

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am sorry to tell you that I have just discovered that some of our Waltonians are not very reliable. This is the second time that we have been invited to attend the banquet at Horicon and both times we have been assured by a certain person that we would have a good time and not be molested in any way.

Since Mr. Radke insists that I tell you something about the Horicon Marsh I think it might interest you to know just how the women of the Wisconsin Federation happened to become involved shall I say -

Quite a number of years ago while some of us were intensely interested in the fate of a little marsh of our own up in Sheboygan county, we used to read about a fire brand named Louis Radke down in Dodge County who seemed to have a passion for restoring drained marshes, and we felt that it might be well to get in touch with the gentleman with the hope that he might be of assistance to us in solving our own problems. So a letter went forth and the reply came promptly and with it an invitation to go to Oshkosh on a certain night at which time the writer would speak and we would all get acquainted.

It so happened that the convention of the Wisconsin Federation was held at Wisconsin Rapids of that year and some of us women decided to stop off at Oshkosh and attend Mr. Radke's meeting. When the time came, however, most of my friends were tired and decided to go home by the shortest way. I remember one of my friends saying that as far as she was concerned marshes were good, only, for two things - mosquitoes and malaria and she would have none of Mr. Radke. There was nothing left to do but to go by myself which I did and apparently had ever heard of the Izaak Walton League in Oshkosh but after many inquiries I finally found Mr. Radke. Where do you suppose, - in the museum of all places. The gentleman was already holding forth with his famous map beside him. I remember it was an extremely hot night and the speaker was mopping his brow with one hand and gesticulating wildly with the other. I sat in the back part of the room spell bound and marvelled. Perhaps I was not so conscious of what the gentleman was saying as how he was saying it. This sort of oratory was new to me. He went on and on getting warmer and warmer and redder and redder and at the height of a certain dramatic flight the speaker opened his mouth a little wider than usual and in flew a June bug and almost strangled the poor man to death. I am sure that was Mr. Radke's most embarrassing moment and my heart went out to him. I decided that enthusiasm and ardor such as he displayed deserved recognition and encouragement and I then and there offered my services to Mr. Radke and the support of the entire Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, and this, ladies and gentlemen, is the true story as to why the women of Wisconsin came to the rescue of the Horicon Marsh.

interest and with the speaker's permission, I would like at this time to introduce the women who are leading in this movement in Wisconsin. First of all I will ask Mrs. Neville to stand so you can all see her. She is the pioneer roadside beautifier in our state and wages war on the obnoxious bill boards which are hiding our scenery behind their ugly faces. Next is Mrs. Curtis, President of the Milwaukee County Federation whose constant support and encouragement is an inspiration to the conservation committee in Milwaukee. Next is Miss Martha Riley, assistant state chairman, of the conservation division. I want to tell you a secret. Miss Riley has all the bright ideas, I present them and my committee do all the hard work. Next, is Miss Margaret Marchmont, our new publicity chairman. She it is, who writes all the news for our department. She is able to get a prominent place in the newspapers for our conservation work because she has a stand in with Miss Mr. A. P. Whoever that may be. Last but foremost are the members of my own committee of Milwaukee County: Mrs. Telfer, Mrs. Steinmetz, Mrs. Jackson, etc. These are the women who can always be counted upon to put in the hard work connected with any particular activities which we hope to stage at any particular time.

Now while I have this opportunity, I would like to pay tribute to one of the leading conservationists of the state unfortunately not present tonight. I am speaking of Mr. Parmley, of the Boys' Technical High School of Milwaukee. This man, undoubtedly, does more for conservation education than any other single person in the state and he receives less recognition of his efforts by the various conservation groups than anyone else in the entire field. A few days ago at the sectional conservation meeting of the State Teachers Convention a man from the north was elected as chairman of this division. When I inquired why Mr. Parmley had not been nominated someone said that the newly elected chairman planted trees while Mr. Parmley only wrote about them. Personally I feel that the pen is mightier than the shovel. I need only point to living examples like Mr. Broughton and Mr. Luening who are doing more for conservation by molding public opinion than all the rest of us put together. However, man learns by slow degrees what is good for the human race. As a nation we are just beginning to awaken to the importance of these gifts of waters, soil, marshes, and forests which a bountiful nature has showered upon us. This back ground is distinctly American and should be cherished.

It is high time that we are discovering as a people the mysteries of the forests and waters and the holiness of the earth and her creatures and the kinship of all life. No race or group of people can long endure without these backgrounds. Perhaps, if we are very fortunate we may glimpse new values of life and discover the place of each and every creature in the hearts of nature so we may create not only sanctuaries of birds and trees but for men and all life and we will thus eventually be brought into a world of peace and brotherhood.

Mrs. Edward LaBudde,

TRIENNIAL

DETROIT JUNE 7, 1935

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BREAKFAST CONFERENCE

Madam Chairman and Federation Members,

I feel honored to have the privilege of addressing this representative group of conservationists and with your permission I will devote the time allotted to me to call your attention to the need for conservation education in our public schools.

Scientists tell us that the world will go on millions of years longer and it seems safe to assume nature intended that some of her gifts which we are enjoying at the present time should be held in trust by each succeeding generation for the use of those of her children who will live in that far off dim and distant future.

The rise and fall of great countries and nations is in some degree a record of how its citizens have used and abused the land - but whereas certain ancient civilizations like Persia, China, Syria took thousands of years for disaster to overtake them, here in America we have succeeded in damaging our land almost beyond repair through deforestation with its resultant erosion dangers in less than seventy-five years.

One scientist goes so far as to say that we are destroying our land and all natural resources faster than any people that ever lived, ancient, modern, savage, civilized or barbarian.

Since man is able, to an amazing degree, to adapt himself to changing conditions it is probable that he may permanently inhabit the earth and be its master as long as life can exist upon it. However, when we have exhausted our coal, oil and most important of all, the Soil, the end will come.

Those of you who saw that startling picture, "The Man of Arcn", have some idea of what happens to a people when the soil becomes exhausted.

In addition to this Desert Producing Erosion Tragedy which we are enacting at the present time, we are still draining thousands of acres of marsh areas which serve the double purpose of breeding grounds for water fowl and huge reservoirs for water storage. Although \$8,000,000 has been allocated to the Biological Survey for the purchase of breeding grounds for migratory birds, at the same time \$16,000,000 was set aside for drainage purposes to create more farm land, I suppose. I beg to call your attention to the fact that we have too many agricultural lands now which has been demonstrated by the A.A.A., under whose banner hundreds of thousands of acres of cotton were plowed under and millions of acres of corn and wheat lands were left to lie fallow in an effort to reduce an over abundance of food stuffs.

The great problem is, of course, one of public education. In Wisconsin we have discovered that it is difficult to teach old dogs new tricks. For many years the famous Horicon Marsh has been in the lime light. It was drained illegally more than twenty years ago and has been a political foot ball ever since. In 1927 our Wisconsin Legislature finally ruled

that the Marsh should be restored through the building of a dam to replace the old natural barrier. The opposition contended, however, that the 1927 Legislation was illegal and the whole matter was taken to the Supreme Court. That honorable body ruled, however, that the legislation was legal and so a dam was constructed.

In October 1934 the Wisconsin Conservation Commission ordered the gates closed. The spring thaws put a wide expanse of water on the once arid 40,000 acre tract of land and presented a wonderful picture to the beholder.

