a million or more, and John D. Rockefeller Jr. was persuaded to contribute five millions. To raise the purchase money for Shenandoah lands, the Virginia legislature appropriated a couple of millions, John D. Rockefeller Jr. gave half a million, John D. Ryan gave a quarter million, and the rest was raised by popular subscriptions during two or three years personal campaigning in the State and the District of Columbia.

In Maine, as all the property is owned by forest owners except Baxter State Park, the proposition may

Honorable Percival P. Baxter,
Page 2
10/4/37

be persuaded to sell to the State for a mere million. Perhaps they may see profit in the park bringing a couple of million motorists a year into their big forest, and give the land to the park as a business venture.

However it may be done, there will remain only the problem of getting the Baxter State Park into national park hands. The Park Service does not appear to consider this difficult. Following a precedent in New York State, the Maine legislature may, if it wishes, pass a resolution substituting the United States Government for itself in your deed of gift to the State, with the proviso that the purposes of the deed of gift shall be fulfilled as originally specified, and the State Government will make the deed over to its new trustee, which will accept it upon passage of an act of Congress directing it to do so.

This has been done several times, they told me Saturday. The precedent will work perfectly provided the Maine legislature will do its part.

You will know more about that than I, but I should think your chances would be very much better if Maine had a strong state conservation spirit under vigorous defensive organization, determined to maintain her wealth of outdoor treasure in her own control.

There is no conservation organization in Maine except that of the State Federation of Women's Clubs. Your old State Forestry Association is now a department of the Land Owners' Association, and your old State Wild Life Association has petered out; it still has state officers, but they themselves told me this summer it has had no meeting for several years and may never have another; its hunting and fishing club members take what the forest owners dole them;

Official quality in the State Capitol is fine, but without organized public opinion to inspire and back them, and with so little state land, they necessarily follow Land Owners' wishes. It is easy to see with whom the Park Service has to deal. Perhaps it has already made its deal.

We are doing what we can, but it is absurdly little. I did my best to get in touch with the State Federation in July but no executive was at home when I was in her town. I am suggesting to strong men in neighbor states the creation of a New England Conservation Association.

Sincerely yours,



RSY:F

848
Felder
74

Baxter

1937
Oct 6

October
Sixth
1937

Dear Mr. Yard -

I have your interesting letter of the fourth. From what you say, apparently the Park Service has made up its mind to recommend a Park in the Katahdin District. Be that as it may, however, I still have faith in the Maine Legislature and at least while I am alive the Legislature will never violate its Trust which was created when I donated the Baxter State Park to the people of Maine. Moreover, I come from a long lived family and may be spared for many years. My father was ninety and had it not been for an accident my mother without doubt would have almost to that age.

Lucas

As you say, the land around Katahdin is chiefly owned by large corporations and I know that they depend upon the wood in that area for a continuing supply for their mills.

The information which you give me will be of distinct assistance and it certainly will be interesting to await the development of this matter. As for myself, I shall stand firm and no pressure can be brought to bear upon me to induce me to consent to a breach of trust.

If you hear anything more I hope you will keep me informed.

With personal regards.

Sincerely

To-

Mr. Robert Sterling Yard
The Wilderness Society
1840 Mintwood Place
Washington
D.C.

74
COUNCIL

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

L. A. BARRETT
CALIFORNIA

HARVEY BROOME
TENNESSEE

IRVING M. CLARK
WASHINGTON

BERNARD FRANK
TENNESSEE

DOROTHY SACHS JACKSON
MARYLAND

ALDO LEOPOLD
WISCONSIN

BENTON MACKAYE
MASSACHUSETTS

GEORGE MARSHALL
NEW YORK

ROBERT MARSHALL
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OLAUS MURIE
WYOMING

ERNEST OBERHOLTZER
MINNESOTA

ROBERT STERLING YARD
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

1840 MINTWOOD PLACE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICERS

ROBERT STERLING YARD
PRESIDENT
PERMANENT SECRETARY

BENTON MACKAYE
VICE PRESIDENT

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
TREASURER

October 12, 1937.

Honorable Percival E. Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

Your letter has the real ring, giving me good hope that we shall save Katahdin from a million motorists. Other fights like it have been lost largely because no one of eminence in the home state had the interest or the nerve to stand out against political shouting for state income at national expense. There was a time when a single Virginian of high standing could have kept Shenandoah out of the National Parks System. There was a time when one Kentuckian of high prominence could have retained Mammoth Cave as a Kentucky enterprize.

Any chance at Uncle Sam's money bags excites Congressmen and State Officials to frenzy. It isn't so much that the State needs the money as they need the votes they think their association with the money-getting will give them at the next election. One Congressman starts it and all the rest charge in lest he should gain a political advantage. So with the Legislature. Each tries to shout louder than the rest that it was his plan. And all this shouting excites the newspapers and the people. First thing you know, a whole state is roaring for something nobody knows a thing about, and the wise business men who oppose button up their mouths for fear of losing customers or clients by "opposing the prosperity of the State."

You are right in at the start, and now's the time. It's like the story of the hole in the dike. A single finger can stop it now, but after the tide rises it can't ever be stopped.

I'm sending you a report I'm making to our Council. You'll find there that the Park Service has been very busy in the Green Mountains, too. It's got the Governor cold. I've seen the elaborate map of the park plan.

But they're not going to get the park in the Green Mountains because public sentiment was aroused against this plan's predecessor a year ago. There's something to base opposition upon. The Governor is not going to make a considerable body of enemies.

In Maine, it seems to be Brewster, not the Governor, that the Park Service has landed. If he could only be scared a little about his next election! Unfortunately, there is no conservation public in Maine to scare him with.

The report I send you is not for publication, but it will be the basis of a Wilderness News which we'll send out a few weeks from now. I'd like to have your ideas, confidentially, meantime.

Sincerely,

Robert Sterling Yard

RSY:F

Again on April 22, 1937, at Park Service request, Representative Brewster introduced a bill in the House (H.R.6599) to that end, and the Park Service planned "a complete investigation" for late in the Summer.

Baxter State Park

Oct 1937

There lives in Portland, Maine, a man with whom the National Park Service must reckon. On February 9, 1933, the Maine Legislature accepted the gift of nine square miles of the top of Mount Katahdin from Percival E. Baxter, twice Governor of the State, "to be forever held by the said State in trust for the people of Maine."

To acquire the area, Mr. Baxter has said, "took me twenty-six years of the hardest work against the opposition of certain powerful political and business groups." Also it cost him a great deal of money.

"Katahdin should always and must remain", he wrote last May, "the wild, storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is; that is its greatest charm. Only small cabins for mountain climbers should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or horseback, a place where nature rules and where the creatures of the forest hold undisputed dominion. As modern civilization with its trailers and hot dog stands, its radio and jazz, encroaches on the Maine wilderness, the time may yet come when only the Katahdin region remains undefiled by man."

Late in July, he told me in his office in Portland that, having now retired from politics and business, he meant to devote the rest of his life to safeguarding and developing this greatest State possession.

At this time he knew of the Brewster bill, but we did not talk about it. He must have known of the Park Service's original investigation of the area, but apparently did not anticipate the final investigation to come, and neither of course did I. He advised me about seeing the Katahdin country, making notes in red ink on maps. I carried greetings from him to people I should meet and some of whom I met.

It was not until late in the Summer at home that I knew of the final investigation. It had been made by four or five park specialists and had lasted ten days. The committee is now working on a report which will enthusiastically recommend that the National Park Service should acquire Mount Katahdin as a national park, including the nine square miles of summit known as Baxter State Park.

How Can the Park Service Get Katahdin?

To get this national park, the National Park Service must persuade Maine to acquire by purchase the lands she does not now possess and give them to the national government together with those she already owns. These lands now belong to four or five lumber companies, one of which also owns the pulp mills at and near Millinocket.

How much the State will have to pay these companies for Katahdin, and how it will raise the money to pay are undetermined questions. And what profit the State will expect the national park to return to State business in order to justify its investment is not known.

The project will move slowly and follow the general program by which Shenandoah, Mammoth Cave and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks were procured. North Carolina and Tennessee appropriated two million dollars each toward the purchase of Great Smoky

lands upon representations of the "national park committee" that it would bring a couple of million profitable motorists annually into the business of the State. Virginia appropriated a like amount toward the purchase of Shenandoah lands upon similar official predictions of income from motors. Also, nearly a million each was raised by subscription from individuals and businesses in all three states, besides, which John D. Rockefeller, Jr. gave five million toward Great Smoky and he and John D. Ryan part of a million toward Shenandoah.

How many visiting motors a year will have to be guaranteed to Katahdin to persuade the forest owners to sell, justify the State Legislature to appropriate and induce common people and businesses to collect private subscriptions? That's for Maine to say. It will be her job. Several years ago a similar bill was passed for a national park in the Everglades with the proviso that Florida will come over with the cash. Florida hasn't come over yet. Perhaps she never will. But the act still hangs over the State.

To get the Baxter State Park into Federal possession, the legislature must substitute the National Government for Mr. Baxter in the deed which Mr. Baxter gave the State in 1953, specifying that the new trustee must carry out its provisions; and Congress must accept the trust. There are several precedents for this method of defeating Mr. Baxter's purpose in deeding the mountain to the State. The one to be used is furnished by New York State.

Skyline in Disguise

You hear nothing more in Vermont about the twice-beaten-at-home Green Mountain Skyline, but you do hear about a Mount Mansfield National Park.

Recalling that the original skyline had avoided Mansfield because too commonly patronized, and that recently our members there reported rumors that the Skyline was to be got indirectly through a national park, I dropped in to look around. Besides, it was high time we knew the Green Mountains better.

The Wilderness Society has warm friends in Vermont and will have more. I encountered no sentiment favoring the transfer of State scenery and recreation to the federal government except in a small group around the Governor at the State Capitol and another in Burlington, remnants of the skyline promotion of the former administration. The present Governor was Lieutenant Governor then.

The spirit of Vermont scenery is unique. Just as Maine strikes the forest note without mountain accent, so Vermont is in some real sense the Green Mountains. These are less than the White Mountains in altitude and mass but combine a sharper emphasis, even sternness of line with a gentler, even sparkling, quality of intervening valley. Farms are fenced with towering crags. Villages border gay streams through smart defiles. Houses of old colonial are white as the marble outcroppings on high backgrounds.

Somewhat west of the center of the State, the high range reaches from the Massachusetts border to Quebec and is crossed by a dozen main highways. But all Vermont is beautified by the outlying ranges, ridges and masses once connected parts, though by no means all, now, of the central body. A country so individual and unique needs stout character and home-grown appreciation of home for its defense. Vermont has them in her own people.

Everywhere I heard of the pending drive of the National Park Service to sieze the climax of the State's sparkling beauty for its own. It had failed in consecutive drives in the Legislature and by reference to the people. It was now or never.

In the Legislature just closed, the Governor had procured a Joint Resolution (Number 258, April 10, 1937) authorizing him to appoint a commission of five "to consider the desirability of the establishment of a national park within the state", and to take such preliminary steps "as may seem advisable."

Members of this commission were required to serve without compensation for ten years if that many should be necessary and report progress once a year. The commission was authorized "to accept in the name of the state grants of land and options for the purchase of land from willing givers within the area approved by the national park service as a prospective site for such park, such gifts and options to be contingent upon the approval by the legislature of the establishment of a national park; to accept in the name of the state outright or contingent gifts or grants of money or other property made for any purpose connected with the establishment of such national park; to expend such money or the income or proceeds from such property subject to limitations placed thereon by the donors, in making studies and investigations, acquiring lands within such area and binding options, and in meeting other expenses incurred in the performance of its duties. The auditor of accounts shall issue his warrants for any such expenditures on receipt of vouchers approved by the governor, and the treasurer shall pay the same out of any funds standing to the credit of the commission."

If the park is not achieved in the ten years, the property and remaining money will be returned.

At Montpelier I was told that the Governor would appoint the commission at once, but I was unable to see the plans on which the National Park Service had been industriously working. So off we went for Mount Mansfield, drove its summit by an excellent road in twenty minutes, lunched in the roomy hotel we found there, saw the views East to Katahdin and west to Whiteface and descended to explore the beautiful, well-farmed, comfortably populated country which later, on seeing the map, we verified as the "park" that the National Park Service wants.

The proposed Mount Mansfield National Park is twenty-six miles long from Cambridge on the North (See any motor road map) to Jerusalem on the South (due West from Montpelier). It includes two considerable areas of State Forest, one around Mount Mansfield and the other around Camel's Hump. It is crossed by two main highways heavily travelled, one the principal highway connecting Montpelier and the East with Burlington and the Lake Champlain ferries. There are also minor roads and the chance for a skyline drive.

That was the situation in August. In late September a State official wrote me from Montpelier that the Governor had found no one willing to accept appointment to the commission.

"The feeling in the locality is to have the land under State ownership rather than federal."

The Stuff that Dreams are Made of

Those of us who are familiar with National Park Service ambitions will find the following guess very probable indeed of what is in the minds of its officials for New England. Since it has abandoned standards, its dreams for all America would surprise you.

1. A park-to-park highway northward through Connecticut, the Berkshire Hills and Green Mountains to a Mount Mansfield National Park in Vermont, with spurs westward to Saratoga National Park in New York and northward to Canada; and
2. From Mount Mansfield National Park, a park-to-park highway east through a White Mountains National Park in New Hampshire to Mount Katahdin National Park in Maine; and
3. From Mount Katahdin National Park, a federal park-to-park to Acadia National Park in Maine, connecting with the seashore highways.

Dreaming quite as fascinating if not yet so well defined doubtless connects the loose ends of the New England Park-to-Park with additions through national historic sites in Massachusetts and Connecticut, also through Hudson River, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland sites, to merge into the Shenandoah Skyline Drive south. That, now far advanced, eventually will end with the mountains in Georgia.

When dreams shall thus be realized in the east as they are in the west, where, within my personal recollection, a national park-to-park highway was once thought as daring a venture; and when the two park-to-parks should be connected across north and south so to encircle the country (there's a start in Michigan), the political influence of the Park Service may quite equal that of the Forest Service.

1759
107.13
COPY

October
thirteenth
1937

Dear Mr. Pack -

I thank you for your letter of October eighth which I have read with much interest.

In my opinion the limit of ten thousand acres imposed upon the State Park Commission means that not in excess of a total of ten thousand acres can be acquired by the said Commission. However, if I am any judge of the situation, the limitation imposed is largely a moot question because I see no prospect of the Commission ever acquiring more than a very small fraction of the ten thousand, if it ever acquires any land at all. The Commission has no money and I know of no one, other than myself, who proposes to donate land to the State of Maine for Park purposes.

It encourages me to know that you feel that the Baxter State Park should forever be held by the State under the Trust created in 1936. The Brewster Bill, however, definitely provides that "all of Township 3, Ranges 8, 9 and 10" are to be acquired before the Park is accepted by the United States, and the Baxter Park is located entirely within Township 3, Range 9. It also provides that this land shall be "ceded by the State of Maine to the United States". Moreover the Bill H.R. 6599 goes on to say that "title to the area comprising the existing Baxter State Park" shall be accepted by the United States. From what you say, this is an objectionable to you as it is to me.

About a year ago a representative of the National Park Service talked with me about this matter and told me that unless the Federal Government could secure Baxter State Park, the Park Service would have no interest in the Katahdin region. He said that the mountain was the one feature in that region that interested them and that the Park would be located there only if the mountain was its chief attraction. Then I told him that I would not consent to the State's violating its Trust, he assured me that the matter would be dropped. I give you this information so that you will understand the situation.

I am glad that you do not approve of the political angle indicated by the suggestion of the sponsor of the bill

October
thirteenth
1 9 3 7

-2-

that "great log cabin hotels" and similar developments would be created in the Katahdin region, for apparently you agree with me that this yet unspoiled area should be preserved in its "natural wild state".

Also, like yourself I am opposed to what you refer to as the "exploitation of the area for recreational purposes" and in my mind there is no question but that this is one of the major motives behind the proposed measure. There is also a distinct personal political angle involved about which I could tell you more definitely in conversation.

It certainly would give me pleasure to meet you in Washington but my visits there are infrequent. I am sure, however, that you and your associates have no interest in this matter other than an unselfish one for the benefit of future generations.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) PERCIVAL P. BAXTER.

To-

Mr. Arthur Newton Pack
President American Nature Association
No. 1214 16th Street, N.W.
Washington
D.C.

Baxter

1937
Oct 22

October
twenty-eighth
1937

Dear Wallace -

I am pleased to have your letter and hope to see you before you go to Washington. It may be that I shall be in Lewiston before long and if so shall call upon you.

I went to Washington on Monday and had an interesting and satisfactory conversation with Mr. Demaray, Acting Director of the National Park Service. We discussed the Katahdin situation with the result that he said to me that his report to the Congressional Committee would be that although Katahdin and the surrounding country in the opinion of the Park Department ~~was~~ of national park status, his Department would not wish to recommend the passage of the bill on account of the existence of Baxter State Park and my unwillingness to have this transferred to the Federal Government.

I found Mr. Demaray and two of his associates that I talked with, Mr. Collins and Mr. Ballard, very fair and reasonable and they seemed to appreciate what I had done for the State and said it would not be "ethical" for the National Park Service to press this matter against my wishes. I returned home much relieved in spirit and hope that this will settle the matter. Of course men change their minds and I ask you and Senator Hale to keep in touch with this matter so that if anything should develop I can take further action. I certainly am grateful to you for your cooperation.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

To-

Hon. Wallace H. White
Lewiston
Maine.

★ Conservation ★

A part of Nature Magazine each month is devoted to the expression of practical opinions on the vital issues affecting our use and abuse of natural resources, including wildlife, and dedicated to the purpose of assisting Americans to play a militant part in the attainment of constructive conservation aims.



NEW PARK PROPOSED

Proposals for the creation of new National Parks have been frequent. Many of these have been inspired by local pride or by some local commercial interest. Some have been rejected; others have been successful in adding areas to our system of National Parks at the expense of the properly high standards originally set for a National Park.

The most recent proposal, however, is one that merits the most careful consideration. We refer to the movement to set aside five hundred and four square miles of the Maine wilderness, known generally as the Katahdin region, as Katahdin National Park. An enabling act to this end has been filed in Congress by Ralph O. Brewster of Maine. The region involved and its outstanding merits are described elsewhere in this issue by Myron H. Avery, Chairman of the Appalachian Trail Conference, a State-of-Mainer, hiker and lover of the outdoors and the wilderness. We need take no more space here to discuss the outstanding values of this region beyond saying that another decade will see it exploited by the axe and other commercialism beyond any possibility of redemption.

It is, however, pertinent to consider two or three points that have arisen in connection with the Katahdin Park movement. Opposition to it has come from what is, to us, a rather surprising source. We find Percival P. Baxter, former Governor of Maine, sincere conservationist and splendid citizen, against the proposal.

Over a period of twenty-six years Mr. Baxter, in the face of political and commercial opposition, acquired the summit of Mount Katahdin and contiguous area totalling nine square miles. This he deeded to the State of Maine in perpetuity, and the area is now known as Baxter State

Park. Its donor naturally feels that this gift should remain the property of the people of his State and should not be transferred to the Federal Government. Whatever the merits of this controversy, we see no reason why Baxter State Park can not and should not remain the property of Maine. However, under Maine law no State Park may exceed ten thousand acres, which means that little could be added to the present area as protection for the mountain.

It is there that the importance of the Katahdin Park proposal seems to us to center. We have seen cities set aside and develop beautiful park areas only to have them surrounded by billboards and other nuisances. Comparably, if the region close to Baxter Park is to be logged off, laced with roads and otherwise opened up—and there is no protection against such activities—the present reservation is irreparably damaged. If we could afford it we would buy lots on all four sides of our home to protect us from architectural atrocities and other ill-advised acts of man. That is what a Katahdin National Park would do for Mt. Katahdin and Mr. Baxter's gift to the State of Maine.

There appears also to be doubt in Mr. Baxter's mind as to what the National Park Service might do to the Katahdin region. He fears over-development, the building of scenic highways through the area, the civilization of a wilderness that is within the rubber-tired reach of millions. Mr. Baxter has basis for such fears, and we should like to see some definite guarantee against such development. We believe that the National Park Service would wish to treat this area as it should be treated. At the same time the Service is under pressure from political and local commercial interests to so develop some of the

properties entrusted to it by the people so that the maximum number of tourists will be attracted.

At the present time Baxter State Park is suffering from under rather than over-development. The Maine authorities seem to exhibit a vast lack of interest in it. It is unsupervised. More and more people are seeking the outdoors on foot with packs on their backs, yet no provision is made for this increase. A few lean-tos near the base of Katahdin at Chimney Pond, where concentration should be minimized rather than increased, were recently put in by some tree-butcher without regard for proper placement. Thus certainly this Maine State Park would hardly suffer by being surrounded by properly controlled National Park areas. The paramount issue is the preservation of the larger Katahdin wilderness, and the question

of where should remain the title to these nine square miles should not obscure the major issue, or lead to irreparable losses.

We believe that these differences can be easily ironed out. We hope that Mr. Baxter will join forces in this and aid in preserving this glorious Maine wilderness for posterity. And there, it seems to us, is the vital consideration. Now that the Great Smokies are preserved, and the Everglades Park plan is progressing, the Katahdin region is our last remaining substantial wilderness in the East. It should be preserved. Delay is dangerous. But in endorsing this proposal may we say that we would fight to the last ditch against the betrayal of the Katahdin region to selfish political or commercial interests that would make a glorified public camping ground out of it.

PAGING MR. CROW

It is doubtful whether there has ever been filmed a scene more starkly exciting than the mad battle against the grasshopper hordes in "The Good Earth". Yet shortly after we saw this great motion picture we saw briefly in a news reel a picture of an American farmer, his wife and children pathetically killing grasshoppers among the rows of their ill-fated corn crop.

There was, in both of these scenes, a lesson in conservation. There have always been cases of devastating swarming of grasshoppers. In this country they have always been worst on the normally treeless plains where there is little or no bird life. In China, where the destruction of tree and bird life has been going on for centuries, it is only natural that such insect devastation should occur unchecked by any other force of Nature. In most parts of the United States this should not be the case. Yet even here the prospects are not bright if we continue mass killing of the birds that Nature provided to maintain her balance.

The now classic instance of birddom's rallying to the side of man in the insect battle is the gathering of the gulls near Great Salt Lake to check the grasshoppers and crickets. But gulls cannot be expected to come to the aid of Kansas, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, or other of our mid-Western States. They must rely largely on resident birds. Yet these and other states are either encouraging, or actually promoting, the systematic destruction of a great ally against the grasshopper and other destructive spring and summer insects. That ally, whether the state conservation departments, the arms and ammunition company propagandists, or others like it or not, is the crow.

Between early April and late August crows depend upon insects for more than one-third of their food. Extensive analysis of the contents of crows' stomachs reveals that one hundred grasshoppers eaten during an hour or two of feeding is no feat for a crow. A group of four nestling crows will keep the parent busy for an hour or so, and in that time consume 400 grasshoppers. Analysis

of the stomachs of 157 crows in a grasshopper-infested area showed 151 of them to have eaten generously of the insects. The evidence of the crow's importance in holding this insect pest in check is voluminous and indisputable.

About some of the trading posts in central Canada, where grasshoppers periodically ravage the vegetable gardens, both Indians and whites appreciate the help of the crow and encourage the few that nest there, as well as the hordes of blackbirds, to feed freely throughout the summer about the villages. There even the children are taught to protect these birds in gratitude for payment received in advance.

Yet, on the other side of the shield, we find the Indiana Department of Conservation, for instance, proudly boasting that its campaign of prize awards for crow feet has resulted in 194,271 fewer crows. If, with utter conservatism, we say that each one of these crows, in the face of grasshopper over-abundance, ate fifty insects a day, then there would be 9,713,550 more grasshoppers than if the crows had been left alive. And fifty a day would be just whetting a hungry crow's appetite. Multiply this nearly ten million hoppers—that the kindly conservation commission has spared to eat the Hoosier farmer's products—by the fifteen or twenty days of a grasshopper invasion and we get some idea of how useful a crow can be.

Of course, the big black birds are not the only victims of these organized "vermin hunts". Useful hawks and owls are shot; in fact the philosophy of these hunts is usually: "Shoot anything that flies. Who's to know the difference?"

Isn't it about time we quit laying dust storms, floods, insect invasions and such to acts of God or fate? Isn't it about time we started using instead of abusing Nature's forces? Isn't it about time we acted upon the advice of men who have devoted their lives to learning the facts, instead of accepting as Gospel the opinions of the ignorant, or the specious propaganda of the man who has some ulterior motive?

It's not only *about* time, it's *past* time.



MOUNT KATAHDIN, SEEN ACROSS KATAHDIN LAKE

This is one of the unforgettable views of the famous mountain, part of which is now in Baxter State Park. Photographed by Samuel Merrill, courtesy Appalachian Trail Conference

Katahdin and Its Country

Proposal for a National Park in the wilderness of central Maine focuses attention on a glorious region

By MYRON H. AVERY

DEEP in the central Maine wilderness lies a region that bids fair to attain a rightly deserved preeminence in the ever increasing chain of federal reservations. It is a land of towering, glistening, bare granite peaks, interspersed with lower ranges mantled with the sombre-hued spruce and fir cover of the North Woods, the pattern of which is broken only by the silver sheen of lakes and streams, so numerous that, as one climber wrote, they resemble the scattered broken fragments of a mirror, so did they heliograph to the summits. It is a land of utter loneliness, deserted and as much a wilderness—save for casual travelers in the short summer months—as when the first explorer ventured into this domain 133 years ago.

It is this hinterland of the North Woods wilderness, widely known as the "Katahdin Country", this land of mountain, forest, lake and stream, that the Katahdin National Park Bill (H.R. 6599), introduced by Congressman Ralph O. Brewster of Maine, seeks to preserve forever in its larger whole as a heritage of the American people.

Katahdin, the mountain, has few peers in the esteem of those who, like the psalmist of old, seek the hills. It was always thus. In the Indian language Katahdin, "Kette Adene", means "the greatest mountain"—an ob-

ject of awe and fear—the home of the devastating spirit of Pamola, the guardian spirit of the mountain. When in 1804 the Scituate surveyor, Charles Turner, Jr., first reached the summit from the Penobscot West Branch, his Indian guides resolutely refused to accompany him, saying that Pamola had destroyed those who ventured too near his fastness. The esteem in which Katahdin is held can be judged best by the extent of its literature, which comprises a bibliography of some 78 pages—a record believed to be unequalled for any other single peak in the United States.

Katahdin's preeminence—as with other things that suffer the misfortune of too close proximity to greatness—dwarfs the surrounding region. The majesty of this towering granite monolith so impresses the casual climber to its summit that, at the outset, he may fail to appreciate that Katahdin is merely the culminating feature or symbol of an outstanding region, justly deserving of high repute in its own right. On these features of the larger whole—almost encircled by the curving tributaries of the Penobscot River—has attention been focused by Congressman Brewster's bill. This will not be a park of one mountain or one lake. In the area of the proposed Katahdin National Park one may count 55 separate and distinct peaks and 68 lakes.



