

THE APPALACHIAN NATIONAL PARK MOVEMENT, 1885-1901

By CHARLES DENNIS SMITH *

Although thousands of people make the acquaintance of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park each year, no historical markers spell out to them the story of the heroic struggle of a band of Asheville citizens and their supporters who, long before the present park was created, dreamed of the day when the scenic beauties of western North Carolina would be preserved for posterity. Today, as one walks the Appalachian Trail which pierces the heart of the Appalachians and holds them in a timeless proprietorship, the question comes to mind: From whence came the first expressions of a need for a national park in western North Carolina? Indeed one listens wonderingly to the lingering faint echoes of the cry which rang so strongly through these forests at the turn of the century: Why was this cry not heeded at the time?

As we look back down the trail to the year 1885 there is clearly visible the first advocacy in print of the establishment of a national park in the Appalachians. It is literally what the doctor ordered! In a paper discussing the mountains of western North Carolina as a health resort and read before the American Academy of Medicine in New York on October 29, 1885, Dr. Henry O. Marcy, a physician of Boston, said:

The pure air, water and climate hold out a hopeful helpfulness to invalids from every land. The wise legislator, seeking far-reaching results, would do well to consider the advisability of securing, under state control, a large reservation of the higher ranges as a park. Its cost, at present, would be merely nominal. Like the peaks and glaciers of Switzerland, its sanitary advantages would be of a value incalculable to millions yet unborn.¹

* Dr. Charles Dennis Smith is a Project Engineer, The Mitre Corporation, Lexington, Massachusetts.

¹ From a reprint of Dr. Marcy's paper, "The Climatic Treatment of Disease: Western North Carolina as a Health Resort," appearing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Dec. 26, 1885), Appalachian National Park Association Collection, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Appalachian Park Collection.

What process was to be employed in securing national title to this land, which had long since passed into private hands, was not mentioned.

By 1892 destruction of the forests in the Southern Appalachians was disturbing visitors there and one such vacationist noted that the once magnificent view from the summer resort on the summit of Roan Mountain, North Carolina, had been marred within the past twenty years by the cutting of the forests in the Toe Valley leading down from the mountain. Pointing out that Roan Mountain, lying eighty miles northeast of Asheville, was only thirty hours ride from New York, his home town, the visitor complained that in Toe Valley “. . . twenty sawmills and a dozen tanneries strung along the line of the narrow gauge railroad have done their work effectively.”²

Referring to the New Yorker's comment in an editorial in *Garden and Forest*, Charles S. Sargent became the first person to present in print a plan for the creation of a national forest reservation in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. The year previous, Joseph A. Holmes,³ State Geologist of North Carolina, had suggested to Gifford Pinchot the idea of such a great national forest reservation in that area. While he envisioned a similar purchase by the United States government of a large tract of land for the purpose of practicing forestry on it his idea was not publicized at the time. Doubtless the current Pinchot-directed Biltmore Forest experiment in practical forestry had a great deal of influence on the thinking of both Pinchot and Holmes in regard to a similar federal project. Sargent, however, whatever his source of inspiration, was the first to give prominence to the idea of a southern national forest reserve.⁴

² “Roan Mountain—A Summer Resort,” *Garden and Forest*, V (July 13, 1892), 333-334. See also Karl Mohr, “The Hardwood Forests of the South,” *Garden and Forest*, I (March 14, 1888), 34-35.

³ Holmes, a mining engineer, was North Carolina State Geologist, 1891-1907. He was instrumental in the creation of the United States Bureau of Mines and was its first director, 1910-1915. Dumas Malone and others (eds.), *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 20 volumes and index [with Supplementary Volumes XXI and XXII] 1928-), IX, 167-168. This reference will hereinafter be cited as Malone, *Dictionary of American Biography*.

⁴ Charles S. Sargent, “A Suggestion,” *Garden and Forest*, V (July 13, 1892), 325-326, hereinafter cited as Sargent, “A Suggestion”; Gifford

Whereas Pinchot was looking at the possibilities of a southern forest reserve from a forester's point of view, Sargent was interested in the botanical aspects of the proposition. The belief that the best cherry and walnut trees of the region had been bought up and the best tulip trees cut from the most remote valleys plagued him. Consequently Sargent's suggestion for a national forest reservation was based on the desire to see examples of deciduous and coniferous groups preserved for the benefit of future generations in order that they might see the marvels of vegetable growth. The *New York Tribune* immediately seconded his proposal.⁵

While Pinchot and Sargent toyed with the idea of a national forest reserve, the North Carolina legislature became interested in the proposed national park, and on February 9, 1893, passed a resolution in favor of securing such a park in the Southern Appalachians. This action was soon followed by the North Carolina Press Association's meeting at New Bern, where on April 28 a memorial petitioning Congress to establish a park in the area was drawn up. Later presented to the House on March 27, 1894, by Representative John S. Henderson, of North Carolina, it was referred to the Committee on Public Lands. That was as far as the proposal went in the Fifty-Third Congress.⁶ Evidently public opinion was not yet strong enough to force Congress to show any concern about the matter, but one thing is sure, the New York mountain-lover was no longer alone in his mourning.

Pinchot to B. M. Jones, Secretary of the Asheville Board of Trade, November 11, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection. See also Gifford Pinchot, *Breaking New Ground* (New York, 1947), 47, hereinafter cited as Pinchot, *New Ground*; and Joseph A. Holmes, Society of American Foresters, *Proceedings*, X, (July, 1915), frontispiece. Only a few people, including Pinchot, knew of Holmes' idea at the time and most of them thought the project to be visionary. Gifford Pinchot (ed.), *American Conservation*, I (June, 1911), 153. Not so Pinchot! He said, "It was a great plan and neither he nor I let it drop." Pinchot was not so sure in 1947 as to the year the suggestion was made, but he remembered that it was broached at "The Brick House" in Biltmore Forest, Pinchot, *New Ground*, 56. For an interesting description of the Biltmore Forest experiment in practical forestry, see Pinchot, *New Ground*, 47.

⁵ Sargent, "A Suggestion," 324-326; *New York Tribune*, July 18, 1892.

⁶ George W. McCoy, *A Brief History of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Movement in North Carolina* (Asheville, 1940), 6-8; *Congressional Record*, XXXVI (March 28, 1894), 3,260. McCoy is here quoting Charles A. Webb, one of the charter members of the Appalachian National Park Association and therefore familiar with the background of the movement.



