

DESTROY BIG TREES.

CALIFORNIA GIANTS ARE RUTHLESSLY CUT DOWN.

Necessary Waste of Lumbering Mammoths Over Fifty Per Cent—Forestry Department Demands That Efforts Be Made to Save Few Remaining Groves.

Gifford Pinchot, United States forester, has issued a pamphlet concerning the big trees of California which has created no little comment through its endeavors to state clearly and emphatically the necessity for the preservation of the California mammoths. The writer protests against the rate at which the big trees are being destroyed by private owners, pointing out clearly that the chances of a renewal of the wonder growths are to be little considered.

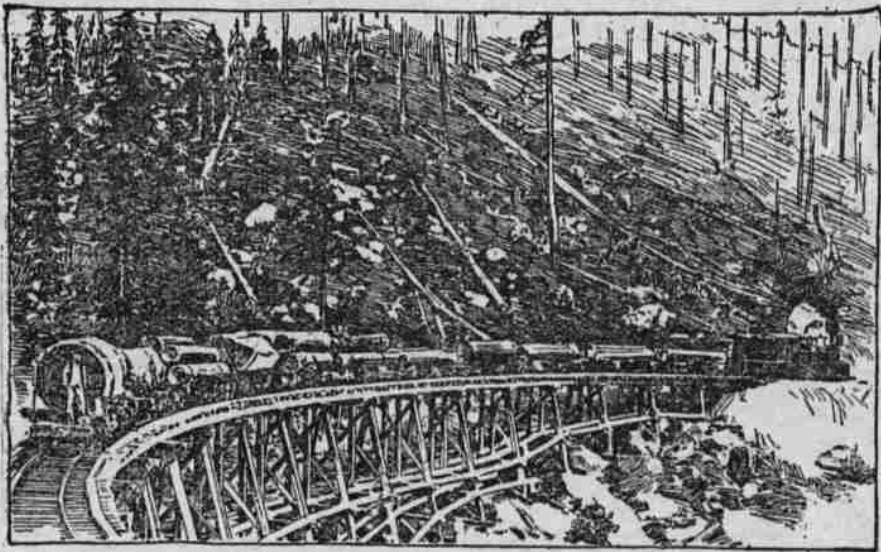
"Most of the scattered groves of big trees are privately owned and, therefore, in danger of destruction," he



FELLING A BIG TREE.

writes. "Lumbering is rapidly sweeping them off; forty mills and logging companies are now at work wholly or in part upon big tree timber. The southern groves show some reproduction, through which there is hope of perpetuating these groves. In the northern groves the species hardly holds its own."

In introducing a history of the big trees, with facts concerning each of the groves now existing, the writer says: "At the present time the only grove thoroughly safe from destruction is the Mariposa and this is far from being the most interesting. Most of the other groves are either in process of or in danger of being logged. The very finest of all, the Calaveras grove, with the biggest and tallest trees, the most uncontaminated surroundings and prac-



LOGGING RAILROAD IN A BIG TREE FOREST.

tically all the literary and scientific associations of the species connected with it, has been purchased recently by a lumberman, who came into full possession on the 1st of April, 1900.

"The Sequoia and General Grant National parks, which are supposed to embrace and give security to a large part of the remaining big trees, are eaten into by a sawmill each and by private timbering claims amounting to a total of 1,172,870 acres. The rest of the scanty patches of big trees are in a fair way to disappear—in Calaveras, Tuolumne, Fresno and Tulare counties, they are now disappearing—by the ax. In brief, the majority of the big trees of California, certainly the best of them, are owned by people who have every right and in many cases every intention, to cut them into lumber."

Scientific Value of Big Trees.