KLONDIKE POND, IN ONE OF KATAHDIN'S CIRQUES

In the background are the Brothers Mountains. Photograph by Ludwig K. Moorehead, courtesy of the Appalachian Trail Conference.

As a type of North Woods wilderness the Katahdin region could well press a deserved claim to national recognition. Other sections of the ridge-crested Appalachian Chain rise to a more dominating height than does Katahdin but none possess its infinite variety of lake and stream. The uniqueness of the region may be ascribed directly to a master architect—the continental ice sheet that stood down over New England eons ago.

The aftermath of this glaciation—in the form of sheer-sided granite basins, tableland, high lying ponds, moraines and Arctic flora—has made this entire region an endless joy and surprise to the most untutored as well as to him who reads here the record of the ages. What the shape of Katahdin was before

the ice-sheet planed off the summit of this granite mass is a matter of vaguest conjecture. In the middle Nineteenth Century one school of geologists asserted that Katahdin had not projected above the ice sheet. At the end of the century, glacial geologist Ralph S. Tarr settled these doubts. The traveler along the crest of Katahdin will take keen interest in searching for the form of evidence with which Tarr set the controversy at rest by finding near the summit glacial erratics that are quite different from the granite of the mountain and which were transported from the north by the glacier and deposited when it overrode the summit of Katahdin. Of a later origin were the local glaciers, which departed from Katahdin only some 15,000 years ago, after they had cut deep back into the granite mass, carving out the steep-walled cirques or basins on every side of the mountain. On the east side, where the mountain resembles a series of linked volcanic cones split lengthwise, are three basins, Great South, North and Little North. From the ponds at the bottom of these basins, rimmed above by a narrow encircling crest known as the Knife-Edge, sheer granite walls rise 2000 feet. Here is a transplanted bit of the High Sierra in the superlative. On the west side of the mountain are other ravines of glacial origin. In the Northwest Basin, on a high-lying shelf, are four ponds. At their outlets are curious instances of glacial scouring—two *rocks moutonnées* or sheep-backs, as these elongated dome-like rocks are called. Nearby is another tarn, Klondike Pond, in a narrow sheer-walled slit; first reported half a century ago, it was re-discovered only in 1922. Stretched across the mouths of these cirques or basins—and a source of exertion to those who would reach the interior basins beyond—are glacial moraines, irregular rows of debris pushed outward by the glaciers and forming ponds at the mouths of these basins.

The summit of Katahdin is a considerable surprise to him who climbs it for the first time, expecting to find the narrow ridge crest, as seen from below. It is a "tableland" some six miles long and two miles wide, covered with irregularly-shaped broken granitic slabs, trending down from the highest part of the mountain. Near the summit is an instance of the interesting phenomenon of "rock

WHERE THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL MAKES ITS START

Extending 2056 miles to Georgia, this great trail is a hikers' achievement. Mr. Avery holds the measuring wheel. Photograph by S. S. Philbrick



deep". The southern portion of the mountain mass of the Katahdin area is granite, formed deep under the heavy overlying mass of rock long since eroded; the northern part is rhyolite. Somewhere, buried under the glacial debris and as yet undetermined by the geologists, is the contact point between these rocks.

As the geological past of the Katahdin country has wrought its outstanding characteristics, so have resulted its botanical features. Katahdin's flora is an Arctic island, a relict of the vegetation that followed the retreating glacier northward. On the Tableland are dwarf spruce, fir, willow and white birch, prostrate from battling the storms of years, scarcely thicker than one's wrist, yet many many decades in age. Some of the scientific names of the commonest plants tell significantly of their present habitat—thus *Arenaria groenlandica* and *Diapensia lapponica*. As characteristic of the North Woods summits as are the "balds" of the southern Appalachians, is the dense spruce and fir "scrub". Of this Henry D. Thoreau wrote in the story of his ascent of Katahdin in 1846:

Leaving this at last, I began to work my way, scarcely less arduous than Satan's anciently through Chaos, up the nearest, though not the highest peak, at first scrambling on all fours over the tops of ancient black spruce-trees (*Abies nigra*), old as the flood, from two to ten or twelve feet in height, their tops flat and spreading, and their foliage blue, and nipped with cold, as if for centuries they had ceased growing upward against the bleak sky, the solid cold. I walked some good rods erect upon the tops of these trees, which were overgrown with moss and mountain-cranberries. It seemed that in the course of time they had filled up the intervals between the huge rocks, and the cold wind had uniformly leveled all over. Here the principle of vegetation was hard put to it. There was apparently a belt of this kind running quite round the mountain, though, perhaps, nowhere so remarkable as here. Once slumping through, I looked down ten feet, into a dark and cavernous region, and saw the stem of a spruce, on whose top I stood, as on a mass of coarse basket-work, fully nine inches in diameter at the ground.

Since 1804, mountaineers have been drawn to this region. Its frequenters comprise a distinguished list, names renowned in American literature and scientific history: Edward Everett Hale (1845), Henry David Thoreau (1846), Thomas W. Higginson (1855), Theodore Winthrop (1856), Charles H. Jackson (1837), Jacob W. Bailey (1837), Charles H. Hitchcock (1861), Frederick E. Church (1877), Charles E. Hamlin (1867-87), and scores of other names less known, but renowned in scientific circles.

Thoreau's account of his ascent in 1846 and his journeys in the Maine wilderness are classics of outdoor literature, a fount that has not yet gone dry.

Well known is Theodore Winthrop's exuberant story of his canoe journey down the West Branch to climb Katahdin, and his characterization: "the best mountain in the wildest wild to be had on this side of the continent". Frederick E. Church, a leader of America's outstanding school of landscape painters, made at least four visits to Katahdin and was so drawn to the region that he established a camp on the shores of Millinocket Lake. Apart from his better-known paintings, the Cooper Institute in New York City has some 42 of Church's Katahdin sketches. So have the constantly increasing number of visitors to Katahdin echoed the approbation that these



SOME ROCK WORK ON THE TRAIL

This is a bit of the Appalachian Trail over the boulders of Hunt Spur on Mount Katahdin. Photograph by Mark Taylor

noted personages recorded. All this renown, however, has served only to accentuate the wildness of the region; it is still as difficult to penetrate many sections as it was in 1804.

Around the base of the Katahdin plateau flow the branches of the Penobscot River, long famous as wilderness canoe routes. The East Branch, with its falls and rapids, is a gruelling test for the most skilled canoeman. At its headwaters, and within the proposed park limits, are the two Grand or Matagamom Lakes, lying under the beetling cliffs that form the northern limit of the Katahdin mountain area. To the south, and forming a park boundary, is the West Branch, a widely-known canoe cruise with its six repetitions of the dead-water, then the falls, then the stream emptying into the river, so carefully noted by Thoreau, in Nesowadnehunk, Abol, Pockwockamus, Debsconeag, Passangamet, and Ambejjijis. Nesowadnehunk, or "Sowdyhunk" as the woodsman terms it, was "stream running between mountains". Likewise, Aboljacarmeguscook, another of these tongue-twisting Indian place names, meant "place where the water

laughs in coming down", while Wassataquoik, reputed to be the wildest stream in the state, was "place where salmon are speared by torchlight".

Nearby to the north is the Telos Cut, where, one hundred years ago, enterprising Yankee lumbermen connected the Allagash and East Branch waters, altering an extensive drainage system, changing the course of rivers and resulting in narrowly averted international complications. At Nesowadnehunk Falls occurred one of the picturesque epics of Maine's long logging days, when inspired by the thrill of doing a "beeg t'ing", the Indian, Big Sebattis Mitchell, performed the hitherto unaccomplished feat of running a bateau over these falls; then to meet this challenge, which their pride could not brook, a Penobscot "white" crew of four painfully carried their bateau back, to run the falls with a loss of two river-drivers and the boat.

Mrs. Fannie Hardy Eckstorm, famous Maine author, tells this incident in *The Penobscot Man*—the story of that picturesque type, the river-driver, at his best in white water or where danger threatened.

Katahdin is well known to mountaineering clubs in another connection. It is the northern terminus of the 2050 mile Appalachian Trail, the white paint blazes of which lead for 266 miles through the Maine wilderness.

So much for the peak Katahdin, from which we turn to its satellites and the surrounding Katahdin region. The extent of the mountains in this area is a distinct surprise to the traveler who approaches from the age-old West Branch route or the more recent route from Milinocket. Seen from the south, Katahdin is a huge, uniform, undulating rampart wall. At the summit this impression vanishes. To the north two parallel ranges extend toward the level lands of the Penobscot East Branch Valley; of these ranges Katahdin is merely the culminating peak. Viewed across the flat tableland, an enormous L-shaped range extends first west, then north, until lost on the horizon. "To the Indians," Moses Greenleaf, Maine's first map-maker, wrote in 1829, "this was the Katahdinauguoh—the cluster—of mountains about Katahdin." Between this range and Katahdin, completely enclosed, is a high elevated spruce and fir flat, the Klondike, so named because of its utter wilderness by a famous Penobscot Indian, Joe Francis, who ventured there to hunt moose. Few have traveled in the Klondike; one speaks of it in hushed tones with a semi-reverence.

Briefly we note the outstanding peaks of these ranges. Nearest, on the western arm of the Katahdinauguoh, is The



KATAHDIN FALLS

Lakes and streams abounding in fish and rich in natural beauty are found in the Katahdin country. Photograph by Sawtelle, courtesy of the Appalachian Trail Conference

Owl, separated from Katahdin, an enormous ravine with sheer cliffs, the densest of scrub and a "pasture" of grassy vegetation near its summit, at so precipitous an angle as to seem likely to slide into the ravine below. Beyond the long crest of the densely-forested Barren Mountain is O-J-I, whose name, lettered by slides on its slope, has been badly distorted by the storm of September, 1932. Beyond, across the gorge of Nesowadnehunk Stream, rise the twin cones of Doubletop, with its slide-seared sides. Seen up Nesowadnehunk Valley, Doubletop is a Fujiyama—a perfectly proportioned cone. A low tower on its summit, one of some 75 in the state, bears token to the relentless battle that the Maine Forest Service wages to preserve its wilderness against the ravages of fire.

At O-J-I, the L-shaped Katahdinauguoh turns sharply north. Next are the Three Brothers, a

balanced triad of 4000-foot peaks, so conspicuous from the summit of Katahdin. An outlying spur, Fort Mountain, walls in the northern end of the Klondike. This peak, which owes its name to its characteristic shape as described by Katahdin's first explorer in 1804, suggests a puzzling query. Turner wrote of it: "called by the English, Fort Mountain, from its shape". Who had been there before Turner?

Beyond the glistening cone of Mullen this range is lost from view, but beyond is a host of mountains. Between the cliffs of Wassataquoik and Pogy Mountains lies the long narrow Wassataquoik Lake, the superb setting of which, with the nearby two South Branch Ponds, is unequalled in the state. Black Brook, Black Cat and South Branch Peaks comprise the northern end of this range as it dies out near the shores of Second Grand Lake. To the west are the picturesque Nesowadnehunk Lakes and several isolated forested peaks.

The second range parallels the other except for the latter's westward turn. It commences with the massive bulk of Turner with its tableland and glacial cirque, with its Twin Ponds. At its southern base lies Katahdin Lake. The view over this lake into the open basins on the east side of Katahdin leaves an indelible impression—perhaps the finest conception of the majesty of the range. The culminating peak of this range is The Traveler, with its six bare summits and far flung spurs, walling in Pogy Notch, a beaver-infested flat suggesting the Klondike. The Traveler owes its name to the fact that to voyageurs down the East Branch, it seemed as if the mountain "traveled" with them. North from The Traveler is the

group of cone-shaped glistening rhyolite peaks which, as he emerged in 1857 from the forest over the dark waters of Grand Lake, had so impressed Thoreau. From "Joe Polis", his Indian guide, Thoreau's questing mind gathered the erroneous information that the Indians knew these as the Nerlumskeechticook or "Deadwater" Mountains.

So much for the myriad mountains, lakes and streams of the Katahdin country, intriguing the mountaineer, hiker, camper and canoeist. Its ponds and lakes—many beaver-formed—teem with brook trout. In the larger lakes are the "lakers". South Branch Ponds—demanding perfection in fishing technique—have landlocked salmon. Nesowadnehunk Stream is a famous dry-fly locality.

The Katahdin region has been a game preserve for some fifteen years. The meeting, even on the approach trails, of the black bears, which feed on the blueberries, is a common experience. Moose, deer, beavers and smaller mammals are numerous. Formerly caribou herds roamed the tableland, leaving the faint trails through the scrub that survived the "migration" of the caribou from Maine. This animal was last seen and *photographed* at Katahdin in 1905 by Roland B. Dixon, Sinclair Kennedy and Arthur W. Stevens. What caused the caribou to leave Katahdin is an unanswered question. Under federal ownership of this region, the caribou might be brought back.

The future of this unparalleled region without the safe-

guard of adequate supervision, properly planned development and facilities for those lured there by its fame, has been a matter of grave concern to those who know the land. These problems have come close to, and in the future, unless a laissez-faire policy ends, inevitably will produce, irreparable injury. This must not occur.

The first forward step came in 1931 when Percival P. Baxter, long sponsor of a movement to make Katahdin publicly-owned, gave to the State, in 1931 and 1933, a strip of some nine square miles, comprising the top of the mountain. This is the present Baxter State Park. Subsequently, with the creation of other National Parks in the East, there has developed a realization that Katahdin is only the culminating point of an unparalleled region. Ex-Governor Baxter has indicated the way. But the mountain top is not enough nor is the ownership of the mountain by the state alone a solution of the difficulty. An area of National Park standards is here and should be preserved. The problems require the facilities of administration peculiarly developed and maintained by the National Park Service. These problems and their manifest solution have been fully realized by Congressman Brewster, who has come to know the region well since his first climb of Katahdin in 1925, while Governor of Maine. The proposal to make the Katahdin region, the outstanding region of the East, a National Park, should command the support of all those who wish the heritage of the American people to remain undiminished.

Things to Think About

Although it looked dark for a time, in the closing hours of the recent session of Congress money was appropriated for the acquisition of 7200 acres of sugar pines for addition to Yosemite National Park. (Nature Magazine, September, 1937, P. 167.) This acquisition, previously authorized by Congress, was to have been made from unused funds earlier appropriated. It was found that these funds were not available for land acquisition, so the appropriation was included in the third deficiency bill. The item was eliminated in the House through the action of Mr. Englebright of California, but was restored to the bill in the Senate, in which restoration the House finally concurred.

It is with regret that we record the failure of an appropriation by Congress that would have completed the purchase of the remaining area designated for inclusion in Smoky Mountain National Park. This Park is still in what is known as "proposed" status, and if ever an area merited being placed on an official basis this does. Superintendent J. Ross Eakin has done an outstanding job of organization in the face of difficulties, and with a skeleton staff has handled an amazing number of visitors, undoubtedly to total more than 700,000 this year. The popularity of this glorious region is still growing and addi-

tional facilities in the way of permanent camp grounds and the like are vitally needed.

The last Congress approved a measure to provide approximately \$3,000,000 to assist the States in setting up "wildlife restoration projects." Under terms of the bill, the Government will set aside an amount equal to the revenue accruing from the tax on firearms and shells, this fund to be known as "The Federal aid to wildlife restoration fund." The bill further provides that State Game and Fish Commissions desiring to avail themselves of the benefits of the act will submit to the Secretary of Agriculture details of wildlife restoration projects proposed. If these plans are approved, the Treasury will earmark funds, such amount not to exceed 75 per cent of the total estimated cost, as the Government's share in the project. If projects thus completed are found not to be properly maintained by the State, the Secretary of Agriculture has power to refuse further aid until the project is put in proper condition of maintenance. It is difficult to see how our wildlife is going to benefit materially from this device any more than it does from the duck stamp. It is just another case of placing a benediction on killing because the use of arms and ammunition produces a small amount for restoration. If, in this vicious

1487
Nov 7

November
eighth
1937

Dear Mr. Demaray -

I think you will be interested in the two clippings which I enclose you, one of November 3rd and my answer of November 8th. I want you to have these for your records and the clippings explain themselves.

I want to thank you and Mr. Collins for the kind attention you gave me on my recent visit to Washington and I am much encouraged by what you said about the report you plan to make to the Congressional Committee.

If I am any judge of the sentiment of the people of Maine, I unhesitatingly state that the Brewster proposition has few if any friends. My denial of Nov. 8th is being published in the leading papers throughout the State.

Sincerely,

To-

Hon. A. E. Demaray
Director of National Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington.

ENCLOSURES

74

1151
Nov 21

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

NOV 20 1937

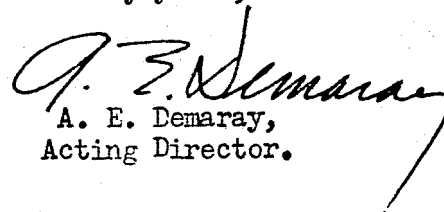
Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland,
Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

It was very good of you to send the two news clippings from the Portland Press Herald with your letter of November 8. They are important to our record of the Mount Katahdin National Park proposal.

Your recent visit in Washington was something of very real pleasure to everyone here who was enabled to make your acquaintance. I hope you will return to see us whenever you can. The particular purposes you have in mind to serve through your plans for the Mount Katahdin area will be fully respected by the National Park Service. We have the highest regard for the ideals which have prompted you throughout your many years of effort on behalf of the Katahdin area, and I believe you will find us increasingly worthy of confidence as we become better acquainted.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

Dec. 2
Portland, Maine, Dec. 2, 1937

To the Editor - Just received by air.

The enclosed tells its own story. Will you please give this as favorable a location in Friday morning's paper, December 3rd, as you think it deserves.

Please publish as a story, just as it is written. I want Maine people to know what I have in mind.

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER.

HOLD FOR RELEASE FOR FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 3, 1937.
18,000 ACRES NEAR MT. KATAHDIN TO BE ADDED TO BAXTER STATE PARK.

A large area of about 18,000 acres of wild forest land north of Mt. Katahdin in Piscataquis County has just been acquired by former Governor Percival P. Baxter. On being interviewed, Mr. Baxter stated that he purchased the land for the purpose of donating it in trust to the state of Maine to carry out his plan started many years ago to preserve for and give to the State an extensive area of wild, unspoiled forest land to be held forever for the benefit of future generations of Maine people. This area when added to the present Baxter State Park will give to the State a park of 24,000 acres, or more than 37 square miles.

This recent acquisition is rough, picturesque mountain country and within its borders are lakes, ponds and streams; there is no wilder region in the entire state. When the gift is made it will be on the express condition that it forever shall be used for State forest, public park and recreational purposes, that it shall forever be a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds and shall forever remain in its present primitive state. These are the same conditions placed in the deed of Mt. Katahdin that Mr. Baxter gave to Maine a few years ago. This new area, it is stated by the former Governor, does not complete his plans for he has in view extending the present Baxter State Park to even larger areas by the purchase of additional land. He also said that buying timber land is not a simple matter for one must buy when it is available and later on purchase the connecting links when it is possible to do so. He negotiated for several years for the

18,000 acres just acquired by him.

When asked about the so-called National Park Bill that seeks to have the State break the Trust it made in 1933 when it accepted the gift of the mountain, Mr. Baxter said that the Bill was an outrageous, fantastic affair intended to undo what he had done for the state and that its purpose is to mislead the people of Maine into believing that the bill will create a great National Park here if the state will only break the solemn promise that it made to keep Mt. Katahdin forever as a State Park. The bill referred to provided that when about 300,000 acres are donated to the State by persons unknown, and when the State in turn shall have donated these 300,000 acres to the United States, then if all this happens within ten years the bill becomes effective.

Mr. Baxter stated that never for a moment does he believe that Maine will break its Trust created by an Act of the Legislature, Chapter 3, 1933, and that he is going ahead with his plans. He has heard from all sections of Maine and countless people have expressed their indignation that any man should introduce such a bill as the one referred to. Moreover he said "the men who direct the National Park Service in Washington are men of long range vision, uninfluenced by selfish or political motives and they can be depended upon in every way to do what is fair and right. I am confident they will never countenance the breaking of the Trust and also have reason to believe they look kindly upon what I have done and hope to do for Maine."

After this National Park Bill has been cleared away the former Governor plans to go to Katahdin and survey the land he has just acquired, and then in due time transfer it to the people of Maine in Trust forever. Meanwhile should anything unforeseen happen to him he has made provision that his plans be carried out. All he asks is that Maine people continue to have confidence in him.

1737
Dec. 3

December third
1937

Hon. A. E. Demaray
Director National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Demaray -

Your letter of the November 20th means a great deal to me and I thank you for what you say about my recent visit to Washington. It does me good to know men like yourself, Mr. Collins and Mr. Ballard, for you are unselfishly and ably carrying on in the fine spirit of the late Stephen T. Mather, whose memory, I can see you all revere. Some time I must come to Washington again for I, too, enjoyed my all too brief call upon you.

Perhaps you will remember that I spoke of the time and patience required to acquire forest land in Maine and of my efforts to extend the State Park. The enclosed clipping, just published in the Maine papers, will show you that my efforts have not been in vain. This land lies six miles north of Katahdin and if what is told me is true the area contains within its borders about the roughest, wildest land in our State. I hope you will be pleased that I am making progress; there is still more for me to do.

In a few days, December 8th, I leave for several weeks rest abroad. Naturally I hope that the Bill H.R. 6599 will be definitely killed in the committee. It would greatly distress me to be obliged to appear before a Congressional Committee pleading that the gift I made in Trust to Maine be respected by the National Government. Moreover, the animus behind the Bill is not pleasant; it is distinctly personal, selfish and political, while on my part I seek only to remain a private citizen, doing something of lasting benefit to my State, and the Katahdin country is my one great interest.

I am confident that you and your assistants will view this matter from high ground. I respect you and hope to know you more intimately in the years to come.

Sincerely,

NOA CTION

Baxter

193
Dec. 3

December
third
1937

BAY
12/3/37
74

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.
My dear Secretary -

The enclosed clipping tells its own story and shows what we are doing here in Maine to establish a suitable State Park.

House Bill 6599 is now under consideration by your National Park Service and I hope that the bill referred to will not be recommended for passage.

In my opinion most Maine people prefer to have the Katahdin region retained by the State rather than to have it surrendered to the Federal Government.

With kind regards.

Very truly yours

ENCLOSURE.

1737
Dec. 8

24x
Folios
74

December
eighth
1937

Dear Mr. Demaray -

I thought you would like to be informed as to public sentiment here in Maine in connection with our State Park and the proposed Park under H.R. 6599.

Enclosed I send you three clippings from the principal newspapers of our State. I think you will agree with me that these are significant. Will you please retain these in your files for reference in the future if need be.

With my kind regards for the Christmas Season to you and your associates.

Sincerely,

To-

Hon. A. E. Demaray
Acting Director
National Parks
Washington
D.C.

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

DEC 14 1937

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,

Portland, Maine.

My dear Mr. Baxter:

I have received for reply your letter of December 3 to Secretary Ickes, transmitting the December 3 Portland Herald account of your recent purchase of some 18,000 acres of land for park purposes, and conveying your hope that this Department will not recommend the bill, H. R. 6599, for passage.

For the express purpose of avoiding hasty or ill-advised action, the bill is being held in abeyance by the Committee on Public Lands of the House of Representatives pending completion of careful studies by this Department of its various provisions. It is, of course, impossible for me to forecast the substance of the report of the Secretary to the Public Lands Committee. I can say definitely, however, that it will be prepared with full knowledge and appreciation of your attitude toward the Mount Katahdin National Park proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Carroll L. Chapman
Assistant Secretary.

PAX
74

Demaray

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1937.

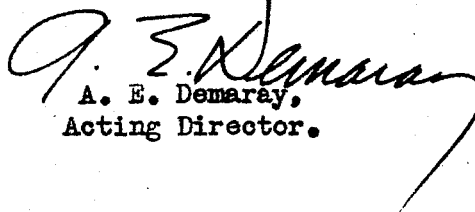
Mr. Robert Sterling Yard,
President, Wilderness Society,
1840 Mintwood Place,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Yard:

I have your letter of November 30, addressed to Mr. Jennings and making further reference to boundaries of the proposed Mount Katahdin National Park.

In accordance with your request, there is transmitted herewith a map upon which have been plotted the boundary lines described in the two Brewster bills. Due to mistakes in the bills as printed, there is confusion in the line at the north-west corner of the area described. This has been called to Congressman Brewster's attention and it is probable that he will desire to rectify the error legislatively. I believe the thought was to take in all of Township 6, Range 10.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

Enclosure 1682303

74
74
Demaray
Dec. 21
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

December 21, 1937

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

My dear Mr. Baxter:

Your very interesting letters of December 3 and December 8, bearing on Katahdin matters, have been received, together with the newspaper clippings which you attached for our information.

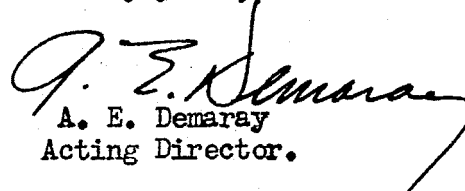
Your recent acquisition of additional acreage in the Katahdin region for state park purposes is, of course, a matter of great interest to this Service. We naturally assume that your action is significant of a plan to purchase considerably more property, at least in the district between Baxter State Park and the land just acquired.

As a result of the field investigation made by this Service last summer, we are preparing, as a part of our report to Congress, a suggested long range use plan for the area if it were to be administered as a part of the national park system. This plan is being drawn along wilderness lines and admits only the minimum development essential to proper protection and public use by other than motorized means.

I believe you voiced the thought during your recent visit in Washington, that you and this Service seem to have just about the same ideas in mind. Would it not be well for you to go over our plans in order that you might have the benefit of any ideas of value suggested by them?

Let me convey the good wishes of the National Park Service for a pleasant and restful holiday season abroad.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray
Acting Director.

COUNCIL

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

L. A. BARRETT
CALIFORNIA

HARVEY BROOME
TENNESSEE

IRVING M. CLARK
WASHINGTON

BERNARD FRANK
TENNESSEE

DOROTHY SACHS JACKSON
MARYLAND

ALDO LEOPOLD
WISCONSIN

BENTON MACKAYE
MASSACHUSETTS

GEORGE MARSHALL
NEW YORK

ROBERT MARSHALL
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OLAUS MURIE
WYOMING

ERNEST OBERHOLTZER
MINNESOTA

ROBERT STERLING YARD
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

1840 MINTWOOD PLACE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 21, 1937

OFFICERS

ROBERT STERLING YARD
PRESIDENT
PERMANENT SECRETARY

BENTON MACKAYE
VICE PRESIDENT

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
TREASURER

Honorable Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Baxter:

I enclose you, for your examination, the official map of the Katahdin National Park as finally planned by the Park Service. It came at my third request. I knew they would yield to persistence. If you want a copy you can have one (or more) made in your office. The basic map was got in Maine. Then return the original to me for use here.

