

THE CASCADE CORNER OF YELLOWSTONE PARK

BY WILLIAM C. GREGG

View of Cave Falls, Falls River, taken from inside of falls

EXAMINE the remote areas of that Wonderland which we call Yellowstone Park and you will ask yourself if men are not often guided by a Power outside of themselves. For those areas of the park contain divine beauties of which the men who fixed the limits of the park had no knowledge whatever. They very properly put a rim around the geysers, canyons, and mammoth hot springs. For the last fifty years people have been examining that rim, and every year some new beauty spot or strange form of nature is brought to light that has evidently been tucked away by the Almighty, to be some day a glad surprise to his children.

1920 put on record dozens of falls and cascades in the southwest corner before unknown.

1921 has added more notable features in the same area.

Every once in a while some one sees a way to make money out of a National Park, and pretty soon a bill appears in Congress purporting to benefit humanity greatly, and, incidentally, allowing a group of men to take control over certain park areas.

Eight thousand acres of the southwest corner of Yellowstone Park were wanted for a storage reservoir by certain Idaho irrigation interests. The bill got through the Senate without discussion, but was held up in the House of Representatives by some people, who first wanted to know, you know! what kind of a corner it was, anyway. Those who went in there in 1920—and it wasn't hard to do at all—found more falls and cascades than in all the known parts of the park put together. They found a campers' paradise right where the reservoir was to be placed, with beautiful woods, meadows, and trout streams. They thought Idaho, which was very

close, had a much larger financial interest in the opening up of an entrance—an Idaho entrance—into the park through this beautiful region than in



"HOLD-UP BILL"

A Park bear that holds up autos for refreshments

water storage for irrigation. Why couldn't they have both? Because the covering of eight thousand acres with

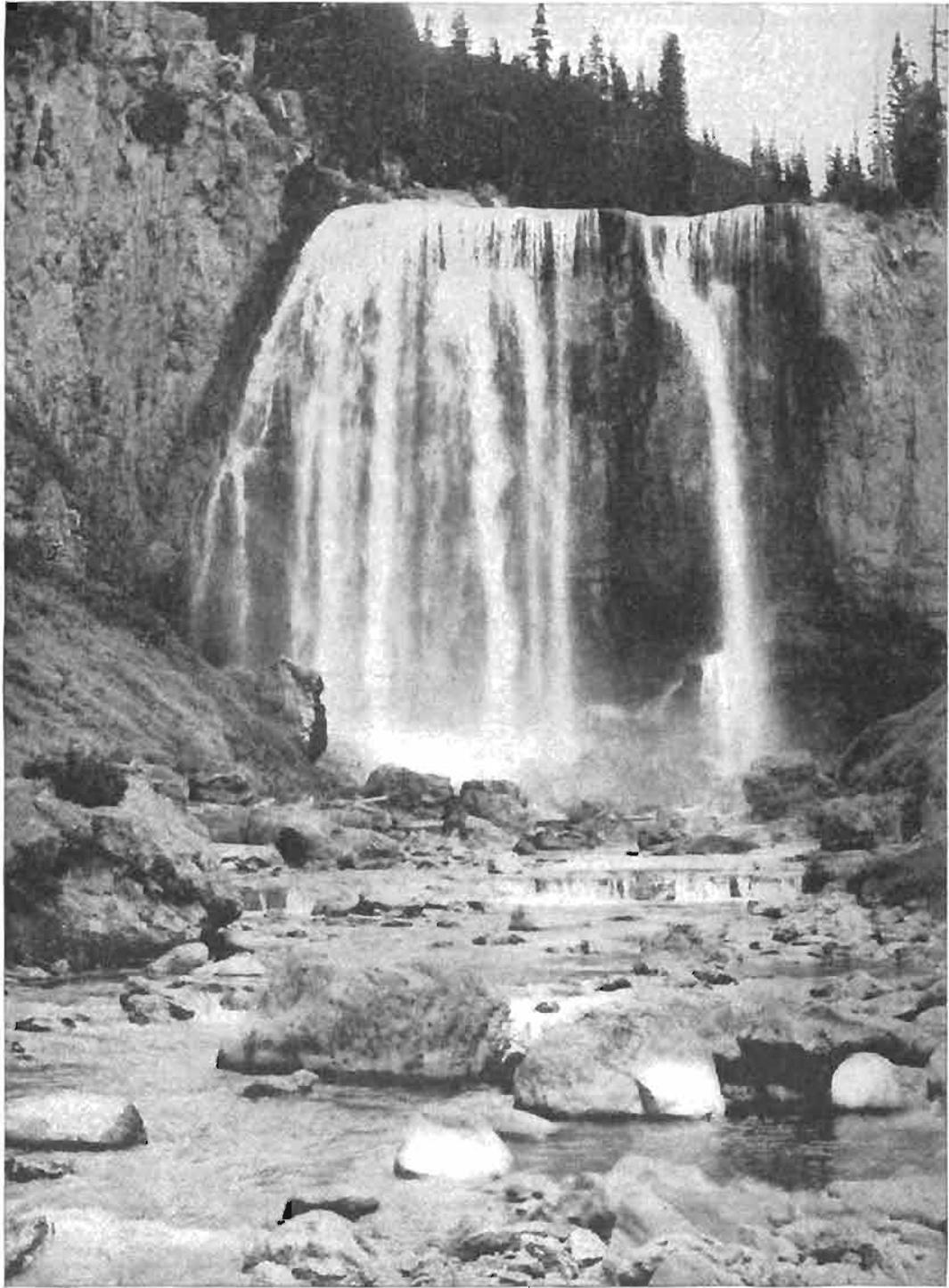
water would cut off a roadway, and when the reservoir water was drawn off in the crop season (July and August) ugly mud flats and dead trees would make a ghastly stain on that region and prevent its being used by the American people for their education and enjoyment. Happily, the protest was so general and emphatic that the bill died in the last Congress, and has small chance of being resurrected again.

