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U. S. Forest Service.
REPORT

ON THE

BIG TREES OF CALIFORNIA.

PREPARED IN THE

DIVISION OF FORESTRY,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.



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SUMMARY OF FACTS ABOUT THE BIG TREE.

1. The dimensions of the Big Tree are unequaled.
2. The age of the Big Tree makes it the oldest living thing.
3. The majestic beauty of the Big Tree is unique and world-renowned.
4. It now exists only in ten isolated groves on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and nowhere else in the world.
5. The Mariposa Grove is to-day the only one of consequence which is completely protected.
6. Most of the scattered groves of Big Trees are privately owned, and therefore in danger of destruction.
7. Lumbering is rapidly sweeping them off; 40 mills and logging companies are now at work wholly or in part upon Big Tree timber.
8. 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.
9. The species represents a surviving prehistoric genus of trees once growing widely over the globe.



BIG TREES OF CALIFORNIA.

INTRODUCTION.

Before the glacial period the genus of big trees called *Sequoia* flourished widely in the temperate zones of three continents. There were many species, and Europe, Asia, and America had each its share. But when the ice fields moved down out of the north the luxuriant vegetation of the age declined, and with it these multitudes of trees. One after another the different kinds gave way, their remains became buried, and when the ice receded just two species, the Big Tree and Redwood, survived. Both grew in California, each separate from the other, and each occupying, in comparison with its former territory, a mere island of space. As we know them now, the Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) lives only in a narrow strip of the coast ranges 10 to 30 miles wide, extending from just within the southern border of Oregon to the bay of Monterey, while the Big Tree (*Sequoia washingtoniana*) is found only in small groves scattered along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, from the middle fork of the American River to the head of Deer Creek, a distance of 260 miles. The utmost search reveals but ten main groups, and the total number of sizable trees in these groups must be limited to figures in the thousands. It is, moreover, the plain truth that all the specimens which are remarkable for their size do not exceed 500.

The Big Trees are unique in the world—the grandest, the largest, the oldest, the most majestically graceful of 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. It is a tree which has come down to us through the vicissitudes of many centuries solely because of its superb qualifications. Its bark is often 2 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 the little strip of country where the climate is locally favorable.

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 practically 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 timber claims amounting to a total of 1,172.87 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.

GENERAL FACTS.

FIRST GROVE DISCOVERED.

The Calaveras Grove was the first one discovered, having been found in 1841 by John Bidwell, afterward candidate for member of Congress from California. But for some reason this discovery seems to have been generally credited to another person, as shown by the following story quoted from "In the Heart of the Sierras," by J. M. Hutchings:

In the spring of 1852, Mr. A. T. Dowd, a hunter, was employed by the Union Water Company, of Murphy's, Calaveras County, to supply the workmen engaged in the construction of their canal with fresh meat, from the large quantities of game running wild on the upper portion of their works. While engaged in this calling, having wounded a grizzly bear, and while industriously pursuing him, he suddenly came upon one of those immense trees. * * *

Returning to camp, he there related the wonders he had seen, when his companions laughed at him, and even questioned his veracity. * * *

For a day or two he allowed the matter to rest; submitting, with chuckling satisfaction, to their occasional jocular allusions to "his big tree yarn," but continued hunting as formerly. On the Sunday morning ensuing, he went out early as usual but soon returned * * * when he exclaimed, "Boys, I have killed the large grizzly bear that I ever saw in my life. While I am getting a little something to eat, you make every preparation for bringing him in; all had better go that can be spared, as their assistance will certainly be needed."

Nothing loath, they were soon ready for the start. * * * On, on they hurried, with Dowd as their guide, through thickets and pine groves; crossing bridges and canyons, flats, and ravines, each relating in turn the adventures experienced, or heard of from companions, with grizzly bears, and other formidable tenants of the mountains, until their leader came to a halt at the foot of the immense tree he had seen, and to them had represented the approximate size. Pointing to its extraordinary diameter and lofty height, he exultingly exclaimed, "Now, boys, do you believe my big tree story? That is the large grizzly I wanted you to see. Do you now think it a yarn?"

DISCOVERY OF OTHER GROVES.

Just how and when the other groves of Big Trees were found is difficult to determine. As early as 1864 Professor Brewer, of Yale, and a party from the California Geological Survey visited the Calaveras and Mariposa groves and also several tracts in the region of Kings River, and by 1870 the majority of Big Trees had been located.