I also send you copies of letters exchanged between Walter D. Green, President of the Maine Trail Club, and myself. The letterhead of the Trail Club shows only one officer who lives in Maine the year around. The President confesses living half the year in New York City, where his home, I hear, is the Players Club. The actual executive is, of course, Myron Avery, who lives here. The Club's office is the office of the American Planning and Civic Society which has been the yes-yes organization to the National Parks Association for the twenty years I have been in Washington. It pays, I understand, part of the joint office expenses.

I am informed that the first suggestion in print of a Katahdin National Park was made in the American Planning and Civic's quarterly. In its Annual for 1937 appears an article booming the project by "Myron H. Avery, Lubec, Maine," but Mr. Avery does not always sign himself from Maine. He has lived in Washington for a good many years and is the president of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Association.

When the National Park Service took over that part of the Blue Ridge which has become Shenandoah National Park, including the Appalachian Trail, Cammerer sought to calm the outcry by promise of a fine paved trail paralleling the skyline drive. It was Avery who

live in Washington

Honorable Percival P. Baxter
Page Two
December 21, 1937

calmed the row, swinging his trail club to acceptance
of the sidewalk trail; but many resigned.

This was the beginning of the cooperation between
Avery and the Park Service.

Sincerely

Robert Sterling

RSY:P
Enclosure s

RAY
Folder
74

Box 12

1938
Feb. 28

February
twenty-eighth
1938

Dear Mr. Demaray -

On my return from abroad I find your letter of December twenty-first and am glad to know that you are pleased with my recent acquisition of eighteen thousand acres to be added to the present State Park in the Katahdin region.

For your information I say confidentially that I am hoping to obtain even more land and ask only that the National Park Service leave this matter to me. Time settles many problems and you will see from what I already have done that I am making substantial headway.

It was my hope that when you heard of my most recent acquisition that you would conclude not to press the Katahdin bill, but I still see that you are interested and confess I am disappointed. However, if and when I come to Washington again I shall certainly call upon you for I enjoyed my last visit with you and your associates.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Baxter

To-

Hon. A. E. Demaray
Acting Director National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington
D.C.

74 COUNCIL

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

L. A. BARRETT
CALIFORNIA

HARVEY BROOME
TENNESSEE

IRVING M. CLARK
WASHINGTON

BERNARD FRANK
TENNESSEE

DOROTHY SACHS JACKSON
MARYLAND

ALDO LEOPOLD
WISCONSIN

BENTON MACKAYE
MASSACHUSETTS

GEORGE MARSHALL
NEW YORK

ROBERT MARSHALL
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OLAUS MURIE
WYOMING

ERNEST OBERHOLTZER
MINNESOTA

ROBERT STERLING YARD
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

1840 MINTWOOD PLACE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 18, 1938

OFFICERS

ROBERT STERLING YARD
PRESIDENT
PERMANENT SECRETARY

BENTON MACKAYE
VICE PRESIDENT

HAROLD C. ANDERSON
TREASURER

Honorable Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Baxter:

I am glad you wrote to the Star. It is better that way. I shall watch carefully and send you anything that may appear. .

There's no news about the bill. Or rather, that is what they tell me at the Park Service; also at Brewster's office. I'll get someone else to ask before long.

Their game, I suppose, will be to pass it without a hearing. It then will become a "request of Congress" to Maine, and will serve as a text for years of promotion in Maine by the Park Service and its group. The big money to be spent into the State by the Park Service and brought into State business by motors from other states will be harped upon year after year, with the expectation that local politicians or candidates for Congress will take it up in their own interest. Successive Governors and members of the Legislative will be under constant solicitation. Men and women of State importance will be got in time to advocate an appropriation to buy the land. A newspaper here and there will be won over. And some day the Legislative will make the gamble.

The Park Service has been very successful with this game. It knows it through and through. It was very shrewd in getting the Avery trail organization to sponse the Maine leadership.

There's just one way to stop this absolutely. That is to stop passage of the Brewster act in Congress. That can only be stopped in Maine.

Sincerely

Robert Sterling Yard

RSY:P

Baxter

C O P Y

1133
April 28

April twenty-eighth
1 9 3 8

Dear Mr. Demaray -

I sent you a newspaper article published April twenty-fourth last in Maine's only Sunday paper and I hope you have had time to read it.

I recall my interview with you last Autumn when you spoke approvingly of what I have done for Maine and of what I plan to do. Since then I have purchased eighteen thousand acres additional near Katahdin and these will be deeded to the State to become a part of Baxter State Park. Moreover, I am now negotiating for even more land and all I ask is that this matter be left to me for I am the one person who has ever given any forest land to Maine and my one great public interest is to donate a large forest area to the State for the benefit of future generations. Maine can and will handle this area in a manner satisfactory to our people.

In view of what you have said to me and also in view of the broad-minded attitude of your Department, I cannot believe that you desire to enter into a long and perhaps bitter controversy. Maine people will not break their trust, and on the remote chance of their ever doing so, after a protracted and costly contest the mountain would revert to me in the opinion of some of our most respected judges and lawyers.

I hope that your report to the Congressional Committee will recommend that no action be taken on the pending bill.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

To-

Hon. A. E. Demaray
Acting Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington
D.C.

*Don't think that
Katahdin is a
Chippewa name - Good*

MT. KATAHDIN.

No. of Bill is 6599.H.R

The present State Park is 6000 acres which include all ^{the} "spectacular parts of Mt. Katahdin".

Given 1933 to State of Maine by Deed from Percival P. Baxter "to be forever held by said State in Trust for the People of Maine for State Park, Forest and Recreational purposes". The conditions of the Deed also are "that the land conveyed forever shall be kept in its natural wild state, forever be a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds and no roads or ways for motor vehicles shall ever be constructed therein or thereon". Page 460-Legislative Act Laws of Maine 1933, Chapter 3, signed by Governor Brann, incorporated all the above conditions in the Act of Acceptance. Governor Baxter worked for 26 years to secure the mountain for Maine.

A TRUST IS SACRED: cannot be broken: the faith of the State of Maine is pledged always to keep this as State Property. The U.S. Government cannot take the property of a Sovereign State without the consent of the State by a Legislative Act. Will our State break its solemn covenant ?

To have a National Park means "great log cabin hotels" (Brewster's own words), trailer camps, hot dog stands, great signs, jazz, confusion, air-planes, automobiles.

Maine is both spiritually and financially able to care for this area and will do so. In 1936 it kept two men there all season, and is to do the same in 1937. These patrol the trails and

keep guard. Once in a while some one cuts down a small tree for firewood, but that is seldom and happens in ~~National~~ ^{State} Parks also. Nature quickly heals the scar.

The Maine Legislature of 1937 declined to appropriate \$2,000. for the Park. This item was approved by the State Budget Committee of which Governor Barrows is the principal member. This money was to be used to clear some new trails and build a few lean-tos, but that can wait. Certain people defeated this little bill in order to be able to say that the State would not take care of the State Park and does not want it. If money is needed, the Governor and Council will give it out of the Contingent Fund at any time. The failure of one trivial appropriation is a childish reason for giving away State's finest mountain.

The Park is only four years old and from all sides protests are coming in. Former Governor Baxter tells me he has heard from many people and not one Maine citizen as yet has approved the National Park; every one of them opposes it, ^{such as Mrs. Laura E. Richards of Gardiner,} As to roads - people can now comfortably drive their autos within four miles of the summit.

The Appalachian Mountain Club in Boston on April 6, 1937 passed a strong resolution against the National Park at Katahdin.

Governor Baxter never will consent to the breaking of this Trust. He is a pioneer in parks and it was he who secured for the State practically all the parks it now owns; Fort Knox on the Penobscot, Fort McClary at Kittery, Fort Edgecomb in Lincoln County, Fort Popham on the Kennebec and others.

Governor Baxter gave Katahdin to Maine in order to show his

appreciation for the honors the State conferred on him. He has definitely returned to private life, will accept no public position and has some very interesting plans for the future. He asks only that Maine keeps its solemn promise. Maine will work out its own destiny with Mt. Katahdin. We are independent people down here and want no help from Washington. Maine is not yet "on the dole".

The present bill in Congress is permissive only, but it is an entering wedge and if passed will be amended later *to take our Park from us.* Governor Baxter is reliably informed that certain land owners are quietly favoring the bill because they see in it a chance later on to sell their land at an attractive price.

If the United States Government wants to develop its own parks in Maine let it go to the wild areas of Aroostook and Washington counties where millions of acres are available. Why pick on Katahdin !

74

Cammerer

May 4

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

May 4, 1938.

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,

Portland, Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

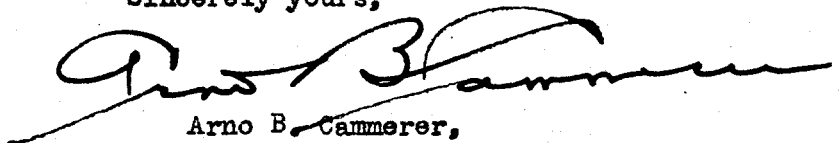
I have received your letter of April 25 to Mr. Demaray, transmitting the press release on Baxter State Park as published by the Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press-Herald in the April 24 issue.

It is interesting indeed to have such an opportunity to review Mr. Gower's arguments regarding the proposed Mt. Katahdin National Park, although I am sorry to detect in his statement some slight suspicion of National Park Service motives.

The arguments back and forth between proponents and opponents of the national park proposal are accepted by this office as a natural part of a healthy program which may or may not have some bearing on the attitude of the National Park Service.

I want to assure you that the National Park Service is appreciative of your own splendid conservation measures which are directed toward placing at least a part of the Mt. Katahdin region under a wilderness conservation program.

Sincerely yours,


Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.

74

Demaray

M. / 7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

May 7, 1938.

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,

Portland, Maine.

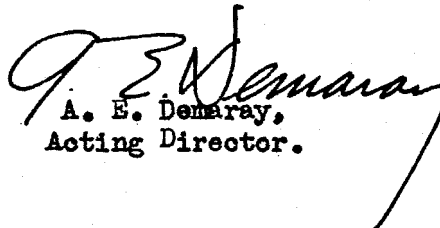
Dear Mr. Baxter:

I appreciate your letter of April 28, in connection with the proposed Mount Katahdin National Park matter.

We too would dislike any long bitter controversy over a land jurisdiction problem and I should like to assure you again, for the Department as a whole, that no unjustified action on our part will be taken. It is essential, of course, for the Department to prepare a report for the Congressional Committee, although I cannot say just when it will be submitted.

I am grateful to you for your thoughtfulness in keeping this office advised of your activities.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

BAX
Folder
74

Baxter

1938
May 7

May
seventh
1938

Dear Mr. Marshall -

I am sending you an article relating to the State Park in the Mount Katahdin region and I believe that it will interest you to read it.

In my opinion Mr. Gower the author correctly interpreted the feelings of Maine people in regard to the proposed nationalizing of the Katahdin area.

Very truly yours,

To-

Hon. Robert Marshall
Office of Indian Affairs
Washington
D.C.

ENCLOSURE

May eighth, 1939

Dear Mr. Cammerer -

I have your letter of May 4th and am pleased to know that my efforts to preserve the Katahdin region for the State of Maine are appreciated by the National Park Service. Last Autumn I called upon Mr. Demaray who was in charge at the time and disclosed to him my plans. No doubt he has fully explained them to you. I wish that I might have seen you at the time of my visit to Washington.

Since talking with Mr. Demaray I have purchased eighteen thousand acres in the Traveler Mountain Township and am now negotiating for more land in that region. From this you will see that I am carrying on in a practical way and need only time to complete my work.

The State of Maine can and will handle the Katahdin region in a manner satisfactory to our people. The National Government has ample fields elsewhere for its Park Service and I see no reason why Maine should give Katahdin to the Federal Government any more than it should give away Old Orchard Beach or Moosehead Lake. We still are a Sovereign State and a State that will not break its trust agreements.

In case you have not seen my letter of April 28th to Mr. Demaray I enclose you a copy. At the time I wrote this letter I was not aware that you had returned to your office; hence my letter was addressed to him.

Please do not for a moment think that Maine people are in the least hostile to the National Park Service; on the contrary we all appreciate the marvelous work your Department has done; it is monumental work. This, however, does not prevent us from keeping our one spectacular mountain for ourselves and using it in our own Down-East way.

Very truly yours

(Signed) Percival P. Baxter

To-

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer
The Director, National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington
D.C.

ENCLOSURE

BAX
Folder
74

Marshall

1938
May 18

ROBERT MARSHALL
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 18, 1938

Governor P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

Dear Governor Baxter:

Thank you for your article relating to the State Park and the Mt. Katahdin region. Of course I am strongly in sympathy with the feelings of Mr. Gower and yourself that Mt. Katahdin should be kept as a State Park if it is to be kept wild. I also do not believe that the Park Service should go into this type of area.

✓ I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the marvelous public spirit which you have shown in giving this glorious area to the people of Maine to be kept in a wild condition. It is a great contribution to the cause of the wilderness. I climbed Mt. Katahdin in 1932 and remember vividly the grand spectacle looking northwest from its summit toward what is the largest forest area in the United States without any ^{roads} ~~roads~~ in it.

I am a strong believer in many types of federal activity but in the case of Mt. Katahdin I believe your plans for it are best.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Marshall

BAX
Folder
74

Baxter

1738
May 23

May
twenty-third
1938

Dear Mr. Marshall -

I am pleased to have your letter of May eighteenth in which you give me your views in regard to Mt. Katahdin. It is encouraging to know that a man like yourself with wide experience in forestry work feels that Katahdin should not only be kept in its wild state but ~~it~~ also, under existing circumstances, should remain as a State Park.

Although I am quite familiar with the country north of Katahdin I was not aware that it is the largest forest area in the United States without roads.

The township called Traveler township which I have recently purchased, eighteen thousand acres, is also a very wild area and those who are more familiar with it then I am tell me that it is unusually picturesque. This township lies six miles north of Katahdin and I hope and expect some day to acquire the intervening land and add it to the State Park.

With kind regards and appreciation of your letter.

Sincerely,

To
Mr. Robert Marshall
S. Forest Service
Washington

BAX
Folder
64

Baxter

1138
June 9

June
fourth
1938

Dear Mr. Demaray -

You will be interested to know
that I have just arranged to purchase an ad-
ditional four thousand five hundred (4,500)
acres in the Mt. Katahdin region to be added
to the Baxter State Park.

You will see from this that I am
gradually making progress toward my objective
which is to give Maine a large, unspoiled for-
est area in the heart of the Maine timberlands.

Very truly yours

To-

Hon. A. E. DEMARAY
Acting Director
National Parks
Washington, D.C.

74
June
Cammerer

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

June 11, 1938

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland, Maine.

My dear Mr. Baxter:

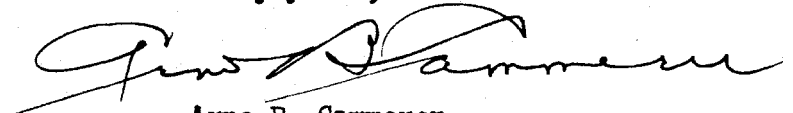
I have received your letters of June 4 addressed to Mr. Demaray and to me, regarding your recent arrangements for the purchase of an additional 4,500 acres of land in the Mount Katahdin region, which you expect to add to Baxter State Park.

Your work toward providing Maine with a large unspoiled area appeals to me as a splendid exemplification of good citizenship. I would be derelict in my duty, however, if I did not voice again the hope which has been expressed to you before, that the Katahdin region may sometime become a national park.

If convenient for you to do so I would like to have you send me, either in map or narrative form, a description of the area you now have in line for purchase.

Your action in keeping the National Park Service informed of progress is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.

BAX
Folder
74

Baxter

1938
July 5

July
fifth
1938

My dear Mr. Marshall -

I thank you for your letter
of June thirtieth enclosing the letter from
Commissioner Osborne of New York. It was
very kind of you to do this.

My ~~the~~ public interest in Maine
is to give the State a worth-while area of
wild forest land and I am now negotiating for
an additional area. It encouraged me to know
that you approve of what I am doing.

With kind regards.

Sincerely

To-

Hon. Robert Marshall
Forestry Division
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

BAX
older
74

Baxter

1938
July 5

July
fifth
1938

Dear Mr. Whitcomb -

A few days ago I was in Boston and called at your office and left a rough memorandum which I hope you were able to read. It was rather sketchy and you may have had difficulty in deciphering it.

On second thought it occurs to me that if you and Mr. Wheatland would sell me your individuated 2/3rds interest in the northeast quarter of 3 range 10, I would then have a friendly partition with the Cassidys and that would save you and Mr. Wheatland the trouble of the details of dividing up the land.

If I understand correctly, you own 1/3rd of the northeast quarter which would be approximately three square miles and the Pingrees own an equal amount. This would give me approximately 4,000 acres of land that is the roughest of land and very mountainous. If I am correctly informed this area is of little or no value and contains within its borders the so-called Klondike.

With this section added on to the mountain on the west side I would be able to block the National Park plan for then I should have the entire center of the proposed National Park area with a good projection on the west. If you feel like co-operating with me in this matter I should be much pleased and I am making a similar suggestion to Mr. Wheatland.

As to the price to be paid for this land in case you and Mr. Wheatland will sell it to me I shall be glad to pay the same price per acre which I paid to the Pingrees. I am adding next Monday for New Brunswick and Labrador and will soon be at the spot on your map which you marked as the end of my journey.

With my kind regards.

Sincerely,

To-

Mr. William A. Whitcomb
No. 201 Devonshire Street

Boston

July
sixth
1938

Dear Director Cammerer -

In order that you may be kept informed as to what is transpiring here in Maine I am enclosing you two newspaper clippings from the Portland "PRESS-HERALD" of June 30th last for I know you will be interested in them.

Am I correctly informed that when a Bill is introduced into Congress and no action is taken on it that the Bill automatically dies at final adjournment and that it is necessary to introduce a new Bill if the subject is to be revived at the next Congress?

Now that I am making such excellent progress in enlarging the boundaries of the BAXTER STATE PARK I should be greatly relieved if I had word from you that the National Park Service had abandoned the idea of a National Park in the Katahdin area.

Numerous people in Maine are inquiring why there should be a National Park at Katahdin when there already is a growing State Park there. These people ask why does not the National Park Service go into Washington County, if they want a Park in Maine, where there is ample room and where there are large areas of wild land, with lakes, mountains, rivers and streams. They also inquire why the National Park Service does not establish a National Park in western Maine, bordering the White Mountain National Forest.

You will also be interested to know that I am negotiating for an additional area of great scenic interest, very rough and wild, bordering the present State Park and I hope that within the next

July
sixth
1938

- 2 -

few weeks the purchase will be accomplished.

From this you will see that I am proceeding along my long thought-out plan and shall allow nothing to deter me. I began this work thirty years ago and before I finish, whether I live or die, I shall have a State Park worthy of Maine.

Sincerely

To-

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer
Director of National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington
D.C.

ENCLOSURE:

C
O
P
Y

PERCIVAL BAXTER

PORTLAND, MAINE

August
fourth
1938

Dear Director Cammerer -

I have been away from home for some time and on my return to-day have before me your letter of July 18th.

You were right in assuming that I plan to acquire the land connecting the two areas already purchased by me for Baxter State Park. In red pencil I have outlined the two areas already acquired so that you will have the exact plan before you.

The Baxter State Park Commission is planning to put up a simple log cabin structure at Chimney Pond and I have written them to find out what steps have been taken to do this. If there is anything interesting in connection with their reply I will be pleased to let you know.

I shall certainly keep you informed from time to time because I am confident the National Park Service will not take any unfriendly action in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Percival P. Baxter

TO-

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer
Director National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

P.S. Will you please send me two or three extra copies of the plan which I am returning to you. Some of the local people are interested to have one.

Jan. 3, 1939

TELEGRAM

Hon. Lewis O. Barrows
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Governor - You may recall that some time ago when I called upon you I suggested that it would be most helpful if you would say something in your inaugural about Baxter State Park at Katahdin and you said I might submit something to you. If you are willing to do this it would be appreciated by countless people throughout the State and naturally would please and encourage me in what I am doing for Maine.

As your time is limited, I have written a few lines touching on this subject for your consideration. If you will come out definitely against the State's breaking its Trust with me you will immediately put an end to Brewster's outrageous proposal to have the National Government come into Maine and take away the State Park. If you will do this I shall be grateful to you. I am sending this telegram and also will mail a copy to you this morning. My suggestion is as follows -

QUOTE BAXTER STATE PARK at Katahdin. Through the gift of former Governor Percival P. Baxter our State is acquiring a large area of wild forest land for State Park purposes. This land has been accepted under a definite and unbreakable Trust that it "be forever held by the State as Trustee in Trust for the benefit of the people of Maine for State forest, public park and public recreational purposes". A Trust of this nature is a solemn obligation and the word of the State of Maine once given never will be broken. As long as I have any connection with the State's affairs this Trust will be lived up to both to the letter and in the spirit in which it was made.

Already our former Governor has donated a large area to the State and he informs me that he has acquired additional territory which soon will be added to the area already given. This gift is a memorable one and for all time will preserve for our people an extensive area of virgin wild land. The State of Maine is entirely competent to own and handle this area and resents the suggestion that this Trust be violated by allowing the Federal Government in any way to gain control over this region. In speaking as I do about these gifts I know that I voice the practically unanimous opinion of the men and women of Maine. UNQUOTE. Sincerely, Percival P. Baxter.

1518
F. A. Peters
64

CHAMBERS OF
JOHN A. PETERS
DISTRICT JUDGE

Peters

131
Nov 17

United States Courts
Judge's Chambers
Portland, Maine

17th November, 1939.

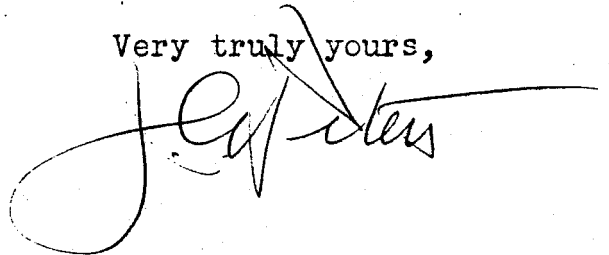
Dear Governor:-

I return herewith the copy of the deed to the State of Maine which you kindly sent me at my suggestion. I especially wanted to note any conditions in the deed in connection with the possibility that someone might want to change the title or the use of the property or convert it into a National Park.

I do not see how anything could be more clear or definite than the condition you have put in the deed to the effect that the land should be forever used by the State for a State forest, park, etc. If any serious attempt should ever be made to change that the condition could be enforced by you or your successors and no action by the State could be effective against the plain terms of the condition; so, as I look at it, you have well taken care of the contingency which we both somewhat feared.

Incidentally, I return the books on the Jewish problem, which you loaned me. They contain some interesting information, and I am much obliged to you for letting me examine them.

Very truly yours,



Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
22 Monument Square,
Portland, Maine.

Confidential

November
twenty-fifth
1939

Dear Mr. Yard -

I am pleased to have your letter of November twenty-second and have read your statement and that of the Professor at the University of Vermont.

It is needless to say that I fully approve of your ideas and disagree with the views of the Professor. As a matter of fact, many Professors seem to lack an understanding of practical matters. They have their theories and overlook the realities of situations.

As far as Maine is concerned, I am confident that the proposed nationalization of Katahdin has been abandoned. Congressman Brewster of this State who introduced the Bill has talked with me about it and tells me that he will not take up the matter again.

For your information and please consider it confidential for the time being, I am still acquiring additional areas for the Baxter State Park. My goal is 100,000 acres and already I have more than 75,000. When the proper time comes I will inform you and send you a map.

Later on in the early Winter I plan to go to Washington and tell the National Park people what I have accomplished for my relations with them are cordial even though I have opposed them in this matter.

I hope your health is good and send you my kind regards.

Sincerely,

To -

Mr. Robert Sterling Yard
The Wilderness Society
1840 Mintwood Place
Washington, D.C.

BAX
Folder
58

Demaray

1941
Aug 7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 7, 1941.

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland,
Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

It occurs to me that you might enjoy having a copy of the 1941 Yearbook on Park and Recreation Progress, which has just come off the press.

The Yearbook is a medium for expressions of opinion on the part of people working in various branches of the park and recreation field as a whole, rather than in the national park system alone, and it is understood that opinions expressed in the various articles are not necessarily concurred in by the Department of the Interior. This has proved to be a stimulating publication, increasing demands for it having been made each year since it was initiated.

Perhaps you would like to consider the preparation of an article on the Katahdin country for the next issue of the Yearbook. Your outstanding contributions in park work are recognized and appreciated and, even though we may not be in agreement on the eventual status of the Baxter Park area, as between State or national park classification, nevertheless, the story of Baxter Park in your words should, we feel, be recorded in this publication.

With all good wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Demaray
A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

August
twelfth
1941

Dear Mr. Demaray -

I received your letter of August seventh together with your 1941 Year Book and I thank you for them.

The Year Book is of great interest to me and I congratulate you and your associates. This book gives a vivid picture of the Park and Recreational work that is being done by the National Park Service and by the State Park Commissions.

You suggest that I write an article on Baxter State Park and the Katahdin area. I should like to do this were it not for the fact that at the present time I am so occupied with the details of business that there is little or no opportunity for writing or speaking. Some time I shall enjoy being represented in your publication but must forego this for the present.

During recent years here in Maine there have been many articles profusely illustrating the Katahdin area. The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad publishes a Year Book and Katahdin is usually one of its principal features. The local papers are continually publishing articles about this location and our Maine people are well informed. Of course I should like to have people outside of Maine know about the Park because thousands of non-residents visit it annually.

On page 82 where you list State Park Administrative Agencies, it will be well to include the Baxter State Park Commission. This commission is entirely independent of the State Park Commission, the latter controlling only a few comparatively small recreational areas.

I am enclosing you a portion of page 82 with an insert which you may wish to include in your next issue. This is all in the interest of accuracy.

It is a long time now since I had the pleasure of talking with you in Washington. Your City is so much in-

Falder

Aug 12.

August
twelfth
1 9 4 1

-- 2 --

volved in defense preparation that I feel it is best for me to stay away for the time being. I do hope I shall see you some time in the not too distant future for I should like to talk with you about your National Parks and other interesting matters.

You will be interested to know that I have already acquired 109,615 acres for the Baxter State Park and even now am negotiating for more land. From time to time this is being accepted by the State Legislature through the passage of special laws signed by the several Governors and in due season it will all be transferred to the State under an unbreakable trust which provides that it shall be forever kept by the State for PUBLIC PARK, PUBLIC FOREST and PUBLIC RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, that it shall be forever kept in ITS NATURAL WILD STATE and as a SANCTUARY for WILD BEASTS and BIRDS. Before I complete my project I hope to have done something really worth while for the people of Maine.

I hope you are well and send you my kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

To-

Mr. A. E. Demaray
Acting Director Nat'l. Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington
D. C.

ENCLOSURE

58X
Folder
58

Demaray

1941
Aug 14

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESSEE ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 14, 1941.

Hon. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland,
Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

I just want to acknowledge your kind letter of August 12, replying to mine of the 7th.