On April 20 a great civic event was held which thousands of people from all over the state attended. 1500 wild ducks were released in order to help this once great mecca for wild life to "come back".

Less than a month afterwards the gates were again wide open and the precious water drained off because the adjacent farmers protested and said their lands were being flooded. In the meantime the ducks are breeding and thousands of ducklings will be destroyed. This in the face of the nation's serious duck shortage is scandalous.

When I left the state all civic organizations were raising their voices in protest, but on the part of the rank and file of our citizens, there is evidence that we do not have a glimmering of our responsibilities in this matter. This is just a small example of what is going on everywhere in this nation as far as our natural resources are concerned.

Unfortunately, most people think of conservation as a thing far removed from the foreground of their lives. Through wide-spread education, however, - somehow the people must come to an understanding that the wise use and perpetuation of our natural resources creates all of our material wealth.

The out of doors is something that all of us can see. Repeated deduction of the chemical content of the soil without replacement leads to lower production and farm capital. Destruction of wilderness creatures beyond the natural increase leads to extinction of the species concerned. Reduction of forest wealth through unwise lumbering activities and forest fires leads not only to the destruction of the lumber industry but, more important by far, it lowers the water-tables of our land and aggravates Erosion, our most insidious internal enemy.

How long will the American people sit complacently by and see destruction going on, on all sides? Miss March-Mount, who is an optimist, will tell you of the wonderful work that the C.C.C. camps are doing. Of all the alphabetical set ups, the three Cs are the most important. Foresters tell us that this work has stepped up conservation fifty years but when the time comes for a new administration to move into power, there is always the danger that this entire constructive program will be abandoned. For that reason, the women of the nation must see to it that conservation education receive a prominent place in the curriculum of our schools. Man may live, if need be without higher education, ethics or the arts but no way has yet been devised whereby he can exist without food - and upon that Holy substance - the Soil which we are pouring into the sea at the rate of 400,000,000 tons a year - are we dependent for our sustenance.

Is this subject not of enough importance so that every boy and girl in the land be informed of the serious consequences of waste and extravagance in the use of our natural resources?

Is it not the highest type of patriotism that an institution of learning can inculcate into the hearts of its pupils so that these children of today, who will be the adults of tomorrow, will learn so to love their country that they will not be able to bear to have any part of it wasted or exploited. Unfortunately, up to the present time educators have displayed but luke warm interest in a subject which is of paramount importance to the future of this nation. They speak of a crowded curriculum and what not. It would seem that to impart wisdom concerning split infinitives, the Canterbury Tales and the dead languages is of more importance than to inculcate social ideals in the use of nature's most precious and limited gifts to an unthrifty race.

I am happy to say that in Wisconsin a small beginning has been made. Club women are reaching into the schools and with the help of friendly teachers are arousing the interest of the children in birds, flowers, lakes, streams and forests by holding poster, essay and bird house exhibits and contests each spring of the year. The Eau Claire Woman's Club, through its conservation chairman, has been instrumental in placing a course of conservation into the normal school, high school, grade and parochial schools - in addition, these women have helped to establish a forty acre school forest along the Chippewa River as a project in Erosion control, certainly an outstanding achievement and credit to any club.

The work that our Women's Clubs have accomplished in Wisconsin has paved the way for a Bill which has just been introduced to our Legislature providing that a course of study of natural resources be included in the curriculum of the state training colleges and county normal schools. If once the teachers of the state are informed of the importance of this subject, the next step ought to be comparatively easy.

Perhaps by teaching children to appreciate the out of doors, to love great forests, abundant waters, lovely hillsides and meadows, lush marshes filled with wild life, the next generation, or the next one after that, may preserve and restore what it can for the sake of its own security.

We here this morning are pioneers in this field. Let us do what we can so that there may never come a day when the dwellers of the land may say of us, as it was said of old. "The land was as a garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness." No man or woman may ask greater opportunity to serve their country than by helping to create a conservation consciousness in this country and which can only be brought into manifestation through the medium of our public schools - With the Youth of America lies the hope of the future.

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ADDRESS BEFORE APPLETON CONSERVATION GROUP

November 11, 1936

Mrs. Edward LaBudde, Vice-Pres. American For. Assoc.

I feel honored to have the privilege of appearing before your newly organized Conservation Club, but I must warn you at the beginning that I am not a Public Speaker like either Dr. Barrett or Mr. Gromme, and so I do not want you to look for any oratorical flights.

Once early in my career, as a Conservationist, a good friend of mine said to me, "Now, if you are going to do this sort of thing why not prepare yourself? Why not go to a Dramatic School and learn how to speak properly?" The idea appealed to me so I went to an Elocution teacher with high hopes in my heart. The lady told me how to stand, how to raise and lower my voice, when and exactly how to make the proper gestures at exactly the right time and timed with the right word. I got all confused and bothered. I tried my best and you may believe me or not at the end of the third lesson I was speechless. I had to give it up. It wouldn't do for me. I suppose it is hard to teach old dogs new tricks, so now I just talk.

The subject assigned to me is Women in Conservation and since there must be a beginning, it might be well to start with a story.

Once upon a time there was a beautiful marsh. It was fed by the waters of one of our loveliest lakes and lay in the sunshine and mist holding the secrets of nature close to its breast. Once it had been a shallow lake but men had an idea they could make farm lands out of it and so an attempt was made to drain it. The lake disappeared and a marsh took its place, but that was many years ago and as the water receded a great forest of tamaracks sprang up around the edges. Thousands of pools twinkled there and during the migration period the waters were covered with great rafts of ducks, geese and swans. That alluring place was the mecca for hunters and sportsmen. Nature and flower lovers came from near and far to gather the lovely orchids - the showy lady slipper and moccasin flowers which grew there in such abundance. And there it was, year after year, a joy and benediction to the entire section of that state.

Then the war came and after it was over men came back and took up their daily tasks again. The cry of "Grow More Wheat" was still in the air and so one day came drainage men with authority to make another attempt to drain the marsh and convert it into profitable farm lands. They came with modern and powerful equipment. Hundreds of Italian workmen were brought to that secluded community to help with the stupendous task. The few who protested this outrage against the marsh were considered queer and as standing in the way of progress. So the devastating work went on year after year. Great ditches were dug and the course of the river which meandered through the marsh was changed. The Tamarack forest died. The abundant wild life disappeared and the work of wreckage was complete.

Unfortunately the promised farm lands did not materialize. Instead there developed an area of dry, black soil - no good for crops other than Canada thistle and wild grasses. Even these wilted during the hot summer sun. Fires added to the general destruction and so after costing the stockholders many hundreds of thousands of dollars the drainage company pulled up stakes and left for parts unknown.

In the meantime, those of us who loved the marsh used to read about a firebrand named Louie Radtke, in the Central part of the State who was fighting for the restoration of the famous Horicon Marsh. We had an idea perhaps this man might help us with our own marsh. We wrote "Come up and see us sometime" and our poor abused marsh" and the reply came quick as a flash, "I am too busy, but come and help us with our

marsh first and then we will see what can be done for the marsh in your country"- and we went.