The Idaho people themselves are partly responsible for this. When they learned the facts, many men and women already using irrigation water for their farms could see a larger market, at higher prices, if they could boom the tourist business. They already have a large irrigation water supply outside the park, and can get more if and when needed.

I am showing on these pages photographs of some notable falls in this small corner which never faced a camera before the summer of 1921, and a few others which had their first pictures taken by me in 1920.

We have heard a lot of folderol in recent years about social uplift. The word "idealism" sometimes makes us sick. Half-baked thinkers from half-civilized lands are trying to tell mankind how to create an earthly paradise. But the good old United States, without brag or bloodshed, has been gradually developing a better way. We have much liberty and equality, we have distributed our lands mainly among the thrifty poor.

Out of our public domain the people have created National Parks here and there. The fruits of Western civilization are a great distribution of the necessities of life. The flowers are our public schools and colleges, our libraries and hospitals, but perhaps greater than all are our parks—city, State, and Na-



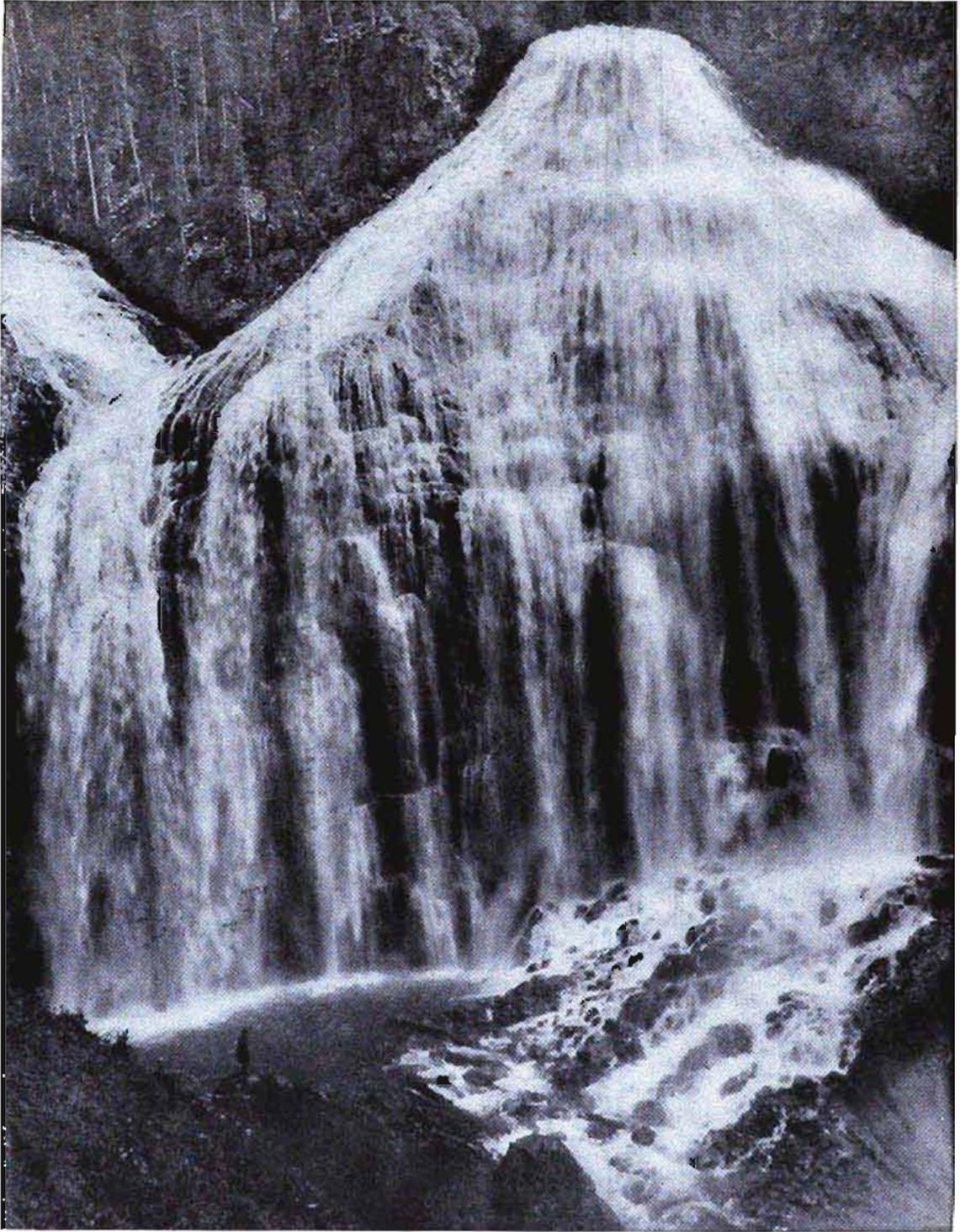
(C) Wm. C. Gregg, 1921

Few human beings have looked on this fall, which for centuries has shown its beauties only to its Creator and his dumb creatures. The fall is something over one hundred feet. It must not longer remain nameless