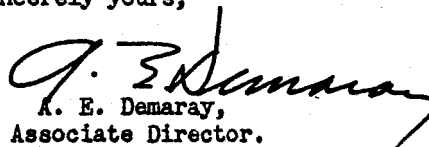
Of course, I am sorry that you are not in a position at this time to prepare such an article as I suggested for the Yearbook. Should you find it convenient later on to prepare a manuscript we shall be glad to have it.

Your suggestion for inclusion of the Baxter State Park Commission in the list of State park administrative agencies has been passed along to our editorial office for appropriate handling.

It is pleasing to be reminded of our visit when you were in Washington a year or so ago, and I do hope we can meet again in the near future.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


K. E. Demaray,
Associate Director.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

November 27, 1941.

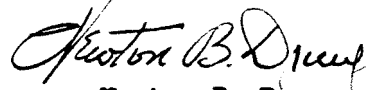
Percival P. Baxter, Esq.,
92 West Street,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

Your fine and generous work in making available to the people of Maine and the Nation the Baxter State Park, including the rugged summit of Mt. Katahdin, has been known to me for many years. It was not until I read the article "Forest Primeval" in the July issue of The National Humane Review that I realized the scope of your accomplishment.

My congratulations to you for your vision and driving force in setting aside this area for its inspirational and educational values.

Sincerely yours,


Newton B. Drury,
Director.

11/30/41

SECTION C Foreign Comment
Features
Fashions Garden

191,162

Portland Sunday

and
Sunday Press

PORTLAND, MAINE, SUNDAY

Baxter State Park At Katahdin Now After 24 Years Of Untiring Effort, Maine Now

By Percival P. Baxter

In 1905 as one of the younger members of the State Legislature I began to learn something of my native State, its people, its resources and its possibilities for the future. It was not, however, until 1917 that I attempted to induce the State Legislature to acquire by purchase the mountainous regions around Mt. Katahdin.

For eight years both as a Legislator and as Governor I worked unceasingly to secure legislation for the establishment of a State Park at Katahdin, but the opposition proved too strong and the Legislators of those days were not interested. During the years from 1917 to 1925 time after time my State Park plans were defeated.

In 1925 those who opposed me no doubt felt relieved when I retired from the Governorship to private life; but oftentimes defeats later turn into victories, and so it was in this Park project. After leaving Augusta I gave up all thought of securing any park legislation and determined to buy the land myself and give it to the State. It is interesting to observe that the very people who while I was in office were my strongest opponents later became my firm friends.

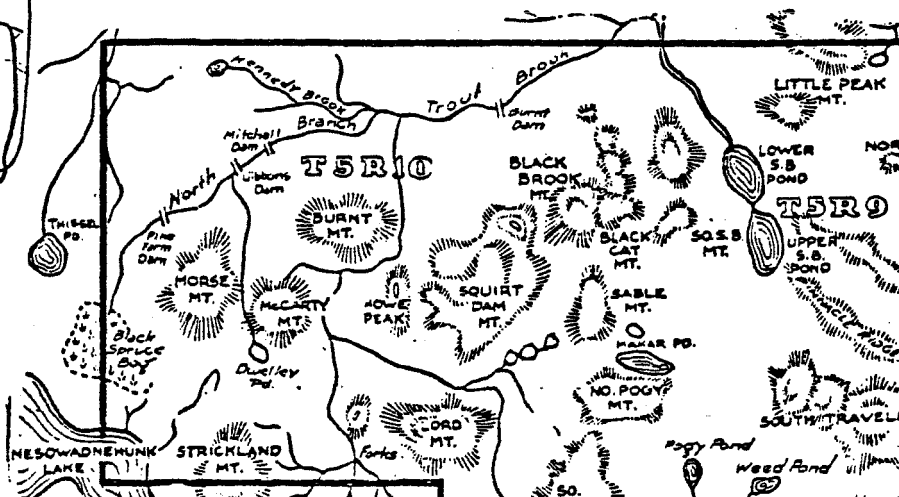
Well Treated

When I went to these land owners asking them to sell me their lands they treated me courteously and fairly. They told me that while they did not care to sell their lands they would do so because they had come to realize that I was trying to do something worth while for Maine. These land owners have shown a remarkably fine spirit and I want the people of Maine to know how splendidly they have cooperated with me in selling me their forest lands.

Up to the time my first purchase of 6,000 acres was made in 1930, I never had owned any forest or timber land. My Park started from absolutely nothing and every acre has been bought since 1930. Today the land acquired for the State totals 112,945 acres, all in one piece and



No. 1—Lolly Katahdin Mountain, looking southwest and showing its dominant peak. Countless gorges and crevices indent its rugged face.



they have cooperated with me in selling me their forest lands.

Up to the time my first purchase of 6,000 acres was made in 1930, I never had owned any forest or timber land. My Park started from absolutely nothing and every acre has been bought since 1930. Today the land acquired for the State totals 112,945 acres, all in one piece and comprising almost five townships. A township in Maine roughly speaking contains 36 square miles.

For all practical purposes, after 24 years of effort the Park is complete. Maybe, however, I shall be able to enlarge it from time to time for there are one or two areas it would be well to acquire. The Park stands right in the center of the northern portion of our State, a wild mountainous country forever set aside and held in Trust by the State as a public park, forest reserve and wild life sanctuary for present and future generations of Maine people.

The distance from Portland to the summit of Mt. Katahdin is 250 miles. There are several foot trails leading to the summit, and a rough but passable motor road passes through the westerly portion of the Park. All along the way there are grand views of Katahdin and the other 30 peaks within the Park area. This district is typical of the wild lands of Maine. It has within its borders, lakes, swamps, beaver dams, rivers, mountains, good timber lands and burnt-over lands, meadows and boulders in profusion. Moose, deer, wild cats, bears, foxes and all the smaller animals and birds abound therein. All these creatures are safe from the hunters and the sound of the axe and of falling trees never will echo through these forests.

Katahdin always should and must remain the wild storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is; that is its great charm. Only small cabins for mountain climbers and those who love the wilderness should be allowed there, only trails for those who travel on foot or horseback, a place where nature rules and where the creatures of the forest hold undisputed dominion.

As modern civilization with its trailers and gasoline fumes, its unsightly billboards, its radio and jazz encroaches on the Maine wilderness the time yet may come when only the Katahdin region remains undisturbed by man. To acquire this Katahdin region for the people of Maine has been undertaken by me as my life's work, and I hope as the years roll on that this State Park will be enjoyed by an ever-increasing number of Maine people and by those who come to us from beyond our borders.

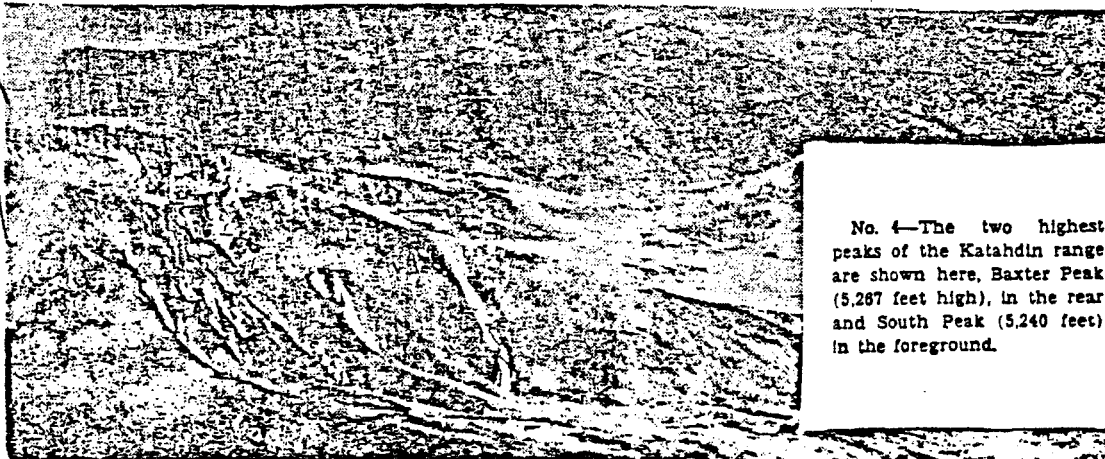
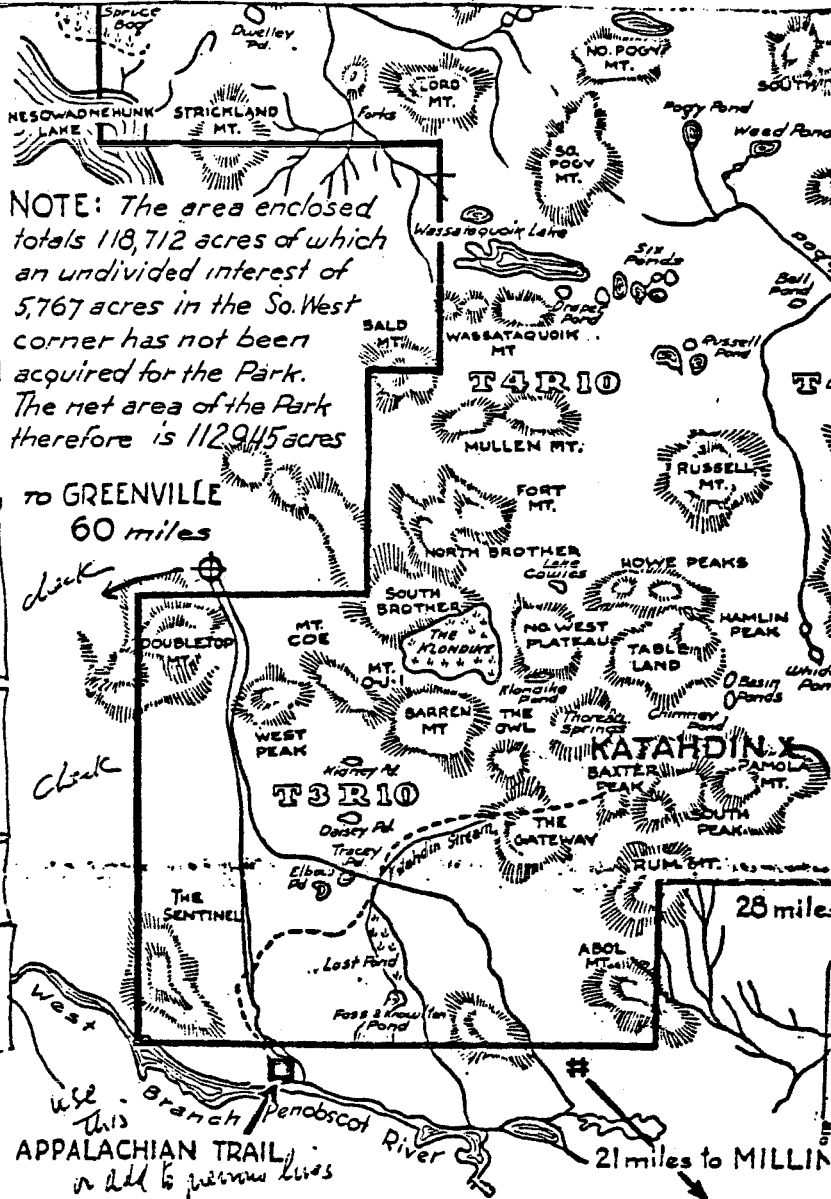
Katahdin stands above the surrounding plain unique in grandeur and glory. The works of man are short lived. Monuments decay, buildings crumble and wealth vanishes, but Katahdin in its massive grandeur will forever remain the mountain of the people of Maine. Throughout the ages it will stand as an inspiration to the men and women of this State.

NOTE: The area enclosed totals 118,712 acres of which an undivided interest of 5,767 acres in the So. West corner has not been acquired for the Park. The net area of the Park therefore is 112,945 acres

to GREENVILLE
60 miles

disk
Chase

use this
APPALACHIAN TRAIL
in add to previous lines



No. 4—The two highest peaks of the Katahdin range are shown here, Baxter Peak (5,267 feet high), in the rear and South Peak (5,240 feet) in the foreground.

Day Telegram

Press Herald

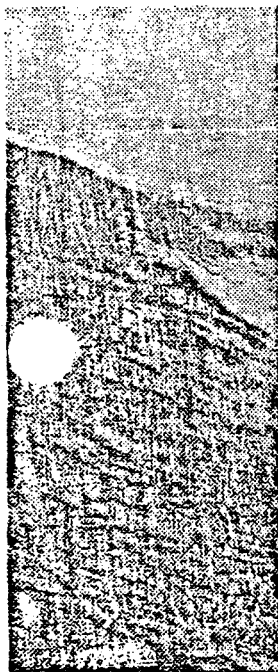
DAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1941

Fish and Game
Editorial
Drama Radio

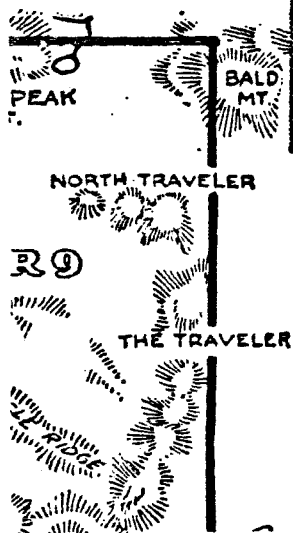
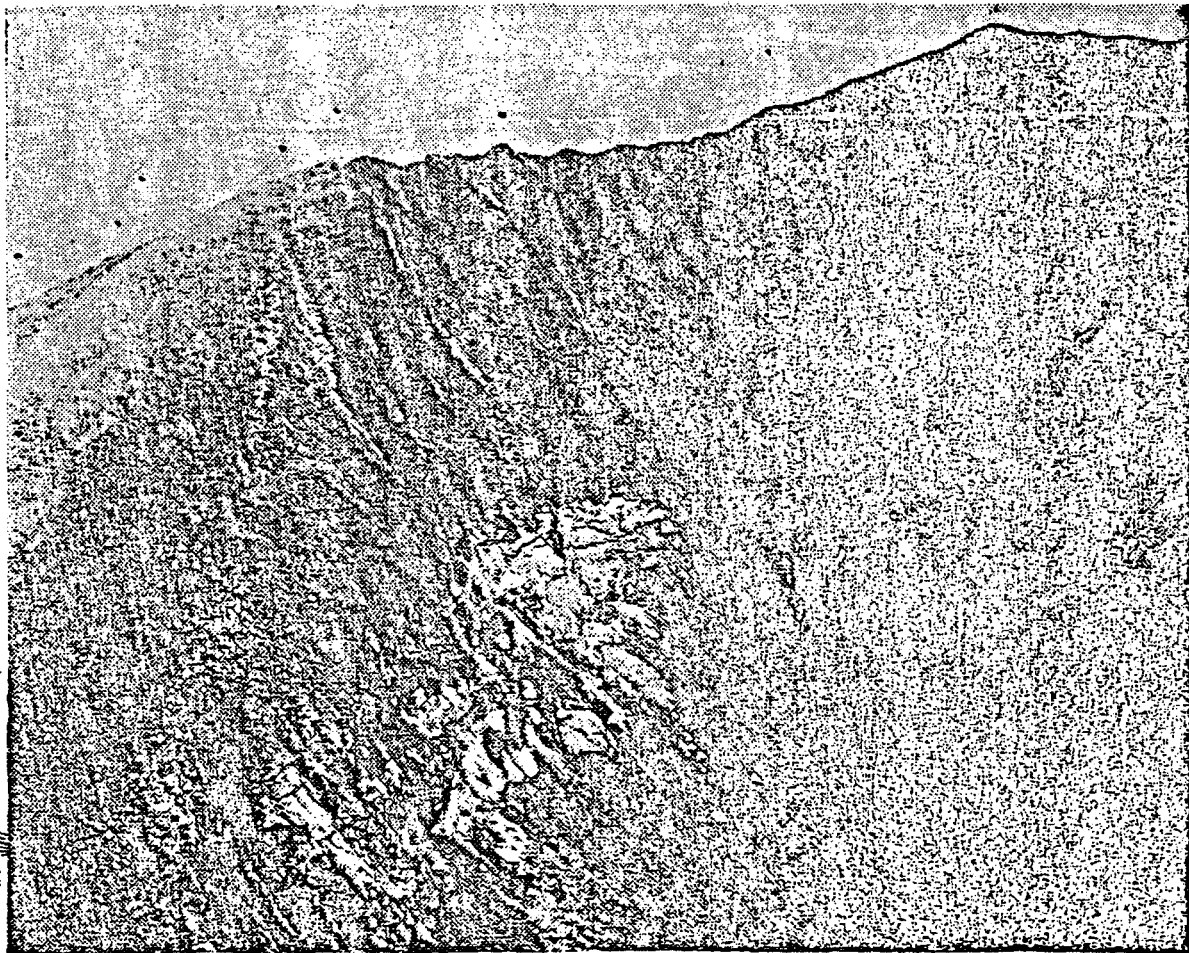
SECTION

C

Now Complete With 112,945 Acres Now Has State Park Second To None In East



ant point, Baxter

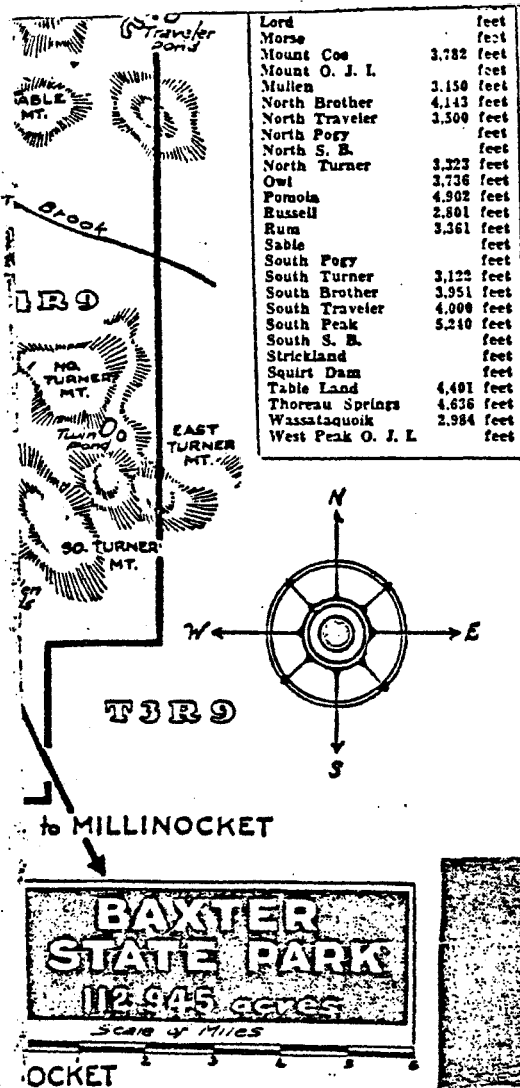


Altitude Of Mountains

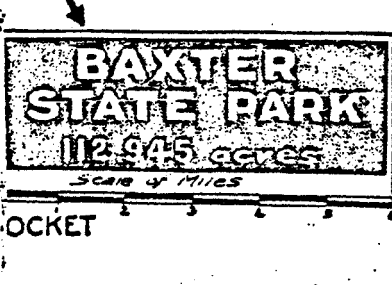
Abol	2,306 feet
Barren	3,681 feet
Black Brook	feet
Black Cat	feet
Bald Mt.	2,820 feet
Baxter Peak	5,267 feet
Billfish	feet
Burnt	feet
Double Top	3,600 feet
Fort	3,861 feet
Gateway	4,209 feet
Hamlin Peak	4,751 feet
Howe Peaks	4,733 feet

No. 2—Showing Pamola Peak (4,902 feet) on the left, and Baxter Peak on the right, with the knife edge between. At the center is The Chimney, granite-walled gorge leading down the mountains.





No. 3—Chimney Pond and the east wall of Katahdin. The majestic Katahdin range pushes its wooded peaks more than 5,000 feet into the air to overlook a picturesque area of wilderness kept in its primeval beauty for the people of Maine and their visitors.



No. 5—Three peaks and the Knife Edge are spread to view in this amazing picture. On the left are Pamola Peak and the Knife Edge, and at the right, Turner Mountain (3,122 feet) and Traveler Mountain (4,000 feet).

87 1 Folder
72
Dec. 3
December
third
1941

Dear Director Drury -

You are very generous in what you say about my efforts to establish a State Park here in Maine. I am pleased to know that you approve and thank you for writing me.

The local Sunday paper published a map of the Park last Sunday and I shall send you a reprint, thinking you may like to have it for your records.

It has been my intention to come to Washington and call upon you so that I may have the benefit of your wide experience. The months fly by and I have not yet made the journey. Maybe this Winter I shall come and when I do so, certainly I shall come to your office and tell you of my plans.

With much appreciation for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

To-

Newton B. Drury
Director Dept. of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington
D. C.

BAX
2 27
58

Baxter

1942
Jan. 5

January
fifth
1942

Dear Mr. Yard -

This morning I received your letter of January third and no doubt you received a letter from me at about the same time.

While I should like to write another article for you I really have not the time to do so. As a matter of fact your readers have never seen the article in the Portland paper so it will be entirely new to them. I think the map which you now have will answer every requirement. It will be quite an undertaking for me to have a new map prepared.

The picture I sent you is a new one and will give your readers some idea of the ruggedness of Mt. Katahdin. It may be that the Portland "PRESS-HERALD" would send you some photographs for they are very helpful in matters of this sort. However, it would be better for you to write to them rather than for me to ask further favors.

As far as I am aware, the National Park Service has given up its plan to take over BAXTER STATE PARK. The Maine Legislature at five different Sessions has accepted the land donated to the State by me and I now have no fear that anyone can take this land away from the State.

I shall be much interested to have a copy of THE WILDERNESS which you are preparing.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

To-

Mr. Robert Sterling Yard
The Wilderness Society
1840 Mintwood Place
Washington
D. C.

Phare return to me.

T.T.B.

January
twenty-seventh
1 9 4 4

Dear Mr. Whitcomb -

Last week when I was in Boston I hoped to have the pleasure of a luncheon with the "Big Three" of the G.N.P. Co. John, however, told me you were in Mil-
linocket at your annual meeting. Better luck for me next time.

The map of the proposed National Park that I left with John tells its own story. I do not recall that I ever showed it to you. In all modesty I can say that had it not been for my opposition, Brewster's bill would have become law. I travelled, worked, spoke, prepared resolutions for Clubs and Societies and went right to the National Park Headquarters in Washington.

Brewster already had made a good start toward creating a National Park while I was abroad notwithstanding the fact that the first acres already had been deeded to the State *h m r.*

Photographs were taken by the Washington crowd, resolutions favoring them passed by Boards of Trade and the National Park people were strong for the project. As you know, the Public often is cruel. Some people were saying that the Great Northern Paper Company had too much Maine land and should give up some of it "for the good of the people". Such ideas are far too prevalent and must be broken down. The bill, however, died as a result of my efforts and I am the only person who could have accomplished this result. Had Brewster gone unchecked for a few months longer, it would have been too late.

Had the bill passed, the Federal people would have been planted for all time right in the heart of your best lands. Both the West and East branches would have been involved, and it is not difficult to foresee that once the U. S. Government obtained a foothold in Maine forests, it would not have been content to take only the areas shown on the map.

I now have acquired five townships, of which be-

zone 3

January
twenty-seventh
1 9 4 4

tween 20% and 25% have come from you. As you know; I very much want that 10,000 acres in T 2 R 9, in order to control the approaches to the Park and I am sure that ultimately you will let me have it. As the well known advertisement reads "Eventually, why not now?"

The week after next I expect to be in New York, about Wednesday the ninth of February, and would your Directors like to talk with me about the Park and its future development? If they have not seen the map, they will be interested to learn of what they escaped. Please save the map for my records.

With kind regards to the "Big Three" above mentioned.

Reuben P. Baxter

To-

Mr. William A. Whitcomb
201 Devonshire Street
Boston
Massachusetts.

BAX
Folder
58

Collins

1944
March 28

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

54,

March 28, 1944.

Mr. L. L. Bean,
Freeport,
Maine.

Dear Mr. Bean:

I must thank you for your fine letter of March 21, and for the copy of your book "Hunting, Fishing and Camping," which came in today.

Just as we anticipated, your book is a lively and colorful presentation of practical facts. The best stream fishing day I've had in many years was on the South Branch of Trout Brook, up there northwest of Mt. Katahdin. Your book brings back that day all over again. Also, of course, it contains reference information that will help round out our library.

Referring again to your letter, it has been my pleasure to meet Governor Baxter, and to have handled correspondence with him regarding the Mt. Katahdin area. Certainly he has done, and is doing, a remarkable work in acquiring for the public the land for Baxter State Park. The National Park Service has considered that area as a possibility for national park purposes, and, while our discussions with Mr. Baxter have not always revealed exactly the same objectives, we have always been on terms of the highest mutual regard. He is to be commended unreservedly for his success in that difficult and important conservation undertaking.

With all kind regards and good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Geo. L. Collins
George L. Collins,
Assistant Chief,
National Park Division,
Branch of Lands.

BAX
Folder
58

Collins

1944
April 14

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

54,

April 14, 1944.

Mr. Percival P. Baxter,
Portland 3, Maine.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

It was thoughtful of you to write your note of April 10 after Mr. Bean showed you my recent letter touching on Katahdin interests.

While nothing would give me greater pleasure than an opportunity to visit with you on the subject of Baxter State Park, stringent wartime economies being practiced by our Service will not permit me to plan such a visit, at least at this time.

Copies of your letter, together with copies of this reply are being sent to Associate Director Demaray in Washington and to Regional Director Taylor in Richmond, Virginia. I recall that you visited Mr. Demaray and me in his office several years ago and you may likewise have met Mr. Taylor. At any rate, they both have high admiration for your conservation activities and know a good deal about Baxter State Park. It is possible that one or the other of those gentlemen will be in New England some time this year and could pay you a visit. Of course, the National Park Service people at Acadia National Park would be delighted to discuss with you any developmental or park use problems which you may be finding in your work at Mount Katahdin.

With kind regards and all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Geo. L. Collins

George L. Collins,
Assistant Chief,
National Park Division,
Branch of Lands.

BAX
Folder
58

Baxter

1947
March 17

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

54

February 10, 1947.

Mr. Percival P. Baxter,
562 Congress Street,
Portland 3, Maine.

My dear Mr. Baxter:

It was thoughtful of you to send me the reprint from the Portland Evening Express of January 8, describing the latest addition to Baxter State Park. Please accept my heartiest congratulations both for the success of your project thus far and for the fact that your efforts have not gone unappreciated as is evidenced by the text of the reprint.

I am particularly gratified that the Katahdin region should at last be so well protected because, as I am sure you know, the National Park Service for years has had a definite interest in its preservation. The State of Maine and our whole country are certainly fortunate that you are among those occasional citizens who have the public spirit, the generosity, and the vision to devote time, effort and personal fortunes to such great conservation causes.

With very best regards and all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Newton B. Drury
Newton B. Drury,
Director.