That was the entrance of the women of Wisconsin into the field of conservation. You will remember the long drawn out fight in our legislature which went on for ten consecutive sessions and it was not until the women of the State entered the arena that there was a decided change in the attitude of the Legislature towards this project. Up to that time there had been a feeling that the Isaac Walton League wanted the marsh restored in order to make hunting grounds for themselves. The women were not hunters, they did not kill and they asked for nothing for themselves, but were guided wholly by altruistic motives. These crusaders began to speak about the marsh as being of economic value to the State for the storing of water as well as for breeding ducks. Our Legislators began to sit up and take notice. Hearing after hearing took place. Finally the bill aimed against the restoration was killed and our lawmakers decreed that the marsh should be restored to its former status. The gates of the dam which had been built at a cost of \$25,000. were closed and the early spring waters were held back. It formed a beautiful lake near the city of Horicon and the waters ran back several thousand acres into the marsh. It was a truly magnificent sight.

On April 20, 1935, Horicon was the scene of a great civic celebration. Thousands of ducks were released at a dedication service for the restoration of this famous breeding ground. The liberated ducks raised their young and in the fall of 1935 joined the thousands upon thousands of ducks that flew from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and which used the great marsh as a resting and feeding place. The day of the flights the whole city of Horicon turned out to watch this beautiful sight and business was suspended.

Perhaps you all know the rest of the story - how the Farmer's Protective Association, which by the way is the screen used by the land owners in the marsh, carried their case to the Supreme Court and argued there that their farm lands were being flooded. That honorable body, after long drawn out deliberation, ruled that the gates of the marsh must be opened until all lands had been paid for. In view of the fact that the whole lower delta was flooded at the time, it was nothing short of criminal to allow the additional waters of the Rock River to add its quota to the death and disaster already abroad in the land.

The fires again burned on Horicon marsh last year during the drought and I understand the very farmers who opposed the restoration appealed to the Isaac Walton League to flood the one thousand acres which the State already owned. They were afraid of the fires. Someone has said that people become educated at the point of frustration and the farmers around Horicon may yet one day appeal to the Supreme Court to order the flooding of the marsh for their own safety and the safety of their crops and homes. Man learns by slow degrees what is good for the human race.

What the future has in store for the poor outraged Horicon can be read by the handwriting on the wall. The whole Roosevelt Administration is focused on saving the soil of our land. The Federal Government will surely step in eventually, either to purchase or confiscate the land, close the gates in order to stop the devastating floods not only in our own state but along the Mississippi and so end for all time the plans of selfish hunters, farmers nor forgetting the lawyers who have been the leading actors in this drama all these years. The greatest good for the greatest number is the slogan of the day.

I want to say in passing that the farmers around the Sheboygan marsh have been actuated by less selfish motives. They have become tired of the threatening fires year after year and have, of their own accord, built a simple dam of earth and stones and succeeded in putting water back on the marsh. They have planted beaver who are the best engineers and who build the finest dams of all. The Conservation Commission has placed ducks on the waters in the spring and pheasants were released last spring in the vicinity of the marsh. All in all this valuable area is rapidly being restored as a wild life refuge which nature intended it to be.

I think it may be well right here to give a little resume of what the Government is doing to save these United States of America from disaster. I believe it is quite safe to laud President Roosevelt for his far-seeing policies now that the election is safely over.

When the depression descended upon us and the Unemployment situation grew more and more acute it became increasingly apparent that the nation needed to make an inventory not only of its industries, but of its natural resources as well and with that thought in mind, President Roosevelt called upon Secretary Wallace to submit a complete report on land utilization to the Senate. This report to include all land, private, state and nationally owned. It was very difficult to collect data of this sort. Nothing of the kind had ever been done before, but with the help of the United States forest service the survey was made and the report given on the exact date requested. The report brought out two interesting facts:

1. All our major forestry problems are brought about through private ownership.
2. The land use situation is now the most critical of our internal problems. The latter is characterized by wide-spread abandonment of agricultural lands, by the collapse of town and county governments as the result of land abandonment and non-payment of taxes, by excessive erosion and floods following the cultivation of land which should never have been used for farming purposes in the first place and last but not least wide spread drought conditions and more recently horrible dust storms which moved whole farms east into the Atlantic ocean.

Immediately after the report came out, President Roosevelt as you know established the Civilian Conservation Core as a relief measure for unemployed boys and to help with the rehabilitation of our forest lands. He also, at the same time, began to visualize the rehabilitation of the entire Tennessee Valley, the fertility of which land was slowly being destroyed through erosion brought on by flood conditions. Sixteen states are encompassed in this Valley and the least each State can expect, through this land-saving program, is complete protection from floods by the building of hundreds of dams and water catchment basements. Farmers clinging to the sides of hills and mountains, eeking out a miserable existence are being moved into the fertile lowlands which will no longer be menaced by floods. For the first time in their lives these people will have light and heat and comfort and best of all hope in their hearts. The abandoned farms are being put back to the growing of trees and the expense of the dam construction will more than pay for itself in the protection from yearly floods. *Island control - San Antonio*

President Roosevelt, long before he entered the White House and while he was Governor of New York was an ardent conservationist and you will remember that during his campaign he repeatedly said that a million men could be employed in the forests and you will remember too that he was laughed at by his opponents. Four days after President Roosevelt's inauguration the plan for the CCC was presented to the Senate and acted favorably upon immediately. On April 10, following the inauguration the first unit of 25,000 boys was enrolled and by July 1, 250,000 boys began the march into the forests. Since that time the Camps have been doubled. We now have over 3000 in the country and close to a million men are in the forests, fields, marshes and river banks in every state in the union. You see them everywhere. This is the greatest program of land rehabilitation ever attempted by any country in the world. Not only has forestry been stepped up 50 years and proven that the depression has been a blessing in disguise, because the Government has at last awakened to the need of conserving our dwindling resources, but it is rehabilitating the lives of these boys who up to the time that they enrolled in the CCC were disheartened and faced the future with fear and foreboding in their hearts.

The rise and fall of civilization throughout the world is in some degree a record how men abuse the land, but whereas it took the people of Ancient China and Syria thousands of years to wreck their land, we have succeeded in almost completing the task in our own country in less than a hundred years. One writer has said that we Americans are destroying our land faster than any people that ever lived; Ancient, Modern, Savage Civilized or Barbarian.

The National Resource Board makes an estimate that a hundred million acres are so deeply eroded that they are totally unfit for any known use. Deforestation, repeated fires over the same area, over grazing which loosens the soil, drain marshes and our vaunted individualism are the reasons. Here in Wisconsin we have a classic example of what private enterprise has done for our State. Nature endowed our State with great wealth in various forms. At one time almost the entire surface of Wisconsin was covered with splendid forests of hard woods and many species of pine and other conifers including our world famous white pine which brought the first wealth into our state. Within the forests lived a generous supply of wild life valuable for food and furs. The water of two of the great lakes on the North and East, the father waters, the Mississippi River on the West in addition to the many thousands of Inland Lakes, offered innumerable commercial, recreational and esthetic possibilities.

Our soil too was excellent. When the forests in the East central part of the state were removed through chopping and burning, the soil was found extremely fertile for farming. In those days wood and lumber had no value whatsoever and the only product which found a ready market was wood ashes, from which soap was made. I remember my grandmother telling us children how she walked seven miles through the dense forest with a bushel basket of ashes on her head which she bartered for one row of common stick-pins and twelve small pearl buttons. She felt she had made a good bargain.

Later, as deforestation went on the North Central Part of our state was especially adapted for forage, cattle and potatoes. We were blessed with great marsh areas valuable for migratory birds and amphibious animals.