*Appalachian Park Collection
State Department of Archives and History*

Fairfield Inn from the top of Mt. Toxaway, Sapphire

This mourning period was to last for five years then be broken only by another set of "doctor's orders." The first organized agitation for national legislation to set up a federal park in the Southern Appalachian Mountains was begun by Dr. Chase P. Ambler of Asheville, North Carolina. He presented his idea of a national park to a friend from Ohio, Judge William R. Day, while both were on a fishing trip in the Sapphire area of western North Carolina in June, 1899. Several days later Judge Day gave Ambler some notes of a plan for securing the desired park. Although these notes were subsequently lost, Day's proposal became the basis for an organized drive to create such a park in western North Carolina. Day's proposition embodied an Asheville organization which, assisted by the Asheville Board of Trade, would press for a national park to be set up in the Asheville area. On his return from the fishing trip Ambler immediately discussed the matter with A. H. McQuilkin, Asheville print shop owner and magazine publisher, who became very much interested in the project.⁷

By August, Ambler and George H. Smathers of Asheville, were working hard at getting the project of a southern national park before Congress.⁸ After enlistment of the aid of Senator Jeter C. Pritchard of North Carolina, Ambler's plan called for the organization of a drive to interest the southern press, doctors, lawyers, and others in the project by setting up a separate committee for each of these groups. Those people contacted would be asked to sign a petition addressed to Senator Pritchard asking him to use his influence to have a Congressional committee appointed to investigate the feasi-

⁷ Chase P. Ambler, *Activities of the Appalachian National Forest Association*, 2-4, Appalachian Park Collection, hereinafter cited as Ambler, *Activities*. An analysis of the Appalachian Collection indicates that Dr. Ambler was the leader in, and most conscientious worker for, the Appalachian national park. A physician, he moved to Asheville from Ohio in 1899 and early became interested in the preservation of the beauty of the region by State or national action. Details of the fishing trip and the similarity of Ambler's and Day's views on the proposed park are shown in the correspondence between the two men. See Judge William R. Day to Ambler, October 31, November 10, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection. McQuilkin was publisher of *Southern Pictures and Pencilings*.

⁸ Clipping in A. H. McQuilkin Scrapbook, "The Movement for a Southern National Park," *Southern Pictures and Pencilings*, Appalachian Park Collection.

bility, necessity, and advantage of such a national park.⁹ This petition, as prepared, listed many reasons why the project of a southern national park should be undertaken: While the "North" has Yellowstone National Park the South has none. Scenery, climate, and forests draw thousands of visitors to this western North Carolina locality each year, not only from neighboring States but from New York and the deep South as well, since neither of the latter areas are over twenty-four hours travel time away. Not only is there plenty of mountain land available in many counties, but the cost will be small because from twenty to forty thousand acres of it can be bought for an average of one dollar per acre. The location presently being sought by the Surgeon-General for a tuberculosis hospital for Army and Navy men is to be had right here in the proposed national park. Moreover, action to preserve a tract of this country in its primeval state in order to save forests, game, and fish is imperative, for lumbermen are buying up options and laying the mountain bare! Indeed, natural game is becoming extinct and the native mountain trout is gradually disappearing, due largely to lumber operations. Now tanneries ruin both forest and game, and one has been set up lately at Asheville with another soon to be in operation at nearby Waynesville. Finally, such a park will not only do wonders for both State and nation, but will also be a monument to the Senator.¹⁰

In early September, Senator Pritchard agreed to help forward the project as outlined to him by Ambler, stating ". . . I shall do all in my power to secure the necessary appropriation."¹¹

⁹ Ambler to Senator Jeter C. Pritchard, August 19, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection.

¹⁰ A copy of the petition, dated August 30, 1899, is attached to Ambler's letter to Pritchard of August 19, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection. The main reasons given in the petition for the park had appeared previously in McQuilkin's article in *Southern Pictures and Pencilings*. He set the price of land, however, to be purchased at a more conservative figure of from one to three dollars per acre.

¹¹ Pritchard to Ambler, not dated, Appalachian Park Collection. The date is certainly early September, since in the letter Pritchard was ". . . disgusted with an article which appeared in the Asheville Citizen the other day in which he [the editor] sought to convey the idea that I was hostile to the proposition, his purpose being to do or say something that would weaken me politically." In the process of castigating him for not speaking

As soon as it was recognized that Senator Pritchard, being from western North Carolina and having the confidence of the dominant party, was the man to lead the fight, an organization to back him was demanded.¹² At the same time, the Asheville Board of Trade, seeing that influential men in the section were interested in the park, began planning to set up their own national park committee to direct the work.¹³ Recognizing that a State organization and a State movement were needed in order to attain the objective, the Board of Trade sought the support of neighboring towns by organizing, on October 9, a Parks and Forestry Committee with McQuilkin as chairman and Ambler as secretary.¹⁴

The movement for the southern national park had now become organized. The Parks and Forestry Committee first solicited the aid of the newspapers in North Carolina and adjacent States in giving publicity to the movement.¹⁵ This action was followed immediately by an attempt to get a wider circulation of the petition, copies addressed to Senator Pritchard being distributed through the public schools.¹⁶ Although county and city superintendents of schools were contacted in North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia, the best response by far came from North Carolina schools, while a Georgia State law forbade using its schools for such purposes.¹⁷

Following the publicity in schools and newspapers, the Parks and Forestry Committee in October sent out reprints of

up in the interest of the proposed park, the editor observed that perhaps the Senator had not yet reached ". . . the monument-erecting period of his career, . . ." *Asheville Citizen*, September 2, 1899.

¹² *Asheville Citizen*, September 29, 1899. The editor was now evidently convinced that Pritchard was for the project after all.

¹³ *Asheville Daily Gazette*, September 24, 1899.

¹⁴ *Asheville Daily Gazette*, October 8, 1899.

¹⁵ Circular One, Appalachian Park Collection. Notations by Ambler on this circular indicate that 1,000 of them were eventually sent to various newspapers.

¹⁶ Circular Two, Appalachian Park Collection. One thousand, according to Ambler's notation, were sent to the Asheville schools alone.

¹⁷ There are several letters in the Appalachian Collection setting forth reactions to the circulation proposals. For typical letters see: C. B. Gibson, Superintendent of the Columbus, Georgia, Public Schools, to Ambler, November 2, 1899; J. King of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Superintendent of the Rutherford County Public Schools, to Ambler, November 9, 1899; D. Matt Thompson, Superintendent of the Statesville Public Schools, to Ambler, November 14, 1899. Notations by Ambler indicate that 5,000 of these petitions were eventually circulated through the schools and other media. Circular Nine, Appalachian Park Collection.

an article which had earlier appeared in McQuilkin's *Southern Pictures and Pencilings* to North Carolina residents, as well as to people in adjacent States. While the article followed the same general pattern of information as the petition, greater emphasis was placed on the need for the practice of conservative forestry. It also paid some attention to arguments that were being heard to the effect that farmers and timber holders would be against the park because its creation would make them lose money. After pointing out that owners would receive a fair price for their land, the article went on to say that lumbermen and bark gatherers would be assured of a future supply of timber and bark, since the forests would be under scientific management.¹⁸ The value of forests in preventing floods by controlling the run-off was also cited.

It was becoming increasingly clear that to launch an attack on a State-wide sector was not enough frontage to achieve the desired objective of a national park. Limited local successes, while gratifying to the leaders of the movement, did not necessarily mean that the desired Congressional action would ensue. As George W. Vanderbilt of Biltmore Estate saw it at the time, the need was one of including parts of North Carolina, Tennessee, and adjacent States in a great eastern national park.¹⁹ Statements such as this, coupled with an obvious lack of real response from outside North Carolina, must have made it clear to the Asheville Board of Trade that a local organization could not successfully call for outside aid. In any event, it decided that a meeting should be called in Asheville for November 9, 1899, of interested people from North Carolina and surrounding States to set up a

¹⁸ Circular Three, Appalachian Park Collection. For a similar concern with this anticipated opposition and an identical answer, see the *Asheville Daily Gazette*, October 10, 1899.

