

Office of A. B. Funk, Iowa Industrial Commissioner

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It is impossible to avoid the obligation upon the present generation to take the Polk tract on Spirit Lake. It is now for the first, and probably for the last time available in its unspoiled state. Developed for the *people's* needs, it would become a scenic, scientific, historic and recreational classic, unequalled in our whole domain, and unexcelled elsewhere.

OFFICE OF A. B. FUNK, IOWA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSIONER
Des Moines, March 29, 1927.

Hon. E. R. Harlan,
Historical Department,
State House.

Dear Mr. Harlan:

I have read with absorbing interest your manuscript constituting an appeal for comprehensive recognition of the Dickinson County lake region on the part of the Iowa Board of Conservation.

It has been surprising to me that in connection with the splendid park extension planning in Iowa no practical consideration should have been given to that lake situation where such vast numbers of Iowa people would be interested in park privileges.

Enthusiastic as is your expression, you by no means overestimate the importance of providing free bathing beaches, landing privileges, camping sites, parking space, athletic fields, etc., for the convenience of hundreds of thousands of Iowans who now visit those lakes and the multitude in addition who would more frequently make such visits with proper conveniences afforded.

The idea of fencing the people away from these beauty spots, confining their sojourn to hotels and highways and beaches wholly under private control is an outrage upon a long-suffering public. Few understand better than I do myself from my long residence at Spirit Lake what this situation means, and how important would be proper consideration on the part of the state in the matter of conservation so conspicuously necessary.

I earnestly hope the interest you manifest in this matter may be an initial movement toward a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Very truly yours,

A. B. FUNK.

ABF:R

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