The wealth of Wisconsin was not by any means confined to these visible gifts of nature. Below the surface was found a vast store of resources consisting of iron, copper, lime-stone, gravel, marl and clay. To our grandfathers, this supply seemed so vast that they placed hardly any value or restriction upon their use. With the result that much of this natural wealth was exploited and used for selfish gains without any thought for the future needs of society as a whole.

The fur trader and lumberman while they furnish their regions with profitable industries for the time being were ruthless in taking what they wanted leaving "ghost towns" in their trail - we see them to this day as we travel through the North - deserted lumber camps with empty villages around them, a depressing reminder of what havoc lack of planning and thought can bring about.

The farmer too has added his bit to the general deterioration of the forests, soil and wild life. By clearing his hills he has by one stroke destroyed natural habitats for birds and animals and started the insidious process of soil erosion. Nature intended the hills to be covered with a luxuriant growth of shrubbery and trees in order to hold the soil in place and to maintain water levels in neighboring lakes and streams. Few people know that gravel hills contain the sources of many of our springs. Nature in creating a stream of any kind precipitates moisture in the form of rain which falls on hill and dale alike. On the forested hills, however, the water is caught by a tangle of roots and leaves and slowly filters into the ground. Many hundreds of barrels of water are sometimes held in storage in a single hill and presently seepage begins showing itself first at the foot of the hill or more

often many miles away in the form of a little spring of crystal pure water. Presently it flows over and a little brooklet is formed which joins similar streamlets eventually increasing in size, forming mighty rivers all rushing to the sea. By deforestation of hills the rain no longer falls softly into this mat of leaves, nor seeps slowly into the gravel underneath but instead rushes off, carrying the precious topsoil with it creating thereby gulleys and deeply eroded areas. When once the gravel is exposed that particular hill has become unsuited for crops and is a liability instead of an asset to the farmer.

The story of land is of course tied up with the story of forests and the cutting of forests in the Northern part of our State uncovered about eighteen million acres totally unsuited for agriculture. The first lumber companies, which came into our state, cut what stood before them leaving young cut trees and slash in their wake. They knew nothing of selective cutting and forestry as a science and cared less. The forests were considered a hindrance in those days and were to be gotten rid of as quickly as possible in order to make room for an every increasing population.

For sometime efforts were made by our State to seal these Northern lands for farming. Land agents began to haunt the steamship docks in New York, emigrants were approached and the most phantastic promises were made to these poor people who often gave all they had for the privilege of living in those Northern lands of hope and promise. Many of these Northern settlers learned too late after the back-breaking labor of clearing the land and freeing it of stumps and slash that it was impossible to grow farm crops on the sandy soil which nature created especially for the growing of conifers.

Devistating fires, season after season, did not lessen the problem any and this problem still continues to the present day. Conservationists now, however, consider this cut-over land an asset and opportunity to practice reforestation on a huge scale. Many thousands of acres with the help of the Civilian Conservation Boys are being planted in Wisconsin each year. While the new forests are growing the state and federal governments are mapping out a program of recreation which will be of the greatest value both socially and economically.

Water resources enter into this picture of recreation. Rivers and lakes have been considered by many people for years as designed by nature especially for the disposal of sewage, mattresses and automobiles of ancient vintage. Many of our most beautiful rivers in the state are decidedly polluted especially the streams along whose shores large manufacturing plants have been erected. The Federal Government has offered assistance in building disposal plants and many of the large cities have accepted this aid and work is under way. There is, of course, the question whether in providing disposal plants for cities at public expense there ought not at the same time be built disposal plants for industrial wastes at public expense; since these industries all pay huge taxes to the state. In any event, all waters of beautiful Wisconsin should be cleansed and freed of pollution as quickly as possible. This is vital to every inhabitant of the state. With increased leisure for the workers, due to shorter hours and few working days, recreation becomes a growing problem. The out-of-doors offers the most healthful, enjoyable and profitable avenue for spare time.

Most people love either to fish, swim, hunt or enjoy nature from an esthetic point of view and in order to do these things we must have clean rivers and lakes, abundant forests, camping sights, wild life sanctuaries, and hunting grounds.

Wisconsin is known as the Summer Playground of the Nation and if only from an economic standpoint it behooves us to preserve, conserve and restore as much as possible all natural resources - forests, farm lands, lakes, rivers, hills and wild life. With a little help our fame will extend to the four corners of the nation. Who does not know that the tourist trade now ranks as one of our largest industries. The summer visitors left about three hundred million dollars in our midst last summer. Individuals as well as the State profit by this invasion of tourists.

I have gotten entirely away from what women are actually doing in Conservation. We have felt for a long time that in order to arouse or create a Conservation Consciousness it would be necessary to start with the children and so we began to look around for friendly teachers out in the state and with the help of the club women, in every part of Wisconsin, we began our Conservation Education Program. We offered prizes for posters and essays, bringing out the thought of conservation; dealing with water, forests, birds and game and we had specifications drawn by a bird house architect which we sent to all interested schools. It was a slow task lasting over a period of over nine or ten years. I wish to say right here that we received our greatest help from the Catholic schools. Somehow the Sisters seemed to have a great love for the out-of-doors and they are able to instill into the hearts of their children this appreciation for nature.

In January 1935, a small group of people met to outline a legislative program. I think there were five or six of us. We thought the time had come to try and put through a bill which would require Conservation study in the schools of the State. With President Roosevelt in the White House, we knew that this was the propitious time. We also outlined a bill for the protection of Christmas Trees. After much conferring with the Board of Education and the Conservation Commission, the proper bill was finally perfected and introduced to the Legislature. This educational bill was received very kindly and was passed without much difficulty. The Christmas tree bill, however, was defeated twice and passed at the third reading. Much to our regret, it was vetoed by Governor LaFollette who gave us his reason that the measure carried with it a sales tax which would place an extra hardship on the poor. We called it a protective tax. The bill asked that the man who cut the tree was to pay 5¢ for the privilege of doing so which at the same time paid for a ticket carrying the insignia of the Conservation Commission upon it which was to be attached to each tree. The 5¢ was to be absorbed by the purchaser and surely would not have meant a burden to anyone. We will try again.

We spend most of our time in Madison last summer and learned a good deal about the psychology of the average legislature. Last winter while I was in California I was shocked to learn that both the morning dove and the quail are game birds and when I spoke to Mrs. Meyer, the leading bird authority in the State, about this matter she said "Yes, isn't it too bad. We have tried repeatedly to get a law passed to give protection to these lovely birds." I asked her what the Legislators had said when the women appeared before them - she seemed surprised and answered, "Oh! we have never appeared before any Committee." I told her that unless the women parked on the doorsteps of their Legislators their bills would be thrown out - the men would simply think that some silly woman wanted to have another silly bill passed. The women of California are going to present another bill this year and they are going out for what they are after. I am sure they will be successful.