BAX

Baxter

1947

Folder

March 17

58

February
seventeenth
1 9 4 7

Dear Director Drury -

Your letter of February tenth came this morning and it is encouraging to know that you approve of what I am doing here in Maine in the Mt. Katahdin region. *I think you are quite right. In writing me.*

You will be interested to know that our State Forester who keeps accurate records of all forest lands in our State tells me that the area of Baxter State Park now is 127,461 acres. I hope to increase this from time to time as additional purchases are made.

Some years ago when Mr. Albright was Director of your Department, I visited Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park under his auspices and had a most informing and interesting trip. It was a great experience and I hope to go again. Especially am I anxious to make another trip to the Grand Canyon; *my last trip there was 15 years ago.*

What you are doing for the present generation and those that follow is monumental.

I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you personally some time in the not too distant future.

My kind regards.

To-

Honorable Newton B. Drury
Director National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior
Chicago
Illinois.

BAX

Box 72

1947

Folden

March 17

58

March
seventeenth
1947

Dear Director Drury -

Your letter of March tenth together with the copy of your "Park Conservation" report came in due course and I am happy to have it. This report is monumental and I read it with deep interest and thank you for it.

When I was Governor at Augusta I had certain correspondence with the late Stephen Mather and was inspired by him to do something for my State. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Mather what he wrote to me and the documents he sent gave me courage to undertake a project which began in a small way and which now has grown to a major undertaking.

Some day I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you, but meanwhile send my kind regards.

Sincerely

To-

Honorable Newton B. Drury
Director, National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Chicago 54
Illinois.

1951
Nov. 13

Letter

67

November
thirteenth
1 9 5 1

Dear Mr. McKay -

On my first evening at home after a month's absence I read your quarterly report and the article in the Scripps-Howard News. The first shows what honest, able management can do in operating a great industry, the finest in Maine; the second explains to outsiders how newsprint is made from the growing tree to the finished roll.

Mr. Caspar, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Weldon and Mr. Hume deserve the fine recognition given them. I feel at home with your people wherever I meet them, either in New York, Boston, Bangor or the Woods.

Mr. Johnson of the U.S. Trust Company represents vast stores of money; he said 2 1/2 billions in his Trust Department. That is too much for me to grasp; the power of that money is tremendous. To go into his Bank would make me feel most insignificant; probably to speak to him or to the President of his institution would be more difficult than to gain an interview with our Harry Truman! I shall hold to the good old B.S.D. & T. Co. under *Mr. Lowell*.

I wanted to speak to you about the small area of land I am asking you to sell me. This area has less than 3000 acres; it is poor land, stands alone miles apart from your other lands and is surrounded on all sides by the

- 2 -

Eastern Corporation and the Park. I seek to acquire it so that the road which the State and myself jointly constructed this Summer will be entirely within the Park. John McLeod has a small map that shows the isolation of this piece of land. My Park seems now to have reached its limit, for on all sides it is enclosed by owners who do not care to sell, except perhaps the Eastern.

On my tour to the National Parks in the South West, I learned more about the attempt that was made to make Katahdin a National Park. As a matter of fact I have both the official map issued by the Department of the Interior showing "Mt. Katahdin National Park", and the official House Bill introduced into Congress. In all modesty I can say that I stopped this in its tracks, otherwise the U. S. Government with all its power to-day would have been in the midst of our timber lands, the results of which might have been unfortunate for private ownership of our forest areas. It always is good to sit down and talk with you.

My kind regards.

Sincerely

To-
Mr. William O. McKay
President Great Northern Paper Company
201 Devonshire Street
Boston
Massachusetts.

OAA
Folder
74

Baxter

May 6

May
sixth
1952

Dear Ralph -

As requested by you I looked into the records relating to the proposed "Mt. Katahdin National Park".

It is now fifteen years since Senator Brewster, then a Representative, introduced the Bill for the establishment of this Park. In view of his having made complete amends and of his having assured me that he would withdraw the Bill and would never take any further action to interfere with Baxter State Park, it would seem unwise and unfair to bring the matter into the present political campaign.

It is true that the proposed Mt. Katahdin National Park would have obliterated the area donated by me to the State and would have turned it over to the National Government. I was much distressed and immediately undertook a campaign to protect what is now Baxter State Park which has been my life's work.

Journeys were made to Washington. Garden Clubs, Chambers of Commerce and similar organizations were aroused. These groups took a firm stand against Representative Brewster's proposal. The late George Otis Smith and other public spirited Maine citizens gave me their cordial support. It was a long story and a hard fought contest but eventually it came out all right. The Park at that time, 6,000 acres, was saved for Maine and is now 141,712 acres.

I am endeavoring to keep entirely out of political controversy and fear that if "Baxter State Park" is brought into it my name also will become involved because the Park and myself are inseparable. This being so I hope you will not disturb the present peaceful situation.

Always with my kind regards.

Sincerely

To-
Honorable Ralph W. Farris
room 520 at 142 High Street
Portland
Maine.

BAX
Solid
74

Farris

1952
May 19

Brewster
BSP

RALPH W. FARRIS
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
87A EXCHANGE STREET
PORTLAND 3, MAINE
PORTLAND 4-3591

May 19, 1952

Honorable Percival P. Baxter
Portland 3, Maine

Dear Percy:

I received your good letter of May 6, giving me the information which I requested concerning the proposed "Mt. Katahdin National Park."

I note that it is now nearly fifteen years since Senator Brewster, a member of the House at that time, introduced the bill for the establishment of a National Park, taking in and surrounding the area which is now Baxter State Park. I do not know what prompted Mr. Brewster at that time to introduce such a bill without consulting you or the members of the Park Commission before introducing such a vicious piece of legislation and only for your timely action there is no telling but what the Mt. Katahdin region might be at this time a National Park area. The State would have lost the gift which you have made since this proposed legislation.

I agree with you that the proposed Mt. Katahdin National Park would have obliterated the area which had been donated by you in trust to the State and because of your activity at that time and your generosity since, the Park area now belongs to the State of Maine for all its people and consists now of 141,712 acres.

You state that you are endeavoring to keep out of political controversy and fear that if "Baxter State Park" is brought into it you will become involved because the Park and you are inseparable and you hope that I will not disturb the present peace of the situation. Insofar as I am concerned, I will not disturb this situation. However, it is a matter of public record and it can be bourn out by the congressional record that such a bill introduced by Mr. Brewster when he was a member of the House and it was aimed against the rights of the people of Maine, and if this matter should be brought into the campaign you may rest assured that I have not had anything to do with it as I will regard your wishes in this matter.

Best wishes and kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Farris
RALPH W. FARRIS

RWF/ibr

BAX
Folder
74

Baxter

1952
May 24

May
twenty-fourth
1952

Dear Ralph -

On returning home from Rangeley I have
your letter of the nineteenth and thank you for it.

You certainly are most considerate and if
the matter of the Park is brought into the present po-
litical contest I shall know it was not done by you.

It is always good to talk with you and I hope
we may meet more often.

Cordially

To-

Honorable Ralph W. Farris
room 520
No. 142 High Street
Portland
Maine.

Part 6
Miscellaneous Personal
Documents

Volume III

Speeches and National Park Controversy Correspondence

Part 6: Miscellaneous Personal Documents

OVERVIEW

The miscellaneous documents in this part of the compilation have no direct bearing on the Governor's vision for Baxter State Park. Rather they consist of biographical material, various honors and tributes that he received, and trust and estate documents.

ANNOTATIONS

6.1 Biographical Material

The biographical materials focus on the period of Baxter's tenure as Governor (1921-1925). They include his official announcement of Governor Frederick Parkhurst's death on 31 January 1921, two resumes, and a speech that was delivered at the dedication of the Maine Sailors and Soldiers Memorial in Kittery on 11 November 1924. The speech was placed in a time capsule that was not to be opened until Armistice Day in 1999.

The two resumes, one prepared for the *National Cyclopedia of American Biography* and the 1924 time capsule speech shed light on Baxter's family history and personal life as well as his sense of accomplishment in public office. It is interesting to note that while his Mt. Katahdin State Park project was mentioned in the two resumes, his gubernatorial administration's most significant legacy was perceived to be the protection of the state's water power resources. In a somewhat ironic passage in the Maine Sailors and Soldiers Memorial "time capsule" speech he lamented: "I leave office in a few weeks, cheerful and happy, but with regret that I can not do all the things I would like to do for my State and her People."¹ In this self-deprecating assessment of his accomplishments in the public sector, there is no hint of what he may have had in mind as a private citizen for Mt. Katahdin and the surrounding region.

There were two events in Baxter's life that would prove to have profound influence on his desire to create a state park at Katahdin. The first was young Percival's visit with his father, James Phinney Baxter, to the Oquossoc Angling Association from 24 May to 3 June 1884. The records of the association report that the largest fish caught during the visit "was taken in Cupsuptic lake June 2nd, by Percival, and weighted seven and three quarters pounds before being dressed. The guide made his weight eight pounds, when taken from the water."² This was the famous eight pound squaretail trout that is the subject of Baxter's 1964 retrospective account, which reads, in part, as follows:

Fish were not biting. About an hour before dusk my father said to me "My boy; for every trout you catch five pounds or over I will give you \$10.00 per pound". In less than an hour, entirely by my own efforts, I brought an eight pound trout into the boat. I was the hero of the day. . . .

¹ "Armistice Day – November Eleven – 1924," p. 2.

² Harland R. Kidder, Superintendent of the Oquossoc Angling Association, letter of 7 July 1958 to Percival P. Baxter.

That evening in the Club House where the members were sitting before the fire in due ceremony I was presented with eight \$10 bills. After I put these in my pocket one of the Club members said, "Now young man what are you going to do with all this money?" My reply was made promptly "I am going to put it in the Bank." Everyone present was much amused. On returning to Portland I placed the money in the Bank and have left it there ever since, eighty years.³

The bank account reportedly had grown to in excess of \$1,000 by the time of Baxter's death.

The second profound experience was Baxter's participation in the 1920 expedition to Katahdin organized by Patten lumberman, Burton W. Howe. Arthur G. Staples's lengthy account of the expedition appeared in the *Lewiston Journal* Magazine Section on 2 October 1920.⁴ Both the quality of the microfilm image and its length preclude reproduction here; however, those interested in this formative experience are encouraged to examine Staples's article.

In brief, the trip was conceived as a way of promoting Baxter's proposal to create a state park at Katahdin commemorating the centennial year of Maine's statehood. The expedition included not only Baxter, a candidate for the next President of the Senate, but also Charles P. Barnes, who was widely regarded as the favored candidate for Speaker in the next House of Representatives. The guide was Roy Dudley. The expedition's itinerary included crossings of both the East Branch of the Penobscot and Wassataquoik Stream and the trek from Katahdin Lake to Chimney Pond. Baxter's ascent to Monument Peak was via the Pamola Trail and the Knife Edge. Staples reported Baxter stating after reaching the summit: "I wouldn't do it again for a million; I wouldn't have missed it for a million."⁵

6.2 Public Perceptions, e.g., Honors, Tributes, Testimonials

Throughout Governor Baxter's lifetime he was the recipient of numerous awards and tributes. Correspondence pertaining to many of those awards and tributes appear in chronological order. The recognition was both from within the State of Maine and the wider environmental community, including officials of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

The most significant in-state recognition, other than earlier legislative initiatives naming Baxter Peak⁶ and Baxter State Park⁷ for the former Governor, was the sculpture executed in bas-relief that was unveiled on 24 March 1965 at the State House during the 102nd Maine Legislature's tribute.

Governor Baxter's most notable national recognition was the Conservation Service Award, the U. S. Department of Interior's highest acknowledgment of achievement that was conferred upon him by Secretary Stewart L. Udall on 25 May 1962. In addition, in 1965 a number of prominent Americans, including President Lyndon B. Johnson and Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, wrote tributes at the request of Edmund Ware Smith of Damariscotta. Justice Douglas's hand-written letter read as follows:

Percival P. Baxter is our foremost conservationist. He was a pioneer whose voice pleaded for wilderness values when exploitation was the theme of the day. Biologist, botanist, ecologist—he has helped educate two generations of Americans on the spiritual values of the outdoors, of free-flowing rivers, of alpine meadows, of cold pure springs.⁸

³ Retrospective "fish account" by Percival P. Baxter, circa 1964.

⁴ A microfilm copy of the account can be found at the Lewiston Public Library. Quality issues and the sheer length preclude reprinting of the article and the extraordinary photographs from the expedition.

⁵ Arthur G. Staples, "Katahdin—The Highest Mountain in the Wildest Park of New England—The Story of a Seventy-Five Mile Trip to Its Summit, Told in Plain Prose with Many Adventures," *Lewiston Journal*, October 2, 1920, Magazine Section, p. 5.

⁶ Resolves 1931, Chap. 94, RESOLVE, Changing the Name of Monument Peak on Mt. Katahdin to Baxter Peak, Approved April 2, 1931.

⁷ Resolves 1933, Chap. 103, RESOLVE, Naming That Portion of Township 3, Range 9, W.E.L.S., Piscataquis County, 5,960 Acres, Donated to the State by Percival Proctor Baxter, "Baxter State Park," Approved March 23, 1933.

⁸ William O. Douglas letter of 19 July 1965 to Edmund Ware Smith.

6.3 Wills and Trusts

The principal items in this final segment are Percival P. Baxter's will dated 9 September 1966 and the 18 May 1966 amendment to the Trust of 6 July 1927. It was through this *inter vivos* trust created in 1927, as amended through 18 May 1966, wherein Governor Baxter donated the residuary of his trust estate to Baxter State Park with instructions to Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, as trustee. This is the so-called "Boston Trust." In addition, copies of the Private and Special Law of 1961 and 1965, Chapters 21 and 30, respectively, are included. These were the legislative vehicles for the acceptance of gifts of capital stock creating the Baxter State Park Trust Fund. This trust fund is commonly referred to as the so-called "State Trust."

6.1 Biographical Material

BAX
Folder:
53

P. P. Baxter - Biography

1924

C O P Y .

For The National Cyclopedia of American Biography-

James T. White & Co., 70 Fifth Ave., New York City.
(Publishers).....

BAKTER, Percival Proctor, 46th Governor of Maine (1921-1924), was born at Portland, Maine, Nov. 22, 1876, son of James Phinney (q.v.) and Mehetabel Cummings (Proctor) Baxter. His earliest known paternal American ancestor was Simon Baxter who resided at New London, Conn. in 1721. From Simon and his first wife Abigail Mann, the line of descent is traced through their son William; his son Elihu and his wife Triphena Taylor; their son Elihu Baxter and his second wife Sarah Cone, who were the grandparents of Percival Proctor Baxter. The tradition is that Simon Baxter was a kinsman of Rev. Richard Baxter of "Saint's Rest" fame. He subsequently settled at Hebron, Conn., where he added to his homestead many other acres, and in spite of the hard times of the wilderness and the Indian wars accumulated and maintained a competency. William Baxter was a soldier in Captain Hierley's company from Middletown, Conn., in the French and Indian war, and a member of the ill-fated expedition against Havana, Cuba, in 1762. Elihu Baxter was an eminent physician of Gorham and Portland, Maine. James Phinney Baxter of Portland, Maine, father of the governor, was a financier, historian and author. On his mother's side he is descended from the Puritans who founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1628-9, and is the lineal descendant of seven Colonial Governors of Massachusetts, and of John Proctor the Salem witchcraft martyr. Percival Proctor Baxter received

his early education in the public schools of Portland and in the Eton House School, London, England. He was graduated A. B. at Bowdoin College in 1898 and at Harvard Law School in 1901 with the degree L.L.B., and in the same year was admitted to the Maine and Suffolk County (Mass.) bar. He never actively engaged in the practice of law but devoted himself to business and to public affairs. He served in the Maine house of representatives during 1905-06, 1917-18, 1919-20, and was a leader in the equal suffrage movement. In 1920 and 1924 he was a delegate to the Republican national convention, the latter year being Chairman of the Maine delegation. He served in the State senate during 1909-10 and 1921, and was president of that body. Upon the death of Governor Frederick Hale Parkhurst, who had been in office but twenty-five days, he succeeded him as 46th governor of Maine, January 31st, 1921, for the term 1921-22, and was elected for the term 1923-24. Governor Baxter has been identified with the movement to conserve and develop, for the benefit of the people of Maine, the great natural resources of the state, its water power and timberlands. These resources had come under the control of private monopolies which exercised a dominating influence over state politics, and Governor Baxter established the principle now accepted as a fixed state policy, that the people of Maine should control these resources and that Maine's water power should be controlled by and for the benefit of the public. Governor Baxter was the sponsor of the Maine Water Power Commission and of the movement to make Mt. Katahdin, the highest peak in the State, a state park and forest reserve. As an

active opponent of the water power lobby, he won a spectacular victory in the winter of 1922-1923 by defeating the legislature in its attempt to convey to private interests one of the largest watersheds of the upper Kennebec. The bill had been passed by the legislature, vetoed by the governor, and passed over his veto, when he had a petition for a people's referendum prepared and circulated, which received over 25,000 signatures within ten days. After that occurred without waiting for a referendum the legislature promptly repealed the measure which it twice had passed. Governor Baxter is also a fearless opponent of special privilege and sponsored the anti-pass law which destroyed the hold of the transportation companies upon state politics. As a lover of animals and sponsor of humane legislation, Governor Baxter secured the passage of the first state anti-vivisection law applying to all schools within the state receiving money from the public treasury. He was the leader of the woman's suffrage and prohibition causes in the Maine legislature both before and at the time of the Ratification of the 18th and 19th Federal constitutional amendments. He is vitally interested in humane education, and upon the death of his dog "Garry", a favorite companion, he caused the flag on the state-house to be displayed at half-mast to remind the public of the faithful services and sacrifices of animals and the duty of humane appreciation and kindness. He gave special attention to the public school system of the state, especially the rural schools in the small places, with the result that to-day every child in Maine is able to get an elementary education. He

also proposed a constitutional amendment prohibiting the use of any public money for sectarian schools, and was sponsor of the law requiring the reading of the Bible in the public schools.

He succeeded in reducing the state tax by 49 per cent during his first term as governor. He insisted on rigid economy in state expenditures, a policy which extended to his own household, leading him to refuse to accept an appropriation of \$27,000. which the legislature made for the maintenance of the executive mansion. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, the Harvard clubs of Boston and New York, and the Cumberland and other local clubs of Maine. He finds his chief recreation in yachting, farming and in the out-of-door life of the Maine woods. He is a Congregationalist and unmarried.

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

Governor of Maine, 1921--1925

The Honorable Percival P. Baxter of Portland was President of the State Senate in 1921, and became Governor of Maine upon the death of Governor Parkhurst on January 31, 1921. He was elected Governor in September, 1922, for a term ending January, 1925, making a four year service.

Governor Baxter was born in Portland, November 22nd, 1876, the son of Hon. James Phinney Baxter, six times Mayor of Portland. He obtained his early education in the public schools of Portland, and fitted for college at the Eton House School, London, England, and from the Portland High School from which he graduated in 1894. He then entered Bowdoin College, graduating with honors in 1898. While in college he was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, was editor of the Bowdoin Orient, and in 1897 was one of the originators and the first editor of the Bowdoin Quill, a literary periodical. He was also a member of the honorary society of Phi Beta Kappa. After pursuing legal studies in the office of Libby, Robinson & Turner and at the Harvard Law School, from which he received the degree of LL.B. in 1901, he was admitted to the Suffolk County Bar, Massachusetts, and to the Cumberland County Bar, Maine, in 1901. He is a member of the Cumberland, Lincoln and Portland clubs, Howard Clubs of Boston and New York, and of the Portland Yacht Club.

Governor Baxter has been active in Republican State Conventions, and in 1920 was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in Chicago. He has had a long and arduous service as a member of the Legislature in both branches; serving in the House of Representatives in 1905-1906, 1917-1918, 1919-1920, and in the Senate in 1909-1910, 1921-1922. In 1921 his support for the presidency of the Senate was so strong that no opponent declared himself against him and he was elected unanimously to this office.

During the time Governor Baxter was in the Legislature he took an active interest in Woman's Suffrage and for three sessions was the leader of the movement in the Maine Legislature. Since he became Governor he has shown that he was sincere in his desire that women should be recognized politically for he has appointed women as Pro-

bation Officer upon Boards of Hospital Trustees and other institutional boards, and has also appointed one woman as a member of the Board of County Commissioners, and one to the important position of a member of the Board of Registration of Medicine.

Governor Baxter is a great lover of animals and, both as a private citizen and in public life, has taken an active interest in their welfare and done much towards furthering the humane work of the State. Governor Baxter was the father of the first law against vivisection. He introduced into the Legislature and secured the passage of the first anti-vivisection law that was ever placed upon the statutes of the State, and Maine is the first state to pass any anti-vivisection legislation. Governor Baxter also was the first Governor to issue a proclamation establishing Bird Day, which was done to interest the children in the State in the important subject of conservation of bird life.

Governor Baxter was the father of the first anti-pass law to be initiated in the State, which made it illegal for transportation companies to issue passes to public officials. The passage of this law has had a very wholesome effect, and public officials are no longer under obligation to public service corporations.

Two questions with which Governor Baxter has become identified are the preservation of Maine's forests and the public control of Maine's water powers for the benefit of Maine people. Governor Baxter desires that the State of Maine begin to buy up waste and burned over timberland to be used for reforestation so that in the years to come Maine may have forest resources that will provide such forest products as are required by the State. That Maine once owned 9,000,000 acres of timberland and now owns but 300,000 - and this cut up and scattered in different parts of the State - shows the necessity for some definite program of regaining waste lands for reforestation purposes. Governor Baxter is the father of the Mount Katahdin State Park project, and he believes that the State should begin to acquire the most picturesque portions of Mount Katahdin so that eventually the State may own the entire Mountain and make it the finest recreation spot in the New England States. The plan is to lay out roads and build camps in this territory so that people of moderate means may enjoy this wonderful scenery.

In regard to the Maine Water Power problem, Governor Baxter believes there are three cardinal points: two of these have been settled after a contest of five years; the third is as yet unsettled.

The first is that Maine's Water Powers and Water Storage shall be kept within the State and used here for the benefit of Maine's people, and that if these natural resources are developed by private corporations, it should be done under leases rather than by deeds which would transfer the title to said corporations. Under a lease the State would retain actual ownership, and the lease would bring into the State a revenue in the form of rental which would be applied towards reducing the tax burdens of the people.

The second is that where a valuable franchise in the public lakes has been GIVEN to a corporation, that the State may take back the franchise if the public needs require it, without the State's being obliged to pay for the franchise itself. The State would, of course, pay for any money that had actually been expended on, or invested in, the property by the corporation, and would reimburse the corporation for all its outlays, but the State would not be obliged to pay for a franchise which it gave away and which it sought to take back for the public needs.

These two points have been settled. The third, which is as yet unsettled, is that the State should encourage the private development of Water Powers by the construction of State storage reservoirs. These reservoirs will hold back the flood waters of the spring and early summer, so that the flow of all Maine rivers will be constant, and this would provide a dependable source of power for the mill owners on Maine's rivers. These reservoirs can be built by the State on a business basis and will return to the State a handsome income upon the investment. This income would reduce the tax levies of the State, while the private water power owners, whose conflicting interests now prevent them from uniting in building storage dams, will be greatly benefited by this construction.

Governor Baxter has always been in favor of State and National Prohibition and has taken a positive stand in favor of strict and impartial enforcement of the Prohibitory Law. He has repeatedly announced his purpose to give the sheriffs of the State whatever support they need and is determined to enforce these laws so that the State will

always live up to its temperance principles.

Governor Baxter is a believer in good roads, and is of the opinion that the roads of the State should at all times be properly maintained. He does not believe that it is wise to build expensive roads and then allow them to fall into decay. The Governor also desires to do everything in his power to build up the school system of the State and has made extensive trips over the State personally investigating school conditions. He believes that above all else the children of the State should be given a fair start in life, and he hopes to see Maine's percentage of illiteracy greatly reduced during his term of office.

The chief accomplishment of the 80th Legislature under Governor Baxter was the extraordinary reduction in the State taxes. The figures show that the State tax for the calendar year 1921 is but 51% of the average State tax for the years 1919--1921. The total State tax levied against the cities and towns in 1920 was \$4,139,093.55, whereas the total State tax levied against the same cities and towns for the 12 months of 1921 is \$2,093,672.47. This shows a saving to the people of the State in this one item of \$2,045,421.08. This in spite of the fact that ample provision has been made to take care of the state institutions, state departments and state charities, and a reasonable margin allowed for contingencies.

Though Governor Baxter became Governor under trying and unusual circumstances yet, because of this, he came free from any promises or obligations expressed or implied, and so, in carrying on the work of his office, is responsible only to the people of Maine. While Governor of the State of Maine he desires to be the Governor of the whole State, to act for the interest of all the people of the State, and to recognize or favor no special groups or interests; and to do this regardless of any personal political success or failure which it may bring. Accordingly his opportunities, as well as his obligations to the people of Maine are great.

Announcement
STATE OF MAINE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

January 31, 1921.

To the People of the State of Maine and to the Senators and Representatives of the Eightieth Legislature now in session.

It has become my sad duty to announce to you that Governor Frederick Hale Parkhurst died at his official residence in Augusta, at twelve minutes after nine o'clock this morning, January thirty first, nineteen hundred twenty one.

Stricken in the prime of life as he stood upon the threshold of an honorable and useful career as Chief Executive, his death brings deep sorrow to our State. Our sympathy goes out to the members of his family in this hour of their grief.

The body of the late Governor will lie in state in the rotunda of the Capitol on Wednesday February second next and business will be suspended in the State House on that day as well as on the day of the funeral.

I suggest that a committee of the Senate and House be appointed to confer with me about the arrangements to be made by the State for the funeral ceremonies.

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution and the laws of Maine, I have assumed the duties of Chief Executive and hereby request that all public offices within the State be closed upon the day of the funeral Thursday February third and I have ordered all flags upon the buildings of the State to be placed and to remain at half mast for a period of sixty days as a mark of respect to our late Governor.

(Signed) Percival P. Baxter,
Governor.

in flow of Maine Sailors and Soldiers Memorial - Kittery, Maine

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA

ARMISTICE DAY - NOVEMBER ELEVEN - 1924

To the People of the State of Maine

Who shall open this box in the years to come

Greetings!

It was at first planned to have some simple, commonplace tablet placed upon the bridge as its memorial feature and \$5000 was appropriated for the purpose. This plan was about to be carried out when I came into the Governorship.

Due solely to my initiative and efforts and upon my suggestion the land on which this memorial is placed, bounded by four streets, was condemned and acquired by the State and dedicated for memorial purposes exclusively. My next step was to obtain a suitable design for the memorial itself. After consulting with sculptors and artists and conveying to them my ideas as to what I wanted, I selected the granite and bronze that today is to be formally dedicated. This entire memorial was conceived and carried out by me, the Smith Granite Co. of Westerly, Rhode Island and Miss Bashka Paeff of Boston, Mass. doing the granite and the sculptural work respectively. The Governors Council and Soldiers' Memorial Committee merely ratified my plans.

War is based on hate and selfishness: Military power is fostered by vanity and pride and those who seek to perpetuate it do so to retain power and position.

I have spoken for Peace until they call me a Pacifist. I have endured abuse and ridicule because I have stood against those who by glorifying War hold back the World's progress toward Peace.