¹⁹ *Asheville Citizen*, October 10, 1899. Vanderbilt soon disassociated himself from the movement since his land near Asheville was in the area of the proposed park. Biltmore Forest, near Asheville and owned by Vanderbilt, was at that time under the management of C. A. Schenck. It was at Biltmore that Gifford Pinchot had earlier made the first experiment in conservative forestry in America. See again Pinchot, *New Ground*, 47 ff. Biltmore Forest had made a deep impression on the thinking of Asheville men active in the movement and certainly on Pinchot, who was one of the most tireless fighters for a southern national forest. Biltmore Forest became the nucleus of the first Appalachian national forest in 1916.



Appalachian Park Collection
State Department of Archives and History

Front View of a Mountain Home

national organization for the promotion of the park. On October 18, 1899, fifty letters were sent to various governors, senators, and representatives in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia asking permission to use their names in a call for such a convention to organize a national park association.²⁰ The call was to be made for a meeting in Asheville on November 9, 1899, to set up the organization and to take action to persuade Congress to acquire an area in the Blue Ridge or the Great Smokies for a national park like Yellowstone. States, cities, and all civic organizations were asked to send delegates.²¹ Response to this request for the use of their names brought a variety of answers from those reached ranging from enthusiastic approval to flat refusal.²²

Senator Pritchard thought it best that he not be identified with either the call or the meeting. While he insisted that he would do all in his power to induce Congress to make a sufficient appropriation to have the matter thoroughly investigated and meant to leave no stone unturned in his efforts to secure the establishment of the park, he thought “. . . it will give the movement more strength if it is understood that it comes from the people direct.”²³

The call, with the amended meeting date of November 22, 1899, was duly sent out by the Park and Forestry Committee of the Asheville Board of Trade “. . . for the purpose of organizing an association for the promotion of a Southern National Park and Forest Reserve. . . .”²⁴ The use of the term “Forest Reserve” indicated that the appeal was not being made solely for a local Asheville park. This broader approach

²⁰ Joseph H. Pratt, “Twelve Years of Preparation for the Passage of the Weeks Law,” *Journal of Forestry*, XXXIV (December, 1936), 1,028. See also the *Asheville Citizen*, October 20, 1899.

²¹ A copy of this invitation is in the Appalachian Park Collection.

²² There are several letters in the Appalachian Park Collection relating to the call. See especially: George W. Taylor, Congressman from Alabama, to the Asheville Board of Trade, October 21, 1899, and Theodore F. Schultz, Congressman from North Carolina, to the Secretary of the Forestry Committee, Asheville Board of Trade, November 13, 1899. The slowness of the response, shown by the dates of the letters, was probably the reason why the meeting was not held until November 22-23, 1899.

²³ Pritchard to Ambler, October 23, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection.

²⁴ Appalachian National Park Association, Minutes of Meetings 1899-1905, 5, Appalachian Park Collection, hereinafter cited as Appalachian Park Association, Minutes.

was very pleasing to Pinchot, now Chief Forester, Federal Bureau of Forestry, who wrote:

The object you have in view is one in which I have long had a very real interest. . . . I have become increasingly impressed with the great desirability of such a Park. While I do not underrate the difficulties in the way of your undertaking, it is a project thoroughly worthy of all the energy and enthusiasm you will devote to it and you have my heartest wishes for its success. If I can be of use, I hope you will let me know.²⁵

Asheville awoke on the morning of November 22, 1899, to find itself host to many out-of-town visitors. At the Battery Park Hotel some forty-two men and women were gathering, among them such people as Alfred M. Waddell, Mayor of Wilmington; S. Whittkowsky, President of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce; Josephus Daniels of the Raleigh *News and Observer*; J. C. Garlington, Editor of the Spartanburg, South Carolina, *Herald*; N. G. Gonzales, Editor of the Columbia, South Carolina, *State*; M. V. Richards, Land and Industrial Agent of the Southern Railway; Moses S. Cone, of Cone Export and Commission Company, Southern Cottons, New York; Senator Marion Butler of North Carolina; Charles McNamee, of the North Carolina Geological Board; Congressman W. T. Crawford of North Carolina; ex-Congressman Richmond Pearson of North Carolina; George S. Powell, A. R. McQuilkin, E. P. McKissick, Charles A. Webb, and Dr. Chase P. Ambler, all of Asheville.²⁶

The first morning session saw N. G. Gonzales elected chairman and Dr. Chase P. Ambler secretary of the convention.²⁷ Senator Butler and Congressman Crawford both pledged themselves to support the matter in Congress; Secretary Ambler passed around copies of the petition for each member who so desired to sign. Bylaws were adopted after a somewhat extended debate as to the exact title by which the new organization should be known. It was finally decided that it

²⁵ Pinchot to H. Claybrook Jones, November 11, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection.

²⁶ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 5, 30.

²⁷ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 5, 9.

should be called the Appalachian National Park Association.²⁸ The bylaws of the Association said of it: "Its object shall be the establishment of a national park somewhere in the Southern Appalachian Mountains."²⁹ Officers were to consist of a president, twenty-five vice-presidents, and a board of twelve directors. This board was authorized to set up auxiliary branches, wherever practicable, of the national organization with the same object and aim as the parent group.

The resolutions adopted called upon Congress to ". . . investigate this movement, become conversant with the necessity of establishing such a park, and to use their utmost endeavor to enact such legislation as will secure the establishment of a park in the mountains of western North Carolina."³⁰ It was also resolved that the citizens of southeastern States be called upon to lend their assistance to the movement by joining auxiliary branches of the Association. The press of the country was to be asked to lend its aid in placing the matter before the people, keeping up interest, and in urging Congress to act when the proposed park was brought to its attention. George S. Powell, a retired merchant of Asheville, was elected President and Ambler, who had already done so much for the movement, Secretary.³¹ The second session, which took place on the following morning, was a short meeting. It resulted only in the passing of addi-

²⁸ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 7ff. "Eastern Park" was turned down because it was thought that this would bring the Adirondacks in as a competitor. "Southern National Park" was eliminated because it was felt to be sectional and might work against the scheme. "Blue Ridge National Park" did not pass because it was noted that some of the finest mountains in the section were not in the Blue Ridge. "Southern National Park and Forest Reserve," presented by Dr. Ambler, was rejected. The term "Appalachian" was accepted because, even though it was believed that the Appalachians extended to New England, it was felt that there was no competition to be had from the northern end of the mountains. There seemed to be no question but that the project should be a national one and in the form of a park, not a forest reserve.

²⁹ Appalachian Park Collection, Minutes, 10.

³⁰ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 28. Josephus Daniels, Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, reported that the only matter of dispute on the resolutions in committee was whether to recommend a park in the western North Carolina mountains or in the Southern Appalachians. Daniels, the only member of the committee from North Carolina, was also the only one who voted for the resolutions to ask for action in the Southern Appalachians. All the others voted for western North Carolina. On the committee were two men from Georgia, one from Illinois, and one from New York.

