

**INDIANA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.**

EDITOR CONSERVATIVE:

Dear Sir: Some three miles east of Anderson, Ind., are some pre-historic mounds, which I visited during the past week. One of these, the largest of seven, has a diameter of about 400 feet, having been thrown up in an embankment some twenty feet in height. In the center is a single mound, while between the inner mound and outer embankment is a deep ditch. Upon one side has been left a narrow passageway connecting the two elevations, where the ditch has not been excavated.

This earthwork is on the low bluffs of White river and in close proximity to an immense spring of pure water. A cavern near this spring is said to have been constructed to enable the mound-builders to reach this water by a covered passage.

Covering the mounds are very large white oak and other forest trees. Many years ago a walnut tree stood upon the embankment directly in the entrance way, and from its growth was estimated to have been 225 years old, showing the work to have been ancient. The owner of the land, Mr. Browninburg, now past 80 years old, has owned this place for sixty years, and while a boy saw the Indians here who said they knew nothing of its origin.

Mr. Browninburg has preserved the surrounding forest of magnificent oaks, which is one of the finest bodies of timber in Indiana, and has made it a forest reservation under the new forestry laws of our state.

I believe this is the first entry of forest land under the Indiana law, and it will thus preserve this beautiful woodland, and also secure the preservation of the historic mounds which mark a favorite resort of our recent Indian population as well as the home of those who passed away long years before the Indians.

Very respectfully,

JOHN P. BROWN.

Connersville, Ind., June 21, 1899.

**HORTICULTURE AND AGRICULTURE.**

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., June 10, 1899.

EDITOR THE CONSERVATIVE:

Nebraska City, Neb.

Dear Sir: As you take an interest in all that pertains to farming I enclose you the pamphlet of the Neff system of the storage, drainage and irrigation of the run-off and surplus water, to prevent the washing away of the soil, grade and drainage of roads, stop the washing of gullies on our public roads. We do without tiles and among best ditch material is vegetable matter. Our ditches are level, not less than three feet under ground. With distributing wells, we automatically store, drain and irrigate by some ditches. Our dams are made by the washed soil and hold 40 per cent water and 60 per cent of drift soil, which raises the water 60 per cent

to a higher level than an open pond and reduces evaporation to the minimum. The surface of pond may be used as an irrigated garden, the flood waters are held back, lessens the damage from high waters in our large rivers. To fully understand the merits, simplicity and cheapness of this plan the plants now in operation should be examined (see Missouri Horticulture report, 1893, page 239 by Neff). Four hundred rods of ditches, one dam and distributing well cost \$108 (see system No. 1 in pamphlet). Enclosed find report on plant on our county farm that now furnishes 100 barrels per day from less than 15 acres of watershed and we have 1,000,000 gallons of surplus water. No soil has washed away since 1857, from the Neff 30 acres. The gullies made by the flood-rains washing away the soil are now ponds, level and irrigated gardens. The land had a fall of eight inches to the rod. Examine and be so kind and give me your opinion.

Respectfully,

JOHN C. BENDER,

Corresponding Secretary Horticultural and Agricultural Society, St. Joseph, Missouri.

**WHY THIS DIFFERENCE?**

Travelers among Indians or semi-civilized people

would see them making an effort to clean the streets of their villages, using a cluster of brush, tied together and used in the form of a broom. They would also see them adopting numerous means of transportation, none better than the horse.

Coming to the highly-civilized cities and towns of the Middle and New England states this traveler would not be surprised to note the wonderful contrast in the means of transportation of persons and goods. Imagine, if you can, his surprise, upon arriving in New York city, to find the streets there being cleaned by a method but little more in advance of that used in the Indian village, viz: sweeping the dirt together with hand-brushes and gathering it up into carts by the shovelful.

The contrast in methods of transportation is due to the use of steam, electricity, air and other improved motors, brought about by the efforts of a few far-seeing men, who have been and will continue to be rewarded by handsome returns.

If the efforts of Whitney & Von Kuserow, 100 Broadway, New York city, who are engaged in bringing out a machine patented by Charles Gurney, secretary and treasurer of The Railway World, meet with the success the subject warrants, we shall soon see the streets being cleaned by a machine that will gather the dirt and bale it at one time, operated by one of the new motors, thus saving immense amounts of money to the taxpayers of our cities and towns, to say nothing of the improved sanitary conditions.

**THE CIVIL SERVICE ORDER.**

A truer conception of the merit system would extend the rules to cover collectors themselves, rather than exempt their deputies. Under the ideal system any young man entering the internal revenue service should have the prospect before him of being able by honest and efficient service, without reference to politics, to work up to the highest positions in the department. It is merely a tax-gathering service, and the less politics there is about gathering taxes the greater the assurance of honest and economical work.—Buffalo Express (rep.)

The triumph of the spoilsmen in this matter is not remarkable. What is remarkable is that the president should have thought a formal order of this kind at all necessary. He must be supposed informed as to the shameless and flagrant violation of the civil service law in Oregon, as elsewhere, all over the country. Deputies of marshals and collectors have been turned out promiscuously and political appointees put in. If this has been done in defiance of law, why has the administration condoned it? If it has been done in accordance with the law as it now stands, why is there necessity for an order exempting these places from the classified list?—Portland Oregonian (rep.)

Mr. Cleveland's extension of the classified service just before he went out of office was unquestionably prompted by partisan considerations, but this fact does not in itself justify the modification. That can be justified only on the ground that the offices excepted under the new order should not be in the classified service. As to some of them this view can be successfully maintained, but it is doubtful whether it can be as to all of them. At all events, it is something of a concession to the opponents of the merit system for which the president must expect to be vigorously criticised.—Omaha Bee (rep.)

What will be severely criticised and what civil service commissioners will regard as a backward step is the exemption of Indian land examiners and financial clerks, of pension-agency clerks and of cashiers and financial clerks at the various post-offices enumerated in the order. The Indian office is notoriously weak and inefficient, to use mild terms, and it will not be improved by the infusion of spoils principles. The postal service has been well administered, and the public is cognizant of no facts which would justify in its eyes the change in the direction of increasing the patronage of local postmasters.—Chicago Evening Post (Rep.)

The greatest danger to be apprehended from the concessions made is that they will stimulate demand for others, and render resistance less easy.—Portland (Me.) Press (rep.)