

COMMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES PRESS ON THE INVASION OF THE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK AS PROPOSED IN THE HETCH-HETCHY BILL, WHICH HAS PASSED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND COMES BEFORE THE SENATE DECEMBER 1st TO 6th.

These Editorial Comments Are Entirely Spontaneous Expressions of National Opinion on a Thoroughly Dishonest Bill.
They Are Inspired Also by a Strong and Almost Universal Sentiment as to the Danger of Invading Our National Parks.

Enormous Power of Precedent

Boston Post.—The day is coming when, if this impudent attempt to destroy a lovely natural valley, one of the finest in the world, succeeds, there will be set in motion the same sort of machinery that has worked the Hetch-Hetchy grab through the National House, and it will be against other cherished possessions of the people. Few realize the enormous power of precedent with Congress.

The "Beautiful Lake" Delusion

The New York Times.—A prominent advocate of the project has confessed privately that "there are bad things in the bill, but they were put there to get votes." The House debate gives reason for thinking that the measure is a clumsy and probably unworkable attempt to partition the flow of the Hetch-Hetchy watershed between the city and such of the San Joaquin Valley farmers as could thus be bribed to forego their opposition.

The act creating the Yosemite National Park sets forth the importance and duty of reserving these wonders "in their original state," and the world has a moral right to demand that this purpose shall be adhered to. The "beautiful lake" theory deceives nobody. An artificial lake and dam are not a substitute for the unique beauty of the valley.

Project Has a Bad Look

Cleveland Plaindealer.—The whole project has a bad look. Let San Francisco go elsewhere for her water; engineers agree that other sources are available.

In the opinion of the Plaindealer, the best sentiment of the American people, could it be ascertained, would be overwhelmingly against the Hetch-Hetchy proposal.

The name is about all the water grabbers propose to leave ungrabbed.

No Time to Give Away Park Property

Syracuse Post Standard.—We don't believe that the time has come for giving away a national park for any purpose; nor do we admire the spirit which seems to animate San Francisco in this matter.

The Redwoods Will Go Next

Atlanta Morning Journal.—If San Francisco succeeds in stealing the Hetch-Hetchy Valley no doubt she will next want to cut down the redwood trees to obtain timber with which to dam it up.

Irremediable Destruction

Milwaukee Journal.—One fact alone should weigh enough to decide the issue. The cost of another site for waterworks for the city of San Francisco, no matter how great, would some time be paid off. Never will the beauty of the Hetch-Hetchy Valley be regained. With all the natural beauties of a rich nation, one little spot of rare beauty that was the common heritage of all will have been forever blotted out. And for the sake of saving money to a single city.

Almost a Crime

Memphis Appeal.—To any one who has stood in this wonderful valley and has gazed in awe upon the beautiful handiwork of God, it seems almost a crime to consider such a commercial proposition as the one offered by San Francisco.

It has been fully appreciated by sane participants in the general conservation movement that sentiment must not be allowed to run away with common sense, but here is required a wholly unnecessary surrender of a wonderful heritage of Nature, and to grant the request of San Francisco would be a lasting reflection on the national idealism and an ominous sign.

A Sordid Scheme

Outdoor World and Recreation.—Stripped of specious argument and sentimental enthusiasm, the naked, sordid fact stands revealed that San Francisco seeks to utterly destroy a precious wonderland because it offers cheaper water than can be had elsewhere.

In a word, they want the lovely Hetch-Hetchy Valley together with 500 square miles or half of the Yosemite National Park, which Congress in 1890 dedicated forever to public use!

Too Few Public Parks

Rochester Union-Advertiser.—Not many of those who are interested in seeing this big steal defeated believe that President Wilson will sign the measure. San Francisco is abundantly able to pay for her own water supply. There are at least two other sources open to her that will not rob the whole people for the benefit of the comparatively few people of San Francisco. The people of this country have too few great public parks and outing places and none of them should be alienated.

Let us keep Hetch-Hetchy. Let San Francisco go to some other of her many sources of water supply. Congress must not give the property of all away to a few.

The President to the Rescue

Troy Record.—While the legislators appear to be in league with the promoters who desire to convert a great natural feature into a water service for San Francisco, there is a hope that in the event of senators passing the bill, some one higher up will obey the opposition which will save the valley for the enjoyment of future generations.

Remarkable Protest of the Press

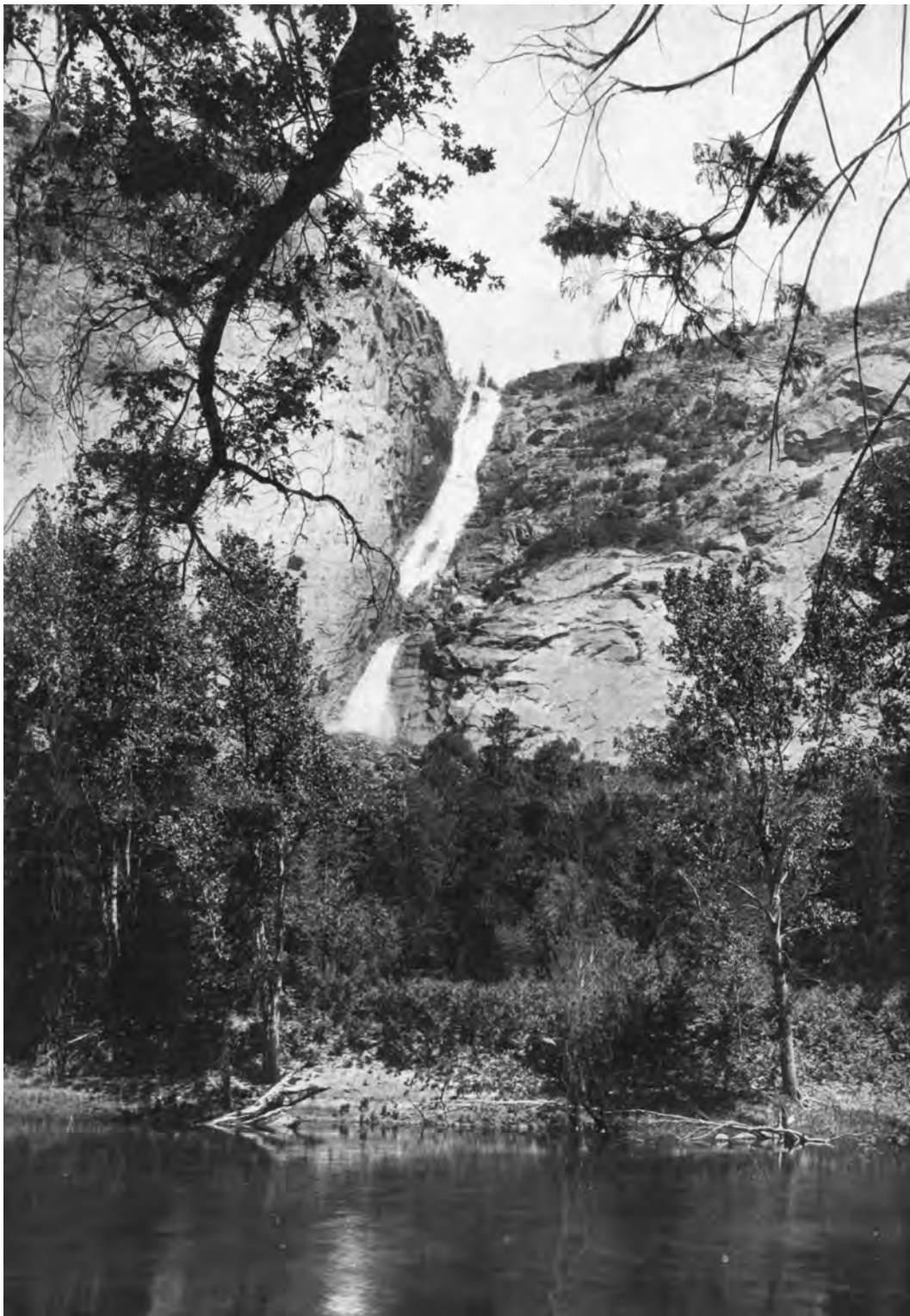
Lowell Citizen.—In view of the almost universal protest of the press of the United States against the grant of a part of the wonderful Hetch-Hetchy Valley to the city of San Francisco for use as a reservoir of water, it is surprising that the two branches of the Congress have accorded such a degree of favor to the scheme.