³¹ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 28.

tional resolutions asking the ladies to co-operate in the movement. After the gathering was dismissed, members of the Association enjoyed a drive through the beautiful Biltmore Estate, where its main points of interest were visited.³²

The southern press lauded the objectives of the Association and spoke highly of the officers selected, promising that "... they may rely with confidence upon the united sympathy and support of the South and Middle States."³³ Great stress was placed on the fact that the twenty-five vice-presidents chosen from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky included senators as well as governors. The apparent strength shown for the park at the meeting led to the comment: "If it is ever to be done, now is the time."³⁴ Another call to action read: "Let us at all events preserve samples of these splendid forests so that the succeeding generations can at least see in imagination the glorious heritage which their fathers destroyed."³⁵ The Association concentrated at once in securing as much favorable publicity as possible for the movement. Dr. Ambler was soon busily circulating copies of the petition originally addressed to Senator Pritchard but now directed to Congress. At the same time, red stickers reading, "Push the Appalachian Park Movement" were being sent out for use on business and private correspondence. *Southern Pictures and Pencilings* having become the official organ of the Association, an issue of it devoted to the park movement was widely distributed. While McQuilkin, Ambler, and Powell were writing for the various newspapers who had asked for material concerning the work of the group, a drive for increased membership was under way, as some forty towns were contacted through let-

³² Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 32.

³³ *Raleigh Post*, November 25, 1899.

³⁴ *State* (Columbia, South Carolina), November 26, 1899. The same issue noted the formation of the Appalachian Apricot Club on November 23, 1899, by Major E. P. McKissick, proprietor of the Battery Park Hotel, and his guests under the heading, "First Child of the National Park Movement Born at the Battery Park."

³⁵ *Charlotte Observer*, November 22, 1899. See also *Charlotte Observer*, November 23, 1899; *Forester*, V (December, 1899), 289; and "In the Southern Alleghanies," *Forester*, V, (December, 1899), 283.

ters to their mayors. Powell was especially active in trying to collect donations for the cause.³⁶

Early results of the publicity campaign were heartwarming. Railroads, eager to help, offered to distribute circulars, and one railway went so far as to contribute money to the cause as the President of the Southern Railway sent one hundred welcome dollars. M. V. Richards, Land and Industrial Agent of the same railway and one of the charter members of the Association, with his office in Washington, was very active in the early days of the movement. While newspapers were definitely interested in publishing material concerning the proposed park,³⁷ ladies were also making their contribution as the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs offered any assistance to the Association that might be asked. Word of the proposed park was certainly getting around for a Rochester, New York, resident offered himself as caretaker of the new enterprise.³⁸

But all was not rosy! Although Powell was able to raise some money through solicitation, the membership drive was disappointing. It was Powell's feeling that little money in membership fees could be expected outside of the mountain towns. A canvass of Asheville and adjacent towns in person by those on the membership committee was ordered by the executive committee in the hope of thus securing the needed new members.³⁹ The idea of the park as a local proposition was still paramount in the thinking of the leaders of the movement at the time. Indeed, to some people it was really

³⁶ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 35 ff. Between November 22 and December 13, Ambler wrote and mailed 297 letters, distributed 2,000 of the red stickers, and circulated an undetermined number of the petitions.

³⁷ Sunday Editor Marshall of the *New York Herald* to Richards, November 28, 1899; W. B. Gwyn to Jones, December 11, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection.

³⁸ Charles Lang: "To whom it may concern," December 3, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection. Somewhat confused as to the type of park contemplated, he nonetheless outlined his plan of operation in some detail: ". . . the first thing to look to is to Put a few trail roads all round your mountantops, and at the same time see to distroying all small Blood suckin anamal, at the same time Put in a few ackers of Nursery stock . . . and all this is no youse unless he [the caretaker] know all about the Nursey Busness, and allso all about Raisin game and Procting it, such as trapps and trap-pin. . . ." It is unfortunate that Ambler did not keep carbon copies of outgoing correspondence at this time. The answer he sent must have been an interesting one.

³⁹ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 40.

only a drive for a city park. Others, however, such as N. S. Shaler, thought "... that to be most fully effective there ought to be three or four National Preserves in the Appalachian Region and that such should be a part of our policy."⁴⁰ Still others, like the Governor of Virginia, were just not interested at all.

While publicity work was progressing, attention was being given to the preparation of a memorial to Congress. Powell and Charles McNamee were hard at work on the arguments to be included in the petition. The difficult task of gathering descriptive material to be submitted with the memorial fell to the lot of Ambler.⁴¹ Gifford Pinchot, who was still very much interested in the project, was again called upon for aid. Earlier requests of a similar nature, as has been seen, had not brought the desired information, so this time Pinchot sent a North Carolina geological survey bulletin describing the timber trees and forests of North Carolina.⁴² A topographical map of western North Carolina, on which the timber areas had been inked in green, was sent on request by the Director of the United States Geological Survey. It was indicated by the Director, Charles D. Walcott, that the map would give only a general idea of the region, since much of the work had been done merely by reconnaissance and thus represented little more than a preliminary survey.⁴³ Obviously, very little was known of the timber and other resources of the western North Carolina area.

The memorial and accompanying petition were presented to a joint meeting of the executive committee and chairmen of the other committees of the Association in Asheville on December 19, 1899. The memorial was accepted as "... an elegant prepared résumé of the whole object of the Association and described and defined a part of the country ex-

⁴⁰ S. C. Mason to Ambler, December 19, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection. Mason, Professor of Horticulture and Forestry at Berea College, Kentucky, and a charter member of the Association, is here quoting from a letter he had received from the famous geologist, Shaler. Mason agreed with this observation of Shaler's.

⁴¹ Ambler, Activities, 19.

⁴² Pinchot to Ambler, December 2, 1899; Pinchot to Pritchard, December 11, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁴³ Charles D. Walcott, Director of the United States Geological Survey, to Ambler, December 14, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection.

tending along western North Carolina, which the committee thought best suited for the purposes of the Park.”⁴⁴ Ambler’s United States Geological Survey map was marked off by McNamee to show the proposed park site. It was moved that the memorial be printed and sent to all senators, representatives, and to the newspapers. The meeting disclosed that membership was still lagging but that Ambler had been instrumental in having printed 5,000 booklets telling the story of the movement and was in the process of sending them out to those on his mailing list.⁴⁵

Despite the fact that there seemed little hope that a bill relative to the park could be introduced in Congress before 1900, it was decided to put M. V. Richards of Washington, D. C., in charge of seeing that the memorial at least was placed before the lawmakers as soon as possible.⁴⁶ Senator Marion Bulter had already prepared a bill which he planned to introduce the latter part of December. This bill provided for a survey of the western North Carolina lands and Butler was preparing to introduce it with the idea in mind of having Ambler see to it that editorials appeared in the *Washington Post* and other newspapers immediately after the introduction. Butler was somewhat confused as to how the Association wanted the matter handled and accused that body of not keeping him properly informed.⁴⁷

The executive committee of the Association decided to leave the matter of introducing the memorial and bill in the hands of M. V. Richards. The latter, from the best information he had at the close of 1899, felt that the memorial should be presented to Congress immediately after a survey bill was introduced. The two Senators from North Carolina, Marion Butler and Jeter C. Pritchard, were still unaware of each other’s intentions as to the Congressional action to be sought. Powell agreed with Richards that a bill supported by the petition should be introduced. Senators Butler and Pritchard, through Richards, were able to reach an agreement as

⁴⁴ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 42.