The following account of the different groves, which is in the main accurate and complete, is taken from J. D. Whitney's "Yosemite Guide-Book" (1870):

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF BIG TREE GROVES.

The Big Tree occurs exclusively in "groves" or scattered over limited areas, never forming groups by themselves, but always disseminated among a much larger number of trees of other kinds. These patches on which the Big Trees stand do not equal in



CALAVERAS BIG TREE GROVE: EDGE OF GROVE, SHOWING THE "SENTINELS" AND THE RELATIVE HEIGHT OF OTHER ASSOCIATED FOREST TREES.



FIG. 1.—CALAVERAS BIG TREE GROVE; SPERRY'S HOTEL, FROM ENTRANCE OF GROVE, WITH THE "SENTINELS" ON EITHER SIDE.



FIG. 2.—CALAVERAS BIG TREE GROVE, NORTH BORDER: ONE OF THE LARGEST BIG TREES BARKED MANY YEARS AGO FOR EXHIBITION PURPOSES; SUGAR PINE, YELLOW PINE, AND WHITE FIR IN VIEW.



THE "GRIZZLY GIANT" IN THE MARIPOSA BIG TREE GROVE.



ber of trees counted. They stand mostly on the north slope of a hill, rather sheltered from the wind, and, so far as observed, are rather smaller than those of the Calaveras Grove. The largest sound tree measured was 57 feet in circumference at 3 feet from the ground. A stump so burned that only one-half remained was 23 feet in diameter, inside the bark at 3 feet from the ground.

A single Big Tree stands in the woods by itself somewhere southwest of the Crane Flat Grove, and between it and the Merced. It is the only instance, so far as we know, of the occurrence of this species solitary and alone. There is an almost entirely unexplored region between the Beaver Creek and the Crane Flat groves, and there may possibly be some more Big Trees existing there and not yet discovered. It is about 20 miles, still in a southwesterly direction, from Crane Flat to the Mariposa Grove, and that region has been so thoroughly explored by the Survey, that there is no reason to suppose that any more of these trees will be found there.

MARIPOSA GROVE.

The Mariposa Grove is situated about 16 miles directly south of the Lower Hotel in the Yosemite Valley, and between 3 and 4 miles southeast of Clark's ranch, and at an elevation of about 1,500 feet above the last-named place, or of some 5,500 feet above the sea level. It lies in a little valley, occupying a depression on the back of a ridge which runs along in an easterly direction between Big Creek and the South Merced. One of the branches of the creek heads in the grove.

The grant made by Congress is 2 miles square, and embraces, in reality, two distinct or nearly distinct groves; that is to say, two collections of Big Trees between which there is an intervening space without any. The upper grove is in a pretty compact body, containing, on an area of 3,700 by 2,300 feet in dimensions, just 365 trees of the *Sequoia gigantea* of a diameter of 1 foot and over, besides a great number of small ones. The lower grove, which is smaller in size and more scattered, lies in a southwesterly direction from the other, some trees growing quite high up in the gulches on the south side of the ridge which separates the two groves.

The principal trees associated with the Big Trees in this grove are the pitch and sugar pines, the Douglas spruce, the white fir (*Picea grandis*) [now *Abies concolor*], and the bastard cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*).

There are but very few of the young Big Trees growing within the grove, where probably they have been destroyed by fire. Around the base of several of the large trees on the outskirts of the grove there are small [natural] plantations of young Sequoias of all sizes up to 6 or 8 inches in diameter, but only a few as large as this. Those trees which are about 10 feet in diameter and entirely uninjured by fire, in the full symmetry of a vigorous growth of say 500 years, are, although not as stupendous as the older giants of the forest, still exceedingly beautiful and impressive.

The southern division of the Mariposa Grove, or Lower Grove, as it is usually called, is said to contain about half as many (182) trees as the one just described. They are much scattered among other trees, and do not, therefore, present as imposing an appearance as those in the other grove, where quite a large number can often be seen from one point. The largest tree in the lower grove is the one known as the "Grizzly Giant," which is 93 feet 7 inches in circumference at the ground, and 64 feet 3 inches at 11 feet above. (See Pl. III.) Its two diameters at the base, as near as we could measure, were 30 and 31 feet. The calculated diameter at 11 feet above the ground is 20 feet, nearly. The tree is very much injured and decreased in size by burning, for which no allowance has been made in the above measurements. Some of the branches of this tree are fully 6 feet in diameter, or as large as the trunks of the largest elms in the Connecticut Valley, of which Dr. Holmes has so pleasantly discoursed in the Atlantic Monthly. This tree, however, has long since passed its prime, and has the battered and war-worn appearance conveyed by its name.