Our sailors and soldiers were brave men; they did their duty and rendered noble service. Civilians also are called upon to serve in times of Peace, and their heroisms entitle them to a place of honor on the Nation's rolls. All good citizens respond when called upon to serve, some in one way, others in another.

War must go. Its cruelty, its shame, its false glory have dominated human thought far too long.

This bronze tablet is unique. Some sculptors wanted me to accept designs showing soldiers with guns and bayonets, dressed in uniform and accoutered for war. These were tawdry and common. This bronze teaches the lessons of War's devastation, waste, and portrays its sacrifice. In the background the wounded are being helped to places of safety. I like the distant figures, they portray man's finest qualities. The dogs are given prominent positions, one in the foreground lying beside his dead Master, the other following the wounded, every ready to

respond. The dog is man's most faithful affectionate and loyal friend: I insisted that he be recognized.

No doubt the World would be a far better place in which to live when this box is opened than it is today. Nations will be living peacefully side by side, wars will have gone forever and the Golden Rule will be much more nearly the adopted standard of conduct than it is today.

I have been Governor of Maine for four years, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924. During that period I have been my own Master. My actions have been criticized by my enemies and my good deeds praised by my friends. The only enemies I have are the great corporations and their satellites and retainers. The people of Maine are my friends and believe in me. That is ample reward. My service has been filled with interest, I have done my duty fearlessly, and am grateful for the opportunity that was given me to serve my State. I love the people of Maine and I love every foot of her soil. I leave office in a few weeks, cheerful and happy, but with regret that I can not do all the things I would like to do for my State and her People.

During my four years I have stood for the State's retaining ownership of her publicly owned water resources, of which there are not many left, and for their development by the State in the public interest. Moreover I have consistently maintained that the People own all the water in the lakes of Maine and should derive a direct income from such ownership. Public sentiment has not kept pace with my ideas, but the day will come when my views will be adopted. I hope it will not be too late.

The Children and the Dumb Animals of Maine have been my chief concern. I know the schools of Maine, have made friends with countless children and have done my best to stimulate them to work hard and to strive for the things that are really worth while. There is shocking neglect of, and much cruelty to animals in Maine. I have championed the animal cause. The law, against the sale of poor old horses, that prohibiting vivisection in the public schools, the law against exhibiting motion pictures in the production of which cruelty to animals was involved, all are my laws. I wish I might have done more, but I have made people think about animals and have led in the fight for those who can not speak for themselves. I want to be kind to every living creature.

My dog Garry II, Irish Setter lived with me in Augusta and when he died I ordered both flags, the U.S. flag and the Maine flag lowered at the State House for him. This created a great discussion all over the country, even from across the seas. I did it deliberately to call man's attention to his duties toward the animals who serve and comfort him. I am glad I did it, and never have regretted doing so. My political enemies rejoiced thinking that I had committed political suicide. The answer is: I leave office stronger than I ever was before. Good old Garry II was the first dog in history to be thus honored. His spirit lives on and through him, dumb animals the World over will be treated more kindly and more mercifully.

In a few lines I can not review my life or my work. I am to be 49 years of age on November 22nd, 1924. Have served in the State House of Representatives three terms 1905-6, 1917-18, 1919-20; served in the State Senate 1909-10, and from January 5-31, 1921, when as

President of the body, on the death of Governor Frederick H. Parkhurst I became Governor for 1921-22. I was elected Governor for 1923-24.

I am unmarried. Once I asked Margaret Payson of Portland to be my wife (January 18, 1914) but she declined. She still is unmarried. There is a young woman who now lives in Italy (Rome) who, were I a few years younger, I would ask to be my wife. Donna Santa Borghese, of the House of Borghese, daughter of the Head of that illustrious family. She is 27 years of age, attractive, brilliant, friendly and lovable. No doubt she would refuse me, for my surroundings differ so from hers that she would not be happy and contented here. She is wonderful: the few days I was with her will never be forgotten. She stimulates all with whom she comes in contact to do their best; she brings out the best in them. Maybe I shall see her again, but I almost fear to do so: it is hopeless. Her picture is in this letter and her full name is

Donna Santa Gaetana Sandomia Borghese, PhD.

Palazzo Borghese, Rome Italy

My sister Mrs. Madeleine B. Tomlinson and her two sons James Baxter and Edward have lived with me at the Blaine House Augusta for more than a year. Garry III, 2 years 5 months is my constant companion (Irish setter). Miss Susan Ballow of Bath is my housekeeper, faithful and friendly, a most unusual woman.

What I am to do after retiring from the governorship is doubtful. I hope to continue to be useful, and to do my part as a citizen. With health, means, position and experience I ought to find some niche into which I will fit.

My sister Emily Poole Baxter July 15-1874-September 4-1921 was my devoted friend. She believed in me and I in her. Her loss was my greatest affliction. Had she been with me during these years she would have advised me kindly and wisely. She was brilliant, talented, simple of taste, loveable and her presence would have strengthened me. I know that her spirit has guided me and comforted me.

During the World War, 1917-1919 I was Chairman of one of the two Draft Boards in Portland, Me., and served throughout the War. It was a great experience and I learned much of human nature through contact with many of the 8000 men on my lists. It was real service, somewhat unappreciated by the public at large, but it was a vital part of the Country's Military resources.

This is but a brief and incomplete record, but as it may rest undisturbed for centuries beneath the granite block on the floor of the Memorial, it may prove of human interest to the Men and Women of Maine of - I know not when.

Percival Proctor Baxter
Governor of Maine

BAX
2
MORRIS TYLER
308 CHURCH STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONN.
PRESIDENT

RAYNHAM TOWNSEND, JR.
THE UNION & NEW HAVEN TRUST CO.
NEW HAVEN, CONN.
TREASURER

put under Fish P.B.B.
OQUOSSOC ANGLING ASSOCIATION

OQUOSSOC, MAINE

HARLAND R. KIDDER
RANGELEY, MAINE
SUPERINTENDANT

C. HUNTINGTON ERHART
WEST CORNWALL, CONN.
VICE-PRESIDENT

MILTON H. GLOVER
SIMSBURY, CONN.
SECRETARY

July 7, 1958

Hon. Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Baxter:

I was greatly pleased by your visit to Oquossoc Angling last Sunday, and to have the opportunity to chat with you about your memories of coming here as a boy.

I find in the register that you were at O.A.A. with your father on the following dates. May 30, 1883- May 24, 1884-May 26 1885-May 25, 1887- May 22, 1890. I find that Eugene R. Baxter and Rupert Baxter also were here with you at times. Another name that appears with yours at times is Geo. P. Barrett of Portland. You will without doubt recall this gentleman.

The following is taken from the fish records dated 1884.

"James P. Baxter Portland, Maine May 24, to June 3, six days fishing with his son Percival P. took fifty two fish, four of which weighed twenty four pounds. The largest was taken in Cupsuptic lake June 2nd, by Percival, and weighed seven and three quarters pounds before being dressed. The guide made his weight eight pounds, when taken from the water. The weight of the four fish when caught were as follows: 8 pounds, 6½ pounds, 5 pounds and 4½ pounds. total weight 24 pounds."

It was indeed an honor and a pleasure to have you visit Oquossoc Angling, and I do hope you will stop here again, at any time you are in the region.

Respectfully yours,



Harland R. Kidder Supt.

BAX
Folder

Baxter

1958
July 11

July
eleventh
1958

Dear Superintendent Kidder -

Your letter of July seventh has come to me with its record of fishing at your Association. You are most kind to give me this information and I thank you.

Well do I remember the several fishing expeditions which my late father and myself made when he was a member of your association. I recall them as among the most delightful days of my youth.

The reception you gave to my friend John Willey and myself was most cordial and certainly when I am in your vicinity again I shall stop and have another pleasant talk with you. If I come again I shall want to try the fishing in front of your camps if that is permitted because if I remember correctly that was a favored location.

I hope that you and your members have a wonderfully fine season. I know of no more beautiful location than yours, right at the head of that great chain of lakes than which there are no finer in our entire State.

With my personal regards and hoping that we may meet again.

Most cordially

To-

Mr. Harland R. Kidder
Superintendent
Oquossoc Angling Association
Oquossoc
Maine.

BAX
Folder
2

Baxter

1958
July 11

July eleventh
1 9 5 8

Dear Arthur -

A few days ago I went to Mooselookmeguntic chain of lakes and revisited the scenes of my boyhood when at seven years of age I went fishing with my father and caught that famous 8 pound squaretail trout.

My father was a member of the Oquossoc Angling Association and John Willey and I called there the other day. The Superintendent, Harland R. Kidder, was most cordial and he sent me the following record taken from the old books of this club, dated June 2, 1884.

"James P. Baxter, Portland, Maine. May 24, to June 3, six days fishing with his son Percival P. aged 7 years, took fifty two fish, four of which weighed twenty four pounds. The largest was taken in Cupsuptic lake June 2nd, by Percival, and weighed seven and three-quarters pounds before being dressed. The guide made his weight eight pounds when taken from the water. The weight of the four fish when caught were as follows: 8 pounds, 6 1/2 pounds, 5 pounds and 4 1/2 pounds, total weight 24 pounds."

Those were the days when fishing was fishing. May be Gene Letourneau would like to have this item for his column. I was just a small boy sitting in the middle of the boat, holding on to a short stubby rod with both hands and then I landed with my own efforts this 8 pounder. Of course I was a hero at the Club that day.

There is nothing sensational happening around here. The Summer is slipping by. Personally I look forward to cooler weather. Although I have crossed Africa and the Desert of Sahara in terrific heat I seem to mind it more here than in those places.

My best wishes to you and your little family.

Cordially

To-
Mr. Arthur G. Rogers
20 Edgewood Street
Waterville
Maine.

7

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER FISH ACCOUNT.

When I was six years of age in 1882 my father James P. Baxter took me on my first fishing trip to the Woods of Maine. Each year thereafter almost without interruption until his death in 1921 I accompanied him on his fishing trips. In this way I learned to love the woods, waters and wild life of Maine.

In the Spring of 1884, my third trip with my father, we went to Mooselookmeguntic Lake, staying at the Oquossoc Angling Association at Indian Rock. On the last day of our visit it was cold and rainy, but we fished just the same. I was a small boy of seven years, sitting on the middle seat and holding my rod with both hands. Fish were not biting. About an hour before dusk my father said to me "My boy; for every trout you catch five pounds or over I will give you \$10.00 per pound". In less than an hour, entirely by my own efforts, I brought an eight pound trout into the boat. I was the hero of the day.

That evening in the Club House where the members were sitting before the fire in due ceremony I was presented with eight \$10. bills. After I put these in my pocket one of the Club members said "Now young man what are you going to do with all this money?" My reply was made promptly "I am going to put it in the Bank". Everyone present was much amused. On returning to Portland I placed the money in the Bank and have left it there ever since, eighty years.

I should like to have this money used by the Fish and Game Department to purchase something for the State Museum or to be used to teach children about the Woods and Wild Life in our State.

17
NAA
Folder

Fish

"Percival P. Baxter's Fish Account", so reads the title of one of the accounts at a Portland Bank. Behind it is a 73 years old story of sound management, thrift and good sportsmanship.

The account was opened in 1884 when Percival P. Baxter, former Governor of Maine, was 7 years old. This actually started at Toothaker Cove in Cupsuptic Lake in the Rangeley region where young Baxter accompanied his father on the boy's 3rd Bishing trip. His first trip was when he was 5 years old and he has fished at home and abroad ever since.

On this particular occasion it was the last day of that trip and the fish weren't biting very well. The boy who later was to become one of Maine's outstanding benefactors was restless and the elder Baxter wanted to encourage his son and said to him "For every trout you ctach weighing 5 pounds or more I will give you \$10.00 per pound".

JP This offer had hardly been made when a huge fish struck the baited hook, ~~and~~ *I* identified by the guide as a trout because it kept lunging for deep water, ~~the~~ fish fought hard to break loose. Young Baxter, however, played it out as a veteran. It was a memorable fight. Eventually the speckled beauty rolling on the surface near the boat was neatly led into the net by Uncle Jerry ^{*Stacy*} the guide. It was an Eastern Square-tailed brook trout and weighed ^{*over*} ~~about~~ 8 pounds.

That evening at the dining-room of the Sporting Club the boy was the center of attraction, ~~and~~ ^{*Stacy*} as he ~~sat~~ in front of the camp fire his father handed him the \$80.00. One of the sportsmen asked the lad what he planned to do with all that money, ~~and~~ *The boy* *JP* promptly replied "I am going to put it in the Savings Bank". To-day the "Percival P. Baxter Fish Account" has remained untouched in the

Bank and has grown to more than \$1,000. in accumulated interest.

The former Governor donor of the famous Baxter Park in the Katahdin region has provided that some day this is to be used for the protection of wild life in our State.

The Baxters have been successful business people. They also have championed many things that others can enjoy. Former Governor Baxter's contributions are myriad, many directly affecting the young people and the natural resources of his State.

Mr. Baxter lives quietly at his home in Portland. One of the pictures on the walls shows him as 7 years old holding his great catch. It represents more than an ordinary trophy in the den of an unusual personality.

6.2 Public Perceptions

RESOLVES
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Ninety-first Legislature

1943

Chapter 1

RESOLVE, Expressing the Appreciation of the State for the Gifts of Lands to the State by the Honorable Percival Proctor Baxter.

Whereas, former Governor Percival Proctor Baxter has once again deeded valuable property to the state for the benefit of its citizens, and

Whereas, he has again stated his intent and purpose to carry to completion a project for the benefit of his state that transcends anything any other individual has done for his state.

Appreciation of the state for gifts from Hon. P. P. Baxter. Resolved: That the people of the state of Maine do hereby express their deep appreciation and gratitude for the generosity and public spirit of former Governor Percival Proctor Baxter in deeding to the state in trust certain lands to be used for public purposes; and be it further

Resolved: That a copy of this resolve duly authenticated by the secretary of state be forwarded by said secretary of state to the Hon. Percival Proctor Baxter.

Effective July 9, 1943

BAX
Folder

1948
Oct. 20

HORACE MARDEN ALBRIGHT
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

October 20, 1948

My dear Governor Baxter:

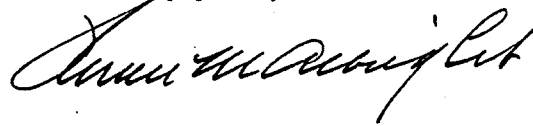
I returned Sunday from a long stay in the West. On inquiry today of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society I find that plans are going forward for the award of the medals on November 16th, depending, of course, upon whether the men to be honored can be here that day. This is giving you a little advance notice, I think, but I am sure you will hear officially in a day or two.

Your letter of September 3rd was forwarded to me in the West and I found it most interesting. Answering your inquiry, you will find that you are to be awarded the Gold Medal of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, known as the Pugsley Medal, in recognition of your activities in the field of conservation and particularly the establishment of the Baxter State Park and your parkway activities. This is the highest medal given in the United States for park achievement.

The Silver Medal will be awarded to Mr. Miner R. Tillotson, Regional Director of the National Park Service at Santa Fe, New Mexico and the Bronze Medal to Mr. Ellwood B. Chapman of Philadelphia for his park work in Pennsylvania.

Looking forward to seeing you, and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Percival P. Baxter
Portland 3,
Maine

Bax-
holder
"

McAneny

1948
Nov. 10

THE AMERICAN
SCENIC AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY

SUB-TREASURY BUILDING
WALL AND NASSAU STREETS
NEW YORK 5

WHITEHALL 4-0327

PRESIDENT

GEORGE MCANENY

VICE-PRESIDENTS

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

GEORGE A. BRAKELEY

N. TAYLOR PHILLIPS

VICE-PRESIDENT AND
TREASURER

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

TRUSTEES

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

OSCAR T. BARCK

ALGERNON D. BLACK

JULIAN P. BOYD

GEORGE A. BRAKELEY

BENJAMIN F. CASTLE

ALBERT B. COREY

MERRILL DENISON

ROBERT W. DOWLING

KNOWLTON DURHAM

RODMAN GILDER

ERIC GUGLER

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

CHAUNCEY J. HAMLIN

TALBOT HAMLIN

E. ROLAND HARRIMAN

MESSMORE KENDALL

FISKE KIMBALL

LE ROY E. KIMBALL

THOMSON KINGSFORD

GEORGE MCANENY

WARD MELVILLE

ALFRED V. S. OLCOTT

N. TAYLOR PHILLIPS

CHESTER D. PUGSLEY

HARVEY F. REMINGTON

FRANCIS S. RONALDS

MONTGOMERY SCHUYLER

CHARLES MESSER STOW

WILLIAM T. VAN ALSTYNE

JEREMIAH R. VAN BRUNT

CARL VAN DOREN

WILLIAM J. WALLIN

LAWRENCE GRANT WHITE

FREDERICK G. ZINSSER

COUNSEL

KNOWLTON DURHAM

SECRETARY

GARDNER OSBORN

November 10, 1948

Mr. Percival P. Baxter
Portland 3
Maine

Dear Mr. Baxter:

This Society awards each year a gold medal award for the most important public park service in the United States, a silver medal award for noteworthy public park work in the nation, and a bronze medal for a worthy contribution to public parks in the country, during the previous calendar year.

These medal awards are made possible through a fund created by Mr. Chester D. Pugsley of Peekskill, New York, in honor of his father, Honorable Cornelius A. Pugsley, for his interest in public parks as evidenced by his service as a member of the Westchester County Park Commission from its beginning to the time of his death, and his gift of a public park to the municipality of Peekskill.

This year the Society wishes to honor you with the award of its Gold Medal, and invites you to be its guest on Monday evening, November 22, at a dinner to be held at the Century Club, 7 West 43 Street, New York City, at 6:30 o'clock, dress informal. This dinner will be attended by other medal recipients and members of the Board of Trustees of the Society.

Trusting to learn that this engagement will be convenient and looking forward to receiving you at the Century Club upon the occasion of the medal awards, I am

Sincerely yours,


George McAneny
President

Box
Folder
11

Scarborough, C. R.

1952
Apr 15

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Acadia National Park
Bar Harbor, Maine

April 15, 1952

Hon. Percival P. Baxter

Portland, Maine

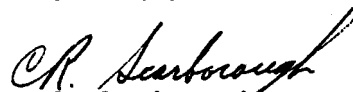
My Dear Mr. Baxter:

Attached hereto is a copy of a letter this office received from the Director's Office in Washington.

The Mather Collection is an assemblage of photographs and biographical data of present and past Park Service employees, of members of the group concerned with administration of the National Parks before the Service was established, and of men and women who in various official and unofficial capacities have had an active connection with or concern with a single area or with the system.

It will be greatly appreciated if you will send this office or the Director's Office a photograph of yourself with a short biographical sketch. Apparently this material is to be used for inclusion in the Mather Collection in the Library of Congress in Washington.

Very truly yours,


C. R. Scarborough
Acting Superintendent

Enclosure

BAX
Folder
"

Baxter, R.R.

1952
Apr 22

April
twenty-second
1 9 5 2

Dear Mr. Scarborough -

Your letter of April fifteenth is before me and as requested I am sending you a recent photograph of myself and a brief biographical statement which I have copied from "WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA".

Will you please forward the above to the National Park Service in Washington in accordance with their request to you of April eleventh.

I am pleased to have my name and the BAXTER STATE PARK included in the Mather collection.

Yours very truly

To-

Mr. C. R. Scarborough
Acting Superintendent
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Acadia National Park
Bar Harbor
Maine.

enclosure

BAX
older
58

1954
Jan. 20

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR EUSTON K. CROSS - JANUARY 20, 1954 - BEFORE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL,
HON. PERCIVAL P. BARTER, FRIENDS AND GUESTS.

Over forty years ago Percival P. Barter, then a young member of the Maine Legislature, became keenly aware of the wild, unspoiled beauty of the Katahdin region.

Then, in his mind's eye, he saw this region preserved for all time as a retreat for Maine's citizens and her visitors; as a place that would remain unchanged in its primitive beauty and glory down through the ages; as a spot that would stand forever as a barrier to encroaching civilization; as a preserve where the birds and animals of the forest could find refuge for all time, and where they could be admired for their grace and beauty by all mankind.

Through five legislative sessions, and through two terms as Governor of Maine, he worked unceasingly to have this vision, this dream come true; to have the State purchase and set aside a part, at least, of this beautiful region.

However, his plan to have the State acquire by purchase part of this region and set it up as a State Park met defeat.

Undaunted, and still a young man, Governor Barter made up his mind that the people of Maine would have a Katahdin Park.

Shortly after he left public office he not only started, but has to this day continued, to acquire various tracts in our beautiful Katahdin area.

Up to the present, and including this gift, he has obtained 162,839 acres; 141,712 acres of which have already by Governor Barter been given and deeded to the State of Maine.

This gift contains an additional 21,127 acres.

The very magnitude of these gifts are immensely impressive.

Here the human visitor may look upon the land and waters of original wilderness, and in imagination think of himself as its first discoverer as it was and ever had been from the early days of the post-glacial period.

As a site for such untouched wilderness and scenic beauty, no spot in the northeast could have been chosen with greater discrimination.

Katahdin should always and must remain the wild, storm-swept, untouched-by-man region it now is. That is its greatest charm.

Katahdin as it is today and as it will be tomorrow (through the farseeing generosity of Governor Baxter) furnishes facilities for recreation amid scenery of inspirational grandeur, and all who go there can say with the apostle of old, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."

Governor Baxter's life's work has been devoted to acquiring this Katahdin region for the benefit of the people of Maine, and for those who come to us from beyond our borders.

As the years roll on this State Park will be enjoyed by an ever-increasing number of people.

In recommending and, I may say, accepting this your most recent gift to the people of Maine (for I am certain that my Council join with me), I can do no better than to in part restate from my letter to you dated April 9, 1953, on which occasion you presented the people of Maine a large sum of money for the erection of a school on Mackworth Island and for the bridge or causeway leading thereto:

"Your unselfish love for the State of Maine and its people has many times been demonstrated by the great riches and enduring benefit you have bestowed upon the people of Maine.

"With a very real sense of satisfaction and gratitude we accept for the people of Maine, and on their behalf, this gift.

"As ever, you match the richness of your gifts with great modesty."

"This gift, together with your other gifts, will endure to a greater and more richly-living future which is the measure of the spirit of the giver and the measure of the spirit and gratitude of the inheritors, the people of the State of Maine."

We all thank you, Governor Baxter

Burton M. Cross
Governor of Maine

Chapter 174

**RESOLVE, for a Recess Commission to Erect a Suitable Memorial for
Honorable Percival P. Baxter of Portland.**

Special Recess Commission for Memorial to Hon. Percival P. Baxter. Resolved: That a Special Recess Commission, composed of 2 members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate and 3 members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and 2 citizens to be appointed by the Governor be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to erect a suitable memorial in appreciation by the People of the State of Maine for the service and altruistic generosity of Honorable Percival P. Baxter of Portland to the People of the State of Maine; and be it further

Resolved: That the sum of \$17,500 be, and hereby is, appropriated from the unappropriated surplus of the general fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve and the Commission is hereby authorized to receive and use such contributions and funds that may become available from other sources; and be it further

Resolved: That all members of the Commission shall be entitled to their actual expenses for their services when engaged in the official business of the Commission; and be it further

Resolved: That the Commission shall, at the next regular or special session of the Legislature, make a written report of its accomplishments; and be it further

Resolved: That the plans and specifications for such memorial, and all expenditures proposed for the erection and dedication thereof, shall be subject to the approval of the Governor and Council.

Effective August 20, 1955

RESOLVES, 1957

MEMORIAL FOR HON. PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

1027
CHAP. 90

Chapter 90

RESOLVE, Amending Resolve for Memorial for Honorable Percival P. Baxter of Portland.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, under the provisions of Chapter 174 of the Resolves of 1955, the Legislature appropriated funds for a suitable memorial for Honorable Percival P. Baxter of Portland; and

Whereas, the purposes of the Resolve have as yet not been accomplished because of unforeseen difficulties; and

Whereas, the funds appropriated by the Resolve will lapse unless the following legislation is passed; and

Whereas, if such funds lapse, the purposes of the Resolve of the 97th Legislature will be unattainable; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine, and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now therefore, be it

Resolves, 1955, c. 174, amended. Resolved: That chapter 174 of the Resolves of 1955 be, and hereby is, amended by adding after the 1st paragraph thereof, the following paragraph:

'Resolved: That any vacancy arising in the membership of the Senate shall be filled by the President of the Senate and any vacancy arising in the membership of the House of Representatives shall be filled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further'

Resolves, 1955, c. 174, amended. Resolved: That the 2nd paragraph of chapter 174 of the Resolves of 1955 be, and hereby is, amended to read as follows:

'That the sum of \$17,500 be, and hereby is, appropriated from the unappropriated surplus of the general fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve and the Commission is hereby authorized to receive and use such contributions and funds that may become available from other sources; that any balances remaining of the \$17,500 appropriation shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account until the purposes of this resolve have been accomplished; and be it further'

Resolves, 1955, c. 174, amended. Resolved: That the 4th paragraph of chapter 174 of the Resolves of 1955 be, and hereby is, repealed and the following paragraph enacted in place thereof:

'Resolved: That the Commission shall, at the next regular or special session of the Legislature, make a written report of its accomplishments; and be it further'

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.



Wirth

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Indian

1958
June 30
IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7019-R

Park
per P. P. B.
JUN 30 1958

Hon. Percival P. Baxter
562 Congress Street
Portland 3, Maine

Dear Governor Baxter:

Recently I had an opportunity to drive through the northern and western portions of Baxter State Park, as part of a brief trip into New England. The park is a magnificent area with very beautiful lakes and streams, majestic mountain scenery, and delightful forest roads and trails. As I drove through the park I thought many times of the vision and generosity of the man who acquired this great area and gave it to the people of Maine for their inspiration and benefit for all time.

Great as the value of the park is now, its value will increase in future years as our population increases and areas of wild land diminish.

I hope that the next time I am in Maine I will have the pleasure of meeting you. My old boss and good friend Horace Albright has spoken highly of you on many occasions and I would consider it a great privilege to get better acquainted with one who has done so much for park conservation. I would have called on you on this trip but I came through Portland on a Sunday morning.

Sincerely yours,

Conrad L. Wirth
Director

Folded
58

July 3

July
third
1958

Dear Director Wirth -

In re: L7019-R

Your letter of June thirtieth has come to me and I am pleased that you were able to see something of our State Park at Katahdin. To have a man like yourself approve of this project means everything to me.

It was a genuine disappointment not to have seen you when you were in Maine. I hope that when you come again I shall have the privilege of meeting you and obtaining helpful advice.

A few years ago Mr. Albright came to Maine and we went through the Park together. He has kept informed about the Park over the years and has been an inspiration to me.

My kind regards.

Most cordially

To-

Honorable Conrad L. Wirth
Director National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25
D. C.

BAX
Felt
1958

Douglas

1958
Oct 5

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington 25, D. C.

