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Horicon Marsh Saved

Waltonians all over Wisconsin are very enthusiastic over the favorable settlement of the Horicon Marsh controversy through the recent decision of the Wisconsin Supreme court.

The Walton chapter at Horicon, headed by Louis Radke, who is also vice president of the state chapter, and Senator Markham of Horicon, one of the leaders in conservation legislation, were the original sponsors of this Horicon Marsh refuge, one of the greatest projects for wild life conservation ever undertaken in the middle west. The active interest of Waltonians throughout the state was enlisted by the officers and members of the Horicon chapter with the result that the legislature set aside this great tract of 40,000 acres as a wild life refuge. However, some of the parties interested in private drainage rights protested in court the action of the legislature and they used every possible legal means to prevent the tract from becoming a public wild life refuge. The supreme court settled the long-standing controversy and sustained the work of Mr. Radke and his associates in every particular.

Action was brought against the state official bodies that were going ahead to perfect Horicon Marsh as a wild life refuge. An injunction was asked to prohibit the state from spending any money on this project, because the state constitution prohibits appropriation of funds for internal improvements.

The court decision upholding the Horicon Marsh wild life refuge opens the door to a much broader meaning of the word "conservation" in Wisconsin, and it will therefore be appropriate to quote the following important portion of the court decision:

"A consideration of the whole field of federal and state activity in this realm leads us without difficulty to the conclusion that chapter 475 of the laws of

By KATHERINE FRUSHER

1927 is well within the authority conferred by section 3A of Article XI, although this project does not conform to the popular idea or notion of a park.

"We should not place a narrow or restricted construction upon a constitutional amendment so obviously intended by the people to confer authority upon the state to promote the general welfare in this field.

"What should be done in the way of providing public recreation is in the first instance a matter of legislative discretion. Whether the project set up in the laws under consideration here is the best or wisest method of expending public funds is a matter for the determination of the legislature.

"The establishment of parks for the use of the public, the building of zoological gardens and small game preserves have for a very long time been undertaken through the expenditure of public funds.

"The present project appears to us to be merely a variation from and to some extent a combination of ideas already worked out along similar lines. It is therefore well within the constitutional field."

Brooks Heads Stevens Point

New officers of the Stevens Point chapter are: president, Harry B. Brooks; vice president, O. L. Weber; secretary, Edward Larson; treasurer, J. V. Berens.

Rock County Forest Planned

Plans for a county forest are being pushed by the Janesville and Beloit chapters of the Izaak Walton league. Members of both chapters met at Beloit recently to discuss a plan to co-operate with the state conservation commission in its reforestation program. Those in attendance from the Beloit chapter were

Dr. C. F. Schram, C. F. Kindschi, Howard Ames, I. R. Shue, I. E. Shue, Neils Engelson, Peter Baukind, and Fred Darling. Members of the Janesville chapter present were Louis King, Edward Hyzer, Hugh Conway, Val Gilbertson, A. A. Finkh, and Theodore Meloy.

One of the most successful trout rearing ponds in southern Wisconsin is located at Waterloo, Wis. The local chapter, chiefly through the efforts of Adolph Splees and Gustave Archie, has raised brook and German brown trout in a pond located near a flowing well of cold artesian water with great success. The pond is about 30 feet wide and 50 feet long.

The Eau Claire Rod and Gun club has appropriated \$10,000 for the purchase of a 40 acre tract on the banks of Half Moon lake to be made into a park and trout hatchery.

Work was recently begun on the new state fish hatchery at the outlet of Bohner Lake near Burlington, Wis., and it is expected that it will be completed in time for operation next spring.

Deer in Vilas county number 4,720, one to about every 100 acres, according to J. E. Bordner, in charge of a land economic survey for the state. It is estimated that about 20 per cent of the deer are mature bucks, 30 per cent mature does, 20 per cent fawns, and the balance yearlings and unclassified. The census also showed 8,940 partridges, or one to every 60 acres.

Racine Elects Officers

Percy H. Batten was unanimously elected president of the Racine chapter at the annual meeting. Other officers elected are: W. R. Winkler, E. J. Har-