

New National Parks; One in Maine, Other in Hawaii

TWO new national parks—one on the extreme eastern coast of the United States and the other on the far western—will soon be thrown open to the people of the nation. The bill providing for the establishment of the Sieur des Monts National Monument, which differs from a national park in name only, on Mount Desert Island, Maine, has already been signed by President Wilson, and the House and Senate have agreed to the terms of the bill providing for the establishment of another federal reservation in the Hawaiian Islands, thus adding two new public playgrounds to the number already open.

Interest in the Sieur des Monts National Monument is based on two novel features of the reservation—the fact that the territory is the free gift of a number of citizens of the United States to the people of the nation and that this is the first national park to be opened east of the Mississippi.

Some years ago Dr. Charles W. Elliot, then president of Harvard University, that he was to bear a public-spirited citizen of Boston, who owned a large tract of land on Mount Desert Island north of Bar Harbor, decided that this section ought to belong to the people of the United States, both on account of its beauty and because of its historic associations.

He interested a number of the other owners of land in the vicinity in the proposition until they had secured the necessary signatures of the finest scenery on the island. Dr. Elliot and his associates then took the first step toward the realization of their dream, but the government accepted the free gift of the tract, with the proviso that it was to be reserved for the people as a federal reservation, to be covered as a national park by the Department of the Interior.

The Sieur des Monts was appended at the request of the donors, "Lord of the Mountains" having been the name of the French appellations for this section.

Precedent for the congressional act in accepting the Mount Desert tract was found in the gift, some years ago, of Muir Woods, about 300 acres of magnificent California redwoods, to the government by Representative Kent of California.

The new national playground on the Maine coast is already known to thousands of tourists for its beauty and scenic grandeur. It embraces more than 5,000 acres of rugged mountainous country, directly across the narrow strait from its northern boundary lies within a mile of that resort.



ONE OF THE NUMEROUS INLETS NEAR THE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT.

road and on the south it approaches within a mile of Sea Harbor. The Monument is therefore surrounded on three sides by a large summer colony, with the finest accommodations for tourists and nature lovers.

The reservation includes the highest mountain peaks on the island and the greater part of the water shed of the lakes between, the chief source of the water supply of the residential portion of Mount Desert Island. Much forest land is also to be found in the Monument, land that has been preserved in all of its virgin beauty and wildness, together with deep valleys, offering excellent shelter for wild life; open marshes and pools, which make the best of homes for wading and aquatic birds; streams to which the heavens will return and build their dams as soon as they were hunted are gone, and what is stated to be the best opportunity along the entire Maine coast for preserving and exhibiting the native flora of the state in its natural setting.

The coast line of Maine is so broken with deep irregular indentations and the islands lying off it are so numerous that from Casco Bay to the Canadian boundary it presents more than 2,500 miles of shore. All along the coast are broad flats and salt marshes, which are swept twice a day by the great flood of the tide, rising to a height of fifteen feet in the Mount Desert region.

The silt and flow of these tides has past had deposited upon these flats and marshes great quantities of marine life, while countless varieties of animal and vegetable life flourish on their fertile bottom, providing the best of food for the birds of the section.

But the continual hunting and shooting of these birds has left only a pitiful remnant of them upon the Mount Desert coast and the neighboring islands; therefore the establishment of a federal reservation in this section is expected to work wonders in bringing the bird life back to its former high standard and to preserve to future generations many species which would otherwise have been exterminated.

In a little vessel of a hundred tons, which the historian Parkman refers to as "the Mayflower of the French," a number of colonists sailed from Honfleur, on the coast of France, early in the spring of 1613, to form, for a short time, the only colony from overseas ever established by the French upon the northern shore of this country during the long struggle with the English for America.

The Sieur des Monts Monument, however, does not lay claim to distinction solely because of its scenic grandeur or the multiplicity of the animal life to be found there. The Sieur des Monts Monument is also hallowed with numerous historic associations and intimately connected, not only with the early life of this country, but the history of France and England in the early part of the seventeenth century.

Mount Desert Island was the first land to be approached and named—with the name it bears to this day—in the earliest recorded voyage of exploration along the coast of Maine to the eastward of the Kennebec river. It was early in September, 1604, that Champlain set sail down the wild and unknown coast of Maine until the bold range of the Mount Desert hills, with their bare rock peaks and ice-eroded valleys, rose before him.

Wishing to explore this new land, the French commander sailed into the large bay which bounds the island on the east and anchored for the night, after christening the inlet with the name it bears today—Frenchman's bay. On the next day Champlain sailed around the island and spent some time exploring it, and making friends with the Indians who guided him up the Penobscot river.

It was not long before the French founded a formal colony upon Mount



LAVA CASCADES ON THE SIDE OF KILAUEA, ONE OF THE VOLCANOES IN THE HAWAIIAN NATIONAL PARK.