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS

October 5, 1959

Dear Governor:

I first knew the Katahdin area in the 20s when it was largely owned by lumber and other interests. I had not seen it for 25 years. When I returned last week I was overjoyed at the park you created. It is one of the most wonderful areas in our entire nation.

All of us owe you a great debt for your generosity and your farsightedness.

It is a wonderful creation and as a private citizen I thank you from my heart.

Yours faithfully,



Hon. Percival C. Baxter
Portland, Maine

KAX
Folder
58

Baxter

1959
Oct 13

October
thirteenth
1 9 5 9

My dear Justice Douglas -

To receive a letter of commendation such as yours of October fifth from a man who stands at the peak of our National life is an unexpected recognition for which a man well may be proud. It touches my heart. It is good to know that all went well on your Katahdin journey. I hope you will come to us again for this State is honored by your presence. I am indebted to you for your gracious and friendly message and wish you a continuance of good health and peace of mind.

Your book "West of the Indus" tells an interesting story of far away unknown regions. If any one is entitled to be called a world wide traveler it is yourself. You have had many thrilling and dangerous experiences. I am pleased that you came through without scars.

This Autumn I have made one trip to the Katahdin area and now with clear northwest winds and bright sunshine may yield to the temptation to go again.

My kindest wishes and thanking you for your encouragement.

Most cordially

To-
Honorable William O. Douglas
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington 25
D. C.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STATE PARKS

INCORPORATED

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT, NEW YORK, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
WILLIAM W. WELLS, LOUISIANA, PRESIDENT

SIDNEY S. KENNEDY, WASHINGTON, D. C.
VICE PRESIDENT

EARL P. HANSON, CALIFORNIA
VICE PRESIDENT

C. F. JACOBSEN, WASHINGTON, D. C.
TREASURER

C. H. ARMSTRONG, OREGON
KENNETH R. COUGILL, INDIANA
DR. LAURIE D. COX, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARLES A. DE TURK, CALIFORNIA
ARTHUR G. ELMER, MICHIGAN
JAMES F. EVANS, NEW YORK
V. W. FLICKINGER, OHIO
WILLIAM M. HAY, GEORGIA
POLK HERBERT, LOUISIANA

U. W. HELLA, MINNESOTA
C. WEST JACOCKS, SOUTH CAROLINA
HARLEAN JAMES, WASHINGTON, D. C.
CLINTON G. JOHNSON, KENTUCKY
JOSEPH F. KAYLOR, MARYLAND
HAROLD W. LATHROP, COLORADO
EDWARD J. MEEHAN, TENNESSEE
CHARLES MONROE, OKLAHOMA
THOMAS W. MORSE, NORTH CAROLINA
A. NEWTON MOYE, GEORGIA

FRANK D. QUINN, TEXAS
LEE C. ROBINSON, NEW MEXICO
JAMES L. SEGRETT, TEXAS
BRYAN STEARNS, ARKANSAS
JACK D. STRAIN, NEBRASKA
JOHN R. VANDERZICHT, WASHINGTON
TOM WALLACE, KENTUCKY
HAROLD E. WAGNER, OHIO
CONRAD L. WIRTH, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MRS. DORA A. PADGETT, ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
901 UNION TRUST BUILDING—PHONE METROPOLITAN 8-3026
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N. Y.
March 22, 1960

Honorable Percival P. Baxter
Portland, Maine

My dear Governor:

I have been on a trip to California and upon my return I learn that you doubt very much whether you can attend the National Conference on State Parks which is to meet at Rockland in September. This news was extremely disappointing to me and greatly lessens my enthusiasm for the meeting in Maine. As Chairman of the National Conference on State Parks, I have been quite excited about the Conference because of the opportunity I thought it would give me to have another good visit with you, and I think I can safely say that I had something to do with the plan to devote an evening to your great work in establishing the Baxter State Park. It would be a serious disaster to the program if you cannot be with us that night.

It is probably a little difficult for you to realize how important you are in the State Park movement in this country. Your achievement in establishing the great Baxter State Park stands almost alone in park history, and if it is to be compared with any others it would have to be with the purchase of the Palisades opposite New York by J. P. Morgan and George W. Perkins about sixty years ago and the gift of the Bear Mountain and adjacent park lands around West Point by Mrs. E. H. Harriman and her sons Averell and Roland. However, these areas are very small compared with the vast territory of mountains, forests, lakes and rivers that you have acquired in your native State.

I would appreciate it very much if you would reconsider your tentative conclusion about attending the Conference at Rockland and tell me that you will surely be there.

Just think, Governor, it will soon be seven years since you and I had that wonderful trip together. I often give myself the pleasure of looking over the pictures and slides and recalling the happy days we had traveling in that lovely North Maine country.

With best regards and good wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,


Horace M. Albright

HMA:KW

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STATE PARKS

AIMS AND OBJECTS

The object of the Conference is to inform the public through a central clearing house of information, publications, conferences and by other educational means, of the value of state parks, monuments, historic sites and other types of areas suitable for recreation, study of history, natural history and science, preservation of wildlife, and conservation of natural scenery and cultural resources through establishment and operation of well-balanced state park systems; to the end that every citizen of the United States shall have easy access to state recreation areas and appreciate their value; and to encourage adequate state park agencies and programs, including the establishment of civil service policies and standards of selection, development and administration.

The Conference shall also have as its objects:

1. To secure the cooperation of all state park agencies in the establishment of a national system of state parks, monuments, historic sites and other types of areas suitable for recreation, study of history, natural history and science, preservation of wildlife, and conservation of natural scenery and cultural resources.

2. To secure the cooperation of all state park agencies in the establishment of a national system of state parks, monuments, historic sites and other types of areas suitable for recreation, study of history, natural history and science, preservation of wildlife, and conservation of natural scenery and cultural resources.

3. To secure the cooperation of all state park agencies in the establishment of a national system of state parks, monuments, historic sites and other types of areas suitable for recreation, study of history, natural history and science, preservation of wildlife, and conservation of natural scenery and cultural resources.

4. To secure the cooperation of all state park agencies in the establishment of a national system of state parks, monuments, historic sites and other types of areas suitable for recreation, study of history, natural history and science, preservation of wildlife, and conservation of natural scenery and cultural resources.

5. To secure the cooperation of all state park agencies in the establishment of a national system of state parks, monuments, historic sites and other types of areas suitable for recreation, study of history, natural history and science, preservation of wildlife, and conservation of natural scenery and cultural resources.

WMA
Folder
46

WATER

1960
April 7

April seventh
1960

Dear Mr. Albright -

Your letter of March twenty-second has come and I am happy to hear from you. What you say about our State Park at Katahdin is far too generous. However, there is no one whose approval means as much to me for in park affairs you stand head and shoulders above all others.

As the years pass I must lessen my public activities for I find it is not as easy as it used to be to carry them through. As one grows older the need for slowing down must be recognized.

To come to Rockland and attend the meetings of the State Park Conference would be something more than I should attempt. It is a pity to be obliged to admit this but I am quite sure you will understand. Your Conference will be most worth while and I deeply regret that I shall not be with you.

Long shall I remember the pleasure you gave us when you came to Katahdin several years ago. Would that we might meet again under such pleasant surroundings.

With my kindest regards.

Cordially

To-
Honorable Horace M. Albright
United States Borax & Chemical Corporation
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York City 20
New York.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7019-RSC

JUL 31 1961

Hon. Percival P. Baxter
562 Congress Street
Portland 3, Maine

Dear Mr. Baxter:

I learned only recently of your half-million dollar gift to provide income for the maintenance of Baxter State Park. This is a crowning touch to assure that your generous gifts of land will be properly preserved for all time. I am sure that the citizens of Maine, as well as those of the entire Nation, will forever cherish the park and will be extremely grateful for your remarkable achievement in park conservation.

We in the National Park Service salute you!

Sincerely yours,

Conrad L. Wirth
Director

BAX
Folder
4-11-62

Udall

1962
June 5



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1962

Dear Governor Baxter:

As I previously indicated, in recognition of your outstanding contribution to the cause of conservation, this Department has granted to you its highest acknowledgement of achievement--its Conservation Service Award.

I am sorry that you were unable to attend our Awards Convocation of May 25, 1962, so that you could have received your certificate in person. I am, however, planning to be in Maine on July 6 through 8 and would like to take that opportunity to meet you and perform the honor of personally bestowing our award on you.

Senator Muskie's office, I am told, is arranging the details of this meeting and I am certain they will be writing to you in the very near future in order to provide additional information.

With best wishes to you, I am

Sincerely,

Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Percival P. Baxter
92 West Street
Portland 3, Maine

BAX
Folder

Baxter

1902
June

June
twelfth
1 9 6 2

Dear Secretary Udall -

Your letter of June fifth has come to me and I thank you. As you plan to be in Maine July 6th through July 8th I shall be here and shall be much pleased to have you come to our City. No doubt Senator Muskie will inform me as to details.

To be given a CONSERVATION SERVICE AWARD is a recognition I never dreamed of. Through the years I have carried on my work quietly and now am happy to have the approval of you and your Department.

Cordially, and looking forward to meeting
you.

To-

Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington
D. C.

BAX
Folder
//

BAXTER

1962
Aug. 8

August
eighth
1 9 6 2

Dear Secretary Udall -

Your coming to Portland some weeks ago to present me the Citation approving my Katahdin project was a wonderful tribute. This touched my heart and I never can adequately thank you for your approval and for the nation-wide recognition which your visit and your presentation accorded me.

To have a man like yourself at the head of our great Interior Department take the trouble to come here and also to include in his publication "A Green Legacy" an indorsement of my conservation work over the years means everything to me.

In your story you speak of Stephen Mather and if I remember correctly I corresponded with him and talked with Governor Pinchot in regard to conservation matters. I never had the privilege of talking with President Roosevelt but was in sympathy with his ideas in regard to our natural resources.

Again, my deep appreciation and hoping that you are able to enjoy the Summer in some of the great areas under your control.

Cordially

To-

Honorable Stuart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington
D. C.

True Copy

Attest

August T. Winslow
Secretary of the Senate

BAX
Fol. 1.5
80

Portland, Maine
January 3, 1963

To-

Honorable John H. Reed, Governor
and the
Honorable Senators and Representatives
of the 101st Legislature of the
State of Maine

Without doubt you are familiar with what has been done in the creation of Baxter State Park in the Katahdin region.

Beginning with my communication of March 3, 1931, addressed to Honorable William T. Gardiner, Governor, the State has accepted from me by Legislative Acts gifts totaling 193,254 acres of forest land, forever to be held in TRUST for Public Park, Public Recreational and for Public Forestry purposes the same forever to be kept in its Natural Wild State.

These areas from year to year have been conveyed by me to the State and have been accepted in legal form by the several Governors and Legislatures in office during the period from 1931 to 1961.

A recent gift of 7,764 acres, the Legislature not being in Session, has been accepted by the Governor and Executive Council acting under the provisions of the Statutes. I now request you to confirm the acceptance of this latest gift of 7,764 acres of August 6, 1962 so that all my gifts of forest land to the people of Maine will have been accepted by the duly elected Governors and Legislatures of our State over this 31-year period. The acceptance of this gift will add to this Park 7,764 acres of forest land and will complete the record of my 31 years' (1931-1962) gifts of 201,018 acres made to and accepted by the people of the State of Maine.

In order to complete the record, I request that this communication of January 3, 1963, together with the accompany Act and Deed, be published in the Laws of Maine 1963.

It is interesting to note that in my formal letter to Governor Gardiner in 1931, when my first gift was about 6,000 acres, I said "I expect some day to see my ambition realized." (Laws of Maine 1931). This brings to an end an interesting incident in Maine history.

Respectfully,

READ AND PLACED ON FILE
in both branches
Jan 30, 1963

PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER

(CD 259)

STATE OF MAINE

In Senate January 29, 1963

Ordered, the House concurring, in order that the record of the gift of PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER to the State of Maine as trustee in trust 7,764 acres in Township 2, Range 9, W.E.L.S., Piscataquis County, State of Maine, be complete and in enduring form, the Communication dated January 3, 1963, addressed by said Baxter to the Honorable John H. Reed, Governor, and to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the 101st Legislature, together with the message of Governor Reed transmitting such communication to the Legislature, be printed in the Laws of 1963.

(SP 261)

Name: **BROOKS**

County: **Cumberland**

IN SENATE CHAMBER

JAN 29 1963

READ AND PASSED
SENT DOWN FOR CONCURRENCE
CHESTER J. WINSLOW
SECRETARY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Read and Passed

JAN 30 1963

In concurrence
HARVEY R. PEASE, CLERK

cerpt from Legislative Record of January 30th, 1963.

MR. BROOKS Of Cumberland: Mr. President and members of the Senate: It is with great personal pride and great pleasure that I present this bill this morning.

In this age of missiles, great technological advances and social upheavals throughout our world, it is very much a pleasure for me to bring to the attention of this Senate and the citizens of Maine once again the fact that without our boundaries we have a State Park consisting of over 200,000 acres, known as Baxter State Park. This State Park in its majesty and beauty is unsurpassed anywhere.

I am sure that the donor of this park and the additional tract of land which is to become a part of this State Park, the Honorable Percival P. Baxter, is aware of the full significance that the impact of such a gift has on us and will have on succeeding generations, yes -- forever.

Particularly, this gift at this time emphasizes to us what we of this generation are increasingly becoming aware: that is, the importance of the conservation of our natural resources.

In accepting this gift, it must be noted that PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER has had the privilege to live to see this great park expanded to its present tremendous size. He must realize too, how much we, the citizens of Maine, appreciate his generosity. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair appreciates the remarks of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brooks, and in behalf of the Senate of this State and of the Citizens of Maine, the generosity of Ex-Governor Baxter is again appreciated.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bangor,
Mr. WELLMAN.

80
MR. WELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I will shortly move that we suspend the rules so that we may accept this bill and give it its several readings today. However, before we undertake such action, I would like to make a few brief comments concerning this gift and its place in the total gifts that Governor Baxter has given to the State.

In 1931 he gave 7,000 acres which included the mountain itself in the part; in 1938 he gave 6,000 acres; in 1939, 6,000 acres; in 1940, 4,174 acres; in 1941, 12,000 acres; in 1942, another 12,000 acres; in 1943, another 12,000 acres; in 1944, 24,000 acres; in 1945, 35,000 acres; in 1947, 10,000 acres; in 1949, 14,000 acres, and in 1955, 53,000 acres, making a total at that time of 93,254 acres.

During this period, he made a donation to help with the road construction in the park and also gave to the State his summer residence, Mackworth Island, and the bridge connecting it with the mainland, as a school for the deaf. In 1953 he gave \$675,000.00 in connection with that particular institution.

In the last session, you will remember, he gave \$498,000.00 in trust for the maintenance and care of Baxter State Park, and so now this Legislature is being asked to approve the action of the Council accepting 7,764 acres to complete a program for the State and the people of Maine of a part of 200,000 acres.

I think we should note in Governor Baxter's letter to Governor Gardiner in 1931 where he said: "I expect someday to see my ambition realized." This day is now here. His ambition has been realized.

With great and characteristic modesty Governor Baxter ends his letter to Governor Reed by saying: "This brings to an end an interesting incident in Maine history." I suggest to you that this is not an end, but this is rather a beginning, a beginning of a great Park and a great program for the people of the State of Maine and indeed for the people of this Country.

I now move, Mr. Speaker, that we suspend the rules so that we can give this bill its several readings today.

Thereupon, the Bill was given its three several readings under suspension of the rules and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED without reference to a Committee in concurrence.

.....

1707
Aug. 26

August 26, 1964.

Helon L. Taylor,
Baxter State Park
Millinocket, Maine.

Dear Helon:-

For some time I have tried to find the picture of the tablet on Baxter Peak. I well remember being there with a group from the State House.

Enclosed is a copy of the tablet and it might be well to place it in a conspicuous location in some of the camps. If you want other copies I will send them to you.

Time rolls on and I certainly hope to be with you in September.

I think your suggestion about going to Mrs. Chases' house is what I should do. I will write you as soon as I come to a decision.

Sincerely,

Percival P. Baxter

B/C

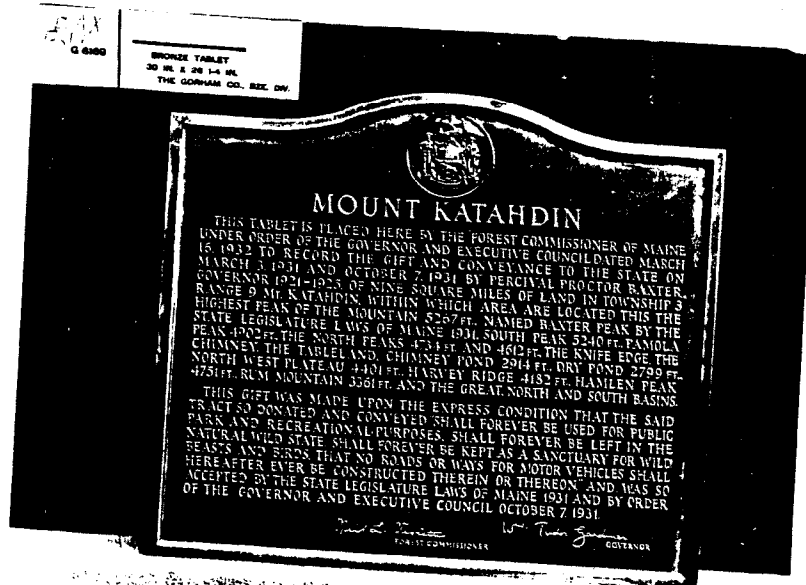
BRONZE TABLET PLACED ON BOULDER AT
BAXTER PEAK (5267 feet) 1932

THIS TABLET IS PLACED HERE BY THE FOREST COMMISSIONER OF MAINE UNDER ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DATED MARCH 16, 1932 TO RECORD THE GIFT AND CONVEYANCE TO THE STATE ON MARCH 3, 1931 AND OCTOBER 7, 1931 BY PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER, GOVERNOR 1921-1925, OF NINE SQUARE MILES OF LAND IN TOWNSHIP 3 RANGE 9 MT. KATAHDIN, WITHIN WHICH AREA ARE LOCATED THIS THE HIGHEST PEAK OF THE MOUNTAIN 5267 ft. NAMED BAXTER PEAK BY THE LEGISLATURE LAWS OF MAINE 1931. SOUTH PEAK 5249 ft., PANOLA PEAK 4902 ft., THE NORTH PEAKS 4734 ft and 4612 ft. THE KNIFE EDGE, THE CHIMNEY, THE TABLELAND, CHIMNEY POND 2914 ft., DRY POND 2799 ft., NORTH WEST PLATEAU 4401 ft., HARVEY RIDGE 5182 ft., HAMLEN PEAK 4761 ft., RUM MOUNTAIN 3361 ft., AND THE GREAT NORTH AND SOUTH BASINS.

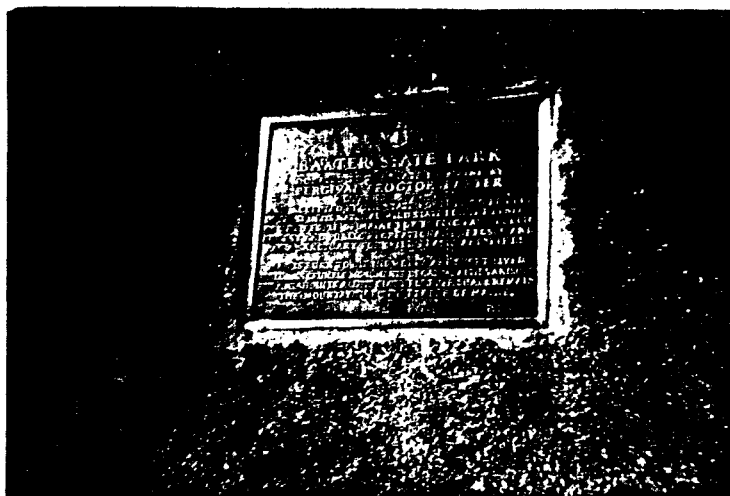
THIS GIFT WAS MADE UPON THE EXPRESS CONDITION THAT THE SAID TRACT SO DONATED AND CONVEYED "SHALL FOREVER BE USED FOR PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES. SHALL FOREVER BE LEFT IN THE NATURAL WILD STATE. SHALL FOREVER BE KEPT AS A SANCTUARY FOR WILD BEASTS AND BIRDS. THAT NO ROADS OR WAYS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES SHALL HEREAFTER EVER BE CONSTRUCTED THEREIN OR THEREON" AND WAS SO ACCEPTED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE LAWS OF MAINE 1931 AND BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OCTOBER 7, 1931.

William Tudor Gardiner
GOVERNOR

Niel L. Violette
FOREST COMMISSIONER



SEP 56



STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
102ND LEGISLATURE

Remarks by:

Honorable Dana W. Childs
Speaker, Maine House of Representatives
March 24, 1965, at Unveiling of 102nd Maine Legislature's
Tribute to Honorable Percival P. Baxter

It is the hope of the Members of this 102nd Maine Legislature that the observance of "Welcome Back Day" will long be remembered by our friends and fellow legislators who have met in this venerable state capitol to make and to renew friendships... to exchange words and ideas in an atmosphere of good fellowship and common purpose.

The ceremony in which we are engaged at this moment is one that perhaps will make this a day to be remembered . . . a day of uplifted spirits and of renewal of our faith in a way of life that is unique to Maine.

It is our purpose to pay homage and honor to one of Maine's most notable living sons.

History will mark him as one of the truly Greats among the sons of the Pine Tree State. It will recognize, and record, that he was a man successful in every endeavor he undertook . . . as a businessman, as a Legislator, and as Governor.

I venture to say, however, that the name of Percival Proctor Baxter will be remembered because of the kindness, the civic-mindedness, and the generosity of a truly great man. You who have served your State with faithfulness and distinction will not forget that over the successive years, for more than three decades, the abounding good will of Governor Baxter was expressed in his gifts to the State . . . gifts that have multiplied into the multi-acred wilderness park with a perfect beauty surpassing even that of a State already richly endowed by nature.

Nothing that we do or say here today can commensurate with the gifts that Percival Proctor Baxter has so generously given to us, and to the generations that will follow us. In Baxter State Park he has created a monument to Maine and her people that will grow in beauty and rarity as our Nation and our State grow.

To give full measure of our appreciation for the gift, we.... on your behalf as well as ours . . . have endeavored to create an emblem that would be as timeless as is Mount Katahdin.

We have sought to express our feelings in immemorial bronze so that the generations that will follow us will know how deep was our gratitude for benefactions that will outlast the works of man.

More.....

UNVEIL BAS RELIEF

May I read the inscription with which we have sought to express our feelings toward our distinguished fellow citizen: I shall quote --

"Among Men, A Mountain. Katahdin in All Its Glory Forever Shall Remain the Mountain of the People of Maine.

"To the Honorable Percival Proctor Baxter, Governor, Statesman, and Public Benefactor, the People of the State of Maine Express Their Deep Appreciation For a Lifetime Devoted to the Creation and the Giving of This 200,000 Acre Shrine of Wild Natural Beauty, Baxter State Park. By Its Action, the 102nd Maine Legislature Makes Perpetual This Grateful Tribute To a Great Man's Love of His State and of His Fellow Man." End of Inscription. . . .

This is our tribute to a great and greatly loved man of Maine. As he has said, "Katahdin will forever remain the mountain of the people of Maine."

To this I can only add: He, Percival Proctor Baxter, will forever remain in the hearts of the citizens of Maine. We of the 102nd Maine Legislature and you of Legislatures past . . . salute him.

Commissioner Austin H. Wilkins, as Chairman of the Baxter State Park Authority, will accept on behalf of Governor Baxter.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

3/24/65

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER
FORTLAND, MAINE

March 25, 1965.

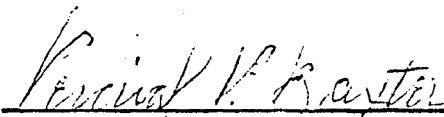
Honorable Austin H. Wilkins,
Chairman Baxter State Park Authority.

You have informed me that the members of the 102nd State Legislature now in session, have prepared a bronze tablet or plaque to be placed in some suitable location as a token of their appreciation for my gifts to our State of certain funds and areas of forest land now known as BAXTER STATE PARK.

This recognition warms my heart for it speaks for all the people of our State to whom I give my heartfelt thanks. Nothing could be finer or more friendly. I love the land of Maine and its people.

I am sure you all will stand by me in the spirit of these few lines of dedication:

// Man is born to die
His works are short lived
Buildings crumble
Monuments decay
Wealth vanishes
But Katahdin in all its glory
Forever shall stand
As the mountain of the People of Maine."


Percival P. Baxter

BAX
Folder
36

Welcome Back Day

1180
Mar. 27

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
102nd LEGISLATURE

PORTLAND, MAINE

March 25, 1965

Message From Governor Percival P. Baxter

You have informed me that the members of the 102nd State Legislature now in session, have prepared a bronze tablet or plaque to be placed in some suitable location as a token of their appreciation for my gifts to our State of certain funds and areas of forest land now known as BAXTER STATE PARK.

This recognition warms my heart for it speaks for all the people of our State to whom I give my heartfelt thanks. Nothing could be finer or more friendly. I love the land of Maine and its people.

I am sure you all will stand by me in the spirit of these few lines of dedication:

Man is born to die
His works are short lived
Buildings crumble
Monuments decay
Wealth vanishes
But Katahdin in all its glory
Forever shall stand
As the mountain of the People of Maine.

(Signed) Percival P. Baxter
Percival P. Baxter

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk
of the House.
3/24/65

GOVERNOR REED
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SOUTH DAKOTA

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

Governor Reed, officers and members of the 102nd Legislature, past guest legislators, members of the Council, and ladies and gentlemen. It is with a deep sense of humility that I accept this beautiful plaque on behalf of Honorable Percival P. Baxter. In the presence of all assembled in this historic hall, I have been commissioned to read a statement personally prepared by the man being honored today.

Mr. Wilkins

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

GOVERNOR REED

BAX Douglas, Wm. O.
Elder
58

1965
July 17

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington 25, D. C.

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS

July 19, 1965

Dear Ed

Oswald Baxter is our
foremost conservationist. He was
a pioneer whose voice pleaded
for wilderness values when
exploitation was the theme of the
day. Biologist, botanist,
ecologist — he has helped
educate two generations of
Americans on the spiritual
values of the outdoors, of
free-flowing rivers, of alpine
meadows, of cold pure
springs

W. O. Douglas

BAX
Folder
58

Johnson

1965
July 8

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 8, 1965

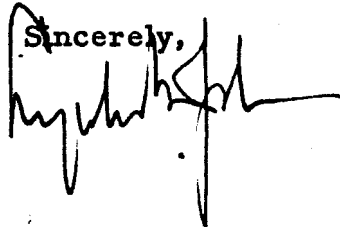
Dear Mr. Smith:

I was delighted to receive your letter of praise and admiration for the exemplary work of Governor Percival Baxter, and I gladly join in high tribute to his impressive record of accomplishment.

