

Change State's Face to Build a Reservoir

The site selected for Boston's new reservoir is in one of the prettiest counties of central Massachusetts, says a writer in *Albion's Magazine*. It is about thirty-five miles northwest of Boston and about seven miles northeast of Worcester. The contour of the valley, broad here and there, and narrowing to almost a gulch near Clinton, seems fitted by nature for just such usage. The scenery is diversified, consisting of hills, vales and woods. Nearby toward the north stands Mount Wachusett like a guardian sentinel. The climate is that of New England, somewhat drier in winter, but hospitable, kindly and open. On account of the rocky nature of the soil very little opportunity is afforded for agricultural pursuits and the population is therefore small, being only sixty-nine to the square mile. This point, it will be easily

was shown by a land proprietor to "gouge" the board he was fought relentlessly. In one case where a certain Italian demanded an exorbitant amount for a wooden shanty, the board needing only half the space occupied by the structure, calmly cut it in two, and paid the man only one-half of the assessed valuation.

In awarding damages caused by the building of the great reservoir the state of Massachusetts has established an important precedent. When a town like West Boylston is practically wiped out it is understood that the owners of property must be compensated for the losses sustained by them, and also it is necessary to pay for damages sustained by storekeepers and manufacturers. All this the state did, and then went a step farther. It passed a law awarding damages to ordinary workmen,

impair. It was divided into panels, which the crusaders. I examined it rather closely and asked how old it was. His answer was:

"It does look old, doesn't it? Just look at those old stains. Well, this wonderful antique brought from an old Spanish chateau and regarded as a fine specimen of mediæval art is six months old."

"When leather has been long exposed to the change of atmosphere it changes its color in spots and looks as if it had been marked with a needle. This appearance, which it was thought possible to obtain only by old age, is imitated with a beetle. Bits of the leather are covered with paste, and strong black beetles with healthy appetites are put to work. With their sharp jaws they quickly finish off the spots where the paste has been applied, and you have the 'sure signs of age' in leather."

The making of new antique furniture is a work of art, Mr. Sandberg said. Color, density, polish, grain and other characteristics of the really old article must be counterfeited. In this, he explained, a camera plays a prominent part. The result could never have been accomplished by the artisans of the sixteenth century unaided by Father Time.

"Depth of color is obtained usually," said Mr. Sandberg, "by putting the wood in huge cylinders where it is boiled or steamed in especially prepared coloring matter. The heat expands the pores of the wood and in this way it absorbs sufficient coloring matter to give it depth. Then it is transferred to a bath of acid to make the color fast. This done it is dried by machinery."

"But it is not only the color that is necessary. The general character of the veins, the grain, the different cuts, knots and swirls must be imitated. This was done formerly by hand and was woefully expensive. The camera now does the work. The grain is photographed on a piece of transparent paper which is given a special film of gelatine. The whole affair is then exposed to daylight. After this it is treated as an ordinary etching, with this difference, that instead of acids various aniline dyes are used."

"The true lover of ceramics finds it hard to obtain the real article. Imitation Italian majolica is met with everywhere. It is an almost perfect imitation, with a glaze and color effect that are marvelous. Eighty per cent of the 'old' Dresden offered for sale is counterfeit. The same is true of Sevres."

Speaking of the recent discovery of bogus antiques in the Boston museum the lecturer said:

"I have been through La Petite Palais with a well known French artist and he pointed out numerous so-called antiques made by his own hand and afterward proved the truth of his statements."

"Antiques Made"

Antiques—made last month—and where and by whom they are manufactured were explained recently to Chicago people by Frederick W. Sandberg, reports the Chicago Tribune. Beetles—ordinary black ones—and the camera are the antique makers' most trusty agents, he declared. Mr. Sandberg, who formerly resided in Oak Park, spoke in Fullerton Memorial hall, the Art Institute. His lecture, "Modern Antiques," was the first of a series of six on "L'Art Nouveau as Expressed in Industrial Arts at Paris in 1900." The speaker was a jury expert at the Paris exposition and was commissioned to prepare the United States official report on art industries in silver and gold.

Chance, Mr. Sandberg explained, made him acquainted with the art of turning out

For Drinkers of Coffee

The inhabitants of the United States consume annually, statistics show, 750,000,000 pounds of coffee, and as there are about 75,000,000 inhabitants each of them has to his credit ten pounds in the course of the year. Notwithstanding this, a wave of fear sweeps over the country every little while and the coffee drinkers lift up their voices and say: "Are we not harming our health with drinking so much coffee?" The subject has lately been discussed by a number of medical societies. Physicians are pretty generally agreed that the moderate consumption of coffee is not injurious and "moderate consumption" they decline as



FILLING THE WATER TANKS WITH SNOW ON PIKE'S PEAK

understood, had considerable bearing on the selection of the site.

To secure a supply of pure water for a multitude of people it was necessary to collect that water from a shed unpolluted by the living or by the dead. A population of sixty-nine to the square mile was not dense enough to afford even a suspicion of danger.

A proof of the broad spirit shown by the commissioners and their grasp of engineering feats is given in their treatment of the mechanical problems presented in planning the reservoir. The flooding of a valley even sparsely settled meant the annihilation of homes, the wiping out of small towns, the destruction of farms and the changing of the course of public roads and railways. These problems were looked upon as mere details by this daring board.

