

REPRINTED From Page 12 of the KNICKERBOCKER  
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# SPENDS \$10,000 TO SAVE ISLANDS

STATE PROVIDES RIPRAPPING  
FOR LAKE GEORGE ISLE SHORES  
WRECKED BY WAVES

## Schenectady Man Leads

HAULS ROCK BY ROWBOAT LOAD  
BEFORE LEGISLATURE AIDS IN WORK

New York state is spending \$10,000 this summer to protect the shores of some of its islands on Lake George against the wash of the waters and thereby preserve their beauty.

J. S. Apperson is responsible for getting the state to work on the preservation of the islands. He labored alone for years with a few friends to check the ravages of waves on islands near his camp on Dollar Island, but it was slow work and at last state aid was called for. Mr. Apperson lives in Schenectady, where he is an engineer in the power and mining department of the General Electric company.

Mr. Apperson loves Lake George so much that he camps there winter and summer every day he can get

away. In the summer he fishes and swims and enjoys boating, and in the winter he hunts and "sail skates" around the lake.

A number of years ago Mr. Apperson noticed that the wash of the waves on the shores of many islands was wearing them away, resulting in the uprooting of many beautiful trees and shrubbery. He went to work himself to check the ravages of the water. The first island that received his attention was the one on which he has a camp, Dollar Island. He inaugurated a hard and steadfast rule that all visitors to his camp must register by bringing a rock or a boatload of rocks from the mainland that could be used in building up a break-water on the shore. In a short time Dollar Island was patched up, and a hole which had been worn through it in one place was filled with rocks and now is covered with vegetation.

Mr. Apperson's first efforts were so successful that he extended his campaign. He went to a number of campers and won them over to his scheme, securing their promise to take care of at least one island by ripping its shores for protection. Dozens of places on beautiful islands have been saved as a result. Last summer Mr. Apperson succeeded in getting the Delaware and Hudson, which operates a steamboat line on the lake, to take up the work and the company sent a gang of men and had the shores of several islands ripped.

Mr. Apperson himself has gone into the island saving business on a wholesale scale. Instead of rowing to mainland and bringing back a few rocks in his small boat, he has constructed a big flatbottomed craft which he calls "Art. 7, Sec. 7", named after the provision of the state Constitution which protects the lands owned by the state against despoilation. He gets someone to row this boat to shore where a good supply of rocks is available, and then gets someone else to tow it to the shore of an island that needs help. He has been able to get much more work done in this way.

When Mr. Apperson began his work there was hardly an island on the lake that was not being damaged by waves kicked up by storms and passing boats. There

were few whose shores were not littered with fallen trees, and in a few instances the whole surface of islands has been washed away, their places being marked by buoys.

The legislature wasn't much interested in Lake George islands when the plan to appropriate \$10,000 to rip-rap their shores was broached. Then Mr. Apperson produced some photographs that told the whole story. He showed one island where a huge tree bearing the sign "State Land" had been undermined and uprooted. Other pictures showed trees falling out over the lake. The legislature was convinced and the appropriation went through without objection and was approved by the Governor. It is probable the next legislature will be asked for more money to continue the work.

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**NOTE:**

Four photographs appearing in the newspaper article are not herein reproduced.

Riprapping is loose stone being placed on the shore for protection against high water maintained by a mill dam in the outlet of Lake George.