Further along these same lines the value of the big tree is thus considered: "The big trees are unique in the world—the grandest, the oldest, the most majestically graceful trees—and if it were not enough to be all this, they are among the scarcest of known tree species and have the extreme scientific value of being the best living representatives of a former geologic age. They are trees which have come down to us through the vicissitudes of many centuries solely because of their superb qualifications. The bark of the big tree is often two feet thick and almost non-combustible. The oldest specimens felled are still sound at the heart and fungus is an enemy unknown to it. Yet with all these means of maintenance the big trees have apparently not increased their range since the glacial epoch. They have only just managed to hold their own on a little strip of country where the climate is locally favorable."

Everyone who is interested in the big trees, as everyone must be either from curiosity, a natural love of the forest or for scientific reasons, must deplore

the destruction of these forests. Everyone who has visited a forest in any part of the world will regret the destruction of these jungles of beauty. Every thoughtful American is waking to a realization of the criminal carelessness with which the forests of this country have been wiped out. The lumbering of the big trees, with its accompanying waste and devastation, seems a particularly unnecessary and almost immoral proceeding.

Forester Pinchot says of it: "The lumbering of the big tree is destructive to a most unusual degree. In the first place, the enormous size and weight of the trees necessarily entails very considerable breakage when one of them falls. Such a tree strikes the ground with a force of many hundreds or even thousands of tons, so that even slight inequalities are sufficient to smash the brittle trunk at its upper extremity into almost useless fragments. The loss from this cause is great, but it is only one of the sources of waste. The great diameter of the logs, and, in spite of the lightness of the wood, their enormous weight make it impossible to handle them without breaking them up. For this purpose gunpowder is the most available means. The fragments of logs blown apart in this way are not only often of wasteful shapes, but unless very nice judgment is exercised in preparing the blast a great deal of wood itself is scattered in useless splinters."

"At the mill, where waste is the rule in the manufacture of lumber in the United States, the big tree makes no exception. This waste, added as it is to the other sources of loss already mentioned, makes a total probably often considerably in excess of half the total volume of the standing tree, and this is only one side of the matter."

"The big tree stands as a rule in a mixed forest, composed of many species. The result of sequoia lumbering upon this forest is almost ruinous. The destruction caused by the fall of enormous trees is in itself great, but the principal source of damage is the immense amount of debris left on the ground—the certain source of future fires. This mass of broken branches, trunks and bark, is often five or six or more feet in thickness and necessarily gives rise to fires of great destructive power, even though the big tree wood is not specially inflammable. The devastation which follows this lumbering is as complete and deplorable as the untouched forest is unparalleled, beautiful

and worthy of preservation. As a rule it has not even had the advantage of being profitable. Very much of this appalling destruction has been done without leaving the owners of the big tree as well off as they were before it began."

Series of Pamphlets to Be Issued.
The pamphlet which was published by the forestry division of the Department of Agriculture is one of a series which will be issued in behalf of the big trees. The report was prepared for the information of the Senate Committee on Public Lands, which was at the time considering the preservation of the Calaveras and Stanislaus big tree groves. It is the first document on the subject which has ever been published by the government, strange as the fact may seem. Prof. W. R. Dudley, of Stanford University, who aided with the work, is now preparing a more detailed account of the big trees and the big tree groves, which will be published by the government forestry office. The pamphlet now out contains an excellent map of the forests of California, containing big trees, together with a detailed account of each of the larger groves.

Florida Tobacco.
Florida, according to local papers, is becoming one of the great tobacco-producing States, and the product has been pronounced in some respects equal to that of Cuba. Sumatra wrapper tobacco raised in Florida recently took the prize at the Paris exposition over the world.

A Matter of Taste.
"Beg pardon," said the postal clerk who had sold her the stamps, "but you don't have to put a 5-cent stamp on a letter for Canada."
"I know," said she, "but the shade just matches my envelope, you know."
—Philadelphia Press.

You can't tell by the size of the bill what the size of a ton of coal is.

Science AND Invention

A sheet of water one inch thick and one acre in area weighs 101 tons.

An old Danish galley was recently dug up in England, while an excavation was being made. Its timbers are of oak and elm and they are well preserved. The vessel is assigned to the time of Alfred the Great, which would make it over one thousand years old. An antique sword and some bones of animals now extinct in England were also found.