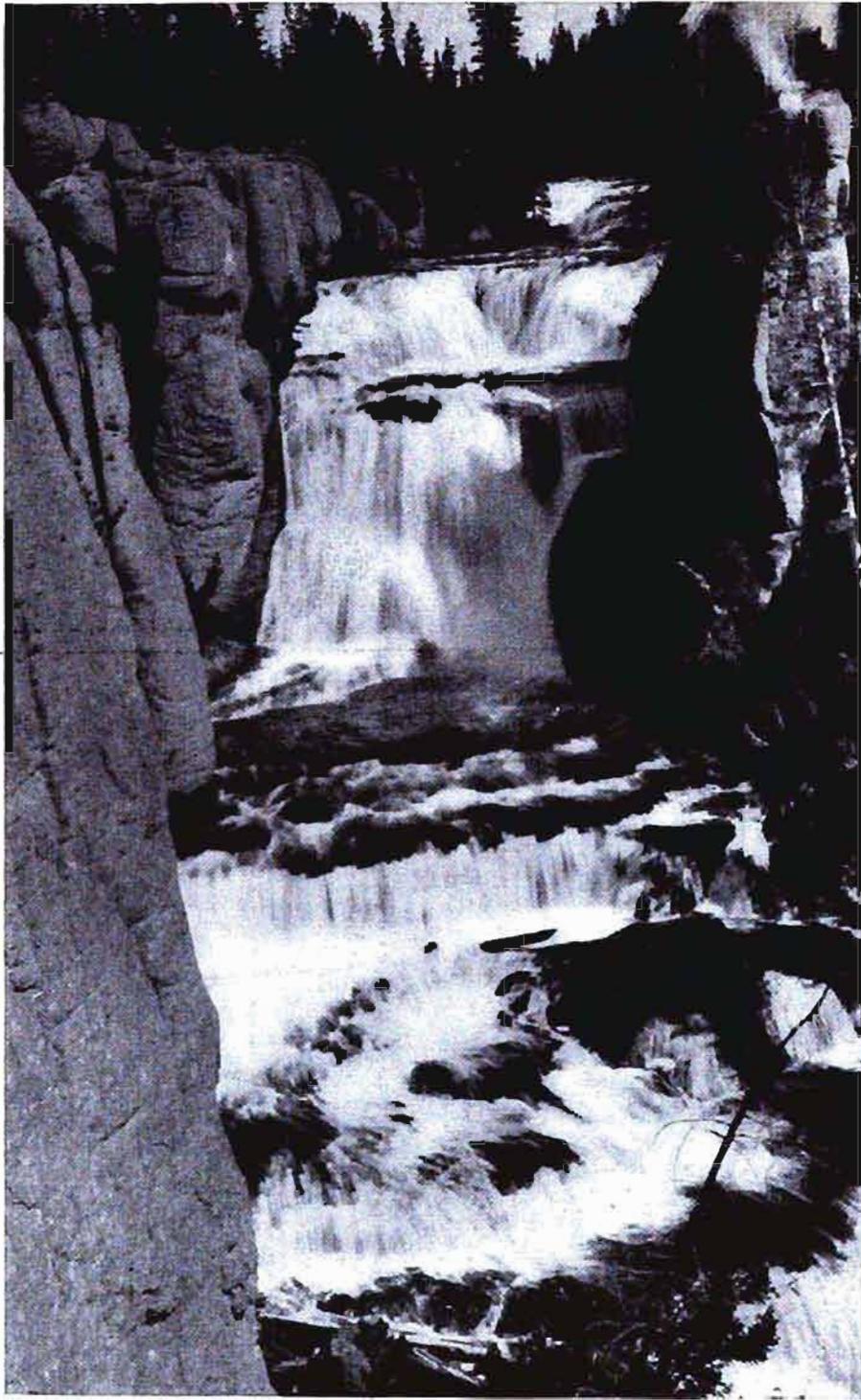
(C) Haynes, St. Paul

This cascade has a perpendicular fall of about two hundred and fifty feet. It is only a stone's throw from Batchelder Column. At its base stands a splendid spruce grove open and delightful for camping. We who saw it run out of adjectives. Can you name it?



(C) Wm. O. Gregg, 1921

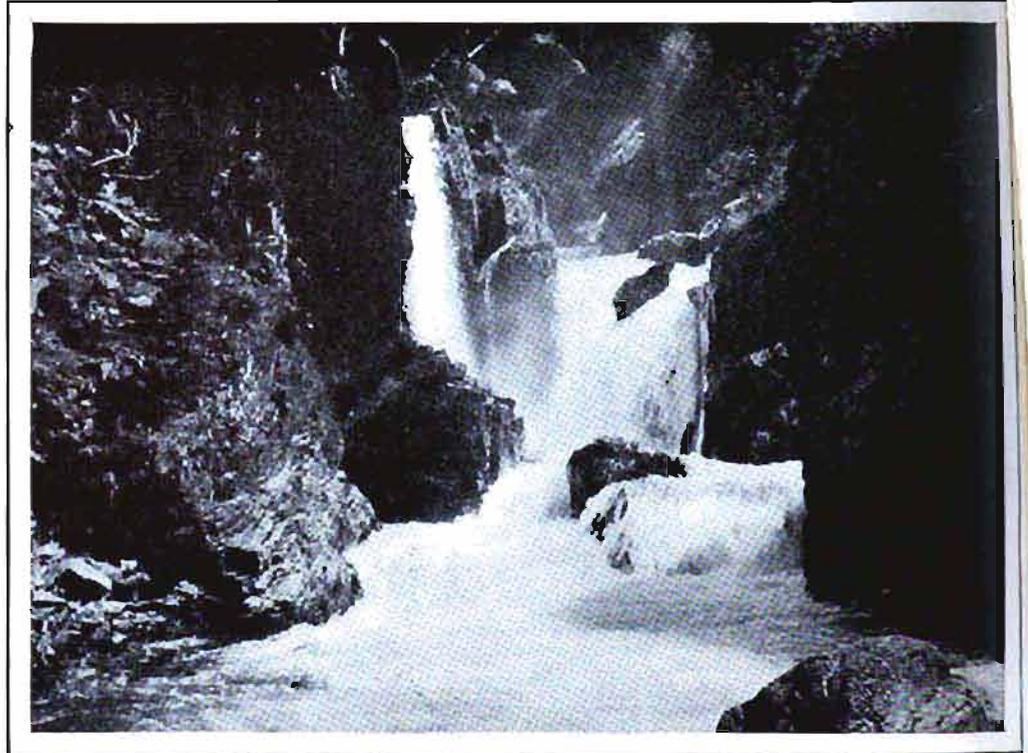
Can you imagine the thoughts of our party (Colonel Birdseye, Raymond Little, Glen Smith, and the writer) when we first looked on this spectacle? It was marked on the map in 1884—we found the date of the visit carved on a tree—but neither before nor since have others seen it, or, if they have, they have successfully suppressed the fact. It was named by the mapmaker. It would be interesting to know what you would have done in his place. Note Colonel Birdseye fishing