When it was estimated that a total of 2,163 acres were to be taken from the different towns in the valley, to-wit: Clinton, 1,125 acres; Boylston, 2,764 acres; West Boylston, 879 acres; and Sterling, 497 acres, and that the lands required for the reservoir contained six large mills, eight school houses, four churches, 360 dwelling houses, a large Catholic cemetery and a railroad, all of which it was necessary to remove, the board simply made plans for ridding a newly acquired strip of land of obstructing stumps and rocks.

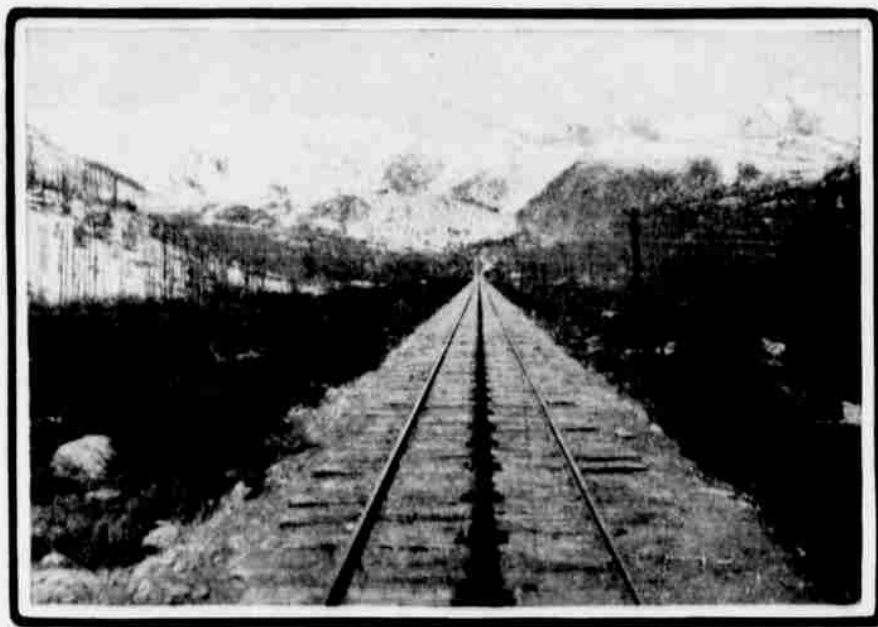
Three principal features in connection with the construction of the reservoir are the removal of six and a half miles of the Central Massachusetts railroad and its relocation upon the side of the reservoir, the destruction or removal, partial or complete, of the towns already mentioned, and the building of the great dam at Clinton. Of these three possibly the question of changing the railway bed is the least important, although it is an event worthy of note.

The work presenting the greatest picturesque feature in the construction of the Wachusett reservoir is the demolition of West Boylston and Oakdale. Both these places were thriving towns with important woolen mill interests. They had existed for a number of years, and were growing slowly, but with the steadiness of New England towns. They were model communities in their way, their citizens God fearing and upright.

When the news came to the good people of Oakdale and West Boylston that the "city," as they call Boston, was about to reach out like an octopus of the deep and devour their little communities, they were loath to believe it. And when it was understood that their homes, their hearthstones and the graves of their fathers were to be covered forever by the waters of a great reservoir, they rebelled.

The fact that the state fully intended to make adequate financial restitution offered no balm. No amount of money could offset the heart-break at leaving the spot where a family had been rooted for a century. It was some time before the people of West Boylston and of Oakdale became reconciled to their impending eviction, as it might be called. It must be said that the state was perfectly fair in awarding damages. Average prices were allowed for every piece of property taken, but wherever a tendency

mill hands and the like, who suffered loss through the stoppage of their work.



TO THE LAND OF PERPETUAL SNOW.

grandfather's clock, rare old tapestry and Dresden and Sevres services, "off which kings dined," to meet the market demand. He was looking for an old friend, he said, when he found the new industry. He had traversed a labyrinth of old streets near the Place de la Bastille in Paris, where, on the third floor of an old building, he made his discovery.

"The first thing I noticed was the odor of burning leather in the room. The occupant was not my friend, but a rather jolly Frenchman. When I told him my business, he said:

"Oh, we make antiques here." "After chatting a bit he took me into an inner room and showed me a wall decoration of what is known as Spanish golden leather. It was of a beautiful rich color, such as one could suppose only age could

one cup at breakfast, one at noon and one in the evening. Coffee taken plain, without either cream or sugar, they say, is less harmful than the sweetened cafe-au-lait, or milk coffee, which, fermenting, is bad for the digestive organs.

Smokers are better off with coffee than without it, as tobacco, being a narcotic, weakens the heart's action, while coffee, a stimulant, strengthens it, so that the heart of the smoking coffee drinker does not vary, as a rule, from the heart of him who has neither the one habit nor the other. The smoker who does not drink coffee has usually a weak heart. The disciples of the no-breakfast faith say that one cup of coffee between two cups of hot water in the morning is better for the health than all the breakfast cereals or health foods advertised.

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