A Priceless Valley

Philadelphia Telegraph.—Why should the people of the United States make a present of one of their rarest natural treasures to the city of San Francisco? If Uncle Sam means to give away this priceless valley of Hetch-Hetchy to become a reservoir for one city, does he propose to do something equally handsome for all the other cities of the nation?

Wake Up and Protest

Baltimore American.—Let everybody east of the Rockies wake up and send in a protest against the Hetch-Hetchy grab game.



Photograph by J. N. LeCombe

WAPAMA FALLS, ONE OF THE HETCH-HETCHY CASCADES

"It is the counterpart of the Yosemite Fall, but has a much greater volume of water, and is about 1,700 feet in height. Every tree shown would be destroyed by the San Francisco reservoir, and the cliffs would be flooded to a height of 200 feet.

Thrifty City Authorities

Providence Journal.—San Francisco just now is biting off about as much as she will be able to chew comfortably for some time—seventy-seven millions for waterworks, more millions for a world's fair, more to run parallel and competing municipally owned street cars, and what not. She is enterprising, and she was ever a glorious spender. She is willing to save some millions if allowed a free swing in one of the nation's great scenic reservations.

The politicians of San Francisco care nothing for matters of natural beauty and taste. They have an eye only for utility, a utility that flows their way. The chief newspapers and organs of public opinion throughout the country have spoken in opposition to this "grab." We trust that the Senate will heed their expression of public sentiment, and, failing that, that President Wilson will veto the measure.

This iniquitous scheme purposes to take a valuable domain away from the nation and give it to a corporation solely for the latter's pecuniary profit. The whole nation is to be robbed for the sake of a single municipality.

A Free Gift to a City

Springfield Union.—The fight on the Hetch-Hetchy bill has resolved itself into a question of whether or not the Government should permit the destruction of one of the most beautiful portions of the Yosemite National Park in order to make the city of San Francisco a practically free gift of a \$45,000,000 water power in the guise of a water supply.

An Astounding Project

"Viewpoint" Dallas, Texas.—That Washington should even consider the \$45,000,000 hydro-electric gift to San Francisco, is astounding. If such a valuable right should be taken from our National Park and given away, it would be a matter that would some day call for a strict accounting. In return for the grant, the city gives a few promises it would never fulfil, and in time, no special year set, pay annually \$30,000!

A Call to the Colors

Inter-Ocean, Chicago.—It looks as if every good American who thinks our national parks are worth while should bestir himself in defense of the Hetch-Hetchy.

Incredible Complaisance

Milwaukee Press.—Entirely apart from the desirability of retaining this unique wonderland for the people's uplift and enjoyment, it is incredible that Congress should be complaisant in the matter of this contemplated water-power grab.

The Project an Official Blunder

San Francisco News Letter.—Why is Mayor Rolph, and the gentlemen associated with him, not willing to put the water question on a practical business basis? Why do they persist in attempting to force upon the taxpayers every possible burden which a gang of petty politicians or incompetent business men can devise? Why do not the newspapers of the city assert themselves, instead of passing over the blunder of the officials who went to Washington to present the claims in favor of Hetch-Hetchy?

An Economic Folly

The Wasp, San Francisco.—It is astounding how little the public of San Francisco knows about the water question. And yet City Attorney Long and officials working with him on water schemes are planning to pledge the credit of our city to undertake and complete a project which may cost \$100,000,000.

A Trespass on National Rights

Rochester Union-Advertiser.—San Francisco has several other sources of water supply that are practicable, available and not too costly, and the taking of which will not trespass upon the rights of the people of the United States. The people should be at pains to let their senators know that they are against this grab by San Francisco.

A National Scandal

The Standard Union, Brooklyn.—The Hetch-Hetchy matter at Washington has become a national issue and the manner of its handling almost a national scandal. Any citizen, indifferent to either aspect, thinking that it is only of local concern to San Franciscans, or that it is a fair example of parliamentary practice and precedents, greatly errs, and neglects incidents fraught with much significance and portending grave consequences. If the San Francisco "combine" breaks down the guards which the nation has placed around its Yosemite reserves and preserves, all others are in peril, and the whole conservation policy, which has gained its place fighting every step of the advance, goes by the board.

An Outrage and a Crime

Philadelphia Record.—At the hearing before the Public Lands Committee, the most conspicuous advocate of the scheme was asked whether he could not "go out overnight anywhere along the Sierra and get an abundant supply of pure water for the city?" His answer was: "Yes, by paying for it."

