

THE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

In response to a general demand that a National Park be created at the Grand Canyon in Arizona, Hon. Carl Hayden has introduced in the House a carefully prepared bill the enactment of which will accomplish this purpose. The bill provides that certain lands now included within the Grand Canyon National Monument shall be set aside and dedicated as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people under the name of the Grand Canyon National Park.

The area of the present monument is 1,260 square miles but the proposed park will contain only 996 square miles so that 264 sections of land that are now withdrawn from all forms of entry will be made available for grazing and other uses. It is the intention of the bill that nothing but the scenic portions of the Canyon with sufficient areas back from the rim to permit the construction of roads shall be included within the National Park. In order to be sure that the boundaries of the proposed National Park will be entirely satisfactory to all concerned Congressman Hayden has forwarded maps showing its limits to the Arizona State Land Commission and to the Board of Supervisors of Coconino county for their approval before the bill is considered by Congress.

Section 2 of the bill provides that the Grand Canyon National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the National Park Service Act which became a law last year. This law authorizes grazing permits to be issued but such a comparatively small area of grazing land is included within the Park that only a few permits will be necessary.

The Hayden bill fully protects the interests of those who have heretofore acquired property rights within the proposed Park. Provision is made for the development of water power under existing laws and the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to permit mining whenever consistent with the primary purposes of the Park. The United States Reclamation Service is also granted the right to construct reservoirs whenever necessary.

It is believed that by the establishment of a National Park at the Grand Canyon the way will be paved for securing appropriations by Congress for the construction of roads and trails which will make the Canyon much more accessible to visitors. Over 100,000 tourists visited the Grand Canyon in 1915 but an even larger number are certain to come each year, particularly if good roads are constructed so that automobilists can drive along the rim and view the greatest natural wonder in the world.