FRESNO GROVE.

The next grove south of the Mariposa is one in Fresno County, about 14 miles southeast of Clark's, and not far from a conspicuous point called Wammelo Rock. Mr. Clark has described this grove, which we had not visited, as extending for above $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length by from 1 to 2 in breadth. He has counted 500 trees in it, and believes the whole number to be not far from 600. The largest measured 81 feet in circumference at 3 feet from the ground.

No other grove of Big Trees has been discovered to the southeast of this along the slope of the Sierra, until we reach a point more than 50 miles distant from the Fresno Grove. Here, between the Kings and Kaweah rivers, is by far the most extensive collection of trees of this species which has yet been discovered in the State.

KINGS RIVER AND KAWEAH RIVER GROVE.

This belt of trees, for grove it can hardly be called, occurs about 30 miles north-northeast of Visalia, on the tributaries of the Kings and Kaweah rivers, and on the divide between. They are scattered over the slopes and on the valleys, but are larger in the depressions, where the soil is more moist. Along the trail which runs from Visalia to the Big Meadows, the belt is 4 or 5 miles wide, and it extends over a vertical range of about 2,500 feet; its total length is as much as 8 or 10 miles, and maybe more. The trees are not collected together into groves, but are scattered through the forests, and associated with the other species usually occurring at this altitude in the Sierra. They are most abundant at from 6,000 to 7,000 feet elevation above the sea level. Their number is great; probably thousands might be counted. Their size, however, is not great, the average being from 10 to 12 feet in diameter, and but few exceeding 20 feet; but smaller ones are very numerous. One tree, which had been cut, had a diameter of 8 feet, exclusive of the bark, and was 377 years old. The largest one seen was near Thomas's Mill; this had a circumference of 106 feet near the ground, no allowance being made for a portion which was burned away at the base. When entire the tree may have been 10 or 12 feet more in circumference. At about 12 feet from the ground the circumference was 75 feet. Its height was 276 feet. The top was dead, however, and, although the tree was symmetrical and in good growth, it had passed its prime.

Another tree, which had fallen, and had been burned hollow, was so large, that three horsemen could ride abreast into the cavity for a distance of 30 feet, its height and width being about 11 feet. At a distance of 70 feet the diameter of the cavity was still as much as 8 feet. The base of this tree could not be easily measured, but the trunk was burned through at 120 feet from the ground, and at that point had a diameter (exclusive of the bark) of 13 feet 2 inches; and at 169 feet from its base the tree was 9 feet in diameter. The Indians stated that a still larger tree existed to the north of Kings River. This tree should be looked up and carefully measured; unfortunately, it was not in the power of our party to do this.

All through these forests there are numerous young Big Trees, of all sizes, from the seedling upward, and at Thomas's Mill they are cut up for lumber in a manner quite at variance with the oft-repeated story of the exceptional character of the species. Prostrate trunks of old trees are also numerous; some of them must have lain for ages, as they were nearly gone, while the wood is very durable.

TULE RIVER GROVES.

The only other groves yet discovered are those on the Tule River, of which there are two, one on the north and the other on the south branch of that stream. They are 15 miles apart, and the most northerly of the two is about 30 miles from the grove last described. As the intervening region has been but little explored, it is not at all unlikely that more of the Big Trees may be found along the fork of the Kaweah which intersects this region with its numerous branches. We are not aware that these two Tule groves were known previous to their discovery by Mr. D'Heureuse, one of the topographers of the Geological Survey, in 1867; at least, no notice of them had ever appeared in print. The number of trees in these groves is quite large, as they are scattered over several square miles of area. The largest of them were said by Mr. D'Heureuse to be about the size of the largest in the other groves.

DINKY AND MERCED GROVES.