The pressing necessity of robbing the American people of a glorious possession evidently does not exist.

The sacrifice of a veritable temple of Nature to commercial greed would not be merely an inexcusable act of folly; it would be an outrage and a crime.

A Crisis

Boston Post.—Washington ought to sit upon this scheme hard. Congress should say once and for all that the great Federal [park] reserves are to be kept intact for the delight of posterity and the admiration of the world.

Irremediable Mischief

New York Evening Post.—The thing proposed in the bill is that the nation shall give up, for the economic advantage of a municipality, one of its most wonderful scenic possessions. Once done, the mischief can never be undone.

An Anti-Conservation Raid

Boston Transcript.—If this measure passes the Senate it will mark the beginning of an anti-conservation raid which has long been planned by those who thirst not for the water, but for its power, and who hunger mightily for the return of the good old days when the resources of the public domain were open to the exploitation of the man who was wily enough to get there first. If Congress surrenders the Hetch-Hetchy it will mean that in its eyes the \$42,000,000 worth of water power that it can produce is more valuable than the life-giving refreshment of its unique scenery. It will mean that a political sophistry has triumphed over the public interest.

An Attempted Steal

Springfield Republican.—The evidence increases that San Francisco's attempted steal of the Hetch-Hetchy Valley is largely motivated by the hope of obtaining not merely its water for ordinary purposes, but its immensely valuable power rights—estimated to be worth \$45,000,000—free of cost.

Altogether Reprehensible

Boston Record.—The fight on the mischievous and altogether reprehensible Hetch-Hetchy bill in the Senate is on again today. This bill aims boldly and boldly to rob the public, whose possession the Yosemite National Park is, to pander to the greed of San Francisco, which wants a water supply cheap.

Cannot Justify the Spoliation

Brooklyn Daily Eagle.—Only the most urgent necessity could excuse the destruction of Yosemite Park. San Francisco has not proved either an immediate or ultimate necessity for taking water from the Hetch-Hetchy Valley. Competent authorities aver that she can obtain it more quickly and more cheaply elsewhere. But even if this were not so, it is obvious that neither convenience nor economy can justify the spoliation of a national asset to serve a municipal need.

Develop the Parks, Not Destroy Them

Denver Republican.—There is a very strong public feeling in favor of keeping the nation's parks intact, as heritage of pleasure. This feeling will grow stronger with the years and as the public makes a more general use of the parks. The cheapening of transportation, and the building of good automobile roads, to the national parks are the elements that are going to make those places increase steadily in public favor.

Water Power of Great Value

Bangor Commercial.—The effort of San Francisco to obtain control of the water and water power of the Hetch-Hetchy continues regardless of the storm of opposition in the press.

All the argument, including the reports of the Government experts, seem to be against the giving over to San Francisco for practically nothing water powers that are estimated to be worth at least \$45,000,000.

Senators Should Consider Higher Aspects

New York Times.—The plain fact is that mid-Western, Southern and Eastern senators have been culpably inclined to leave to the determination of some of their Far-Western colleagues a measure involving millions upon millions of dollars, grave constitutional questions, revolutionary policies concerning franchises and conservation, and the higher interests of a people proud of our noble scenery. They cannot too promptly set themselves at work to study the question in its broadest and highest aspects; the immense value of great natural wonders, the folly of giving away national resources.

Nation vs. City

Times, Scranton, Pa.—The whole nation is to be robbed for the sake of a single municipality. There is no pretense that the spoliation of Hetch-Hetchy is necessary to San Francisco. It is convenient, that is all. An ample supply of water can be got elsewhere, but it would cost something. If such a scheme can succeed, what public property will be safe from private grabbers?

The City Not Frank

Boston Transcript.—The city has practiced a policy of deception in order to play upon the sympathies of the country. It has been detected in its trickery. It has known that there were other sources of supply equally available with the one upon which it had fixed its insistent and insidious purpose, but it has tried unsuccessfully to keep that vital fact from Congress and the public.

COMMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES PRESS

Conservation Menaced

Christian Endeavor World, Boston.—Such a course would menace our whole system of conservation of natural beauties and resources, besides depriving us forever of the enjoyment of attractions that will be more prized every year. Those that feel that a protest ought to be made against the threatened robbery should use all possible influence with senators and congressmen.

Every Reserve in Danger

Minneapolis Journal.—The effect of this alliance reaches farther than California. It encourages attack on every coveted national reserve from the White to the Olympic Mountains. This local antagonism to conservation of public land to protect forest and natural wealth was dangerous enough without having it organized into a log-rolling combination.

Looking to the President

Boston Post.—The attitude of President Wilson toward this enterprise of greed has not been clearly indicated. It is to be hoped that he has a firm grasp upon the veto pen.

Electric Energy the Object

Mobile Register.—An investigation was made recently into the situation to discover other sources of supply, and twelve adequate sources were found and named, but all in private hands and would have to be bought. Very significant of the report that any of these sources would be more costly to San Francisco than Hetch-Hetchy, "without opportunity of Hetch-Hetchy's return in the shape of electric energy."

The "Humanity" Pretense

Pasadena, Cal., News.—How like an old story were the arguments used to convince the House that San Francisco is in dire necessity for water and that unless the Hetch-Hetchy bill was passed our northern patriots must perish from thirst.

Letting the Cat Out of the Bag

Boston Herald.—At last the San Francisco Chronicle has unmasked the Hetch-Hetchy case. Having succeeded in putting through the national House the bill to surrender that notable feature of the Yosemite National Park to San Francisco for a reservoir, and feeling confident that the Senate can be depended upon to clinch the deal, the city's mouthpiece now brazenly declares, in effect, that this bill will serve to test the right of the nation to lord it over the States in matters of public domain.

Why Not Subsidize All the Cities.

Philadelphia Telegraph.—Why should the people of the United States make a present of one of their rarest natural treasures to the city of San Francisco? If Uncle Sam means to give away this priceless valley of Hetch-Hetchy to become a reservoir for one city, does he propose to do something equally handsome for all the other cities of the nation?

An Economic Blunder

San Francisco News Letter.—For a long time the *News Letter* has asserted that the Hetch-Hetchy matter has been mishandled. We have asserted that it was wrong in inception and wrong in every way, both as concerns the solution of the water problem and from the standpoint of cost to the city as compared with a far better, more economical and efficient source in the Sierras, which could be developed in a little over half the time it would take to bring water here from Hetch-Hetchy.