⁴⁵ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 41 ff.

⁴⁶ Powell to Ambler, December 10, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁴⁷ Senator Marion Butler to Ambler, December 16, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection.

to when and by whom the memorial was to be presented to Congress.⁴⁸

Senator Pritchard celebrated the arrival of the new year, 1900, by introducing the petition from the Appalachian National Park Association in the Senate on January 4.⁴⁹ Drawn up much along the same lines as that presented earlier to Senator Pritchard, the memorial called for a national park somewhere in the Southern Appalachians. Reasons why Congress should act on this suggestion were given as follows:

I. *The Rare Natural Beauty of the Appalachian Region.* . . . in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains, the Balsam Mountains and the Black and Craggy Mountains is found . . . the most beautiful, as well as the highest, mountains east of the lofty Western ranges. . . all clothed with virgin forests and intersected by deep valleys abounding in brooks, rivers and waterfalls.

II. *The Superb Forests of the Southern Appalachian System.* . . . here is the largest area in the South Atlantic Region of Virgin Forest and the finest example of Mixed Forest (by which is meant a forest of deciduous and evergreen trees) in America. . . . The increasing scarcity of timber is causing the large areas of forest . . . to be acquired by those whose thought will be immediate returns from a system of lumbering utterly reckless and ruinous. . . . The National Government, . . . can prevent this destruction, and . . . preserve the forest as a heritage and blessing to unborn generations.

III. *The necessity of preserving the headwaters of many rivers rising in these mountains.* . . . The forest acts as a storehouse of moisture for the dry season and tends to prevent floods. . . . Many rivers rise in the mountains and the same causes which destroy the forests will work irreparable injury to the source of water-supply. It is the duty of the National Government, . . . to protect their sources and the water-supply of the country.

IV. *The Healthfulness of the Region.* . . . the plateau lying between the Great Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge is one of the most deservedly popular health resorts of the world. . . . It rivals Arizona as a sanatorium for those suffering from pulmonary troubles.

V. *The Climate is fine the whole year.* For . . . those wishing to escape the rigors of a northern winter this plateau has one of

⁴⁸ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 47; Richards to Ambler, December 28, 1899, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁴⁹ *Congressional Record*, XXXIII (January 4, 1900), 642.

the best all-year climates in the world. The existing National Parks can only be visited in summer; . . . [but this] could be visited and enjoyed at all seasons of the year.

VI. *The Location is Central.* . . . This . . . is but twenty-four hours from New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Toledo and the Gulf States. It is, therefore, within easy reach of millions of people, and a park there could be, in fact, as in name, a National Park.

VII. *The Eastern States are entitled to a National Park.* There is no National Park of the character . . . suggested east of the Yellowstone . . . nor is there even a Forest Preserve. . . . The Chickamauga Battle Field . . . possesses none of the characteristics . . . and was created because of historical interest.

VIII. *The Park would pay as a Forest Reserve.* . . . no forest reserve would yield a larger return to the Government. . . . this is the place for the commencement of forestry operations, and perhaps as the location eventually of a National School of Forestry.

IX. *The title to the land can be easily acquired.* A site . . . can easily be chosen where the land is held in large areas and where the settlers are few. The land now sells for about two dollars an acre.⁵⁰

And so it went. The imperative nature of the appeal was underscored by reference to this being a time of increasing timber scarcity resulting from wasteful lumbering. The Chickamauga Battlefield, which was preserved as a historic site, was discounted, as not fulfilling the need for an eastern park, and it was urged that the spot for the sailors' and soldiers' sanitarium lay in this western North Carolina area. Noting that the government was about to start the practice of scientific forestry, the question was asked, why not start it here? In addition, it was pointed out that a national forestry school could be started here at some future date.

The petition did not set definite boundaries for the park. Instead, it pointed out that this delineation should be left to the government forester. The heart of the Great Smokies was listed, however as containing the best scenery and the highest mountains. In order that the largest area of mixed and virgin forest would be secured, the Balsam Mountains

⁵⁰ "Memorial of the Appalachian National Park Association," *Senate Document*, Fifty Sixth Congress, First Session, No. 58 (January 4, 1900), 1 ff, hereinafter cited as *Senate Document*, No. 58.

should also be included. The memorial closed with an appeal for congressional authorization of surveys of the area for the proposed park, purchase of the title to needed lands, and any action which Congress thought to be wise in respect to the proposal.⁵¹ Accompanying this plea was a map showing the general area proposed for the park.⁵² It was moved in the Senate that the petition be printed and referred to the Committee on Forest Reservations and the Protection of Game.⁵³

Although the Association had scored this initial success, it was not finding the going easy. The immediate obstacle was a financial one. The anticipated rush of new members had not materialized, even though Ambler was circulating articles, booklets, circulars, and similar material at a rapid rate. People were just not supporting the movement with hard cash. It was now realized that expenses were to be heavy if the proper pressure was to be brought to bear on Congress, and that representatives of the Association should be in Washington at the proper times to see that all went well with the project. Therefore a new membership drive was inaugurated, but it failed miserably because interest in the proposition was confined largely to Asheville and its immediate vicinity.⁵⁴ For instance, the people of Knoxville, Tennessee, were concerned with obtaining a national park and army post for their own city and felt “. . . that becoming interested in so many enterprises the government might lose interest in all.”⁵⁵

Another irritating factor hampering the activity of the Association was the obstructionist tactics of one of its members, James F. Hays. Feeling that the petition and map excluded consideration of his lands which lay around Sapphire, North Carolina, he threatened to withdraw the congressional support he had promised to draw from Pennsylvania for the measure. This was indeed a serious threat, since Senator Butler had a resolution ready to introduce while Pritchard

⁵¹ *Senate Document*, No. 58, *passim*. The particular tracts mentioned lay in western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and southwest Virginia.

⁵² (Copy) James F. Hays to Richards, January 6, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁵³ *Congressional Record*, XXXIII (January 4, 1900), 642.

⁵⁴ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 45-51.