Very little reliable information is obtainable at present concerning these groves. The Dinky Grove is located on Dinky Creek, one of the north tributaries of Kings River, and is said to have been accidentally discovered by two hunters in the early seventies. It is also said to contain only a small number of trees.

The Merced Grove is a small group located on and near the headwaters of the Merced River, and reported to contain less than 100 trees.

THE NORTH GROVE.

This can hardly be called a grove, but is so named for uniformity of designation with other larger groups. It comprises six living trees,

and is located in southern Placer County, on a tributary stream of the middle fork of the American River. The elevation of the grove is 5,100 feet above sea level. The grove is about 20 miles southeast of Red Point Mine, on the Forest Hill Divide, and about 15 miles west of the mining camp, Michigan Bluff, from both of which points the trees can be reached by trail. The grove is about 70 miles north of the Calaveras or "Mammoth" Big Tree Grove.

This grove is said to have been discovered by an old miner, Joe Matlock, in 1855. It appears also to have been long known to the settlers of the region, as shown by the dates 1860 to 1890 cut into the smooth-barked alders near the Big Trees. But the first authentic account of this grove was published by W. W. Price in the January issue of the Sierra Club Bulletin for 1893.

Of the six trees comprising the grove, only two are of large size. These are respectively 220 and 240 feet high and 12 and 10 feet in diameter at 4 feet from the ground. The other trees are about 180 feet high and 3 feet in diameter.

A few small Big Trees in this grove have been blown down, and one quite large tree is said to have gone down subsequent to 1885. About 200 feet of the trunk is still intact. The full height is not known, as the top of the tree was broken off before the trunk fell. The diameter at the roots of the tree was 20 feet. One other large dead tree, 28 feet in diameter, is said to have been blown down in 1855, but the trunk has since disappeared—probably by forest fires, which have frequently raged through the region.

HISTORY AND SIZE OF NOTABLE BIG TREES.

CALAVERAS OR "MAMMOTH" GROVE.

The history and figures showing the size of notable Big Trees in this grove occur in the following extracts.

DEAD TREES.

In 1853 one of the largest trees was cut down. It is said to be the original tree discovered by John Bidwell (or by A. T. Dowd, as the more current story has it).

Its diameter across the solid wood, after the bark was removed (and which was from 15 to 18 inches in thickness), is 25 feet, although the tree was cut off 6 feet above the ground. However incredible it may appear, on July 4, 1854, the writer¹ formed one of a cotillion party of 32 persons dancing upon this stump, in addition to which the musicians and lookers-on numbered 17, making a total of 49 occupants on its surface at one time. The accompanying sketch was made at that time, and, of course, before the present pavilion was erected over it. There is no more strikingly convincing proof, in any grove, of the immense size of the Big Trees, than this stump. [See Pl. IV.]

This tree was 302 feet in height, and, at the ground, 96 feet in circumference, before it was disturbed. Some sacrilegious vandals, from the motive of making its exposition "pay," removed the bark to the height of 30 feet; and afterwards transported it to England, where it was formed into a room; but was afterwards consumed by fire with the celebrated Crystal Palace at Kensington, England. This girdling of the tree very naturally brought death to it; but even then its majestic form must have perpetually taunted the belittled and sordid spirits that caused it. It is, however, but an act of justice to its present proprietor, Mr. James L. Sperry,² to state that,

¹J. M. Hutchings in "In the Heart of the Sierras."

²Mr. Sperry has recently sold this grove to a lumberman, as stated in the introduction.

although he has been the owner of the grove for over twenty years, that act of vandalism was perpetrated before he purchased it, or it would never have been permitted.

Mr. Hutchings¹ describes the felling of this tree as follows:

The next act in this botanical tragedy was the cutting down of the tree, in order to accommodate those who wished to carry home specimens of its wood as souvenirs of their visit. But how to do this was the puzzling conundrum! If one could fittingly imagine so ludicrous a sight as a few lilliputian men attempting to chop down this broodingnagian giant, his contempt would reach its becoming climax. This, therefore, was given up as altogether too chimerical and impracticable. Finally, the plan was adopted of boring it off with pump augers. This employed five men twenty-two days to accomplish; and after the stem was finally severed from the stump, the uprightness of its position, and breadth of its base, prevented its overthrow; so that two and a half of the twenty-two days were spent in inserting wedges, and driving them into the butt of the tree, by logs suspended on ropes, thereby to compel its downfall. While these slow and apparently hopeless attempts were being undertaken, and the workmen had retired for dinner, a gust of wind took hold of its top, and hurled it over without the least seeming effort; its fall causing the earth to tremble as by an earthquake. Thus this noble monarch of the forest was dethroned after "braving the battle and the breeze" for nearly two thousand years. Verily, how little real veneration does the average man possess.