We repeat the question we have asked on more than one occasion: Why this haste in regard to Hetch-Hetchy? Why are its proponents so anxious to have the bill now before Congress rushed, when they know just what a foolish and utterly vicious bill it is?

A Bad Precedent

Milwaukee News.—The national parks are the property of all the people. Their integrity should be preserved. If San Francisco is permitted to invade the Yosemite Park a bad precedent will have been established and a beautiful valley will virtually have been destroyed. The value of the parks will be greater with the growth of population and the passing of time.

San Francisco should secure her water elsewhere and the Yosemite Park should be preserved intact for the benefit of future generations.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

Argument for Beauty Pertinent

Minneapolis Journal.—When it is made known that San Francisco can get water elsewhere, then there is no reason why the esthetic argument should not have its full weight.

Confiscation

The Outlook.—It belongs to the nation. Its value will increase each year. The attempt to divert it from its use and to destroy its beauty is really a confiscation of a very valuable possession of the whole country.

The Real Object

Philadelphia Bulletin.—There is no denial that San Francisco can get its water supply elsewhere, at a nearer point, and probably with less expense, although possibly with less profitable development of water power.

Giving Away National Property

Milwaukee News.—It is the property of all the people now, and there is no good reason why they should hand a fortune maker over to any one city situated in solving the matter by other means as is San Francisco.

A National Issue

Newburyport News.—Possibly by December the Senate may find out that the issue is of interest to the whole nation also, and that there are aspects to this question of the giving away of valuable national resources which they have not yet adequately considered.

The "Sentimental Lobby"

The Outlook.—"Sentimental lobby" is a valuable addition to the political phraseology of the country. It means those people who stand for the rights of a nation against the impatience of a city anxious at once to secure additional water resources without paying for them, or the greed of selfish interests of one kind or another.

A Menace to the National Domain

New York Tribune.—The Hetch-Hetchy grab, conceived in greed and promoted through misrepresentation, is a deadly menace not only to that one valley, "last, loveliest, exquisite, alone," but also to every inch of the national domain. It has been repulsed before. It should this time be defeated so thoroughly as to give it no chance ever to appear again.

Something for Nothing

Philadelphia Telegraph.—San Francisco is not going to let go its self-hold on the Hetch-Hetchy Valley without a big struggle. Here is a chance to get from the National Government a water source which would cost it several millions in the "open market." Of course, the fact that there are several other water sites for sale and that the use of Hetch-Hetchy will destroy a beautiful section of the Yosemite National Park does not deter the city fathers of San Francisco.

A Barefaced Raid

Denver News.—The Senate's postponement of the Hetch-Hetchy bill should be made immediate. It is a barefaced raid on the part of the city of San Francisco, which would result, if successful, in ruining the natural beauty of one of the greatest of the nation's parks.

A Mysterious "Pull"

Manchester, N. H., Mirror.—What is the mysterious pull that has made the Hetch-Hetchy proposition slide along so easily? Does the "new freedom" provide free use of the nation's valuable water power?

A Perilous Precedent

Portland, Me., Press.—Merely to be accommodating to the citizens of a single American city, therefore, it is proposed to establish the precedent of allowing a national park to be taken for private purposes. If this is to be permitted in one case there is no knowing where or when it will not be undertaken next, or with what result.

Revolutionary Legislation

Dayton News.—There is one of the most beautiful valleys in the world at stake, one of the most valuable sources of water for irrigation about to be stolen uselessly, some of the most important conservation policies of the Government to be reversed, if this grant is made.

The Consequences

New York Evening Post.—But if the people of the United States cherish the policy of jealously guarding every such national possession; if they do not regard a little easing of the San Franciscans' "tax burden" as sufficient ground for departing from that policy; if they do not wish lightly to set a precedent which may return to plague them, which may endanger many another scene of beauty whose sacrifice is demanded upon similar pleas and with equal pertinacity; then there is no excuse for giving up the Hetch-Hetchy unless a case is made out far stronger and far more convincing than that which has actually been presented.

An Unwise Precedent

Lexington, Kentucky, Leader.—The passage of the bill would eventually exclude the public from the valley, and inasmuch as the water situation may be relieved in San Francisco by other arrangements it would appear that the Government would be establishing an unwise precedent by acceding to the city's wishes.

Subsidize All or None

Jackson, Miss., Ledger.—"Real Progressive conservationists" endorse the claim of San Francisco to the Hetch-Hetchy Valley, which belongs to the United States. Then why should not the national treasury pay for a water supply needed by other cities? In the case of New York this is to cost \$200,000,000.

A Deadly Parallel

Brooklyn Standard Union.—What would be thought of New York if it assaulted Congress with a demand to appropriate, without compensation, Niagara, because it wanted it to operate the subway and its electric light and power plants, or if it had gone up to the Catskills and taken all their waters by main force, upon the plea of municipal necessity? Some men and things in San Francisco will not look well on exhibition to the world in 1915.

The City's Effrontery

New Bedford Standard.—Entirely apart from whether this plan is not a piece of vandalism, the cool effrontery of San Francisco is sufficient for unmitigated condemnation. And considering that the water is not needed so much for domestic supply as it is wanted for the promotion of manufacturing concerns, no good reason whatever exists why San Francisco should not buy its water man-fashion.

Attempted Theft

Springfield Republican.—Persistent efforts have apparently been successful in arousing a hopeful degree of public interest in San Francisco's attempted theft of the beautiful Hetch-Hetchy Valley, or a portion of it, for a municipal reservoir.

New England Against It

New Bedford Mercury.—Certainly no New England congressman will sanction such an outrage as is proposed in a day when conservation is a policy that is coming to be highly regarded. The Hetch-Hetchy Valley is a touch of nature that should be saved from everlasting to everlasting.

First Breach in Conservation

Boston Transcript.—The first breach in the Federal wall of conservation is imminent. With this precedent in hand there is good reason to believe that we shall see a bold frontal assault on the national forests at next winter's session. And the sad feature of it is that some of the most conspicuous members of the conservation hosts, both in and out of Congress, do not see it.

Kill the Bill

South Bend, Ind., Tribune.—The Senate has delayed action on the Hetch-Hetchy Valley bill until December 1. The longer it is postponed, the better pleased will be the people. They will not protest if it is never reported out.