Some of the vast changes which the face of the earth has undergone are indicated by the recent discovery in the small lakes scattered among the extinct volcanoes of Auvergne in France of the survival of certain forms of marine animals. Salt plains exist there whose deposits were formed before volcanic forces upheaved the surrounding rocks and created mountain peaks and craters.

It has been asserted that insects are particularly attracted by the colors of certain flowers. Felix Plateau, after investigating the conduct of insects in their visits to various flowers, concludes that while they may perceive colors and thus be enabled to distinguish, at a distance, between flowers and leaves, yet they show no preferences among the different colors. Blue, red, yellow, white are indifferent to them. He thinks that the odor of flowers affects insects more than their colors do.

The experiments of the French grape growers in Algeria have shown that too much sunshine is unfavorable for the making of good wine. In the more temperate climate of France grapes possess a proper proportion of sugar to acid for wine making, but the hot Algerian sunshine induces so active an assimilation by the vines that the quantity of acid is reduced and that of sugar is increased. In consequence, the wine makers of Algeria are driven to many devices for improving the flavor and lasting quality of their wines.

X-rays have been subjected to a novel purpose in Calcutta. A thief was supposed to have stolen a diamond worth 10,000 rupees and to have effectually secreted it on his person by swallowing it. Expert thieves in India temporarily secrete small valuables of this description in the throat. It is called "ponching," and the thieves undergo special training in order to render them proficient in the art. The plan is simple. A small piece of lead is attached to a thread, and this the neophyte swallows, then by the action of his tongue he guides the lead to the orifice of the sac in the throat. The pupil is prevented from completely swallowing the lead by the piece of thread which the teacher holds. When the man has become skillful in this act of swallowing, the leaden pellet is coated with lime, which has the effect of enlarging the sac so that it becomes capable of retaining large articles. In the case of Calcutta the Roentgen rays revealed the presence of some obstacle in the throat, but its precise identity could not be gathered.

HE FOUND ONE HONEST TOUT.

Man from the Race Track Who Trusted a Stranger and Won Out.

Among the passengers on an elevated train the other night was a party of men returning from the race track, and from the unmistakably good humor they displayed it was clear that they had succeeded in getting some of the bookies' money. They were talking of the dishonest people met at a race track, and the general opinion seemed to be that to find a half-way decent sort of tout was a task few cared to undertake. Everybody was pessimistic till a man who had refrained from expressing an opinion said:

"I've been listening to you folks tell your experiences, and when you say that there isn't an honest tout I want to tell you of a little experience I had with one of those fellows last week, and I'm sure that when I get through you will say as I do, that there is a good one to be found now and then. I'd been playing in the hardest kind of luck all day, and when it came time for the fifth race I had no great trouble in counting my roll, which amounted to just \$5.80. I picked out a long shot as a last hope, and I went around in quest of the best odds. Soon I ran across a book that was laying 10 to 1 to win, and 4 to 1 a place, and I was about to hand up my bet of \$2 to win and \$3 for a look-in, when an arm was thrust over my shoulder and a voice exclaimed: 'Five straight and place,' and the owner of the arm mentioned the name of the very horse I had intended to play. The bookmaker took the money. Then, before I could open my mouth, he put down the odds, I said I was in line, and he should have taken my bet first, and it was tough to be shut out that way when a fellow was down to his last few dollars, but it wasn't any use.