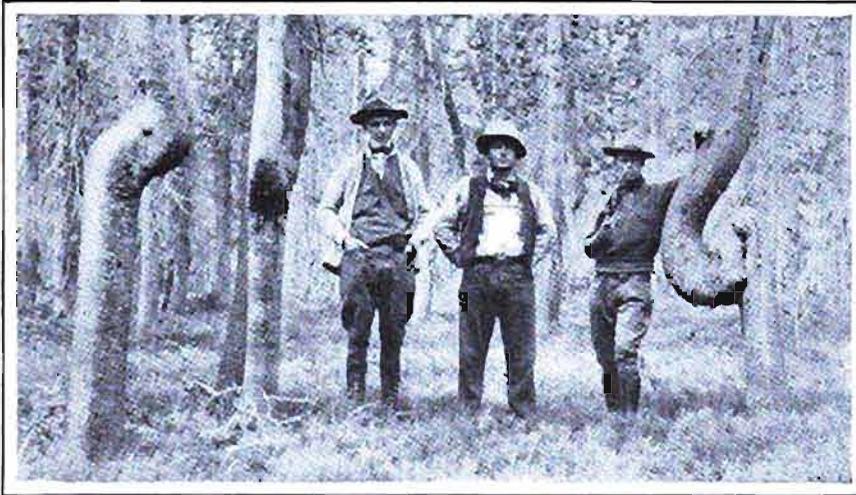
(C) Wm. O. Gregg, 1921

Our party was within one mile of this great sight last year, but did not know it. It remained for the park Superintendent, Horace M. Allright, who followed a month later, to make its beauties known. The first photograph, however, was not made until this year, by the Boston Expedition, composed of Frederick Law Olmsted, Desmond Fitzgerald, H. P. Kelsey, and Herbert Gleason

Fighting through thickets and down timber, we gained a canyon, and followed a game trail along its steep sides. We turned our horses loose, not fearing whether we could catch them again or not. The greater question in the mind of man and beast was, Will I make the grade or the bottom? The point of safety was a hundred feet above this scenic gem. By what name would you have it called?



(C) Wm. C. Gregg, 1921



This picture has been named "The Six Crooks." Right to left: Colonel Birdseye, Ranger Little, Glen Smith

tional. Great and small estates they are, finer than kings thought of before, yet they belong to you and me.

The main course of our Nation has been right, but things sometimes go so wrong that faint-hearted patriots would sail the seas for some desert island, there to spend their days in lofty thoughts and digging clams. But the price of progress is persistence. At its worst, we in America have the best.

There is a clarion call to every man and woman to do something for the common good. Every move should be toward making good conditions permanent. I choose to work for National Parks—for permanent parks; not only your property and mine, but that which will be owned by our children's children a century hence.