"Improving" the Valley Ridiculous

Pasadena, Cal., News.—Among the opponents of the Hetch-Hetchy bill in the House was Representative Steenerson, of Minnesota, who argued that it was absurd to regard the proposal as an emergency measure when it would take tea years to construct the waterworks system. He intimated strongly that it was more of a project to develop electric power for the benefit of the grantee at the expense of the Government. As to the valley being improved by the reservoir he properly held that argument as ridiculous.

Valuable Water Power at Stake

York, Pa., Gazette.—The city of San Francisco does not need the Hetch-Hetchy Valley for its water supply; this can be had at less cost elsewhere. But the water-power concessions have stupendous value, and upon this it appears that rival interests in that city are dickering.

Precedent the Quick Way to Destroy the Park System

Newark Star.—Not only will the Hetch-Hetchy bill, passed by the House, spoil the beauty of a wonderful national park, but it will put in jeopardy other great natural pleasure grounds, the heritage of the whole American people. Not the least outrageous feature of this grab is the dangerous precedent that it sets up. Other cities will say to Congress: "You turned over the best part of the Yosemite reservation to San Francisco for a water supply; now we want leave to build a plant in this or that national reserve."

Friends of conservation are used to sitting up nights watching corporate would-be grabbers of the public domain, but it is shameful to see a great city scheming to save money by desecrating a temple of nature belonging to the nation.

"Turn It Down Hard"

Poughkeepsie Eagle.—Our representatives at Washington should turn their proposition down hard.

Economic Folly

San Francisco News Letter.—Men who have been most actively engaged in an endeavor to cause the bill to fail are strongly in their assertions that the city of San Francisco is not only in no need of an immediate additional supply of water, but that they have within their reach a better supply, which can be obtained at far less expense and in a much shorter time.

The False Utility Plea

Milwaukee Press.—The issue is clear: Which is of greater importance, the preservation of what is next to Yosemite Valley "the greatest natural cathedral on the Pacific Coast," or its release to San Francisco as her cheapest and most remunerative source of water supply?

It is the old, familiar conflict: The demand of the body vs. the demand of the spirit, the clash of the utilitarian with the ideal.

Obliterating Great Beauty

Albany Journal.—Passed by the Senate and signed by the President, the bill will give up 500 miles of Government lands to a corporation which will profit at the expense of the American people, and commercialize and obliterate one of the spots of striking natural beauty of the country.

A Water Deal

New Haven Register.—It's no surprise that the Senate Public Lands Committee pushes along the Hetch-Hetchy water deal with a favorable report—such things have a way of happening. Is the Senate going to be too busy to take notice of this thing on the floor? And is it possible that the President will not know the truth, if the thing comes up to him?

A Bold Grab

Memphis Appeal.—This is one of the boldest grabs engineered on the Pacific Coast since the timber thieves were run to earth. To think that half of the wonderful Yosemite reservation is to be sacrificed is a matter of national regret.

Stand Fast and Fight Hard!

New York Evening Post.—It is gratifying to note the emphatic stand which the influential press of the country is taking on the subject. To its protest, and that of a few individual workers, must be ascribed the success thus far attained in resisting the scheme of spoliation. If all who are in their hearts opposed to it stand fast and fight hard, it will be defeated for good and all.

Pure Commercialism

The Independent.—Thus the question is reduced to one of pure commercialism—whether the National Government, in order to save San Francisco additional expense, will sacrifice to it a phenomenal natural treasure house undoubtedly one of the wonders of the world. It must be borne in mind that a difference of utility exists between the forest reserves and the national parks. The former are created for the purpose of preserving waters and forests for the good of the surrounding public. The national parks, on the contrary, are scenic marvels, of which the United States is properly the trustee for civilization and the future.

Let the City Pay for Its Water

New York World.—The Hetch-Hetchy grab goes over until the regular session. While defeat would have been preferable, delay at least is safe. San Francisco can get a water supply "by paying for it"—as New York and other cities do.

The Yosemite is one of the world's wonders. After all the toil and agitation it took to save it for the public, a bitter end would it be to throw it so lightly away. San Francisco does not need the Hetch-Hetchy. The Senate should save it.

Despoiling the People

Fort Wayne News.—Our reform Congress has voted favorably upon the Hetch-Hetchy bill by which the city of San Francisco is given none the public domain a water right worth many millions of dollars. Thus are all the people despoiled for the benefit of a single municipal corporation.

Just to Save the City Money

Boston Record.—Perhaps the Senate will also help hand to San Francisco some 500 miles of magnificent scenery from the public domain, just to save the city money in a water supply it can get somewhere else.

Spoils a Beautiful Park

New York Call.—The Hetch-Hetchy bill, which provides a right of way for San Francisco's \$77,000,000 water supply project and spoils a beautiful national park.

Valuable Public Property

Worcester Gazette.—The House has shown a surprising willingness to aid and abet San Francisco and the purely private interests which are behind the scheme in the grab for this valuable piece of public property. Fortunately, the act must yet go before the Senate. It is to be hoped that the latter body will fail to support this very complacent scheme of San Francisco's to keep itself at the public expense.

Most Beautiful Woodland Valley

Jersey City Journal.—The passage by the lower House of Congress of a bill authorizing San Francisco to flood the Hetch-Hetchy Valley in Yosemite Park is cause for regret to all visitors who have seen that most beautiful woodland valley in the world.

San Francisco should own its water supply, but it is hardly necessary that it should go 140 miles to get water or that it should damage a national park. An abundant supply could be obtained much nearer home without doing any mischief.

What Is the Will of the People?

Lowell Citizen.—The Hetch-Hetchy Valley belongs to the people of the United States, who should therefore be considered in the matter of its disposition. Has Congress any doubt whatever as to what the people of the United States want done about it?

The Pecuniary Profit

Providence Tribune.—Even if it should be, however, more costly or less convenient to go elsewhere they would not excuse the turning over of this beautiful public domain to be exploited for anybody's pecuniary profit.

A Form of Privilege

Milwaukee Journal.—Commercial civic greed is balanced against 500 miles of the most beautiful scenery in the United States, and it behooves public-spirited citizens to write their representatives immediately in an effort to stop this useless destruction of Hetch-Hetchy Valley.

In the people's view, graft is rapidly coming to mean every form of privilege which taxes the many to enrich the few.

