

VALUE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND BUILDINGS ON THE STATE FOREST RESERVES.

37 Buildings.....	\$28,690.00
4 Steel Lookout Towers.....	547.00
86 Miles Telephone Lines.....	3,151.00
<i>Trout Lake Nursery.</i> (Land improvements, water system with power engine, fencing, nursery frames, etc.).....	4,700.00
<i>Tomahawk Lake Nursery.</i> (Land improvements, water system with power engine, fencing, nursery frames, etc.).....	2,600.00
Nursery Stock (Trout Lake).....	9,385.00
Nursery Stock (Tomahawk Lake).....	1,983.00
Implements, tools, wagons, boats, speeders, furnishings for headquarters building, men's cabins, camp equipment for field work....	4,100.00
Total.....	\$55,156.00

During the fiscal year ending June 1, 1916, the forest rangers have carried on the general lines of improvement work of keeping open the fire lanes, repair of old roads, trails and telephone lines; the protection of the fish and game within their respective districts, thereby coöperating with the conservation wardens, which not only prevents duplication of work, but also makes for efficiency in both branches of the service.

The organization of the forest fire protective force is given in the appendix to the report and sets forth in detail the duties of the rangers in fire protection.

STATE PARKS.

The first State Park in Wisconsin was established by the legislature of 1878. All state land owned by the state in twenty-three townships in Iron and Vilas counties, some 50,000 acres, was set aside with the express provision that "no authority should be given to anyone to cut down or destroy any timber on such lands." For nineteen years this land was held intact. In 1897 the legislature placed the land on the market, and about 32,000 acres were sold. It is of interest to note that most of this same land, which was sold for approximately \$8.00 per acre, was later repurchased by the state for a forest reserve at about one-third of the original price, but with the timber cut. In 1895 a law was passed authorizing the Governor to arrange to acquire 250 acres in what is now known as the Interstate Park, and he was authorized to appoint three Commissioners to examine the land and determine the values. In 1899 the legislature appropriated \$6500.00 for the purchase of the lands, and the remainder from the purchase to be available for the general purpose and care of the park.

The first actual purchase of land for park purposes did not take place until 1901. The state has spent \$291,571.23 for the purchase of lands for state parks, as may be seen from the following tabulated statement:

PAYMENTS FOR PARK LANDS.

	Interstate	Peninsula	Devil's Lake	Marquette
1901.....	\$ 3,635.00			
1902.....	3,557.00			
1908.....	11,959.50			
1909.....	1,600.00			
1910.....		\$49,649.00		
1911.....		30,534.20	\$19,892.30	
1912.....		15,999.21	49,434.86	\$16,158.93
1913.....			59,170.28	10,000.00
1914.....				10,000.00
1915.....				9,980.95
	\$20,751.50	\$96,182.41	\$128,497.44	\$46,139.88

In addition to the appropriations there has been some income from the sale of old buildings, fuel, leases, concessions, etc., which, with the amount left over from the appropriations, makes up the present "Park Purchase Fund," amounting to \$12,695.46.

All of the state parks have been designated as wild life refuges, and game is increasing in them. Camping sites are laid out on two of the parks, and these are maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. Maps showing the camp sites are in preparation. Campers are charged 50c per week to pay for supervision and annual cleaning of the grounds. They are also required to deposit five dollars with the park superintendent as a guarantee that they will leave their camp site in good condition. Should the site need special cleaning the superintendent deducts the cost from the deposit. Portable camp sites are being leased at \$10.00 per year rental with privilege of renewal. Ten leases of this character have been made to date.

The following rules and regulations have been adopted and are made a part of all leases:

For Fire Prevention: Campers must not leave fires without knowing they are out. Smokers must not throw matches, cigarettes, or pipe ashes where there is a chance of fire starting.

Camping Parties must secure a permit to camp on park grounds from the park superintendent.

Hunting or Trapping or the carrying or using of fire arms is strictly prohibited.

Trees, Shrubs and Plants shall not be mutilated. The carving or writing on any buildings or rock, and the removal or defacement of signs is prohibited.