The Mother of the Forest.—In this grove once stood a most beautiful tree, graceful in form and unexcelled in proportions; hence (as in human experience) those very qualities at once became the most attractive to the eyes of the unfeeling spoliator. This bore the queenly name of The Mother of the Forest.

In the summer of 1854, the bark was stripped from its trunk, by a Mr. George Gale, for purposes of exhibition in the East, to the height of 116 feet. (See Pl. II, fig. 2.) It now measures in circumference, at the base, without the bark, 84 feet; 20 feet from base, 69 feet; 70 feet from base, 43 feet 6 inches; 116 feet from base, and up to the bark, 39 feet 6 inches. The full circumference at base, including bark, was 90 feet. Its height was 321 feet. The average thickness of bark was 11 inches, although in places it was about 2 feet. This tree is estimated to contain 537,000 feet of sound inch lumber. To the first branch it is 137 feet.

The small black marks upon the tree indicate points where 2½-inch auger holes were bored, and into these rounds were inserted, by which to ascend and descend while removing the bark. At different distances upward, especially at the top, numerous dates and names of visitors have been cut. It is contemplated to construct a circular stairway around this tree. When the bark was being removed, a young man fell from the scaffolding—or rather out of a descending noose—at a distance of 79 feet from the ground, and escaped with a broken limb. The writer was within a few yards of him when he fell, and was agreeably surprised to discover that he had not broken his neck.

The Father of the Forest.—But a short distance from this [The Mother of the Forest] lies the prostrate form of one that was probably the tallest Sequoia that ever grew—The Father of the Forest. This tree, when standing in its primitive majesty, is accredited with exceeding 400 feet in height, with a circumference at its base of 110 feet; and, although limbless, without bark, and even much of its sap [wood] decayed and gone, has still proportions that once could crown him king of the grove. In falling it struck against "Old Hercules," another old-time rival in size, by which the upper part of his trunk was shivered into fragments, that were scattered in every direction. While fire has eaten out the heart of "The Father of the Forest," and consumed his huge limbs, as of many others, the following measurements, recently taken, will prove that he was among the giants of those days, and that "even in death still lives." From the roots, to where the center of the trunk can be reached on horseback, it is 90 feet. The distance that one can ride erect through it on horseback is 82 feet 6 inches. Height of entrance, 9 feet 4 inches; of arch to floor, 10 feet 9 inches. Across the roots it is 28 feet; to where one would have an idea of standing to chop it down, 23 feet 2 inches; 10 feet from the roots its diameter is 20 feet 8 inches; 100 feet from roots, 12 feet 1 inch; 150 feet from roots, 10 feet 4 inches; extreme length, to where any sign of top can be found, 365 feet.

But no one can approximately realize the immense proportions of this prostrate forest sire, without climbing to its top, and walking down it for its entire length; by this, moreover, he will ascertain that it was nearly 200 feet to the first branch. At the end of the burnt cavity within, is a never-failing spring of deliciously cool water.

¹J. M. Hutchings in "In the Heart of the Sierras."

The handsome group of stately trees that encompass the "Father of the Forest," make it an imposing family circle, and probably assisted in originating the name.

And this is only one of the numerous vegetable giants that Time's scythe has laid low, for near here lies "Old Hercules," the largest standing tree in the grove until 1862, then being 325 feet in height by 95 feet in circumference, at the ground; this was blown down that year during a heavy storm; "The Miner's Cabin," 319 feet long by 21 in diameter, thrown over by a gale in 1860; and "The Fallen Monarch," which has probably been down for centuries.

This trunk is still 18 feet in diameter, and was probably over 300 feet high and 25 or more feet in diameter.

LIVING TREES.

The following list¹ includes the notable living trees in the Calaveras Grove. Most of them are marked with marble tablets, which bear the names of States, distinguished statesmen, generals, and scholars.

The "Two Sentinels," over 300 feet high, the larger 23 feet in diameter. [See Pl. I and Pl. II, fig. 1.]