The Old, Old Story

Newburyport News.—The one reason why San Francisco is making the Hetch-Hetchy grab is because it can get a grant from the Government for nothing. For any other concession, looking to a good water supply, it would have to pay good money. The poor old Government is being worked still all along the line.

Refuse the Request

Springfield Union.—The city of San Francisco can obtain all the water it will ever need from other sources, but it wants the Government to hand it a free site along with a power privilege that the army engineers estimate to be worth \$45,000,000. This request should be refused.

An Inalienable Possession

Rochester Chronicle.—This great valley is, as a national preserve, now as much the possession of all of the American people as is the Yellowstone Park, or as the park system of the city of Rochester is an inalienable possession of all the people of this city. It is conceded that San Francisco must obtain an adequate source of water supply, and that the Hetch-Hetchy Valley would afford such supply. But it has been shown by the Board of Army Engineers that the needs of the city can be abundantly supplied from any one of a number of available sources other than this cherished national park.

An Assault on the National Park System

Springfield Union.—It matters not that the corporation thus seeking to appropriate a national possession is municipal rather than private; the fact remains that it is sought to give over to a special interest a property of rare interest and value that after much effort has been acquired by the American people to be preserved permanently as a part of our national system of parks for the uplift and enjoyment of any and all who may care to visit the locality. The Senate should reject the bill.

More Grabs to Follow

Rochester Times.—If a San Francisco concern on one excuse is permitted to destroy one of our national parks, it will not be long before some other interest will try to seize some other park.

Our Progress in Conserving Beauty

Hartford Times.—We are appreciating the value of parks and the tremendous possibilities of properly safeguarded public domains. We have been most ruthless in our sacrifice of scenic beauty for commercial purposes, but we are taking considerably less pride in the ruthlessness than was formerly the case.

The Milk in the Coconut

Lincoln, Neb., Journal.—A representative of the city was asked at Washington if they could not get abundant and pure water in some other part of the Sierra range than the Hetch-Hetchy Valley. "Yes," he said, "by paying for it." There we have the milk in the coconut. And Congress seems determined to give the wild part of the Yosemite away just because a rich and influential city wants it.

Unpopular Legislation

Denver Republican.—The people need their national playgrounds in the West, and this need will increase as the population increases and the public turns more and more to such outdoor haunts for recreation. Any legislation that will tend to lessen the scenic attractiveness of the Government's parks will not be popular.

Breaking Down Conservation

Indianapolis News.—Genuine conservationists who are not influenced by local selfishness regret the passage by the House of representatives of the Hetch-Hetchy Valley bill.

The Hetch-Hetchy scheme is a conscienceless attempt to break down the policy of conservation for the profit of one municipality.

The preservation of the Hetch-Hetchy Valley as a part of the magnificent Yosemite reservation is a national conservation—for the park is the property of the nation. The people of the nation should not permit it to be sacrificed to the economy of San Francisco, for that city can obtain a water supply elsewhere.

An Outrageous Proceeding

Flint, Michigan, Journal.—If San Francisco takes the water of the Hetch-Hetchy, the greatest, most beautiful and picturesque valley in California, the San Joaquin will be left without water and literally turned into a desert. If this were necessary to the health and welfare of San Francisco the organizations fighting the bill and the people of the country would submit pliantly, but it is not. There are other and sufficient supplies of water that the city might secure, but for some reasons not explained, but surmised, San Francisco, or its politicians, at least, insist upon the Hetch-Hetchy supply.

In granting this privilege Congress will open the way for the despoliation of other national parks of the country and this is indeed an outrageous proceeding.

Uncompensated Privilege

Milwaukee Journal.—The big fact is that one city is asking leave to take away from the whole country an invaluable possession which cannot be restored. Even granting the necessity that San Francisco is claiming, which is most doubtful, we have heard no argument against her reimbursing the public treasury.

A Greedy Demand

Nashville Democrat.—San Francisco's greedy demand for the Hetch-Hetchy Valley passed the House by an overwhelming majority. If there is any particular reason why 500 square miles of a National Park should be donated to that city, we have never seen it.

TELEGRAM FROM SENATOR JOHN D. WORKS, OF CALIFORNIA

HON. REED SMOOT,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

I have sent the following telegram to Senator Myers. I have satisfied myself that the Hetch-Hetchy bill should not pass without further investigation. Ninety-nine per cent of water users in the irrigation districts are strongly opposed to it and claim that they were betrayed by those who consented to the compromise measure. They claim that thousands of acres of lands in their districts and outside of them will be deprived of water to which they are entitled, and that they can show that this sacrifice of the best and most fertile lands in the State is not necessary in the interest of San Francisco. Because of this compromise, that they indignantly repudiate, this phase of the question has not been investigated. The bill should not be rushed through this session under such circumstances. It is too serious not only to the parties directly interested but to the whole State.

JOHN D. WORKS.

Coronado, Cal., October 2, 1913.

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Platform of the National Committee

NO PRECEDENT MUST BE ADMITTED FOR THE INVASION OF OTHER PARKS. Every square foot of our noble American reserves must be defended against commercialism and false utility.

CONSERVATION IS CONSERVATION WHEN IT CONSERVES, NOT WHEN IT DESTROYS. Everything must be conserved for its appropriate use. Magnificent scenery reserved for the enjoyment of the whole people must not be destroyed.

THE NATIONAL PARKS MUST NOT BE GIVEN UP EXCEPT FOR DIRE NECESSITY. The invasion of this park is acknowledged to be unnecessary to supply San Francisco with an abundant supply of good water.

NATIONAL FRANCHISES MUST NOT BE GIVEN AWAY TO MUNICIPALITIES ANY MORE THAN TO OTHER CORPORATIONS. Cities may fall into the hands of grafters hereafter as they have in the past. The bill provides for work involving \$122,000,000, and offers immense opportunity for jobbery.

MUNICIPAL POLITICIANS AND ENGINEERS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DESTROY THE MASTERPIECES OF OUR NATURAL SCENERY. The plea that an artificial lake will improve the handiwork of the Creator is untrue. What chiefly makes the valley beautiful will be destroyed by flooding.