Let us lay down some park principles:

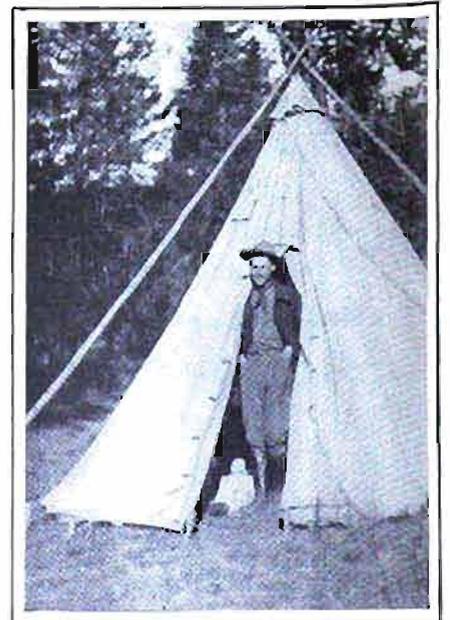
1. National parks are created for the benefit and enjoyment of the people—the whole public.
2. No commercial project—for private advantage—must be permitted to cross the boundaries of these parks. The rights of the public forbid it.
3. Park extensions should be advocated only after careful and unprejudiced study of the reasons for and against them.
4. The motives of plausible persons who express great devotion for the parks they wish to exploit are always to be suspected.
5. Persons living near a National Park who feel themselves harmed by their situation must bear their burden cheerfully. Disagreeable neighbors cannot

always be moved away, and when better known are often not as bad as they were thought to be.

We have had some difficulty in getting names for falls and cascades in the southwest corner.

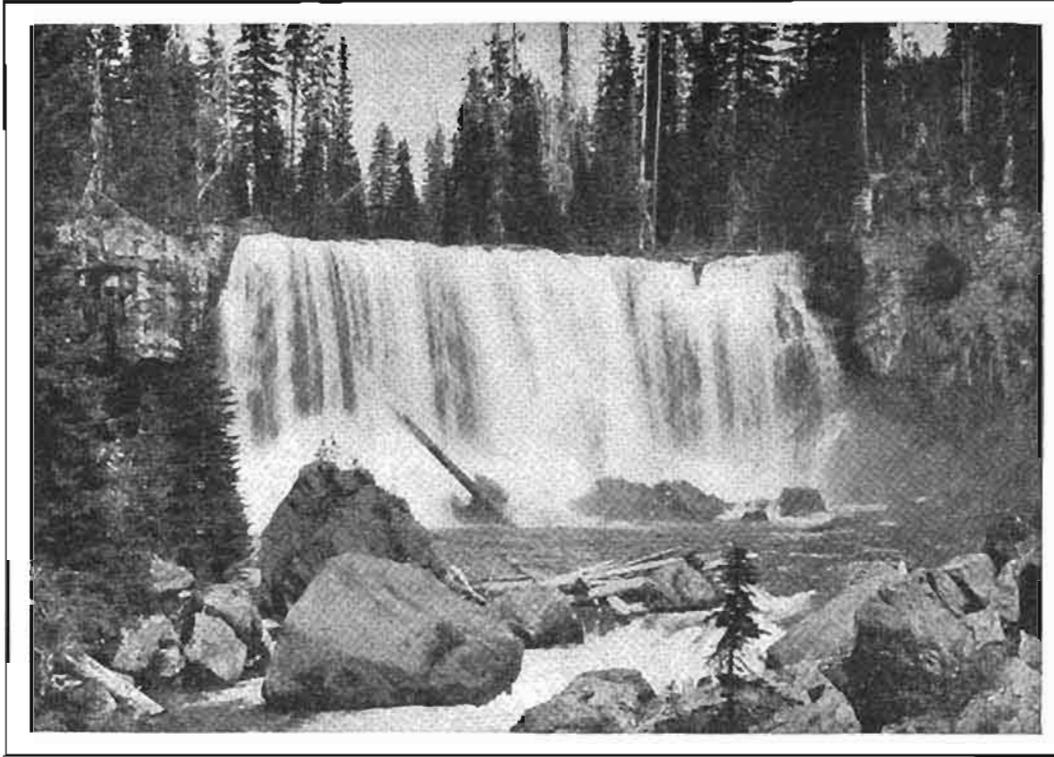
You and I can propose, but the Geographic Board, which sits in Washington, D. C., disposes. Its general disposition is negative; its mission in life is to prevent inappropriate names and to stop people from putting themselves on the map.

J. E. Haynes and I tried hard to find names of men identified with that re-



(C) Wm. C. Gregg, 1921

The sad expression of Glen Smith when he hears the cook yell, "Come and get it!"