⁵⁵ J. M. Greer to Ambler, January 11, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

was working on a survey amendment to the agriculture appropriation bill, both efforts tied to the proposed park. Richards was now forced to hold up the contemplated actions because he thought it unwise that any proposal be laid before Congress without Hays' approval since support of the Pennsylvania delegation was considered vital. Though assuring Hays that the boundaries as outlined in the petition and map would in no way eliminate investigation of outside land, Richards at the same time asked the executive committee of the Association to revise the memorial so as not to antagonize Hays.⁵⁶

This the committee refused to do, since it sincerely felt that the Hays lands were so worthy of consideration that they would undoubtedly be pointed out to any investigating committee when the time came for such action.⁵⁷ It directed Richards, however, who was busily working on a bill for the purchase of an area in western North Carolina ". . . in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains, the Balsam Mountains, and the Black and Craggy Mountains . . ." ⁵⁸ to strike out those words and to present no bill specifying exact locations. There was considerable discussion of Hays' position by members of the committee, and he was roundly castigated for being moved by selfish motives. One of the members thought it best to ignore him in the hope that he would see that ". . . we were working for the good of all and attempting to exclude none."⁵⁹ This verbal lashing was later struck from the minutes of the Association, but Dr. Ambler struck the words out so as to leave them in the most legible manner possible.⁶⁰ The Association had left itself wide open in this manner because, in accepting the aid of Hays initially, it had been informed that he would work for the movement only if ". . . it would in some way be of benefit to the interests

⁵⁶ (Copy) Hays to Richards, January 6, 1900; (Copy) Richards to Hays, January 10, 1900; Richards to Powell, January 10, 1900; Richards to Ambler, January 13, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection. Hays was General Manager of the Pennsylvania Railroad and evidently carried enough weight with members of Congress from Pennsylvania to make his promise good. Hays to Ambler, February 2, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁵⁷ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 52-53.

⁵⁸ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 51-52.

⁵⁹ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 53.

⁶⁰ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 52-54.

I represent.”⁶¹ This action evidently proved satisfactory to Hays, for he made no further protests.⁶²

Meanwhile Richards, Pritchard, and Butler had been busy preparing for Congressional activity. A part of this preparation included a consultation by Richards with Pinchot concerning the whole subject of the park. The result was that Senator Pritchard offered an amendment to the agriculture appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1901. The rider, presented on January 15, provided a sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of investigating and examining eastern Tennessee, western North Carolina, and northeastern Georgia in preparation for the creation of a park in that region. On the following day Senator Butler introduced his resolution, S. R. 69, providing for a commission to make the same type of survey for the future establishment of a national park and forest reserve to be known as the Appalachian National Park. Both resolution and amendment were referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.⁶³

Although the two requests were not in harmony as to the proposed location of the park (Butler did not include northeastern Georgia in the area of consideration), it had been decided to put the resolution before the Senate anyway and work out in committee such changes as might be needed.⁶⁴ The omission of any reference to Virginia and South Carolina, both prominently mentioned earlier in the memorial, may have been the result of lack of support for the park in those States. Certainly one of the Senators from Virginia was not convinced of the wisdom of the idea. Although he never openly condemned the proposal, he would not allow his name to be used in connection with it, declaring: “I have not committed myself to your scheme and the use of my name

⁶¹ (Copy) Hays to Richards, January 6, 1900. What other interests he represented, if any, beside his own I was unable to discover.

⁶² As a matter of fact, Hays soon sent a statement of good faith to the Association along with a most welcome twenty-five dollars. Hays to Ambler, January 30, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁶³ Pinchot to Ambler, January 12, 1900; Powell to Ambler, January 15, 1900; Holmes to Powell, January 16, 1900; Senator Marion Butler to Ambler, January 20, 1900; Richards to Ambler, January 20, 1900; Appalachian Park Collection. See also *Congressional Record*, XXXIII (January 15, 1900), 801 (January 16, 1900), 853.

⁶⁴ Butler to Ambler, January 20, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

is not authorized.”⁶⁵ At the same time the use of the term “forest reserve” in the resolution was certainly an extension of a local park idea. It is also hard to reconcile the omission of Virginia and South Carolina with the bid for outside support represented by the activities of Joseph A. Holmes.

Working out of his Raleigh office, with an occasional trip to Washington, Holmes was pushing two projects aimed at the creation of wider agitation for Congressional approval of the southern park. He approached the Secretary of Agriculture in the hope that he would see fit to approve the proposal in a statement in the annual report of his department. In this Holmes failed.⁶⁶ At the same time he prepared resolutions favoring the park to be presented by himself to the legislatures of Tennessee, South Carolina, and Virginia for action upon them. Although the Governor of Virginia, J. H. Tyler, sent a communication to the legislature of that State calling their attention to the proposed Park and was expecting the arrival of Holmes to speak to a committee of the legislature about it, Holmes evidently did not appear. For some reason, the campaign to win State legislative endorsement was temporarily postponed.⁶⁷ Holmes was an ardent worker for the reserve, but he believed in going about things in a very quiet, almost secret, manner. Continually trying to soft-pedal the activities of the publicity-minded Ambler, Holmes feared that the unfortunate impression might be created that the Association was attempting to set up a lobby in Washington.

While these efforts were being made, a powerful ally had been added to those who favored the Appalachian Park. At its annual meeting in December, 1899, the American Forestry Association gave a strong endorsement to the project by

⁶⁵ Senator John W. Daniel to Ambler, January 22, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁶⁶ Department of Agriculture, *Annual Report, 1900* (Washington, D. C., 1901). No mention of it was made. However, the activity of the associations who had allied themselves in the East with the drive aimed at stirring up interest in forests and forestry problems was hailed as one of the most conspicuous developments on the forestry scene for the year. “Progress of Forestry,” Department of Agriculture, *Yearbook, 1900* (Washington, D. C., 1900), Appendix, 733.

⁶⁷ Holmes to Ambler, December 27, 1899, January 11, 1900; Holmes to Powell, January 2, 16, 1900; Governor J. H. Tyler to Ambler, January 30, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

adopting a resolution which read: "The Association hereby expresses its gratification at the prospect of the establishment of National Parks and Forest Reservations in Minnesota and along the crest of the southern Alleghenies."⁶⁸ The organization indicated that it was interested primarily in the timber preservation aspects of the proposal. Yet the force of the endorsement was lessened somewhat by an expression from the group at the same time that the southern aspirations for the park were coming solely from North Carolina.⁶⁹ From Pennsylvania, which already had considerable State forest land⁷⁰ now came a suggestion of an expanded plan for an eastern park because ". . . it would be a wise thing if all of the higher ridges of the great Appalachian system, from North Carolina to and including Pennsylvania, might be a public park."⁷¹ Although Pennsylvania was included in this projected eastern park, the White Mountains, certainly in the Appalachian range, were omitted.⁷²

During the remainder of January efforts were made to line up a delegation from the Appalachian National Park Association along with such influential men as Pinchot to appear before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and forestry as soon as a hearing could be arranged.⁷³ It was decided by Richards and the men in Congress with whom he

⁶⁸ American Forestry Association, "The Resolutions Adopted," *Forester*, VI (January, 1900), 10. The organization had been contacted earlier by Dr. Ambler in a bid for support. The passing of a resolution probably resulted in part from this appeal since the secretary had promised to bring it to the attention of the Board of Directors of the American Forestry Association. George P. Whittlesey, Recording Secretary of the American Forestry Association to Dr. S. Westray Battle, October 3, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁶⁹ American Forestry Association, "Report of the Directors," *Forester* VI (January, 1900), 5-9. See also the *New York Tribune*, December 14, 1900.

⁷⁰ Gifford Pinchot, "Progress of Forestry in the United States," Department of Agriculture, *Yearbook*, 1899 (Washington, 1900), 299.

⁷¹ "The Appalachian National Park," *Forest Leaves* VII (February, 1900), 105.