"U. S. Grant," named in 1865.

"W. T. Sherman," named in 1865.

"J. B. McPherson," named in 1865.

"Pride of the Forest," once named "The Eagle;" 300 feet high and 23 feet in diameter.

"Phil Sheridan," 300 feet high.

"Three Graces," standing in close line and the most beautiful cluster in the grove.

"Andrew Johnson," named in 1865.

"Florence Nightingale," once named "Nightingale;" named in 1865 by a nephew of the English lady.

"Bay State."

"W. C. Bryant," named in 1865 by a lady, an admirer of the poet.

"W. H. Seward."

"Pioneer's Cabin," named from the cabin-like chamber and chimney formed by its hollow trunk.

"Pluto's Chimney," 280 feet high and 17 feet in diameter; hollowed out on one side by fire for 90 feet above ground.

"Quartette," a cluster of four trees, the tallest, 220 feet.

"America," 280 feet high and 13 feet in diameter; named in 1865 by a San Francisco lady.

"California," once called "Ada;" named in 1865.

"Broderick," once called "Mary;" named in 1865.

"Henry Ward Beecher," 280 feet high and 14 feet in diameter.

"Abraham Lincoln," once called "Hermit;" 320 feet high and 18 feet in diameter.

"Elihu Burritt."

"Uncle Sam."

"Alta (Upper) California."

"Union."

"General Wadsworth."

"The Twins."

"General Sutter." The trunk divides at 30 feet above ground and forms two trunks, each 280 feet high.

"Salem Witch."

"Longfellow."

"Prof. Asa Gray."

"Dr. John Torrey."

"The Trinity"; three trees from one trunk, the circumference of which is 60 feet.

"Starr King," 360 feet high.

"Richard Cobden."

"John Bright."

"Daniel O'Connell."

"Edward Everett."

"Keystone State."

"Sir John Franklin."

"Dr. Kane."

} Average height, 260 feet; average diameter, 15 feet.

} Named in 1862 by Lady Franklin.

¹ Compiled from Nelson's "Atlantic and Pacific Tourists' Guide."

“Century”; named in 1865 in honor of The Century Association, of New York, of which the poet Bryant was president.

“John LeConte.”
 “Joseph LeConte.” } Standing close together.

“Sequoia Queen.” }
 “Maids of Honor.” } A cluster of three, the “Queen” in the center.

“Sir Joseph Hooker”; named in honor of the English botanist.

“John Lindley”; named in honor of the English botanist who was the first to name and describe the Big Tree.

“Mother and Son”; a large and small tree together.

“General Scott,” 325 feet high.

“Old Bachelor.”

“Kentucky.”

“The Siamese Twins.” }
 “Daniel Webster.” } Average height, 305 feet; average diameter, 20 feet.
 “Granite State.” }
 “The Old Republican.” }

“Henry Clay.”

“Andrew Jackson.”

“Vermont.”

“Empire State,” 94 feet in circumference.

“Old Dominion.”

“George Washington.”

“Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”

“The Beauty of the Forest.”

The following table gives additional measurements for some of the above-named Big Trees in the Calaveras Grove. These figures are believed to be conservative and to express more nearly the actual sizes of the trees named:

Height and diameter measurements of trees in the Calaveras Grove.¹

Name of tree.	Diameter 6	Height.
	feet above ground.	
	<i>Fect.</i>	<i>Fect.</i>
Keystone State	14.3	325
General Jackson	12.7	319
Mother of the Forest (without bark)	19.4	315
Daniel Webster	15	307
T. Starr King	16.6	283
Richard Cobden	13.1	284
Pride of the Forest	15.3	282
Henry Clay	15	280
Bay State	14.6	275
James King of William	16.2	274
Sentinel	15.6	272
Dr. Kane	15.9	271
Arborvitæ Queen	9.6	269
Abraham Lincoln	14	268
Maid of Honor	8.6	266
Old Vermont	12.7	265
Uncle Sam	13.7	265
Mother and Son (Mother)	16.2	261
Three Graces (highest)	9.6	262
William Cullen Bryant	15.3	262
U. S. Grant	10.8	261
George Washington	16.2	256
General Scott	13.7	258
Henry Ward Beecher	10.8	252
California	10.5	250
Uncle Tom’s Cabin	15.9	250
Beauty of the Forest	12.4	249
J. B. McPherson	9.9	246
Florence Nightingale	11.8	246
James Wadsworth	8.6	239
Elihu Burritt	9.9	231

¹ From J. D. Whitney’s “Yosemite Guide-Book.” For a readier conception of size, Mr. Whitney’s circumference measurements are here converted into equivalent diameters.