To go back to our educational bill, I believe it is the most important legislation ever passed by our state although it caused hardly a ripple on the surface of our state politics at the time. As a result of this new law, conservation of natural resources will be taught in every common school, and every high and vocational school, shall offer adequate instruction. The University, State Teacher's Colleges and County Normal Schools are required in granting certificates for teaching of Science and social studies to provide adequate instruction. \$5000. was allotted by an act added to the statutes for supplying material

for the use of teachers. Mr. Gilles of the Department of Public Education has been very co-operative since birth of the law and at the Teacher's Convention last week a meeting of the supervisors was held in which to discuss the best methods of procedure in formulating plans for this new problem. Educators have felt, for the most part, that they were trying to inject another study into an already overcrowded curriculum. However, that is not the thought - at least not for the common and high schools. The study should be correlated with other studies, chiefly through social studies and physical science classes. With the younger children, the approach should be through ^{the emotions}. Every child loves to hear about birds, flowers and animals and it is very easy for the teacher to stress the importance of protecting nature's handiwork. In the upper grammar school grades, conservation can be taught as a subject of good sportsman-ship, outdoor good manners, planting projects, etc. The teacher with this topic at heart and with the proper initiative can find a hundred and one ways in which to bring home the lesson of conservancy. Is not love of one's country the highest type of patriotism? To teach a child so to love his native land that he will not tolerate the destruction or exploitation of any part of it is rendering a real service to the future of their country.

Following upon the educational law a children's school forest has been established in the Nicolet National Forest, sponsored by the Garden Clubs of Wisconsin. It is a 1200 acre tract and all Wisconsin children are invited to plant trees. The slogan is, "Four pines for a penny." The forest is to be dedicated in 1940. There is nothing compulsory about it and any teacher can enroll her children in this co-operative project.

I might go on and on telling you about the activities of women in Conservation. Someone has said that women are America's leisure class, having been relieved from household drudgery through all sorts of electrical appliances and gadgets - they are therefore, in a position how to give their attention to the social and economic problems of the day. Our husbands are so busy hustling around making a living these days that they haven't time to devote to these urgent ^{public} economic matters.

When the United States Forest Service first came into our state the women of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs took a "show-me" trip to Northern Wisconsin under the guidance of Foresters from the Forest Service and the Conservation Commission. They saw for themselves the havoc that deforestation and forest fires have brought about in our State. It was while we were in the desolate moquah region, which has been burned over again and again that the United States Government offered to the women of Wisconsin a 640 acre tract of land for reforestation. We accepted and since that time many, many acres have been planted which will stand as a perpetual monument to the pioneer women of this era and their interest in reforestation. While 640 acres may seem a pathetically small plot of land in the face of the 18 million acres awaiting reforestation, still it was a constructive gesture and called attention to the fact that the women of the state were aware of the need for rebuilding our devastated forest land and were willing and eager to do their bit.

One forester said that forestry needs to be dramatized, and women are good at that sort of thing. That is why they were the leading ladies in helping to lift the one million acre limitation from the "Enabling Act." We are now in a position to have the government establish as many national forests in our state as the Wisconsin Conservation Commission and the Governor approve. *Thompson Lake*

Since this first public gesture of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, 1300 other plantations have been established by Women's Groups not only in Wisconsin but by the nine other states in this region.

The Business & Professional Women, the Democratic Women, the Auxiliary of the American Legion, the Catholic Daughters of America, the Girl Reserves and now the Garden Clubs have become enthusiastic and are all breathing life into the forestry program.

When we think of forests we immediately think of our dwindling wildlife. The women of Wisconsin realize that wild animals are more valuable to our State alive than dead and that the wild creatures are a strong magnet which attract people from every part of the country. For each one who wishes to shoot with a gun, we now have thousands of men and women who prefer exhilarating experience of "shooting" a deer or faun with a camera. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has just been established and every person in the state is invited to become a member. There are no dues. The Federation's object is to enlist enough citizens so that an overwhelming majority will back any conservation measure presented to our legislature or congress. Perhaps it will interest you to know that the women were the ones who put the great blue heron and most of the hawks and owls on the protected list here in Wisconsin. Other states are following suit. We are working now for the abolition of the obnoxious steel-trap which still remains a blot on our American Civilization and which destroys many thousands of valuable animals and birds each year which were never intended to be trapped by the trapper. This diabolical device is wasteful as well as cruel. Humane traps can be substituted which will kill instantly or else catch the animal alive and unhurt. *See story*

Conservancy is a matter of fair play and of good sportsmanship of the square deal or the new deal, if you please.

You may ask how can we help to establish a Conservation Consciousness. You can first of all help the schools in your community to get reading and reference material, pictures, slides, and other educational aids through the U. S. Forest Service, Wisconsin Conservation Commission, American Forestry Association and Nature and Audobon Societies.

You can encourage activities favorable to song birds with the help of the school children and by building proper bird houses an erection of feeding stations. Now is the proper time to hang walnuts with half the shell on a string outside of your window to attract the chick-a-dees. You can visit your nearest Conservation Camp and see for yourselves the marvelous work that the boys are doing in the forests of this state.

You can start a Community or Town Forest on the outskirts of your own city for use and study. Select a site preferably with some slope where reforestation with the help of the schoolchildren can be started. Usually in every community there is a tract of land which can be had at little cost. The Forest Service will supply trees free of cost. The main object of a Town Forest is not to raise timber but to arouse interest in the community in forests and trees.

Road side improvement might be still another project for conservation organization. We now have a young man in the state who will go to any community and plant a demonstration highway. An abundant growth of summac, grape, elderberry, honey-suckle, juniper and other berry bearing shrubbery should be planted close to the fences. Such a hedge will furnish food for both game and song-birds. *Bill*

A bird and flower sanctuary with nature trails might be set aside for the use of nature lovers and school children. There is no end to the development of such projects. If you have a ~~suitable-park-~~ natural park all native trees and shrubs should be marked with suitable signs.

You can put on a real campaign against water pollution of the beautiful Fox River all the way down from Shawano. It doesn't do much good for a city to erect a sewerage disposal plant if small towns on the same river still pour their refuse into the stream.

Inclosing I wish to say that some beginning has been made here in Wisconsin, notably down in the Little Fox, Rock and Milwaukee River Valleys. There won't be time to go into this except to say that a large recreational area of 100,000 acres known as the Kettle Moraine is being planned for as a huge state forest for this densely populated section of the state.

In order to hasten the day when acquirement of desirable areas, like the Kettle Moraine and all other conservation measures be endorsed by our people at large, it is necessary that an increased appreciation of the beauties which a bountiful nature has showered upon us, be shared by every man, woman and child in the state. We must acquire a social point of view and learn that our remaining natural resources can be so managed that the greatest good for the greatest number will be secured. We must realize too that it will be necessary to cooperate with state agencies and through our legislature achieve conservation ends. Finally, we must attain a sense of the importance and necessity for scientific procedure in managing our natural resources and resolve to help the United States Forest Service in every way we can to increase forest protection and forest research. We must assist the Wisconsin Conservation Commission to acquire more lands for state forests through the Fulmer Act, which provides Federal funds for the purchase of state forests. More public forests will not only provide additional, healthful, recreational areas for our citizens, but more important, will help regulate stream flow in our rivers, maintain water levels in our lakes, preserve and increase our valuable wild life, enrich our farm lands, and incidentally make Wisconsin the most beautiful and healthful state in the Union.

THE END

9-14

15-16

5/6/29

Mr. Thayer, Chairman,
Assembly Conservation Committee,
Madison, Wisconsin

My Dear Mr. Thayer,

I have just heard that you are opposed to all legislation passed in 1927 pertaining to the Moricon Merah and that you are very favorably impressed with the compromise that the opposition is offering in its suggestion of a thirty five hundred acre refuge surrounded by six thousand acres of public shooting grounds which in turn are surrounded by "other lands".

Now as I remember you (I appeared before your committee a while back) you seemed very benign and enlightened which only goes to show how mistaken a mere woman can be by a man's pleasing exterior.