(C) Haynes, St. Paul

This stately scene is near the mouth of Bechler Canyon. The proposed reservoir and dam would have backed the water almost to its base, and when the waters were drawn off for irrigation purposes would have left a mud morass some miles in length and breadth.

glion not already honored. Our search was rewarded with two—Ferris, who visited the Geyser Basin around 1830, and Phillips, one of the defenders of the park, thirty years ago. We named two streams for them.

We called a monumental rock "Batchelder Column," in memory of A. G. Batchelder, who was one of the seven

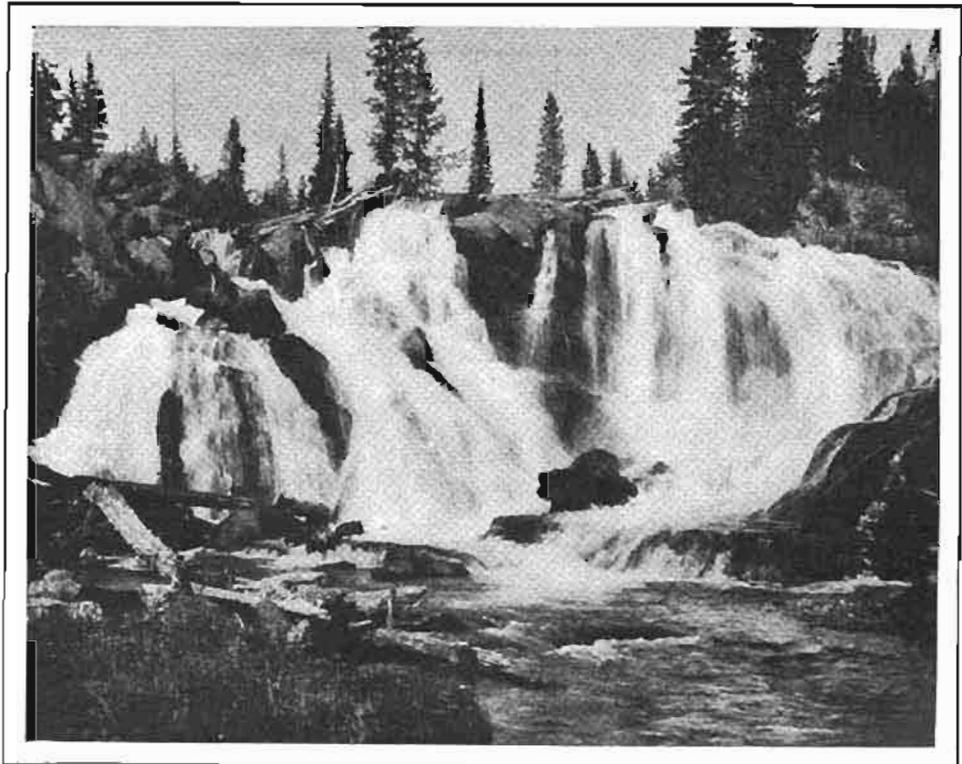
prominent men to lose their lives in the airplane accident near Washington last year. He was a good friend of the southwest corner. As Executive Chairman of the American Automobile Association he gave us valuable assistance.

The Geographic Board recognizes only dead men. There are several men whom we would like to honor, but they are alive and well, thank God! So we can-

not name anything after George Horace Lormer, or ex-Secretary John Barton Payne, or the present Secretary of the Interior, Albert B. Fall, who has entered the sanctuary of his park service with a truly National purpose and vision.

We did find one other lead which brought us to a notable name. The General Federation of Woman's Clubs has been very much interested in National

Mr. Haynes suggested the name of "Rugged" for these falls. I rebelled, because there is no beauty in rags, and offered "Rugged" as a compromise. The result was that we were hardly on speaking terms until we had had something to eat. The name will not be settled until we hear from you or somebody



(C) Haynes, St. Paul

Parks, and assisted us last winter in the fight to preserve the Yellowstone Park from commercialism, so we asked their President, Mrs. Alice Winter, to lay before their Board an invitation to suggest a name of some great American woman (not now living) for one of the fine falls. The invitation was accepted, and the name of Susan B. Anthony, selected officially, will be presented. I am sure we will have an "Anthony Falls" that will be a splendid monument in a beautiful place to a grand woman.