His selfless contributions have inspired countless men and women who have filled the ranks of our conservation movement. Through his dedication and initiative, he has richly earned the pride of the people of Maine and the deep gratitude of Americans everywhere.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,



Mr. Edmund Ware Smith
Damariscotta
Maine



Udall

1965
June 27

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

June 29, 1965

asked - 1/6/67

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. whose land philanthropies were legion, once observed that the finest and most lasting gift any person ^{could} ~~can~~ make to posterity ^{was} ~~is~~ a beautiful tract of land. Percival P. Baxter has fulfilled this ideal in a unique way by his gift of some of the finest mountain scenery in America to the people of this country. He has left his name on the land -- and our children will thank him for it.

Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior

6.3 Wills and Trusts

Folder
82

Nov. 15

BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND
TRUST COMPANY



100 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02106

AREA CODE 617 LIBERTY 2-9450

ROBERT E. DOBBYN
VICE PRESIDENT

November 15, 1966

The Honorable Percival P. Baxter
92 West Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Governor Baxter: Re: 1-68 Trust u/Ind. Percival P. Baxter

In the absence of Mr. Rowlings, I am happy to enclose your original Will dated September 9, 1966, as you requested over the telephone today.

The two original amendments to your trust (1-68); namely, the last amendment dated September 9, 1966 and the amendment to the trust dated May 18, 1966, are now a part of your original trust instrument dated July 6, 1927, and therefore, as trustee of your trust, we should hold them here in our vault. However, if you need additional copies, we would be more than happy to send them along to you. I understand that you now have the copies of the two amendments referred to, which Mr. Rowlings sent you last week.

Mr. Rowlings is expected back to the office on Thursday and if there is any further information you need, I know he will get it for you.

Sincerely yours,

RED:mha
Enclosure (1)
Registered Mail
Return Receipt Requested
Special Delivery

Mr. Fox

STATE OF MAINE

Inter-Departmental Memorandum Date April 24, 1968

To Austin H. Wilkins, Commissioner

Dept. Forestry

From James S. Erwin

Dept. Attorney General

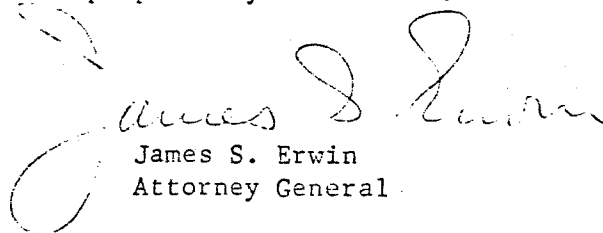
Subject Proposed Trust of Former Governor Baxter

It is my understanding the former Governor Baxter intends to give a certain sum of money in trust to the State of Maine, and the Governor and Executive Council of the State are to act as trustees in investing and administering the principal and income of the trust funds. The trust funds are to be used for the establishment of state forests and the maintenance of state forests under the multiple use concept. The Forest Commissioner is to have the duty and responsibility of discovering and recommending to the Governor and Executive Council, as Trustees, parcels of land that could be purchased in keeping with the purposes of the trust. The Governor and Executive Council are to select the lands to be purchased with the trust funds from lands recommended by the Forest Commissioner.

"The Governor, with advice and consent of the Council, is authorized to accept in the name of the State any and all gifts, bequests, grants or conveyances to the State of Maine." 29 M.R.S.A. Section 5. It does not appear that any legislative action would be necessary for the State to accept the gift of the trust funds unless former Governor Baxter so desired.

It would seem that a gift in trust should be prepared by former Governor Baxter's attorney as, inter alia, there would be tax consequences to the former Governor. Unfortunately, John Willey, the former Governor's attorney, died last week. I believe that we should inquire of the former Governor who will be handling his affairs in the future. I am of the opinion that it is improper for this department to prepare a trust instrument unless former Governor Baxter gives his express written authority to do so. It would be necessary for the former Governor to clarify his exact intent so that there would be no misunderstanding if we did prepare such a trust for him. At this point in time I think it would be presumptuous to prepare any letter of intent for the former Governor.

It is my understanding that Governor Curtis has expressed the desire to have something in his hands this week prepared by this office re this proposed gift to the State.


James S. Erwin
Attorney General

JSM:H

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1968

STATE OF MAINE
BUREAU OF ACCOUNTS & CONTROL

DRUMMOND, WESCOTT & WOODSUM

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
465 CONGRESS STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE 04111

DANIEL T. DRUMMOND, JR.
PAUL A. WESCOTT
HAROLD E. WOODSUM, JR.

HUGH G. E. MACMAHON
DAVID PLIMPTON
E. STEPHEN MURRAY

AREA CODE 207
775-3793

August 26, 1969

Austin H. Wilkins, Forest Commissioner
Forestry Department
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Austin:

* I am enclosing a copy of Governor Baxter's will. Actually the provisions with respect to Baxter State Park and the large State forest bequest appear in a Trust Agreement which was amended several times by Governor Baxter. That Trust Agreement isn't really for publication and although it might be of interest historically I don't think at this time we should release a copy of it. You already have a copy of all the pertinent provisions of the Trust. If you have any further thoughts give me a yell.

I will be very anxious to see any preliminary guidelines you might have with respect to the project. It might be conceivable that either the real estate people at Boston Safe would be helpful or even I might have some ideas. When you get further along with it let me know.

With best regards.

Yours very truly,


Daniel T. Drummond, Jr.

DTD:hl

Enc.

cc George W. Peterson, Jr.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That I, PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER of Portland, in the County of Cumberland and State of Maine, being of lawful age and of sound and disposing mind and memory, but mindful of the uncertainty of life, do make, publish and declare this my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made.

After the payment of my just debts, funeral charges and expenses of administration, I dispose of my estate as follows:

FIRST: I hereby nominate and appoint the BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY, a Massachusetts corporation of Boston, Massachusetts, executor of this my Last Will and Testament, and direct that it shall not be required to give or furnish any bond or bonds.

SECOND: Years ago I established a Trust Agreement with the said BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY which is now in full force and effect, and which, under the terms and provisions of said Trust Agreement as amended, controls not only the care and custody of the bulk of my estate, but also the distribution of the bulk of my estate.

THIRD: After my death, I direct my executor to have my body cremated, and to have the ashes thereof taken to Baxter Peak, the summit of Mt. Katahdin, and there scattered to the four winds.

My executor shall have my headstone now in Evergreen Cemetery, Portland, Maine, marked with the year and date of my death.

FOURTH: Except for the few articles I have disposed of in said Trust Agreement, I direct my executor to sell at private sale my real estate situated in the State of Maine; my automobile; and all my furniture, fixtures and equipment located in my house at 92 West Street, Portland, Maine, and in my office located at 655 Congress Street, Portland, Maine, at such time and in such manner as in its opinion will best serve the interests of my estate.

FIFTH: I give, bequeath and devise to the STATE OF MAINE any land I may own in Cortez, Montezuma County, Colorado. The STATE OF MAINE should be

mindful to promptly establish its title to this property, and be mindful to pay the local taxes on this land promptly each year.

SIXTH: I have donated in TRUST to the STATE OF MAINE the forest lands hereinafter set forth, and the same has been accepted by the several State Legislatures with the approval of the several Governors, all as described in the Laws of Maine, and subject to all the Trusts and conditions therein contained:

Townships three (3), four (4), five (5), and six (6),
Range nine (9). (Piscataquis County)

Townships three (3), four (4), five (5), and six (6),
Range ten (10) W.E.L.S. (Piscataquis County)

A portion of Township six (6), Range eight (8) W.E.L.S.
(Penobscot County)

Township two (2), Range nine (9) W.E.L.S. - 7764 acres.
(Piscataquis County).

This land aggregating 201,018 acres has been accepted to be forever held in TRUST by the STATE OF MAINE for the benefit of the People of Maine for Public Forest, Public Park and Public Recreational purposes only, and the same forever to be known and designated by the STATE OF MAINE on its official maps and records as "BAXTER STATE PARK".

In addition to these gifts of forest lands to the STATE OF MAINE, I have given to the STATE OF MAINE in TRUST over one and one-half million dollars, the income therefrom to be used for the support and maintenance of said BAXTER STATE PARK.

Under the Trust Agreement referred to in this my Last Will and Testament, I have provided other substantial funds to be used by the STATE OF MAINE to assist in the maintenance of said BAXTER STATE PARK; to acquire additional lands for recreational and reforestation purposes; and for the maintenance of such other additional lands which may be acquired by said STATE OF MAINE.

SEVENTH: Uninvested funds or other property that I may have at the time of my decease which has not become subject to the Trust Agreement hereinbefore referred to, and any funds which my executor may receive from the sale of property as directed in this Will over and above those funds required to carry

out the provisions of this my Last Will and Testament, shall by my executor be paid over and delivered to my Trustee, BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY, and become a part of the principal of my Trust estate hereinbefore referred to.

EIGHTH: Under the Trust Agreement referred to in this my Last Will and Testament, I have provided for a bequest of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) as follows:

CITY OF BOSTON, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This bequest of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars has been given in TRUST to supplement a gift of Fifty Thousand Dollars made to the CITY OF BOSTON by my late father, James Phinney Baxter, toward the erection of "A SUITABLE BUILDING TO BE ERECTED IN THE CITY OF BOSTON, TO COMMEMORATE THE LIVES AND DEEDS OF THE FOUNDERS OF NEW ENGLAND."

NINTH: Under the Trust Agreement referred to in this my Last Will and Testament, I have provided for bequests of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) each to the following:

PORTLAND CITY HOSPITAL, Portland, Maine
PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, Portland, Maine
MAINE MEDICAL CENTER, Portland, Maine
MERCY HOSPITAL, Portland, Maine
GOVERNOR BAXTER SCHOOL FOR DEAF, Falmouth, Maine

TENTH: Under the Trust Agreement referred to in this my Last Will and Testament, I have also provided for the following money bequests:

1. Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to the CITY OF PORTLAND to be held in TRUST, the income therefrom to be used for the care and maintenance of "Mayor Baxter Woods" in the Deering District of said Portland.
2. Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to the ANIMAL REFUGE LEAGUE of Portland, Maine.
3. Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to the TOWN OF GORHAM, MAINE.
4. Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to the SAINT AGATHA SCHOOL, Saint Agatha, Maine.

ELEVENTH: Under the Trust Agreement referred to in this my Last Will and Testament, I have also made gifts to some of my relatives, friends and employees.

TWELFTH: The references I have made in the "SIXTH", "EIGHTH", "NINTH", "TENTH" and "ELEVENTH" provisions of this my Last Will and Testament have been

made solely to disclose some of the gifts and bequests I have heretofore made, and bequests that will be made and executed under the said Trust Agreement referred to in this my Last Will and Testament, and for no other reasons.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and seal at said Portland, Maine, and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament, this ninth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six.

Percival Proctor Baxter

Signed, published and declared by the above named PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER as and for his Last Will and Testament, in the presence of us who, at his request, in his presence, and in the presence of one another, hereto subscribe our names as witnesses thereto, on this ninth day of September, 1966.

Robert H. Collins
Harold R. Johnson
Ernest M. White

AMENDMENT of MAY 18, 1966 to TRUST of JULY SIXTH, 1927.

This AMENDMENT made the eighteenth day of May, 1966 by and between PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER of Portland, Maine, and BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY, a corporation duly organized and existing under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and having a usual place of business in the City of Boston, Massachusetts.

WITNESSETH that

WHEREAS under the Trust Indenture dated July 6, 1927 as amended on January 20, 1956, August 1, 1956, January 3, 1957, March 29, 1957, March 10, 1958, July 25, 1958, April 23, 1959, January 30, 1960, May 23, 1960, April 28, 1961, August 2, 1961, September 28, 1961, October 14, 1961, January 13, 1962, November 8, 1962, May 7, 1963, June 10, 1964, August 28, 1964, and March 25, 1966, the latter being the last Amendment, said PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER transferred certain property to said BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY as TRUSTEE upon the Trusts therein set forth for the benefit of MADELEINE BAXTER TOMLINSON (now deceased) and others, and did by Article TENTH of said Amended INDENTURE reserve the right to change, alter, modify or amend the TRUST by agreement in writing of said PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER and the Trustee hereunder, and

WHEREAS the said BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY is now the SOLE TRUSTEE under said Indenture.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto hereby agree that said Indenture of Trust dated July 6, 1927, as amended by said agreements of January 20, 1956, August 1, 1956, January 3, 1957, March 29, 1957, March 10, 1958, July 25, 1958, April 23, 1959, January 30, 1960, May 23, 1960, April 28, 1961, August 2, 1961, September 28, 1961, October 14, 1961, January 13, 1962, November 8, 1962, May 7, 1963, June 10, 1964, August 28, 1964, and March 25, 1966, the latter being the last Amendment, is further changed, altered, modified and amended as follows:

FIRST: The "GIFTS" described in List A and List B as presently amended heretofore, are now cancelled and made of no effect and the following "GIFTS" described in List A and List B are hereby substituted therefore:

LIST OF GIFTS A

JAMES P. BAXTER, 3rd New York City, N.Y.	200 shares Fraternity Company and Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.) Dollars
JOHN L. BAXTER Brunswick, Maine	200 shares Fraternity Company and Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.) Dollars
LYDIA B. DURNNEY Bath, Maine	200 shares Fraternity Company and Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.) Dollars
MARY B. WHITE Brunswick, Maine	200 shares Fraternity Company and Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.) Dollars
ELLEN B. MOYER Cape Elizabeth, Maine	200 shares Fraternity Company and Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.) Dollars
Totalling . . 1,000 shares	
DOROTHY K. TOMLINSON Portland, Maine	Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.) Dollars
VICTORIA TOMLINSON KEMP Cumberland, Maine	Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.) Dollars
HELEN N. TAYLOR Millinocket, Maine	Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.) Dollars
ARTHUR G. ROGERS Waterville, Maine	Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.) Dollars
W. ROWE ROWLINGS Boston, Massachusetts	Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.) Dollars
JOHN E. WILLEY Falmouth Foreside, Maine	Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.) Dollars
RAY W. BURGESS South Portland, Maine	Five Thousand (\$5,000.) Dollars
ANNIE M. PEABODY Dover-Foxcroft, Maine	Five Thousand (\$5,000.) Dollars
JOSEPH H. LEE Portland, Maine	Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.) Dollars
MRS. LUCY C. SULLIVAN Portland, Maine	Thirty-five Thousand (\$35,000.) Dollars
MISS LUCY E. SULLIVAN Portland, Maine	Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.) Dollars
M. RUTH HODGDON Portland, Maine	Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.) Dollars
MRS. HAZEL B. CONARY Portland, Maine	Five Thousand (\$5,000.) Dollars

In the event of the death of any of the beneficiaries herein named in List A prior to the death of PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER said Gift shall lapse.

All estate, inheritance, succession, transfer and other taxes of a like nature and all death duties which may be levied or assessed against the property held in TRUST hereunder at the death of said PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER on account of the Gifts to those persons named in List A above shall be paid from the trust property as a general charge and expense of administration of

the TRUST and shall not be charged against nor be deemed to reduce in any way the amount of said List A Gifts as stated in this Amendment.

LIST OF GIFTS B

1. To the PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, Portland, Maine, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to be used for the general purposes of said Library; the grandfather clock now in my office in the Trelawny Building, together with the Benziger portrait of my father now in my home at 92 West Street, Portland, Maine, the same to be hung in said Library. I suggest that said portrait be hung in the Reference Room in place of the large marine painting now there.

2. To the CITY OF BOSTON, a body corporate and politic in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to be held by said CITY OF BOSTON as Trustee in TRUST in accordance with the terms and conditions of, and for the purposes expressed in, that portion of subparagraph "FIRST" of item "THIRTEENTH" of the Will of my late father, James Phinney Baxter, dated October eighth, nineteen hundred nineteen, and the Codicil thereto dated October eighth, nineteen hundred twenty, wherein he bequeathed the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to the said CITY OF BOSTON in TRUST toward the erection of "A SUITABLE BUILDING TO BE ERECTED IN THE CITY OF BOSTON, TO COMMEMORATE THE LIVES AND DEEDS OF THE FOUNDERS OF NEW ENGLAND."

I make this bequest in TRUST in order to add to and increase the said Trust created by my said father for the above-named purposes as expressed in his Will.

3. To the MAINE MEDICAL CENTER, Portland, Maine, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00).

4. To the MERCY HOSPITAL, Portland, Maine, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00).

5. To GOVERNOR BAXTER SCHOOL FOR DEAF, Falmouth, Maine, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00).

6. To the CITY OF PORTLAND, State of Maine, a body corporate and politic, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to be held forever in TRUST by the said City and the principal thereof to be invested and reinvested, and the income therefrom to be paid over, at least annually, to the PORTLAND

CITY HOSPITAL to be used solely for the general purposes and expenses of said Hospital.

7. To the said CITY OF PORTLAND the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the same to be held in TRUST by said City to be invested in securities legal for Maine savings banks, the income therefrom to be used by said City in caring for and maintaining "Mayor Baxter Woods" in the Deering District of said Portland.

8. To the said CITY OF PORTLAND the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be held forever in TRUST by the said City and invested in securities of the highest standing, the income therefrom to be used by said City in keeping in good repair, order and condition the following:

- (a) The Cemetery Monuments on the Baxter family lot in said Evergreen Cemetery;
- (b) The Bronze tablet and boulder in "MAYOR BAXTER WOODS";
- (c) The JAMES PHINNEY BAXTER BOULEVARD MEMORIAL of granite and bronze construction on said Baxter Boulevard and accepted by said City.

9. To the ANIMAL REFUGE LEAGUE of Portland, Maine, the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for the purposes of carrying on its humane work within said Portland, and the surrounding municipalities.

10. To the TOWN OF GORHAM, MAINE, the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be held in TRUST, and the income therefrom to be used for the general purposes of the Baxter Memorial Library; also the grandfather clock from the Proctor family, light mahogany, now at my home at 92 West Street, Portland, Maine, for the entrance hall of the Baxter Memorial Library at said Gorham, Maine.

11. To the SAINT AGATHA SCHOOL, which is operated by the Daughters of Wisdom and located in the Town of Saint Agatha, Aroostook County, State of Maine, the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00).

12. To the STATE OF MAINE for the State Library, Augusta, Maine, the metal files and their contents now in my office in Portland. These are the metal mahogany-stained files, three (3) sections of four (4) drawers each; the bound and unbound printed pamphlets of my Addresses 1921-1925 in my home and office; the bound and unbound printed pamphlets and manuscripts of the Addresses of JAMES PHINNEY BAXTER; the large wooden box now in the State Library safe at the State House in Augusta containing the clipping books and manuscripts collected by me from 1921-1925, and my other clipping books collected since 1920; the

large volume of "RARE MAPS AND PLANS" collected by my father which I upon request allowed the Library of Congress to photograph and copy; the large bound volumes of the original "BAXTER MANUSCRIPTS", twenty (20) in number, collected by my father and now stored in the State Library safe at Augusta; and all my other manuscripts, scrap books, clippings and documents; and I request that the State Librarian employ some competent person to go over these documents and papers carefully and to retain, bind and preserve those worthy of preservation, the others to be destroyed.

My TRUSTEE is hereby directed to pay the said STATE OF MAINE the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be used in marking, arranging, binding and preserving said gifts above described under the direction of the State Librarian.

13. To the STATE OF MAINE the following personal property:

- (a) Small mahogany 18th Century clock "Fugit Hora Ora" to be kept in the Blaine House.
- (b) Grandfather clock, mahogany, to be kept in the Executive Department in the State House. (Clock is now in my home at 92 West Street, Portland, Maine.)

SECOND: The parties hereto further agree that the AMENDMENTS and AGREEMENTS dated April 28, 1961 and March 25, 1966 to the Trust Indenture of July 6, 1927, are hereby cancelled, revoked and made of no effect.

THIRD: Upon and after the death of said PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER and after complying with the provisions of Paragraph FIRST hereof, the Trustee shall continue to hold the remainder of the trust property and shall manage, invest, reinvest, and administer the same for the following purposes:

1. To pay the net income therefrom at least as often as quarterly to the "BAXTER STATE PARK TRUST FUND" created by Chapter 21 of the Private and Special Laws of 1961 enacted by the Legislature of the State of Maine for the care, protection and operation of the forest land known as BAXTER STATE PARK, and for other forest lands hereinafter acquired by the State of Maine under the provisions of this TRUST for recreational or reforestation purposes.

2. To pay over from the principal thereof whenever and as often as the State of Maine shall determine the desirability of the purchase or other acquisition of additional lands for said Baxter State Park or other lands for recreational or reforestation purposes, such sums as shall be requested in writing by the Treasurer of the State of Maine and shall be certified to be

used for these purposes by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of Maine, and the members of the Baxter State Park Commission and the Trustees may require that any such certification contain a statement that the purchase price or acquisition cost of such lands is in their opinion fair and reasonable under all the circumstances.

3. In the State of Maine there are large areas of unproductive forest lands, burned over, cut and rocky, which are of little or no market value and which may be purchased at a low figure and allowed to reforest itself or remain as it is for scenic, recreational purposes, and for experimental scientific forestry.

All of the lands so purchased under this Trust Agreement are to be forever held by the said STATE OF MAINE in TRUST for the benefit of the People of Maine for development, improvement, use, reforestation, scientific forestry, and the production of timber and sale thereof.

I hope some of the forest land acquired by the State under this provision of my TRUST will become model forests similar to those of Germany, Scandinavia and elsewhere, producing a crop of wood to be sold by the State. The STATE OF MAINE is given full power to harvest the crop, reforest and protect these lands against damage by insects, fire or otherwise. All revenue acquired by the sale of timber shall by the State of Maine be used for the care, extension and management of said lands.

I shall be pleased if some portion of the lands purchased with my funds be made a "SANCTUARY FOR WILD LIFE", but this I must leave to the judgment of others.

FOURTH: In the event that said BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY or any successor banking corporation thereto should at any time and for any reason cease to serve as TRUSTEE hereunder, then a successor Corporate Trustee or a Board of not less than three Trustees which may be or include a banking corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the State of Maine, shall be appointed by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of Maine and the members of the Baxter State Park Commission, and such successor Trustee or Board of Trustees, as the case may be, shall upon its written acceptance of the Trust have all the powers, duties and discretions herein or heretofore conferred upon the original Trustee.

FIFTH: Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained in the

original Trust instrument or in any instrument of amendment thereto, after the death of said PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER, the present Trustee or any succeeding Trustee or Board of Trustees shall be entitled to 5% of the gross income received by the Trust as compensation for its services. If the Trust principal should be reduced substantially by the expenditures of principal for the purposes provided for in this Trust, and if the limited compensation herein referred to should be considered inadequate for the duties performed by the Trustee, it would be my wish that said Trustee negotiate with ~~the~~ Governor and Executive Council of the State of Maine for a new basis of compensation for the Trustee which may be agreed upon between them.

Except as herein expressly changed, altered, modified or amended, said Indenture of Trust dated July 6, 1927, as amended January 20, 1956, August 1, 1956, January 3, 1957, March 29, 1957, March 10, 1958, July 25, 1958, April 23, 1959, January 30, 1960, May 23, 1960, April 28, 1961, August 2, 1961, September 28, 1961, October 14, 1961, January 13, 1962, November 8, 1962, May 7, 1963, June 10, 1964, August 28, 1964, and March 25, 1966, remains in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF said PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER has hereunto set his hand and seal and said BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY has caused its corporate seal to be hereto affixed and these presents to be signed in
Robert E. Dobbyn, its Vice President
duplicate in its name and behalf by ~~William W. Welbach, its President~~, there-
unto duly authorized the day and year first above written.

Signed in the presence of

Ernest M. White

Edna C. Cook

Percival Proctor Baxter

BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY

By Robert E. Dobbyn
Vice President

Chapter 21

AN ACT Accepting from Percival Proctor Baxter a Gift of One Thousand Shares of the Capital Stock of the Proprietors of Portland Pier and Creating the Baxter State Park Trust Fund.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature the acceptance of the gifts as offered by the Honorable Percival Proctor Baxter creates an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine, and requires the following Legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

WHEREAS, the State of Maine by several acts of the Legislature approved by the several Governors, 1930-1955, has accepted as gifts from Percival Proctor Baxter, former Governor of the State of Maine, an area of forest land in Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties totaling 193,254 acres known as Baxter State Park, the same now being held by said State IN TRUST for Public Park, Public Forest and Public Recreational Purposes; and

WHEREAS, the said Baxter wishes to share with the State in part the cost of caring for, protecting and operating said area of land in accordance with the conditions in the several acts of the Legislature accepting said gifts as recorded in the laws of Maine 1930-1955.

NOW THEREFORE, the State of Maine hereby accepts from said Percival Proctor Baxter all of the one thousand (1000) shares of stock of the Proprietors of Portland Pier Corporation, a Maine corporation also known as Portland Pier the same being all the outstanding shares of said corporation all owned by said Baxter, all taxes paid, free from all claims and encumbrances and said corporation is the owner of municipal bonds, corporation shares and cash, to the value of \$488,942.64 as of January 1, 1961 which constitutes all of the assets of said corporation; to be held IN TRUST forever for the benefit of the people of the State of Maine and to be known as Baxter State Park Trust Fund the principal thereof to be invested and reinvested, the income therefrom to be used by said State for the care, protection and operation of said 193,254 acres of forest land known as BAXTER STATE PARK.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.

Effective February 16, 1961

Chapter 30

AN ACT Accepting from Percival Proctor Baxter a Gift of One Thousand Shares of the Capital Stock of Congress Realty Company to be Added to Baxter State Park Trust Fund which was Established by Laws of Maine (1961), Chapter 21, and Administered According to the Provisions of said Baxter State Park Trust Fund.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature the acceptance of the gifts as offered by the Honorable Percival Proctor Baxter creates an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine, and requires the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Whereas, the State of Maine by several Acts of the Legislature approved by the several Governors, 1930-1963, has accepted as gifts from Percival Proctor Baxter, former Governor of the State of Maine, an area of forest land in Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties totaling 201.018 acres known as Baxter State Park, the same now being held by said State IN TRUST for Public Park, Public Forest and Public Recreational Purposes; and

Whereas, the said Baxter wishes to share with the State in part the cost of caring for, protecting and operating said area of land in accordance with the conditions in the several Acts of the Legislature accepting said gifts as recorded in the Laws of Maine 1930-1963.

Now, therefore, the State of Maine hereby accepts from said Percival Proctor Baxter all of the one thousand (1,000) shares of stock of the Congress Realty Company, a Maine Corporation, the same being all the outstanding shares of said corporation all owned by said Baxter, all taxes paid, free from all claims and encumbrances and said corporation is the owner of municipal bonds, corporation shares and cash, to the value of \$1,106,213.42 as of February 2, 1965, which constitutes all of the assets of said corporation; to be held IN TRUST forever for the benefit of the people of the State of Maine and to be added to Baxter State Park Trust Fund the principal thereof to be invested and reinvested, the income therefrom to be used by said State for the care, protection and operation of said 201.018 acres of forest land known as BAXTER STATE PARK as provided in Laws of Maine (1961), Chapter 21, and administered according to the provisions of said Baxter State Park Trust Fund.