

WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK.

While Warden Atchley, of the State Hospital, was making money for the state from the hospital farm; the boys of the Rahway Reformatory were cultivating successfully the tract owned by the state in Hunterdon County, and the girls at the State Home for Girls were taking a profit from their gardening and farming operations, it seems not to have occurred to Director Gaskill, of the Conservation and Development Department, to follow the good example.

Instead, as we are told by Governor Edge in his budget message, he rented the one hundred acres in the Washington's Crossing Park tract "for short periods upon the best terms that could be obtained." or \$100 a year. This fact seems to have influenced the Governor to recommend that the farm be sold and "the historic McConkey ferry-house" purchased as seems to have been recommended by Mr. Gaskill, who told Assemblyman Gill that the proposition "was approved and so recorded."

Director Gaskill told Mr. Gill that "after spending two years studying the situation this department was convinced that there was no great interest in the project outside of Mercer County," and "does not believe that the state is justified in going further with the ambitious project that has been advocated." It may be well to contrast this thoughtfulness with the department's action in backing the Sussex County park and game preserve scheme.

Not one out of a thousand citizens of New Jersey will take any interest in the Sussex County scheme, which will doubtless appeal to the wealthy residents of New York City and Philadelphia, but there are few men, women or children in the state—or in the nation—who are not interested in having an inter-state or national park to mark the turning-point in the Revolutionary War.

Inasmuch as the Legislature long ago decided on the Crossing Park plan, it seems just a trifle impertinent for any state official to spend two years trying to decide whether the Legislature acted wisely, and to openly confess that he has made no real effort to carry out the will of the people of the state as expressed through their representatives.

Friends of the Washington Crossing Park should not permit Director Gaskill's course to go unopposed. Let them show to the Legislature that there is interest in the project outside of Mercer County, and ask that the custody of the property be taken from parties who are so manifestly hostile, and given over to a commission composed of patriotic citizens.