Mr. Lorimer has emphasized the appropriateness of Indian names. I do not find Indian traditions connected with the park. The region was too infernal to be liked by superstitious Indians. They seldom went there, unless they used it as a temporary refuge in time of tribal wars.

The Shoshone and Crow tribes lived near, and the name of the former is attached to the second largest lake in the park.

I am sure that suggestions from readers of *The Outlook* would be appreciated.

Dr. Henry van Dyke gave me "Silver Scarf Cascade" as his way of adopting one of our nameless beauties.

I don't want to suggest a naming contest. I would take to my bed if an avalanche of "Rainbow Falls" and "Bridal Falls" came in. Yet any one fired with the spark of suggestion may deeply satisfy unnumbered multitudes of park pilgrims by just the right name now, and, remember, the Geographic Board "will get you if you don't watch out."

Two or three of the pictures shown here were named by the topographical map maker, who evidently found them in 1884. Two are inappropriate. Personally, I should like to see names selected for all at the present time.

Space does not permit the showing of photographs of ten more cascades and falls; they are all beautiful, and may deserve any name suggested for those we are showing.

MANY friends know of the report I made last year that the topographical map (made in 1884) was in error in several places, including the marks indicating a large swamp of several thousand acres in the southwest corner.

The promoters of the irrigation project made the most of this feature of the Government map to get their plan through Congress, deceiving many of their own Idaho supporters.

Colonel C. H. Birdseye, Chief of the Topographical Department, went into that region this summer at the same time Mr. J. E. Haynes and I did. His report just made to the Interior Department on the "Swamp" is interesting:

The old topographic map erroneously represents the drainage in the basin below the mouth of the Bechler Canyon. In fact, the map of this region is so poor that revision is impracticable and the area should be entirely resurveyed. The swamp symbol appearing on the map is entirely misleading. This area is cov-



(C) Haynes, St. Paul

BATCHELDER COLUMN

I am naming this in memory of one of our friends who aided us last year, A. G. Batchelder, formerly Executive Secretary of the American Automobile Association. (Note figure at base.)

ered with large open meadows on which grows an abundance of good grass, which I am told used to be cut in large quantities for winter cattle forage. These meadows are dotted with irregular patches of timber, but by far the larger percentage of the area is in grass. A number of small sloughs traverse the meadows, but otherwise the basin is dry and firm, so that one can ride almost anywhere on horseback. A fair wagon road traverses the meadows from the

Bechler ranger station to a point within two miles of the mouth of Bechler Canyon.

Colonel Birdseye also confirmed the statements made by several of us last year, that there are dam sites just outside this section of the park for use in storing water for Idaho irrigation.

Commercialism in park invasions seems to follow the maxim of a certain class of lawyers: "Anything to win the case."

The history of the misrepresentation of facts in the southwest corner of Yellowstone Park and the final publicity of the truth demonstrates the advisability of going slow in such matters and insisting on full investigation before a single step is taken against the parks of the people.

I am sure that the people of Idaho will indorse this, and that their Congressman who aided the proposed invasion was himself deceived.

We own nineteen National Parks. It has recently been proved that their best guardians are the many National societies who are loosely federated together in park defense. This federation obviates duplication and gets prompt and Nation-wide action when dangers really threaten our park possessions.

I give below a list of these federated societies:

- American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- American Association of Museums.
- American Automobile Association.
- American Bison Society.
- American Civic Association.
- American Defense Society.
- American Federation of Art.
- American Forestry Association.
- American Game Protective Association.
- American Museum of Natural History.
- American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.
- American Society of Landscape Architects.
- Associated Mountaineering Clubs.
- California Academy of Sciences.
- Camp Fire Club of America.
- Ecological Society of America.
- Field Museum of Chicago.
- General Federation of Women's Clubs.
- League of American Penwomen.
- National Arts Club of New York City.
- Boone and Crockett Club.
- National Association of Audubon Societies.
- National Automobile Chamber of Commerce (manufacturers).
- National Federation of Business and Professional Women.
- National Geographic Society.
- National Parks Association.
- New York Zoological Society.
- Sierra Club.

If you are not already a member of one of them join *now*. More associations will be welcomed by our General Chairman, Mr. George Bird Grinnell, 238 East Fifteenth Street, New York City. Mr. Grinnell will also be glad to put the reader in touch with any of the societies already federated in park defense.