

Veterans Denied Access To Land They Fought For

By Stretzel Walton

It seems ironical that discharged veterans, returning to their homes after fighting to protect their land, are denied access to it. The following instance could no doubt be multiplied by thousands.

A couple of young friends of mine were recently discharged from the Air Force. During their training period they were camped in a beautiful section of Eastern Canada, close to a river and also to rail transportation. Fishing was the main industry in that locality, but as there was no refrigeration plant thousands of pounds of fish were lost every year, so these young men decided to build a plant as a service to the community and as a source of income after the war. Upon inquiry they discovered that all the land on both sides of the river and near the railroad was owned by one man. This man refused to sell or lease them any land for their project. He was not interested in having a refrigerating plant built in that locality, because his profits in buying fish during the last few years had made him a multi-millionaire. The fishermen, on the contrary, were entirely dependent upon his bounty, since he owned the land, the boats, the nets, and the general store. They would bring their catch to the store and get groceries and other necessities in exchange. Sometimes by spring they would be in debt at the store and have no money coming to them for their whole winter's fishing.

It seems rather shocking that any one person, or a group of persons, should have the power to impoverish their neighbors and hold up progress in this way. Returning veterans will be very bitter and disillusioned when they meet situations such as this. After fighting to protect their land, they should not be denied access to it in order to earn a livelihood.

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