

**THE NATIONAL PARK.**

The Plan to be Pursued by the Lessees in Improving the Park for Visitors.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—The project to erect hotels and provide other accommodations for visitors to the Yellowstone Park promises to be a grand success. The lessees of the parcels of land within the park, to be used for the purpose, will proceed at an early day to organize a company to carry into effect the stipulation in the contract executed yesterday. A number of parties are interested in the scheme. Rufus Hatch of New York although not one of the parties on the contract with government, will represent one class of interests and will occupy a very prominent place in the company. C. T. Hobart of Fargo, and H. F. Douglas of Fort Yates, the contractors with the government, will each represent certain interests. The names of their associates in the company have not yet been agreed upon. A meeting of parties interested will be held some time the present month, at a time and place yet to be determined upon. At this meeting the company will be organized and other steps taken toward carrying out the conditions of the agreement with the secretary of the interior. The three parties named—Hobart, Douglas, and Hatch—will agree upon the names of their associates, the unanimous approval of all three being required in the formation of the company. They all refuse to give the names of the parties who may be associated with us they cannot tell now with certainty who they will be, and prefer not to make any names known at present. Gillfillan of Minneapolis, and other names, have been mentioned in this connection, but everything said in this regard to the formation of the company, independent of the facts already mentioned, is a mere matter of conjecture. But some of the facts in connection with the project were brought out in a very interesting interview had by your correspondent to-day with John Douglas, of St. Paul, father of Henry F. Douglas, one of the leaders. John Douglas is a relative of Senator Windom. He is a special agent of the treasury department, being assigned to the territory west of Chicago. He is here on a leave of absence, and returns to-day to his field of duty. The project is by no means a new one. Mr. Douglas and others interested in it have had it in view for some time, but this appeared to be the most opportune time for consummating it, the Northern Pacific, for one reason, having been just completed within eighty miles of the park. John Douglas will belong to the company, and will be one of its

**MOST ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBERS,** although the organization of the company will not take place for three weeks. Mr. Douglas said:

"So far as preparations for work on the hotel and the other improvements in the park are concerned operations will commence immediately. We expect to invest within the nine months \$500,000 in buildings, stages, liveries and various improvements in the park. We expect machinery will be put in motion within ten days, and to do everything that can be done without loss of time. It is a part of our arrangement with the department to begin work this fall. Our object is to have accommodations so far advanced that we can begin to entertain visitors at the very opening of the season next year. We will send in twenty saw-mills this fall to cut lumber during the winter, and will have stone and other materials ready for building at the earliest possible day—probably by the middle of March next. When we will employ a sufficient force of men to have most of the accommodations for visitors completed by the beginning of next June. We expect to make the main hotel first class, and intend to have two other hotels at remote parts of the park. These will not be equal in style to the center one, but very comfortable."

"How about charges or accommodations for visitors?" was asked.

"We mean to be very moderate in this respect," Mr. Douglas replied. "Our idea is to popularize the park as a national resort, and will not permit anything in the way of charges that savor of extortion. Our rates will be as low as they are in centers of population at any first-class watering places. We will publish a tariff of rates, and every man in our employ who takes five cents out of these charges will be discharged. No gratuities to employes will be permitted. We will have our entire force uniformed and numbered, so that any visitor, being improperly treated, may obtain redress by reporting the number of the employe guilty of misconduct. Our tariff rates and all our plans will be submitted to the secretary of the interior for his approval, so that it will be impossible for the company to impose upon visitors, by exacting exorbitant charges for anything. The company

EXPECT TO MAKE MONEY,

but they expect to make it on the theory

that the whole thing shall be so popularized by the liberality of its charges, and the care and attention extended to every one, that the visitation shall be on a scale beyond anything this country has ever witnessed. We intend to make everything so satisfactory to everybody that there will be no adverse criticism from any quarter. It is only fair to the department to say that at every step of our negotiations they have recognized their obligation to look after the interests of the public, and have manifested extreme anxiety in this regard, and we have very heartily responded to their wishes. While they have been very generous and fair, and treated us with the highest consideration, they have most rigidly watched every point to protect the interests of the public."

"What about the various stage accommodations to enable visitors to see the different points of interest in the park?"

"We propose to put on a line of stages to the nearest points on the Northern Pacific, and to all the principal points of interest in the park. We also propose to have liveries, so that when visitors wish to hire teams themselves they can do so. We mean to put on a better class of stages than has ever been in the west, so that a stage ride will be one of the most enjoyable features of the whole trip. We expect anywhere from 20,000 to 50,000 visitors next year. There were 6,000 or 7,000 visitors this year, and it is not unreasonable to expect that the number will be quadrupled, when facilities for their accommodation and entertainment are supplied. We will have in the meantime men under training by professional guides so that they will be thoroughly conversant with all the points of interest in the park and can accompany visitors and point out all these points of interest."

Mr. Douglas believes that in consideration of the money expended and the extensive preparations they will make for the accommodation of visitors, and the compliance with all the conditions imposed in the contract, it is but proper that the privileges extended to them should be exclusive, as already stipulated in the agreement.

**The First Man Hanged in the Territory.**

During the time this Territory was without law the miners at Bannack had what was known as a miner's court, over which Judge Burchett presided. One of the first murders in what is now Montana was committed by Pete Horan, who killed an old man named Keeler. Henry Plummer, notorious as a road agent, was at that time sheriff of Beaverhead county, the only organized county in the territory. He arrested Horan, who after a trial was sentenced to be hanged. Horan managed to escape from his guards and ran to a creek, but was shortly afterwards recaptured and again taken into court. Judge Burchett was notified. He appeared, with the court docket under his arm, took a seat in the room, threw one leg leisurely over a table, took a chew of tobacco, and then said:

"Well, Pete, you tried to get away, I hear."

Pete admitted that he had. "Well," said the Judge, "it seems to me you should have known better than that. We won't let you go, but will hang you d—d quick. In just three hours you can make up your mind to be hung." Pete pleaded in vain for an extension of sentence, but the judge was inexorable.

The prisoner then sent for Jere Sullivan, whom he knew to be a Catholic, and that he would like to see a priest before he died.

There was no priest nearer than the Better Root Valley, but Mr. Sullivan went to Judge Burchett and endeavored to have him postpone the execution three days, saying by that time he would have a priest there.

Judge Burchett would not consent to a postponement, and so Mr. Sullivan returned to Pete and told him he must prepare to meet his fate, that a priest could not be had. "But I'll tell you what it is, Pete," said he, "you just get down on your knees and pray for forgiveness, and I'll be d—d if I don't think your sins will be forgiven." We do not know that Pete took this advice, but he was hanged promptly at the time stated. Plummer built the gallows for Horan's execution, and was himself hanged thereon.—*Inter-Mountain.*

The father of an elderly damsel to marriageable young man: "On the day that I give you my daughter Adele, I will deposit 100,000 francs with M. Lafitte." Francois: Thanks, dear sir, but suppose you give me the 100,000 francs and deposit Mlle. Adele with M. Lafitte."

"We have plenty of fresh salt air here, even our lady boarders wear saltaires in their ears," said an enthusiastic seaside landlord. "Don't say so!" said the press guest. "Have you a salt rheum in the house?" "Yes, sir," said the landlord quickly; "a humorous correspondent has it now."

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