

President Gives High Praise To Stone Mountain Project

President Harding's letter of commendation of the Stone Mountain Memorial association's plan to establish a great memorial on the side of Stone Mountain to the heroes of the Confederacy follows:

"I have received with the greatest pleasure your invitation to the conference with the southern states governors, April 20, at Atlanta, to discuss plans of the Stone Mountain monument to the confederate armies. In conditions which would possibly permit, I should unhesitatingly accept; for this gigantic work, certain to rank among the immortal memorials created by men, has always made a special appeal to my imagination. In communicating my profound regret that I can not join you on this occasion, I wish at least to express a little of the feeling I have for this wonderful project.

"The design has been explained to me in some detail by Mr. Borglum and your committee; to represent in the solid granite of Stone Mountain the assembling of the confederate armies. I know of no equally magnificent and ambitious monumental conception. You purpose to represent in the mountain's solid stone, not a group, but an army assembling about its leaders; to set forth there all the great leaders of the southern armies, with their men.

Describes Monument.

"To accomplish this, a heroic scale has been adopted, requiring that the artistry shall carry its story in a facade of about eleven hundred feet in length by two hundred in height. The central group, Generals Lee and Jackson, with President Davis, will appear reviewing the moving army. Mr. Borglum tells me that the single figure of General Lee on horseback will probably be from 100 to 125 feet high; the rest, in a perspective of

similarly noble proportions; making an ensemble in which the artistic unities will be preserved throughout. The imagination runs riot at thought of such a panorama in granite.

"Yet even more appealing, to me, is the thought that the time has come to our nation when the president may, with the completest concurrence of a united country, and with sincerest approval, share your pleasure and extend his aid in making such a monument possible. It will be one of the world's finest testimonies, one of history's most complete avowals, that unity and understanding may be brought even into the scene where faction, hatred and hostility have once reigned supreme.

"I have the greatest pleasure in wishing to the people of the south, not only complete success in this great work, but the co-operation they will so well deserve from Americans everywhere."

Lester P. Barlowe, of Cleveland, declared that the people of the north would like to assist in financing the undertaking and would like to participate, he said. "in a movement so essentially southern yet which rightfully belongs to the nation as a whole."

Taft's Telegram.

Former President and now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court William Howard Taft, sent the following telegram:

"Nathan Bedford Forrest, secretary of the Stone Mountain Memorial association, Piedmont hotel, Atlanta, Ga.: I am sorry I cannot be present at your memorial banquet tonight where you recall the valor of your countrymen of the south. Such memorials do not detract from your loyalty to the United States, but only show an appreciation of sacrifice for a cause that was at one time dear to the hearts of many Americans.

"WILLIAM H. TAFT."