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Beyond the fact that the Sieur des Monts Monument and the Hawaiian National Park were both secured to the people of the United States without the expenditure of any money by Congress, there is little in common between them. The Maine Monument stands on the rock-bound and forbidding Atlantic coast, cold and bleak—a house of snow. The Hawaiian Park nestles into the broad swells of the Pacific, alive with tropical foliage and birds of brilliant plumage, while its three active volcanoes give frequent evidence for the reason of its native name—the House of Fire.

The Sieur des Monts Monument is hallowed by association with important fragments of the history of two of the great nations of the world; the Hawaiian National Park has little history of its own, but it is the cradle of the mythology of a living race, a people who still venerate its three peaks as the dwelling places of the gods of ancient Hawaii.

The Hawaiian National Park—which will possibly be christened with a more poetic name before long—consists of the craters of the active volcanoes of Mauna Loa and Kilauea, on the island of Hawaii, and the great crater of Haleakala, on the island of Maui, a total of about 75,295 acres, the greater portion of which is government property and the remainder belonging to private owners who signified their willingness to deed the land to the government in the act of establishing a national park in this section.

Thus, here, too, have the Ameri-

can people secured a public playground without any cost, save that of governing and superintending the park.

One of the experts of the Department of the Interior, detailed to examine the site for the proposed park a short time ago, made the following report, comparing the Hawaiian park with other already established national reservations:

"There is the same justification for creating a national park about the three great volcanoes of Hawaii as there was for setting aside the wonders of the Yellowstone geysir district, the big trees of California and the great canyon of the Yosemite. The Hawaiian volcanoes are truly a national asset, wholly unique of their kind, the most famous in the world of science and the most continuously, and harmlessly active volcanoes on earth.

"Kilauea crater has been nearly continuously active with a lake or lakes of molten lava for a century. Mauna Loa is the largest active volcano and mountain mass in the world, with eruptions about once a decade, and has poured out more lava during the last century than any other volcano on the globe. Haleakala is a mountain mass 10,000 feet high, with a crater on its summit eight miles in diameter and 2,000 feet deep. It is probably the largest of all known craters among volcanoes that are technically spoken of as 'active.' Haleakala erupted less than 200 years ago.

The Yellowstone, Yosemite and Sequoia Parks containing trees, beautiful groves and landscapes beloved of artists. The Hawaiian Park contains groves of sandal wood, now nearly extinct elsewhere on the Pacific; magnificent Hawaiian mahogany trees, with trunks over twenty feet in circumference; forests of tree ferns forty feet high, with leaves twenty feet long; tropical jungles with scores of varieties of the most delicate ferns and mosses and filled with song birds of brilliant hues, many of them indigenous only to this section and nearly extinct even in the Hawaiian Islands.

"The spectacular qualities of the lakes of lava at Kilauea are indescribable. The volcanic activity has poured out more lava during the last century than any other volcano on the globe. Haleakala is a mountain mass 10,000 feet high, with a crater on its summit eight miles in diameter and 2,000 feet deep. It is probably the largest of all known craters among volcanoes that are technically spoken of as 'active.' Haleakala erupted less than 200 years ago.

"The Yellowstone has its beautiful lake and river and its geysers of hot water. The volcano of Kilauea has its lake of molten lava, its islands of rock and its natural sulphur factories; while the volcano of Mauna Loa forces columns of liquid lava hundreds of feet into the air and every few years pours forth billions of tons of lava in a few days.

"The Yosemite has its majestic precipitous cliffs and its magnificent waterfalls. The Hawaiian Park contains groves of sandal wood, now nearly extinct elsewhere on the Pacific; magnificent Hawaiian mahogany trees, with trunks over twenty feet in circumference; forests of tree ferns forty feet high, with leaves twenty feet long; tropical jungles with scores of varieties of the most delicate ferns and mosses and filled with song birds of brilliant hues, many of them indigenous only to this section and nearly extinct even in the Hawaiian Islands.

Interned Crews of German War Vessels Build an Interesting Village

Special Correspondence.

A VILLAGE of almost a thousand persons that has been scarcely six months in the making, which is attracting attention throughout the country. Visitors to the yard will find another for the precious and somewhat rare passes which will admit one to the peculiar place, and thousands of postcards showing scenes within its limits are sold daily.

The village is unincorporated and without legalized form of government. Its residents, though filled with civic pride in its intensity, are also absolutely opposed to increasing the population. They toil and spin in the village only as it pleases them, yet they eat regularly, sleep regularly and are assured of a comfortable existence, at least, until the end of the great European war.

And, now that war has been mentioned, you have the key to the identity of this strange municipality in the making. It is the village built by the interned crews of the German war vessels, which ran into the Virginia capes about a year ago, and since have been interned by the United States government for the duration of the war.

Cast into the waters of a neutral country and realizing that their stay probably would be long, these sturdy, blond Teuton sons did not sit on the decks and mourn their fate. Instead, they sprang upon the land, grabbed every scrap of wood and metal and cloth and leather and every drop of paint that came their way and began the construction of their wonder village.