"Just then the man who'd got ahead of me said: 'Say, I can understand just how you feel, and I'll take you on for a place bet, at least.' This struck me as

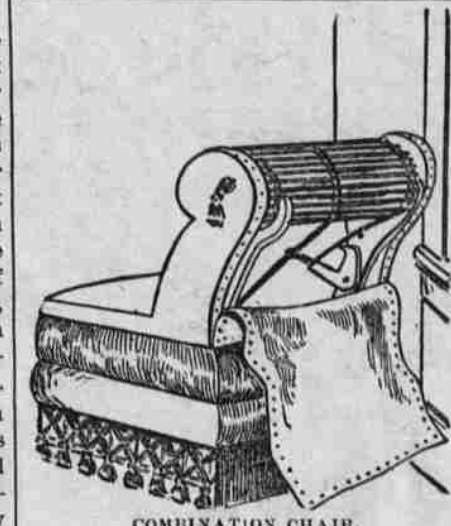
being a kind proposition, and we settled that he should take my whole \$5 for a place at 4 to 1. He hurried away from me as soon as he got my five, and then it occurred to me that maybe I was up against it, for I had recognized my kind friend as one of the best-known touts at the big tracks. The horse I had picked won the race, and with little hope of ever seeing the fellow again I went over to the free field to find him. I couldn't, and was on my way back to the grand stand calling myself a chump, when I heard some one yelling at me and saw one of the bookmakers beckoning. I walked over to him, and he was the man who had shut me out on the bet I was going to make.

"Ain't you the man that made a bet with a fellow here a while ago on so and so for a place?" he said. I answered that I was, and he told me that he had something that was left by a man far me. You can imagine my surprise when he handed me out \$25 with the explanation that my friend was in a hurry and could not wait, so had left the money for me. As I counted the money I thought hard, and since then I take credit for having discovered the first honest tout any of us has ever known."
—Chicago Inter Ocean.

CONCEALED FIRE ESCAPE.

Always Ready for Use and Takes Up No Extra Space.

Here is a fire escape which is designed to take up no extra space in a room, and yet it is always ready for instantaneous use. The designer is Charles G. Harris of Williamsport, Pa., and his object is to so utilize a chair or divan in the construction of the fire escape that the latter will be effective-



COMBINATION CHAIR.

ly hidden from view when not in use. The work of adjusting the ladder for use is slight and no time need be lost in placing the apparatus. The chair is wheeled to the window, and the buttoned back stripped off, when the reel of links and rungs is presented to view. The outer end of the ladder is provided with two grappling hooks, which are attached to the window sill and the reel tossed out of the window. The weight of the ladder holds the hooks firmly, and the ladder is then ready for descent. When the apparatus is in position in the back of the chair it is concealed by a covering of cloth, which is provided with snap buttons around its edge, this being the handiest to unfasten in case of a fire.

Scared by Indian Yells.

A crowd of United States surveyors and allotting agents were recently working in the reservation of the Comanche Indians, surveying, establishing corner stones and getting everything ready to divide the land in quarter sections. The Indians did not take very kindly to the division and allotment of their land, and, seeing that the whites were scared, they decided to act. The surveyors were all tenderfeet from Washington. Suddenly, without warning, their camp was invaded by a yelling, shooting band of 500 Indians in war paint and feathers. The surveying party could not stand the pressure and started out for the settlements along the Texas line and kept up their flight, pursued by the Indians, until they crossed the State line. Then they telegraphed to Fort Sill, and the commander there sent out a large cavalry force to protect the surveyors. The general supposition is that a lot of cowboys and young bucks played a practical joke.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Not Her Station.

It is characteristic of the perversity of human intelligence to find the most amusing things in the midst of the most serious circumstances—such as railway accidents, for instance.

It is related that a solemn-faced woman was once riding on the train from Brookfield to Stamford. Somewhere between the two stations an accident occurred, and the train rolled down an embankment.

The solemn-faced lady crawled from beneath the wreckage, and asked of a broken-legged man who was near:

"Is this Stamford?"
"No, ma'am," the man gasped. "This is a catastrophe!"

"Oh, dear!" she answered. "Then I hadn't oughter get off here, had I?"—London Spare Moments.

In spite of experience and good advice, it is surprising how many people try to squeeze blood out of turnips.

"Sometimes," we heard a man say to-day, "a man gets badly left." Nearly always.

