

# HOUSE . . . . No. 194

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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GREYLOCK RESERVATION COMMISSION,  
PITTSFIELD, MASS. Dec. 17, 1912.

*To the Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston.*

DEAR SIR:— In the annual report of the Greylock reservation commission, soon to be filed, we shall recommend the passage by the Legislature of a resolve to provide for the erection of seven iron towers upon the Greylock state reservation.

This matter was reached too late in the session last year to meet with success.

Enclosed please find a form for a resolve, the same as introduced last year (Senate, No. 426 of 1912), a statement in reference to the matter, and a brief statement as to the reservation, as prepared last year.

Very truly yours,

FRANCIS W. ROCKWELL,  
*Chairman.*

## GREYLOCK STATE RESERVATION.

**RESOLVE FOR THE ERECTION OF SEVEN IRON TOWERS.***Statement.*

The towers proposed will be upon the seven heights named in the resolve.

It is estimated that the procuring and placing them in position will cost about \$5,000.

Plans and estimates have been procured for the delivery of these tower frames on board the cars, at North Adams from the Boston Bridge Works, Inc., 47 Winter, corner Tremont St., Boston, the same company which made the tower on the summit in 1886, although of course no contract has been made as yet with any company.

The only wood work about the towers will be the treads on the iron stairways.

The tower erected in 1886, which is occasionally repainted, has cost very little to keep in repair. Only a few of the wooden treads have been replaced since 1898 when the reservation was established.

These are needed for observation towers. They will be placed on summits some less, some more, than a mile apart.

They will aid in locating fires on the reservation when the workmen, or the fire wardens, are in the vicinity.

The views from these towers will be very extensive and entirely different from those from the main tower on the summit. They will be 40 feet high, 16 feet square at the base and 8 feet square at the top. There will be a platform at the top reached by an iron stairway with wooden treads.

Wooden towers have not been successful on the mountain. They are liable to be struck by lightning, to blow down, to be set on fire. If built of spruce they would last but a few

years at best, and would soon be rendered unsafe. They cannot stand the winter storms. It is economy to build them of iron in the first place.

The trees will be cut for a little space around these proposed towers, although their height will not make it necessary to cut many and in some cases it will not be necessary to cut any. The trees on some of the heights, on account of the altitude, are not very high.

Trails have been lined out to these heights, which, if the towers are erected, will be improved so as to make the towers easily accessible.

The erection of these towers will give people, as well as the state authorities having to do with the reservation, an opportunity of obtaining a better idea of the make up of the 8,160 acres now included in this mountain reservation. There are many deep ravines and the surface of the reservation is very uneven, so that to gain a correct idea of its beauty, as well as to aid in determining how the reservation should be finally developed, these towers should be erected.

Now that we have the reservation it is proper to make it available and more widely useful as a recreation ground for all the people.

FRANCIS W. ROCKWELL,  
*Chairman Greylock Reservation Commission.*