⁷² The increased interest on the part of Pennsylvania in the park was also demonstrated by the fact that the Pennsylvania Botanical Society on February 28, 1900, by a unanimous vote extended to the Appalachian National Park Association its heartiest sympathy and asked that the Society's officers be allowed to become members of the Association. John M. MacFarlane, Secretary of the Botanical Society of Pennsylvania to Ambler, February 27, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁷³ Hays to Ambler, February 2, 1900; Pinchot to Ambler, January 12, 1900; Butler to Ambler, January 20, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

was working, however, that it would be best to wait and see if an amendment to the current agriculture appropriation bill could be passed without the necessity of a hearing. Therefore the pressure for an early appearance of proponents of the project before the appropriate committee slackened.

With the spring came new hope. To be sure the Appalachian National Park Association was hard pressed to keep the fires burning, since finances were going from bad to worse. Yet Ambler was still able to send out information as to the Association's activities and was expanding his area of effort. One result was that on March 14 the Appalachian Club of Boston and New England unanimously adopted a memorial to Congress expressing approval of the establishment of a national park somewhere in the Southern Appalachians. A day later this petition was introduced in the Senate by Senator Blakely Hoar of Massachusetts, where it was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.⁷⁴

April saw the efforts of the friends of the proposal concentrated on the passage of the amendment to the agriculture appropriation bill which would mark the first step toward the realization of a national park in the Southern Appalachians. This measure, having passed the House on April 10, was sent to the Senate. When the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported the bill, H. R. 10538, it increased the amount carried for forestry investigations by \$40,000 and authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to use as much as \$5,000 of this to investigate the forest conditions of the Southern Appalachian mountain region of western North Carolina and adjacent States. This amendment was agreed to without comment during debates on the bill and passed with H. R. 10538 on April 25.⁷⁵

Both the wording of the amendment and the decrease in the amount originally asked by Pritchard for the survey was

⁷⁴ *Congressional Record*, XXXIII (March 15, 1900), 2,916; Appalachian Mountain Club, "Proceedings of the Club, March 14, 1900," *Appalachia*, IX (April, 1901), 408-409; Harlan P. Kelsey to Ambler, April 7, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection, Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 55-56.

⁷⁵ "Appropriations for Department of Agriculture," *Senate Report*, Fifty-Sixth Congress, First Session, No 1049 (April 23, 1900), 1; "Agriculture Appropriation Bill," *House Report*, Fifty-Sixth Congress, First Session, No. 56 (April 10, 1900), 952; *Congressional Record*, XXXIII (April 25, 1900), 4,655.

the result of a hearing held before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on April 17. Several officers of the Appalachian National Park Association, as well as others, were present. Apparently the evidence presented was conclusive enough to win acceptance of the Pritchard amendment. It was made clear to the friends of the proposition, however, that there would be considerable opposition to the government setting up a park from those who thought that Congress could not act unless State legislatures invited it to do so. These reluctant individuals felt that the States would have to relinquish their legislative rights to tax lands so acquired and grant the right to purchase such lands to the Federal Government before national action could be taken. This was an important consideration, since some members of Congress definitely held this view and consequently their votes might well block the desired operation. Moreover, it was stressed in the committee report that additional definite information was needed concerning the area before Congress could be expected to undertake the project.⁷⁶

Yet there was also prevalent the idea that "The general government ought to step in before it is too late and take possession of the whole region."⁷⁷ The *New York Lumber Journal* declared itself ". . . heartily in favor of such a park and hopes Congress will give it favorable attention."⁷⁸ Continuing, the *Journal* characterized it as a measure for the conservation of the lumber industry and predicted that the project would not only pay for the interest on the money invested from the sale of mature timber but would no doubt become self-supporting in time. There was still another plea

⁷⁶ Powell to Ambler, April 18, 1900; Powell to Ambler, April 19, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection. Both correspondents were in Washington for the purpose of attending the hearing. *The Appalachian National Park*, compiled by Dr. Chase P. Ambler (Asheville, fourth edition, 1901), 5. I was unable to find a copy of the hearings in the Department of Agriculture Library or in the Legislative Records of the Senate contained in the National Archives, Washington, D. C. I doubt their ever having been printed. The minutes of the Appalachian National Park Association are strangely silent on the event. The Appalachian Collection, so complete in most respects, contains very little concerning it.

⁷⁷ "Along the Smoky Range," *Forester*, VII (April, 1900), 90. This quotation is from a reprint of an editorial from the *Hartford Courant*.

⁷⁸ As quoted in "Comment on the Appalachian Park," *Forester*, VI (June, 1900), 149.

made for the extension of the idea to include a truly eastern park because, it was urged, such action would provide both a timber reserve and a pleasure ground for the eastern States.⁷⁹ Pressure was building up for something more than a mere park.

The Appalachian National Park Association, although still struggling with its financial problems, continued stirring up favorable sentiment for the park. For example, Joseph A. Holmes read a paper before the summer meeting of the American Forestry Association, held in New York on June 26, stressing the accessibility of the area as a summer resort and the fact that the national government alone should undertake the project because of the national benefits which would derive from it. At the same time, Ambler was using the official organ of the American Forestry Association to ask all those interested to contact him for copies of circulars and resolutions concerning the park movement.⁸⁰

Meanwhile, the House would not concur in the Senate's amendments to H. R. 10538 and a conference of members representing both houses was arranged. The report of this conference committee was accepted by the Senate on May 10, the House following with their approval four days later. The increase of \$40,000 for forestry investigation was accepted by the conferees after a personal discussion with the Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson,⁸¹ who defended them as necessary for the effective operation of his office. There was no objection to the Appalachian investigation as such by any of the conferees and H. R. 10538 was then passed, and the bill was signed by the President on May 26. The original wording of the Pritchard Amendment as reported

⁷⁹ "The Appalachian National Park," *Forest Leaves*, VII (June, 1900), 133.

⁸⁰ Joseph A. Holmes, "The Proposed Appalachian Park," *Forester*, VI (July, 1900), 160-163; "For An Appalachian Park," *Forester*, VI (June 1900), 141-142; Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 58-59.

⁸¹ James Wilson, "Tama Jim," indefatigable worker, served as Secretary of Agriculture, 1897-1913, and during his directorship the department grew tremendously, with its work being extended into many new fields. Wilson was well liked by the three Presidents under whom he served: McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft. Malone, *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVII, 330-331.

on April 25 was retained in the measure when it became law.⁸²

Two important groups soon gave strong endorsements to the proposal for the protection of southern forests. At a meeting in New York on May 25 the American Forestry Association approved it and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, assembling in the same city three days later, did the same. The main reason given by the organizations for their request for action was a recognition of ". . . the importance of the preservation in its original condition of some portion of the hardwood forests of the Southern Appalachian region. . . ." ⁸³ The idea of a national forest reserve rather than a park was becoming more prevalent.