LITERARY LITTLEBITS

Margaret Armstrong has made a decorative cover for Myrtle Reed's *Later Love Letters of a Musician*, which succeeds *Love Letters of a Musician* from the press of G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Miss Sally Pratt McLean Greene's *Vesty of the Basins* is an elaborately illustrated edition by Harper & Brothers. The pictures are reproductions of photographs taken by Clifton Johnson, who, following the directions of the author, went over the scenes of the novel in Maine.

Apart from its intrinsic merits, The Melon Farm has a pathetic interest in being one of the last pieces of work done by the late Maria Louise Pool. It is, moreover, very characteristic of the author. It seems odd that Miss Pool should have begun her career as a novelist comparatively late in life, for she had to a high degree the storytelling faculty.

Master Christian, Marie Corelli's new novel, was published through Dodd, Mead & Co. The advance orders for the book, it is said, have been very heavy, while news comes from England that, as far as this author is concerned, the advance orders there have been unprecedented. The first editions of the book, English and American, will together comprise 150,000 copies.

From Longmans, Green & Company comes Jane Austen, an *Essay in Criticism*, by Walter Herring Pollock. Mr. Pollock's criticism is pure praise, but lovers of Miss Austen may feel that this is inevitable in dealing with her books. Of course, he can find little to tell us about her life that is new, though by dint of much browsing he has collected one or two facts hitherto unpublished. Nothing concerning her is too small to interest him. He even devotes himself to puzzling out the meaning of some "family gibberish" with which, it appears, Miss Austen and her sisters were wont to amuse themselves when corresponding with one another. Mr. Pollock touches also upon the novels of Miss Austen's contemporaries—Miss Edgeworth, Miss Burney and Miss Ferrier—to whom allusion is made in a sub-title of his book. *The Bookman*.

DEATH LURKS IN CACTUS.

Great Plants of Arizona Produce a Liquor That Is Maddening.

Distinctive among all the curious flora of Arizona, where the vegetable productions of the tropics, the temperate and the frigid zones, grow side by side, is the *Cereus giganteus*, called by the Indians and Mexicans the sahuaro.

Scattered over the waterless plains and rocky, gravelly mesas in every part of the territory, these largest specimens of the cactus family point their candelabralike arms straight toward the cloudless skies, not infrequently attaining a height of fifty feet.

The body of the sahuaro is composed of thin pieces of wood arranged in the form of a Corinthian column, covered and held together by the outside fiber. This fiber is a pale green. At some distance from the ground large branches put out, while the whole surface is covered with sharp, prickly thorns. A large purple blossom springs from its apex in May, which ripens into a pear-shaped fruit by the last of June.

This fruit, which tastes a great deal like a fig, is highly prized by both Indians and Mexicans, who bring it to the ground by the aid of a long hooked pole. Part of the fruit is eaten while ripe, the rest is dried in the sun or boiled down to a jam.

Until the advent of the missionaries to the Pimas and Papagoes, some twenty years ago, the gathering of the sahuaro was the signal for the most bloody orgy of the year. All of the tribe contributed material for the saturnalia, each bringing his quota of fruit to the medicine men. This was mixed with water and allowed to ferment, then boiled—a highly intoxicating beverage being the result. When all was ready, the women, dressed in their best, congregated on top of the wickiups, ten or twenty huddling together for safety from the bucks, who deliberately proceeded to drink themselves into a state of frenzied intoxication. Joining hands, they began a glorious war dance, the dancing being mostly of side jumps, which made the earth tremble like an earthquake. During these blibulous feasts a number of the braves were frequently killed.

The sahuaro is short-lived, usually beginning to decay at its base before attaining its growth. Nearly all the trees are perforated with holes made by the birds in their quest for water.

Free Mounts for Army Officers.
A brigadier general or major general is entitled to the keep of three horses at Uncle Sam's expense; a colonel, lieutenant colonel, major or captain to two only.

A foolish woman never appears to worse advantage than she does in a dry-goods store.