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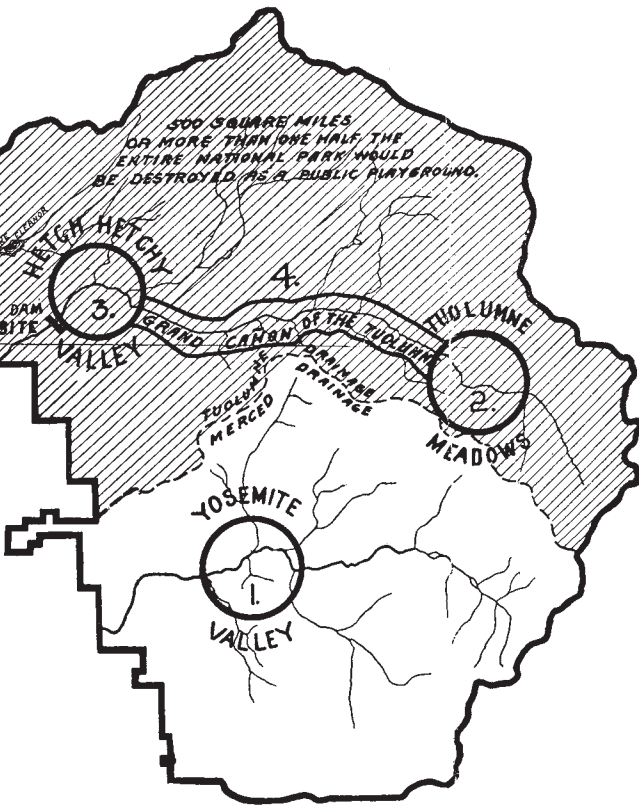
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DIAGRAM OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK.



The shaded northern portion of the Yosemite Park is that which would be invaded by the passage of the Hetch-Hetchy bill. This bill involves the closing up of the entrance to the Grand Cañon, it provides a dam and large electric power plant, it keeps camping parties 300 feet away from all the other water courses as well as from the rivulets and streams, it diverts the water supply, after issuing from the Park, from the arid valley of the San Joaquin to the city of San Francisco, which may equally well obtain its water from several other sites.

Why the Yosemite Park Was Established

This Park was established in 1890. In reporting this bill the committee said:

"The preservation by the Government of all its original beauty of a region like this seems to the committee to be a duty to the present and future generations. The rapid increase of population and the resulting destruction of natural objects make it incumbent upon the Government, in so far as may be, to preserve the wonders and beauties of our country from injury and destruction, in order that they may afford pleasure as well as instruction to the people."

Condemnation of the Hetch-Hetchy Invasion by Successive Governments

The project was condemned by Secretary Hitchcock in 1903 and later by Ex-Secretary Noble.

It was condemned by a unanimous vote of the House Committee on Public Lands of 1905.

It was condemned by the Committee on Public Lands in 1909.

In 1910 the Board of Army Engineers to whom the matter had been referred by Secretary Ballinger reported that there were other sources of supply available, namely: 1. McCloud River. 2. Sacramento River. 3. Lake Eleanor. 4. American River.

"Adequate for all present and reasonably prospective needs of the city without the inclusion of the Hetch-Hetchy Valley."

In 1910 George Otis Smith, director of the United States Geological Survey, reported to the Secretary of the Interior, after careful examination by engineers:

"The Lake Eleanor project is amply sufficient to meet the present and prospective needs of the city, and it is not necessary that the Hetch-Hetchy Valley should be available to San Francisco for the purpose of a municipal water supply."

Gifford Pinchot Revives the Project

Owing to repeated rejection by the Government, the Hetch-Hetchy project was abandoned by the City of San Francisco until it was revived by Mr. Gifford Pinchot during the administration of President Roosevelt and Secretary Garfield as expressed in the following letter:

November 15, 1905.

Mr. Marsden Manson,
2010 Gough Street,
San Francisco, California.

MY DEAR MR. MANSON—I cannot, of course, attempt to forecast the action of the new Secretary of the Interior [Garfield] on the San Francisco watershed question, but my advice to you is to assume that his attitude will be favorable, and to make the necessary preparations to set the case before him. I had supposed from an item in the paper that the city had definitely given up the Lake Eleanor [Yosemite National Park] plan and had purchased one of the other water systems. If the possibility

of a supply from the Sierras is still open, you should, I think, by all means go ahead with the idea of getting it.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) GIFFORD PINCHOT, Forester.

The motives for this letter are believed to have been opportunist, namely, that by delivering the northern half of the Yosemite Park to the City of San Francisco, political support and the necessary appropriations could be secured for the various forestry measures in which Mr. Pinchot was interested.

Hetch-Hetchy Not Needed by the City of San Francisco

"The Board [of United States Army Engineers] is of the opinion that there are several sources of water supply that could be obtained and used by the city of San Francisco and adjacent communities to supplement the nearby supplies as the necessity develops. From any one of these sources the water is sufficient in quantity and is, or can be made, suitable in quality. While the engineering difficulties are not insurmountable, the determining factor is one of cost."—Official Report of the Advisory Board of Army Engineers.

Mr. Phelan, who conceived the Hetch-Hetchy project, admitted in 1910 that the city could get water anywhere along the Sierra "by paying for it."

Shall the Nation Hand Over to San Francisco a Franchise Worth \$45,000,000?

The bald question is: Shall the nation, in order to save San Francisco an assumed difference of cost between the Hetch-Hetchy and any one of several other supplies spoken of by the Army Board in its report, make the city a present of a franchise worth forty-five millions of dollars and destroy the unique beauty of the Valley, called by Mr. Pinchot "one of the great wonders of the world"? If the Hetch-Hetchy is not worth saving, what else in the national park system can be defended against the demands of commercial greed?

President Cleveland said: "It is the duty of the people to support the Government, not the duty of the Government to support the people." This is emphatically true of municipalities, which often are in the hands of political grafters. Why should the nation make this phenomenal contribution to San Francisco's budget?

The Beauty of the Valley will be Destroyed

The rare beauty of Hetch-Hetchy, as the elder Frederick Law Olmsted said, consists in the contrast between the rugged cliffs and the exquisite floor. Destroy the latter and you destroy the "original beauty" which Congress determined to preserve by the act creating the Yosemite National Park. A city park is beautiful in its place, a natural lake in its place, but what is desirable in the Hetch-Hetchy is the delightful charm of its lovely wildness, for which a dam and an artificial reservoir rapidly drained to the bottom in the dry season would be no substitute. If such a lake is more beautiful, shall we make reservoirs of Yosemite Valley and all other wonderful valleys in the National Parks? The mismanagement of the Yosemite Valley by California was a scandal until the valley was retroceded to the United States.