I cannot understand how any intelligent person can even remotely consider seriously the idea of the sanctuary for wild life surrounded by public shooting grounds. The very thought is preposterous and enough to make even a duck laugh and then their ideas of other lands is very subtle. Is this the land our friends from the notorious city of Chicago are offering as a free thoroughfare for all who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to go into the public shooting grounds and waylay the unwary duck as he flies to the above mentioned sanctuary? Or is it perchance the idea of the gentlemen to the south of us to hold these lands at so high a price that it would be practically prohibitive for any mere Wisconsinite to even contemplate such a purchase. Of course this idea of theirs would not be half bad for our game birds unless these gentlemen are very farsighted and are plotting to sell their lands to wealthy gangsters - pardon me, I meant gamesters of their own home town. That of course would not be so good for our wild creatures because it would mean a wild life refuge surrounded not only by public shooting grounds but a private one as well. However, our feathered friends are not as dumb as they look. Down in Daytona, the wild ducks swim by the thousands - on the river, through the town, up to a certain bridge. When I asked as every one does, why don't they swim under the bridge, my guide said, "Oh, they are smart, they are not protected on the other side and are apt to get shot." So they swim up to the bridge and then turn and all swim back. It is the prettiest sight I ever saw.

5/6/29

- 2 -

The point of the story is, that you will never reconcile wild life refuges and shooting grounds to each other. You will either have to set aside the entire marsh as a sanctuary where the ducks and geese will find absolute protection or you can let these promoters continue to exploit our state for their own aggrandizement and selfish interests.

They are doing it all over the state especially in the northern part of our commonwealth.

I am beginning to think that our legislators are very naive and gullible, if they swallow whole all this propaganda about the poor farmer suffering the loss of his home as well as his farm should the marsh be restored.

The learned lawyers who represent the farmers and incidentally the drainage interests seem to confuse flooding with restoration. We do not wish to create a lake but a Marsh which is a tract of soft, wet land covered partly by water. If it were entirely covered, no water fowl could breed in it. There have to be plenty of fairly dry areas for feeding grounds. In these spots all sorts of nice things grow to tempt the palate of the feathered creatures. How restoration such as this is going to hurt the farmer very much I can't see, but even so, we are not thinking only of this generation but of many generations to come. They are entitled to some of the joys of nature and wild life. Our state is so progressive in every other way but when it comes to real conservation we are woefully short-sighted. A great many see progress only in farms and crops, automobiles, air planes and industries. No doubt all these things are very necessary but there is something necessary to mankind of much more importance and that is to keep some of our out-of-doors in tact so that we may come in close contact with the mysteries of nature.

Life would be very drab indeed if we converted all of our forests and Marshes into farm lands. Only natural landscapes such as woods, marshes, lakes, rivers and hills give us that certain kinship with nature that uplifts the spirit and gives us peace. We need this

5/6/29

- 3 -

Horicon
particular/Marsh as a Marsh with all its potential
natural beauties restored as far as possible. Surely
Wisconsin is rich enough to set aside this area from
purely altruistic motives.

This is a long letter and I hope I haven't bored
you to death. You see, I am trying to make a convert
of you and bring you to the right way of thinking.

May I have the courtesy of a reply from you? I
am really quite curious as to your point of view.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Edward LeBuddé,
5903 Washington Blvd.,

May 7th, 1929

Mr. John Eber,
Assemblyman,
Madison, Wis.

Dear Mr. Eber,

In looking through the Assembly reports, I find that you voted favorably for all Horicon Marsh legislation in 1927. I am enclosing a resolution adopted by the Milwaukee County Federation of Women's Clubs on March 18th of this year.

As you probably know, the women of the state are conservatively minded. We feel that all projects toward the betterment of the state should be encouraged. We feel that the restoration of Horicon Marsh and setting it aside as a Wild Life Refuge is such a project. Can we count on you to again stand back of all legislation passed in 1927 and to oppose the compromise that the opposition offers in its suggestion of a refuge surrounded by public shooting grounds? The very idea is preposterous and enough to make even a duck laugh.

I thank you for what you have done in the past and for what I am sure you will do in the future for this worthy cause. May I hear from you?

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Edward LaBudde,
5903 Washington Blvd.,
Milwaukee Wis.

Aug. 8, 1939

His Excellency Governor Kohler,
Madison, Wis.

My dear Governor Kohler:

Now that both houses have passed the bill providing such a generous budget for conservation (and, of course you will sign it), we women feel that enough funds are available for our long felt need of an educational program.

As you know we want a woman to act as the assistant to the director of conservation; who will go into the public schools as visiting instructor, who will speak in summer schools, at farmers' institutes, and all other official and voluntary groups as the occasion demands.

In short she is to go up and down the length and breadth of the State, and preach the love of nature and outdoor beauty to young and old, only so will it get into the hearts of our citizens.

We may continue indefinitely to spend huge sums for reforestation, fish hatcheries, game refuges and deputies, but unless the masses are taught the reasons for these expenditures and the need for conserving and perpetuating our resources, both from a material and spiritual standpoint, the rank and file will go merrily on blind to the need of beauty in their lives and dead to the love of nature which surrounds them on all sides. To our way of thinking we must first instill into the young mind the appreciation of nature in all her manifold manifestations, before we can expect much in the way of cooperation from our citizens as a group - we must, in short, become conservationally minded.

Perhaps you will remember that I called on you early in the spring and that you were not entirely indifferent to our plans for this new step in promoting conservation in our State.

May I hope that you will use your influence with the Commission and help the members see the need for this particular phase of the work.

Very respectfully yours,

Mrs. Edward La Budde
Pine Point Resort
Elkhart Lake, Wis.



STATE OF WISCONSIN
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
MADISON

WALTER J. KOHLER
GOVERNOR

August 9, 1929.

Mrs. Edward La Budde,
Pine Point Resort,
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.

My dear Mrs. La Budde:

I have your letter of August 8, with reference to an educational program in connection with the state's conservation activities.

It may be that a beginning can be made toward achieving the object which you have in view.

While I cannot without further consideration commit myself or the Conservation Department as to what concrete work can be undertaken at this time, I want to say that I have a keen appreciation of the importance of beauty as well as of utility.

With good wishes,

Sincerely,

Walter J. Kohler
Governor

WJK:LK

Keep

PRESIDENT
WM. P. ABERG
GAY BUILDING
MADISON, WIS.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
H. C. BERNDT
FOND DU LAC, WIS.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
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SECRETARY-TREASURER
FRANK N. GRAASS
STURGEON BAY, WIS.

WISCONSIN DIVISION

Frank Mutton League of America

INCORPORATED

DIRECTORS for 1 YEAR

GEO. BLANCHARD, Edgerton, Wis.
C. E. SHEPPARD, Chippewa Falls, Wis.
FRANK N. GRAASS, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

DIRECTORS for 2 YEARS

DR. MERRITT JONES, Wausau, Wis.
ANGUS McDONALD, Three Lakes, Wis.
EUGENE WOODHOUSE, Lancaster, Wis.



DIRECTORS for 3 YEARS

ALDO LEOPOLD, Madison, Wis.
DR. C. F. N. SCHRAM, Beloit, Wis.
REVEREND DR. J. A. HOLMES, Appleton, Wis.

