

## The Park at Washington's Crossing

The Philadelphia Record had this to say yesterday:

A few months ago a commission was appointed by Governor Brumbaugh with a view to the acquisition of land at Taylorsville, Bucks County, and to develop the same as a park to mark the starting point of Washington's historic crossing of the Delaware River. The State of New Jersey is being urged by the Commission not to sell 100 acres of land on the opposite side of the river, which had been acquired several years ago for a similar purpose, but to "keep faith" with Pennsylvania by adhering to the park project. A bill has been introduced in the Legislature at Trenton to dispose of the matter in the manner indicated. It would be unfortunate if one of the most picturesque and militarily important events of the American Revolution should fail to be properly commemorated. But the implication that New Jersey would be responsible for the failure is not quite fair. If Pennsylvania had moved earlier to make an interstate matter of it, the project might have by this time advanced too far for retraction.

The Washington's Crossing Park Commission of New Jersey, appointed seven or eight years ago, prepared a plan for a grandiose memorial. It included parks on either side of the Delaware and a memorial bridge of beautiful design to connect them. The bridge, it was hoped, would be constructed by the Federal Government with the authority of Congress. This Commission had exhausted its authority when it had submitted its design and expended some \$20,000 in the purchase of the 100 acres of land above referred to. Further appropriations were unobtainable from the Legislature; the project languished, and a proposal made about a year and a half ago to finance the project by nationwide private subscriptions evoked no encouraging response.

In this situation the New Jersey Department of Conservation, which had succeeded to the powers—or the lack of powers—of the Washington's Crossing Park Commission, recommended a memorial on a more modest scale. It suggested the sale of the land now owned by the State, the purchase and restoration of the house of the ferryman McConkey, who had supplied the patriot army with boats, and the marking of the entrance from the river to the still traceable old Pennington Road with an arch. The park plan would have involved an original outlay of at least \$250,000 and an annual charge of \$10,000 for maintenance—an expenditure the State, under existing circumstances, is unwilling to incur. The money to be obtained from the sale of the State's land would not be sufficient to carry out even this moderate plan in its entirety; but the purchase of the actual site of Washington's landing and the preservation of the ferryhouse would make a good beginning for an eventual development on a nation-wide basis of a larger plan. As the event to be commemorated was a national event of the first magnitude, this would be the right way to proceed. The American Revolution was not a Pennsylvania or New Jersey revolution; it was an all-American event.