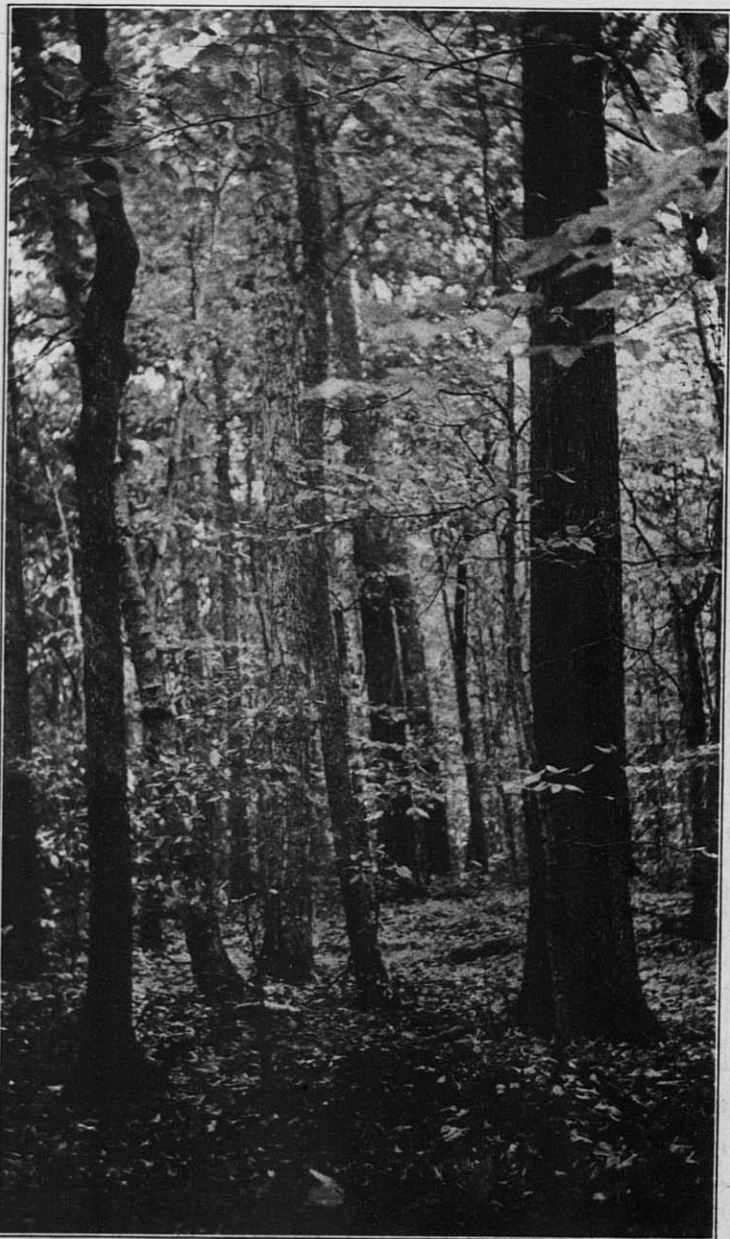
Automobile Drivers shall not run their cars above 15 miles per hour at any time on park roads.

The Prohibition relating to intoxicating liquors on the grounds must be strictly observed by campers and cottagers.

Boats and Other Property of campers and cottagers must not be tampered with, and glass of any kind, tin cans, or other rubbish that might injure bathers must not be thrown into the lake.

Rowdyism in deportment and profane language will not be tolerated on the grounds. Violators of this rule will be expelled from the grounds and prosecution will follow if persisted in.

Persons Who Violate any of the Foregoing Rules will be summarily removed from the park and be subject to the laws as provided. The park



VIRGIN FOREST OF MIXED HARDWOODS NEAR EAGLE BLUFF
PENINSULA STATE PARK

superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to enforce these rules and regulations and all provisions of the law governing the state parks.

The Active Coöperation of all campers and cottagers is earnestly asked in all matters concerning the welfare of the parks for the preservation of order and proper sanitation."

The total expenditures on the six parks during the fiscal year 1915-16 were as follows:

Devil's Lake Park.....	\$4,028.44
Peninsula Park.....	3,824.24
Interstate Park.....	1,776.65
Marquette Park.....	1,378.72
Brule Park.....	342.88
Cushing Park.....	295.00

Value of Buildings on State Parks.

Devil's Lake Park.....	\$20,350.00
Peninsula Park (buildings).....	15,634.00
(towers, 2).....	1,620.00
Marquette Park.....	1,000.00
Interstate Park.....	400.00
Total.....	\$39,000.00

PROPOSED GIFT OF TREMPEALEAU MOUNTAIN.

This commission takes great pleasure in announcing that, through the great generosity and public spirited act of Mr. John A. Latsch of Winona, Minnesota, Trempealeau Mountain, comprising almost 500 acres, both scenically and historically one of the most interesting points in the upper Mississippi, will soon be donated to the state as a public park. Dr. E. D. Pierce of Trempealeau and other local historians have been endeavoring to secure this property for the public, and through their efforts Mr. Latsch became interested and decided to purchase it and donate it to the county or state. Dr. Pierce and Mr. Latsch at first desired to present this property to the State Historical Society, but were persuaded by Mr. M. M. Quaife, Superintendent of the Society to turn it over to the state as an addition to the State Park System, since the Historical Society is not organized to administer such a trust.

Trempealeau Mountain was called by the Winnebagos, "Hay-nee-ah-chah" or "Soaking Mountain," and the French voyageurs adopted the native term, but in their own language, and the present term is an anglicized corruption of the latter part of the French designation, and no one who has ever voyaged on the upper Mississippi and has seen from the deck of his boat the lofty crest of the noble peak towering above him as if from midstream, can question the appropriateness of the name.

Father Louis Hennepin discovered Trempealeau Mountain in 1680 and five years later Nicholas Perrot and party going to build a fur trading post among the Sioux Indians, was overtaken by bad weather near this site, and took up their quarters at the foot of the mountain, where they remained until the spring of 1686. Three years later they planted the