Mrs. Edward LaBudde,
5903 Washington Blvd.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

March 11, 1929

Dear Madam:

Your letter of March 5th received and contents carefully noted. I assure you that I am very much pleased to hear from you and glad to hear that you are vitally interested in the Horicon marsh controversy. From your letter I understand that the "evils of drainage" is your pet subject and I assure you it is a very important one.

You perhaps are aware of the fact that the powerful drainage gang has introduced two separate bills in the 1929 session of legislature asking for the repeal of all Horicon marsh legislation. Furthermore, you are perhaps aware that practically all of the legislation passed in the 1927 session of legislature is now pending before the Supreme Court.

These high-powered purse busters, called lawyers, have found so many technicalities that they are going to make this a real issue. However, we are not going to be asleep at the switch and the inclosed letter is a rough draft of what we propose to send out to all the organizations in the state interested in conservation work.

I certainly would appreciate it very much if you could get concentrated action by the Women's Clubs. In other words something *should* be done to have the rank and file of the women throughout the state forward letters or telegrams to their respective legislators asking that they oppose all measures aimed against the restoration of Horicon marsh. Anything that you can do along this line will be very much appreciated.

Now, regarding my appearance before one of your meetings at a later date. I certainly will be glad to do so and

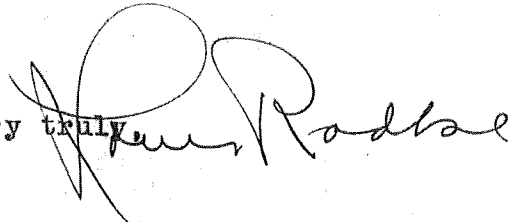
-2-

Mrs. Edward LaBudde,
5903 Washington Blvd.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

and I believe that the month of September will suit me best, an evening meeting preferred. However, if your organization cannot have an evening meeting it will be entirely satisfactory to arrange for some time during the day. I am scheduled to talk on this subject in Racine the night of the 20th of March and again at Watertown on the 21st.

We hope that with cooperation by all the conservation forces in the state we will be able to defeat this gang of high-powered purse busters. Assuring you of my appreciation of your kind letter, I am

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward LaBudde". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed phrase "Yours very truly,".

LR/ER

PRESIDENT
WM. P. ABERG
GAY BUILDING
MADISON, WIS.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
H. C. BERNDT
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REVEREND DR. J. A. HOLMES, Appleton, Wis.

Mrs. Edward LaBudde,
5903 Washington Blvd.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

April 26, 1929

Dear Madam:

Your letter of the 25th received and I will hasten a reply. I can assure you that letters of this kind are very encouraging as had it not been for the support given us by the rank and file throughout the state we no doubt would have given up in despair.

However, we still feel that our cause is just in face of all of the opposition that we have encountered and I just feel that we are going to win in the end.

The latest propoganda by the drainage gang is the sympathy farmer stuff and which has had its effect in many places. There is one point I want to have you get and that is this. The drainage gang is constantly referring to the flooding of the marsh, which is vicious propoganda. Our movement is not to flood the marsh but to restore it to its natural statis as it was prior to the drainage steal. Please bear in mind that the word flood means a lot of water and I will agree that if the marsh was flooded as the drainage gang puts it it would mean a great deal of damage.

The act of the 1927 legislature does not provide for flooding the marsh but putting back the natural levels and right here I want to say that no farmer around the marsh will be damaged by such a movement.

Furthermore, if the state of Wisconsin is maneuvered in a position to listen to the drainage gangs proposal of a compromise they are putting themselves in a condition that is going to be disastrous from a legal standpoint. In other words, it means that they act favorably on this scheme of a game refuge and public shooting ground, better called a slaughter pen, they must buy every square foot of the entire marsh land and by this act they automatically admit that the marsh was not drained illegally.

I am wondering whether your organization is in a position to get the proper contact with several legislators who acted favorably for our bill in 1927 and if these men could be relied upon to take the floor in our behalf I think we could win very handily.

For your convenience I am submitting the following names:

- Assemblyman ✓ Alvin Reis, Madison, Wisconsin
- " ✓ Wallace Ingalls, Racine, Wisconsin
- " ✓ Frank Prescott, Milwaukee, "
- " ✓ John Eber, Mauston, Wisconsin
- " ✓ John Smith, Jefferson, Wisconsin
- " ✓ Charles Bulong, Marinette, Wisconsin

The above men are leaders of all factions of the assembly and are able men.

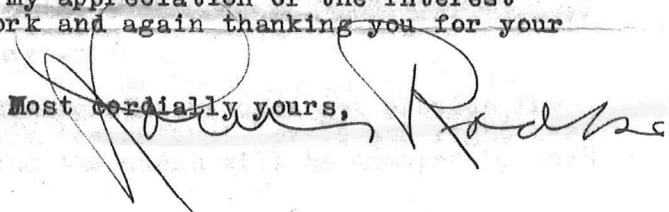
If you are in position to have the Women's organization from these districts do something along the lines above suggested it will help matters a great deal.

I looked to see something definite on the Horicon Marsh proposal within the next couple of weeks and as a matter of fact I have today received a transcript which is a huge volume covering the Horicon Marsh case before the Supreme Court.

I am inclined to think that the Supreme Court will act on the Horicon Marsh matter between now and June 1st. At least I have been so informed.

Assuring you of my appreciation of the interest you have taken in this great work and again thanking you for your kind words, I am

Most cordially yours,



LR/ER

Otto R. Krueger,
Watertown, Wis.

Treasurer—
Paul E. Kleist,
Hustisford, Wis.

Directors—
John Neider,
Hustisford, Wis.

J. M. Weber
Theresa, Wis.

**Other Riparian Owners Against
the Drainage Menace.**

Watertown, Wisconsin

March 25, 1929

STATE SENATORS AND MEMBERS
OF THE WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY:

Gentlemen-:

The Farmers' and Citizens' Land Protective League is heartily in favor of Bill No. 384S, passed during the 1927 session of the Wisconsin Legislature, relative to the establishment of a State Wild Life Refuge on Horicon Marsh, and providing among other things for a dam at or near Horicon. The proposed dam will go far to control the flood waters on Rock River below the Horicon Marsh, and prevent the constant flooding of the lands of farmers and other riparian owners along Rock River, whose lands have been damaged and whose crops have been destroyed as a result of the illegal private drainage of the Horicon Marsh. The control of flood waters on Rock River by means of this dam will constitute a belated act of justice to all of the land owners whose property has been taken, in whole or in part, through the drainage of Horicon Marsh resulting in the hurling of flood waters down the winding channels of Rock River, below the marsh, in excessive volume causing the waters of the river to overflow and flood the adjacent lands and property.

The illegal drainage of Horicon Marsh has accomplished little or no lasting benefit to the handful of farmers owning land bordering the marsh. On the other hand, it continues to enact its annual toll of damage to lands and destruction of crops along Rock River, below the marsh. The farmers damaged exceed the farmers benefited more than ten to one. The losses since drainage run into thousands of dollars, while the benefits are hardly visible to the naked eye.

These farmers and other riparian owners along Rock River who have been injured by the illegal private drainage of Horicon Marsh never had any notice of what was going on until the dredge ditches were completed and the first flood waters were hurled down upon their lands. The Horicon Marsh, before drainage, was a natural reservoir which held the rainfall over a territory of 480 square miles, and permitted the waters to drain off gradually, without damage to lands below the marsh. Now, even small storms are a menace to all property bordering on Rock River below Horicon Marsh.

