Expo E-25 Nicholas Gallimore

Spring 2014 [ngallimore@g.harvard.edu](mailto:ngallimore@g.harvard.edu)

Pre-draft Exercise 2.1 Assignment

Publication

Michael Pollan, “Gardening Means War”, *The New York Times Magazine*, June 19, 1988

Overview

In “Gardening Means War”, Pollan confronts a woodchuck that has infiltrated his garden. Rather than enclosing his garden within a fence, he decides to enter into a hilarious battle with a woodchuck. Pollan is at first reluctant to setup the fencing. He claims that fences simply don’t belong, nor fit the American Landscape that of which is his garden. After several clever, yet unsuccessful attempts to get rid of the vermin, he unwillingly decides to enclose his garden with a fence.

Passages

**“**At least, that’s how I saw matters the first time, a year or two ago, when I awoke to the evidence of a predawn April raid on my freshly planted vegetable garden. I thought the problem through, and determined to take the battle to the woodchuck’s own territory. I went looking for his burrow.” (Pollan)

**“**THE READER MIGHT REASONABLY wonder why I had no fence. I can offer a few practical explanations—expense, building competence—but the real reasons, I suspect, were more visceral. Fences just didn’t accord with my view of gardening. A garden should be continuous with the natural landscape, in harmony with its surroundings. The idea that a garden might actually require protection from nature seemed absurd.” (Pollan)

References

* The difference between the definitions of the word “garden” amongst dictionaries.
* Frank Scott’s campaign against fences.
* William Shakespeare, “The Winter’s Tale”, specifically Shakespeare’s response to Perdita.

Publication

Gifford Pinchot, “Prosperity”, *The Fight for Conservation*, 1910

Overview

The author, Gifford Pinchot, is clearly concerned with the depleting natural resources of the United States in the early 20th century. Pinchot discusses America’s early usage of coal, and the unbounded rate in which it increases. He estimated that supplies of anthracite coal would be non-existent in 1960, and the same for bituminous coal in 2110. Coal is not the only natural resource he is concerned with. He also claims that one of the most important issues is the preservation of public lands in the West. He deems large holdings of publicly owned land are better suited for “actual home-makers” rather than large individual or corporate owners concerned solely with profit. In addition to coal and public land, Pinchot mentions the preservation of forests in order to maintain the economical development of the building industry. And explains the significant role water plays not only in the well developed irrigation systems of the West, but its underdeveloped use for power, electricity, and transportation. Pinchot values himself, or takes pride rather, in the vigorous and healthful growth of the United States and its prosperous future. One of which can only be obtained through the preservation and budgeting of America’s natural resources.

Passages

“We the American people, have come into the possession of nearly four million square miles of the richest portion of the earth. It is ours to use and conserve for ourselves and our descendants, or to destroy. The fundamental question which confronts us is, What shall we do with it?” (Pinchot, 174)

“The planned and orderly development and conservation of our natural resources is the first duty of the United States. It is the only form of insurance that will certainly protect us against the disasters that lack of foresight has in the past repeatedly brought down on nations since passed away.” (Pinchot, 180)

Secondary Sources

* Professor Shaler
* The Forest Service’s whom estimated the timber standing in the United States
* President Roosevelt
* Pinchot’s 1913 testimony before Congress