During the summer the United States Geological survey was busy with its investigation of western North Carolina and adjacent States. Assisting in this work was the North Carolina Geological Survey, of which Holmes was State Geologist. W. W. Ashe from Holmes' office helped with the examination of the hardwood forests of the mountain counties while the efforts of the federal agency in studying the geological, topographical, and hydrographical conditions in the Southern Appalachian region were contributed largely by H. B. Ayres.⁸⁴

Despite the fact that the middle of July found the South Atlantic Lumber Association and the Rome, Georgia, Commercial League endorsing the movement,⁸⁵ Holmes was

⁸² *Congressional Record*, XXXIII (April 28, 1900), 4,794. 4,805 (May 17, 1900), 5,636 (May 21, 1900), 5,822 (May 26, 1900), 6,109; "An Act Making Appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth nineteen hundred and one," *Statutes at Large*, Chapter 555, 197. Richards had been in contact with the Secretary of Agriculture while the amendment was being considered by the conferees and he had been assured by Wilson that the amendment would pass. The Secretary was ". . . very much interested in the subject. . . ." Richards to Ambler, May 24, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁸³ Holmes to Ambler, June 11, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁸⁴ North Carolina Geological Survey, *Biennial Report of the State Geologist, 1901-1902* (Raleigh, 1902), 10; Holmes to Ambler, July 7, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection. The Appalachian National Park Association was eager to point out to the investigators the areas it thought worthy of consideration. Three tracts combining timber and mountain scenery were carefully designated to them. Holmes to Ambler, July 7, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection. With the vigilant Holmes in close contact with the surveying party, it is doubtful that any of the good points of those sections were overlooked.

⁸⁵ Richards to Ambler, May 24, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

trying to slow down Ambler's publicity campaign, which was going on apace.⁸⁶ Although the geologist found those happenings ample reason for rejoicing, he had been ". . . cautioned by the Washington authorities against printing too much. They seem rather anxious that we print very little about the park until the investigations are completed and the Government report is printed."⁸⁷ Ambler was evidently trying to see what land was for sale at what price as the *Forester* was being contacted about it by people Ambler had written. The fact that people who owned land in the area being considered were following the proposed park developments with some interest is testified to by numerous letters to Ambler. For example, one such owner offered his 52,000 acres in Burke County, North Carolina, complete with desirable scenery, watershed, and virgin forests for ". . . any reasonable price."⁸⁸

There was not a great deal of activity by the Appalachian National Park Association during the remainder of 1900. There were two important matters, however, which received the attention of the Association. The first of these was an effort to get the Legislature of North Carolina to recognize the movement by passing a resolution in favor of the park. Charles A. Webb and George H. Smathers, both of Asheville, were chosen to see if this could be done during the June session of that body. Initially they meet with a degree of success, since the desired resolution was submitted at Raleigh to the Committee on Rules which reported favorably on it. Unfortunately, when the petition was brought up in session the resolution could not be found! Hence it was not passed. This circumstance was evidently not considered to be anything out of the ordinary, as the Committee to the State Legislature was calmly directed by the Association to secure as early an action as possible on the matter.⁸⁹

The second bit of activity stemmed from the efforts being made during the summer and fall by two New York gentle-

⁸⁶ "The Proposed Appalachian Park," *Forest Leaves*, VII, (August, 1900), 150.

⁸⁷ Holmes to Ambler, August 6, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁸⁸ C. W. Burnett to Ambler, Nov. 4, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁸⁹ Appalachian Park Association, Minutes, 59-61.

men to negotiate a contract with a committee delegated by the Cherokee tribal council to act in its name. The agreement sought with the tribe stipulated that all the timber growing on a 33,000 acre tract located in the western North Carolina mountains and belonging to the Indians would be conveyed for fifty years to the purchasers. Payment was to be made at the rate of two cents per acre per annum. These were anxious moments for park enthusiasts, since the lands were in the heart of the proposed reservation and might well become its nucleus. Both Pinchot and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs were contacted by the Appalachian National Park Association and through their efforts the threatened transaction was foiled. Secretary of the Interior E. A. Hitchcock eventually disapproved the proposed contract on the grounds that the timber on the tract was by the most reliable date valued at \$1,195,000 and the amount of \$66,000 offered in payment was totally inadequate as a compensation for the privileges granted in return.⁹⁰

With the year 1900 fast drawing to a close, there were certain indications that people outside North Carolina were becoming increasingly interested in the park. At its annual meeting in Washington, the American Forestry Association on December 13 voted its cordial approval of the action of Congress in making provisions for the survey of the Southern Appalachians and added “. . . we recommend that further steps be taken for the creation by purchase of a National Appalachian Park. . . .”⁹¹ At the same time, a lady from Louisville, Kentucky, was being advised by Pinchot to stir up sentiment for the project in her home State. She was eager to present information on the subject before influential clubs in the Bluegrass country, but admitted that this was to be done “. . . so that we can more easily secure ours in the

⁹⁰ H. C. Sonner, Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Ambler, July 12, 1900; Holmes to Ambler, August 6, 1900; (Copy) Hitchcock to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, October 4, 1900; Pinchot to Ambler, November 9, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection. The two men concerned were George C. Webb, of Fulton, New York, and Andrus L. Gilbert of New York City. The land in question was well-timbered and was known as “Love Speculation Tract.” The actual offer was made of \$30,000 cash for the timber privileges for fifty years so the name of the tract obviously bore no relation to the spirit of the proposed transaction.

⁹¹ “The Nineteenth Annual Meeting,” *Forester* VI (January, 1901), 2.

future."⁹² There were other signs of increased interest as the Commercial and Industrial Association of Montgomery, Alabama, passed a resolution strongly favoring the creation of the Appalachian National Park while a hardware merchant in Danbury, Connecticut, was calling on various gun clubs in his own State, as well as those in New York, to endorse the movement.⁹³ So it was that the conversation between two anglers on a fishing trip in western North Carolina in June, 1899, was making sense in December, 1900, to hunters from New England interested in preserving game for their guns. But the embrace of those outside North Carolina, while it meant welcome support for the movement, carried with it the kiss of death for the Appalachian Park!

For by mid-January, 1901, the movement to preserve for posterity a portion of the mountain scenery of western North Carolina, which had begun with the scenery lover's lament in the 1880's, had grown into a concerted drive for a Southern Appalachian national forest reserve. To the cry of the scenery lover, fisherman, and hunter had now been added that of the practical forester and lumberman. With the introduction, on January 10, 1901, by Senator Pritchard of a bill providing for the purchase of a national forest reserve in the Southern Appalachian mountains,⁹⁴ came the end for the time being of the national park movement.

The energies of those who desired a national park were henceforth channeled into the great surge for the creation of eastern national forests in the Southern Appalachians and the White Mountains of New Hampshire, a conservation current which ran its course during the years 1901-1911. A national park in western North Carolina had to await the coming of a new generation of Americans who, no less than their ancestors, felt in their hearts the desire to walk an Appalachian Trail which led through the grandeur of the mountains and not down a valley of desolation.

⁹² Mrs. Sarah Webb Maury to Ambler, October 30, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection.

⁹³ F. A. Hull to Ambler, December 22, 1900, Appalachian Park Collection. Hull also offered to go to Washington and put pressure on four members of Congress whom he listed as personal friends.

⁹⁴ *Congressional Record*, XXXIV (January 10, 1901), 809.