This League asks the State's protection against this drainage menace which causes repeated damage to lands and crops of more than three hundred farmers in Dodge and Jefferson Counties alone, say nothing about the hundreds of thousands of dollars damages done to the cities of Watertown, Ft. Atkinson, Janesville, Beloit and Rockford, Ill. The easiest way to provide this protection is by putting in the proposed dam at Horicon so as to regulate flood waters on Rock River below Horicon Marsh.

This letter is addressed to each member of the Legislature by direction of the officers of the League.

Respectfully submitted,

FARMERS' AND CITIZENS' LAND PROTECTIVE LEAGUE,

By *D. J. E. ...*

Milwaukee, Wis.
April 1st, 1929

Mr. L.S. Keeley,
Mayville, Wis.

My Dear Mr. Keeley,

I was out of town for a few days and since my return, have been so busy that I have neglected answering your communication before this. Please pardon my delay.

I read your letter over very carefully, also the enclosed clipping. I am sorry that you feel I am wrong in my appeal to the women of the state to defeat your Bill. However, before we entered upon this course, we acquainted ourselves very well with all particulars relating to the Marsh. I am indeed very sorry for any farmer who will suffer through the restoration of the Marsh. Unfortunately, where a great wrong such as this is righted, the innocent as well as the guilty very often must suffer. As I understand it, it was never the idea of the Izaak Walton League, that the farmer should not be re-imburshed for any land that he might lose through re-flooding.

Even you must agree that the drainage of the Horicon Marsh was an outrage against Nature in the first place. Wisconsin is so rich in farm lands, that we can well afford to set aside a tract of Marsh land such as Horicon from purely altruistic motives.

In opposing your Bill, we are thinking only of the welfare and happiness of future generations. We feel that they are entitled to some consideration. Man in his greed and blindness, has wrecked much of our natural beauties. I marvel that so much remains. I feel sure that the very descendants of the farmers whose cause you are espousing, will rise and call us blessed if we are able to save the Marsh for posterity.

I feel very keenly about the evils of drainage because my summer cottage is at the threshold of a drained Marsh. Where once we faced intriguing vistas of loveliness, there is now an eye-sore of parched swamp grass and millions of dead tamarack trees. In our survey around the Marsh last year, all farmers save one, agreed that the drainage had been a dismal failure and they seemed happy over the possibility of the Marsh's restoration. The lone farmer who objected, had acquired about thirty acres of land through the drainage.

In any problem, I try to keep this question in mind, "Which solution will bring the greatest happiness to the greatest number"? The answer is always clear. In this Horicon matter, it is extremely clear. The restoration of the Marsh will bring happiness to countless numbers yet unborn compared to the handful of owners who represent the Drainage Corp., and who drained the Marsh in defiance of the rulings of the Supreme Court. There are of course, the farmers who may have gained a little land and who should be re-imburshed fully, although statistics show that the land gained is absolutely worthless for farming.

I do not doubt but that you too are sincere in your opposition to the restoration of the Marsh

but I feel that the women of the state have a larger vision. They have nothing to gain and are guided wholly from altruistic motives. I in my feeble way can do nothing to influence them if they themselves are not already convinced that their decision will mean the highest good for every one concerned.

Very sincerely yours

Milwaukee, Wis.,
March 16th, 1929.

Honorable Carlton Wm. Mauthe,
108 W. Division St.,
Fond du Lac, Wis.

Dear Sir:-

I thank you for your letter of March 15th.

I had in mind Assembly Bill No. 444, A introduced by Mr. Moul March 6th, 1929, and referred to the committee on Conservation intending to repeal subsections 24a and 25 of section 20.20 of Wisconsin Statutes, which statutes are as follows:

"(24a) On July 1, 1927, ten thousand dollars to construct and build a dam or dams on the Rock river in or near the city of Horicon, for the purpose of controlling and regulating the flood waters on the Rock river and restoring the public waters of Rock river on the Horicon marsh to the natural levels which existed prior to the private drainage of the same."

"(25) Annually, for ten years, beginning July 1, 1927, twenty-five thousand dollars for the purchase of land, the construction of buildings and equipment and the operation of the wild life refuge, game preserve and fur farm established on the Horicon marsh by section 29.571."

Respectfully,

PRESIDENT
WM. P. ABERG
GAY BUILDING
MADISON, WIS.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
H. C. BERNDT
FOND DU LAC, WIS.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
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RACINE, WIS.

SECRETARY-TREASURER
FRANK N. GRAASS
STURGEON BAY, WIS.

WISCONSIN DIVISION

Frank Milton League of America

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REVEREND DR. J. A. HOLMES, Appleton, Wis.

Mrs. Edward LaBudde,
5903 Washington Blvd.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

April 9, 1929

Dear Madam:

I am in receipt of your letter of recent date, together with copy of letter that you have written to Prof. Keeley, at Mayville. I assure you that your letter to him was the right thing at this time and I am satisfied that he has come to the conclusion that the endorsement of the Women's Clubs will mean something for our project.

I want you to know that your letter was read before our Chapter meeting last night and the Chapter went on record unanimously voting their appreciation of the good work you have done.

I presume that you have received my recent letter indicating that the public hearing will be held at Madison Thursday April 11th at 2 P.M. and I trust it will be possible for you to be there to speak in behalf of the Women's Clubs of the State of Wisconsin in opposing bill 444-A.

Now, regarding the contemplated visit here at Horicon to view the Horicon marsh. Right now there is a abundance of wild life on the marsh but I am afraid that the weather is entirely too disagreeable and too cold to go up there. My suggestion would be that this trip would be arranged for around the latter part of April at which time the weather is mild and I know the trip will be enjoyed even though the major portion of the aquatic life will have gone north by that time.

We are in a position to accommodate quite a number of the women as we have the necessary boats, etc., and I will leave the matter entirely in your hands as to how many you would like to have come here. I might say that we have one large boat that accommodates twenty people and a score of other boats that carry three or four or more.

8-12-10

Milwaukee, Wis.
March 23rd, 1929

TO THE WOMEN OF THE FOURTH AND FIFTH DISTRICT

Dear Club Members,

Through your affiliation with the Milwaukee County Federation of Women's Clubs, you have already endorsed a resolution protesting against Bill 444.A just introduced to the legislature now in session. We are however, appealing to the individual Clubs to lend their aid in defeating this Bill which is directed against the consummation of the Greatest Conservation Measure ever attempted in the Northwest. Will you write at once or better still, telegraph to your Senators and Assemblymen telling them you are opposed to Bill 444.A and asking that they vote against it.

If you would like to refresh your memory regarding the history of Horicon Marsh, write to Mr. Louis Radke of Horicon, Wis., for literature. Mr. Radke is the second Vice President of that splendid organization, The Izaak Walton League and he has done more than any one man in the state to arouse public interest to the importance of saving our Marshes as breeding places if we do not wish to exterminate Wild Life entirely.

We are just faintly beginning to realize how closely the various manifestations of Nature are allied. Floods and droughts in turn, are only the just retribution of an outraged Nature against the drainage of her Marshes and the denuding of her forest lands. We cannot transgress against even one of her marvelous laws without throwing the whole intricate Plan out of balance.

Do not forget to write to your legislators at once and so help in furthering Wisconsin's Greatest Conservation Measure.

Very sincerely yours,

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE
MILWAUKEE COUNTY FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

Mrs. E. LeBudde,
Chairman