From scraps gathered from hither and yon in the navy yard and out of it, more than 300 little model houses, a windmill, a chapel and other structures that go to make up the village have been constructed. They live pretty streets.

Their front yards bloom with flowers and their back yards with a garden truck. Nor is the end yet. Today you see a load of old boxes or discarded ends of boards going to the village and tomorrow a new house, of which they will be a part, will be under construction. Building operations always are under way.

The start of the village came with the granting of the use of the east end of the yard, nearly the great interned men. It is composed of several acres cut off from the remainder of the yard so completely that it seems a little Germany within itself. On one side is the Potomac river. He the two ships. Another side is bounded now by the immense United States collier O'Ryan, in the making. Green grass, a wood and some water form the other two sides.

The village must be approached through guards from the O'Ryan collier side; so, unless you have a pass, there is little chance of seeing it. The executive officers of the interned ships



ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE.



A VILLA AND THE CHAPEL.

issue the passes, regular navy yard officers having nothing to do with them. As the village grew it became obvious that it was planned with infinite skill. Not only were there houses and yards laid out, but even streets and parks were added. The owner of each piece of property was made to realize that he would be held strictly responsible for his place being kept neat and clean.

When word of the building progress that was being made reached the outside world German sympathizers began to lend a hand. Contributions of various kinds poured in, and when, a few weeks ago, the first formal opening was held, visiting crowds marveled at the wonders the interned crews had worked with their poor material and few outside contributions.

—and it is a good one—played; the men marched and showed visitors about the village, and a regular carnival was staged. With all of the business attending the event of the establishment of a national park in this section, they were to be seen playing cards or reading within the houses.

All of the usual attractions of an amateur carnival were at hand. There were cold drinks, hot dogs and music to soothe the palate and ease the eye. Frequently the mayor, or Dorfsechule, would post a new bulletin on his bulletin board, and immediately the crowds would flock toward it and read with as much interest as if it had been the work of a regular mayor.

The houses are occupied only in the daytime. When sundown comes the men board their ships for coffee and during the daytime they enjoy themselves on land at will, drinking coffee, playing cards or reading within the houses.

Besides killing time by improving the village, the men have a great number of hobbies, and they also indulge in athletic games. They have dogs, chickens, birds and cats which they treasure as children would. On the athletic field they hold turkeys, boxing matches and athletic games, as well as swing Indian clubs and play medicine ball and foot ball. All of the men are in splendid physical condition as a result of their outdoor play. If

which would return the captured vessel to her English owners. The Appam case recalls the statement previously made that the village has no desire for more inhabitants. There is some talk that the Appam crew may be added to the village, if it should be decided that it was the duty of the United States to intern the crew.

All paid their fines willingly, for the money went to the German Red Cross fund for the benefit of blinded soldiers. Every prisoner was permitted to assess his own fine. Where fines were too low or the prisoner was good natured he was arrested again.

Formerly, according to the American aviator, who is now "somewhere in France," army doctors, overworked at the limit of physical endurance, summoned candidates for the aviation corps before them, stripped them, noted height, weight and chest measurement, briefly tested regularity of the heart action and lungs and acuteness of sight. If no obvious defect was found, such as a squint, the candidate was taken on in the air service.

It was found, however, that in many cases the new-made birdmen were not physically fit to render efficient service, although during the trial period each man had spent considerable money for equipment, instruction and maintenance. Further expenses might be entailed by the smashing of machines or other serious accidents.

Today, the American aviator writes, examination of prospective aviators is much more elaborate and detailed and is conducted with the aid of the latest devised instruments of scientific exactness. In the new system the principal object is to obtain what is termed the "personal equation" of the applicant—that is, the stamper of his nervous system or the time taken to react from such sensory impressions as hearing, sight and touch. An invention of Prof. d'Arsonval, called the chronoscope, is used to record this phase of the examination.

THE vacation spirit that carries many Washingtonians away from the city when the warm weather begins, has been manifested in a new and interesting group of children who probably have never dreamed of the existence of a summer resort. But the lack of a summer trip in Rock Creek Park and a splash in the creek, or a real bathing expedition to the municipal pools.

The work of the Gospel Mission, on John Marshall park, has been doing this summer for the pleasure of the youngsters in its immediate vicinity, is indeed appreciated by the children. When the mission auto truck started off with its load of girls and boys, bound for the park and the Zoo, the cheers that rent the air would be acceptable to almost any foot ball player.

And the pride of two dozen youngsters as they appear at the municipal pools, wearing their new blue bathing suits trimmed with large white letters, symbols of the Gospel Mission, is very literally the result of the mission's work. They are all the result of the mission's work.

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they follow the German customs. But if one tries that, he soon can turn to the things that are American. For instance, just outside the village there is a long row of the same sunburners as are growing anywhere in the state of Kansas, and running in and out of the navy yard there are some taxicab drivers who surely are direct descendants of some of our pioneer American road agents.

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