"Taunted, for years and everywhere, usually by nations envious of our prosperity, as worshippers of the almighty dollar, as ready to sacrifice everything to money profit and hopelessly commercialized, here is opportunity to answer and refute the charge; to demonstrate that there are some things even in America which money cannot buy, and that when the people have reserved to themselves, for their use and enjoyment a beauty spot of Nature, a masterpiece of Nature's God, they will preserve and defend it."—Brooklyn (N. Y.) Standard Union (Editorial).

A Backward Step in Conservation

The Boston Transcript calls the project "the first breach in the conservation wall." Forest reserves are conserved for the purpose of saving for contiguous communities water and timber under proper regulations. True conservation will save the National Parks as treasurers of scenic beauty, and health and pleasure resorts for the whole people.

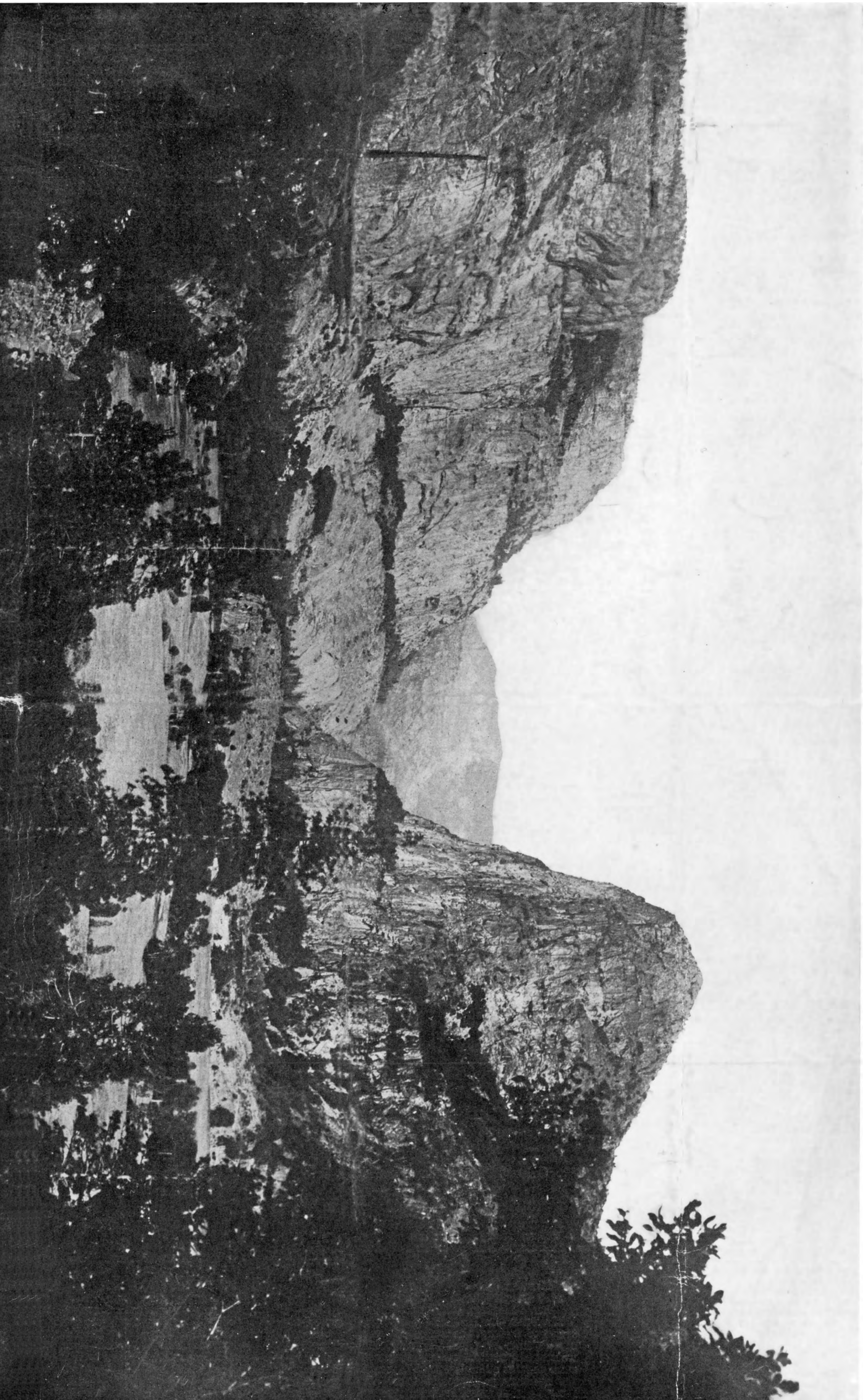
Hetch-Hetchy a Pleasure-Ground of the People—Develop It, Not Destroy It

Hundreds of visitors to the Valley pronounce it a gem of rare beauty. Among these are John Muir, Edmund A. Whitman, J. Horace MacFarland, Harriet Monroe, Hon. Herbert Parsons, Hon. Henry L. Stimson, Alden Sampson, E. T. Parsons, the late Joseph Le Conte, Herbert W. Gleason, Frederick Swartz. A road-way would make it easily accessible! The farmers of the San Joaquin Valley go much to the Park in the stifling summer.

Some of Those Who Oppose the Bill

Four Secretaries of the Interior: Noble, Hitchcock, Ballinger and Fisher. An overwhelming majority of the press (see extracts from editorials herewith). Many national conservationists such as John Muir, B. E. Frenow, E. A. Bowers, Ex-President Eliot, Horace MacFarland, Frederick Law Olmsted, Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, A. F. Hawes, State Forester of Vermont, Charles S. Sargent, R. U. Johnson, Samuel Parsons, Dr. George Frederick Kunz, George Bird Grinnell, Austin F. Wadsworth, F. S. Dellenbough, Director William T. Hornaday, Mrs. Emmons Crocker (chairman of the Conservation Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs).

The mission of Restore Hetch Hetchy is to return the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park to its natural splendor while continuing to meet the water and power needs of all communities that depend on the Tuolumne River



NATIONAL PARK, OR MUNICIPAL RESERVOIR A MUD-FLAT IN THE DRY SEASON

The fate of this wonderful valley, threatened by municipal greed, is in the hands of the American people. The United States Senate will act during the first week in December upon the bill permitting San Francisco to turn Hetch-Hetchy Valley into a reservoir.
From The Independent, New York, October 30, 1913.