These measurements will have a new value when it is remembered that they are now nearly 40 years old—old enough to make remeasurement very interesting for comparison.

STANISLAUS OR "SOUTH CALAVERAS" GROVE.

This grove contains 1,380 Big Trees, ranging in diameter from 1 foot to 34 feet.

Mr. Hutchings describes the trees of note in this grove as follows:

The large number of these immense trees, from 30 feet to over 100 feet in circumference, at the ground, and in almost every position and condition, would become almost bewildering were I to present in detail each and every one; a few notable examples, therefore, will suffice as representatives of the whole. (See Pl. V.)

The first Big Tree that attracts our attention, and which is seen from the ridge north of the Stanislaus River, is the "Columbus," a magnificent specimen, with three main divisions in its branches, and standing alone. Passing this we soon enter the lower end of the South Grove¹ and arrive at the "New York," 104 feet in circumference, and over 300 feet in height. Near to this is the "Correspondent," a tree of stately proportions, named in honor of the "Knights of the Quill." The "Ohio" measures 103 feet in circumference, and is 311 feet in height. The "Massachusetts" is 98 feet, with an altitude of 307.

Near to a large black stump, above this, stands a tree that is 76 feet in circumference, that has been struck by lightning, 170 feet from its base; where its top was shivered into fragments, and hurled in all directions for over 100 feet from the tree; the main stem being rent from top to bottom, the apex of this dismantled trunk being 12 feet in diameter. The "Grand Hotel" is burned out so badly that nothing but a mere living shell is left. This will hold 40 persons. Then comes the "Canal Boat;" which, as its name implies, is a prostrate tree; the upper side and heart of which have been burned away, so that the remaining portion resembles a huge boat; in the bottom of which thousands of young Big Trees have started out in life; and, if no accident befalls them, in a thousand or two years hence, they may be respectable-sized trees, that can worthily take the places of the representatives of this noble genus, and, like these, challenge the admiring awe of intellectual giants of that day and age. (See Pl. V, fig. 1.)

"Noah's Ark" was another prostrate shell that was hollow for 150 feet; through which, for 60 feet, three horsemen could ride abreast; but the snows of recent winters have broken in its roof, and blocked all further passage down it. Next comes the "Tree of Refuge," where, during one severe winter, 16 cattle took shelter; but subsequently perished from starvation. They found protection from the storm, but their bleaching bones told the sad tale of their sufferings and death from lack of food. Near to this lies "Old Goliath," the largest decumbent tree in the grove; whose circumference was over 100 feet, and, when erect, was of proportionate height to the tallest. During the gale that prostrated "Hercules," in the Calaveras Grove, this grand old tree had also to succumb. One of his stalwart limbs was 11 feet in diameter.

SMITH'S CABIN.

There is another notable specimen, which somewhat forms a sequel to the above, known as Smith's Cabin, on account of its having been the chosen residence of a trapper and old mountaineer named A. J. Smith—Andrew Jackson Smith—who made the charred hollow of this burnt-out tree his lonely home for three years. (See Pl. VI.) There is no telling what these old denizens of the mountains can or will do when they have made up their minds to anything. The diameter of his cabin—which was to him a bedroom, sitting room, kitchen, and sometimes, during stormy weather, a stable for his horse—was 21 feet by 16. * * * On one occasion a regular "southeaster" was on the rampage, hurling down trees, twisting off branches, tossing about tree tops, and limbs, in all directions. As the old trapper dare not venture out, he sat listening, with unquestionable interest, to ascertain whether the wind or "Smith's Cabin" was becoming the better wrestler of the two. At this juncture an earth-trembling crash came with nerve-testing force, that made his hair stand on end, when he jumped to his feet, using certain emphatic words (the synonyms of which can be found in "holy writ," or elsewhere), thinking, as he afterwards expressed it, "that it

¹ So called by many from its position immediately southeast of the Calaveras Grove, which is often called "North Grove."



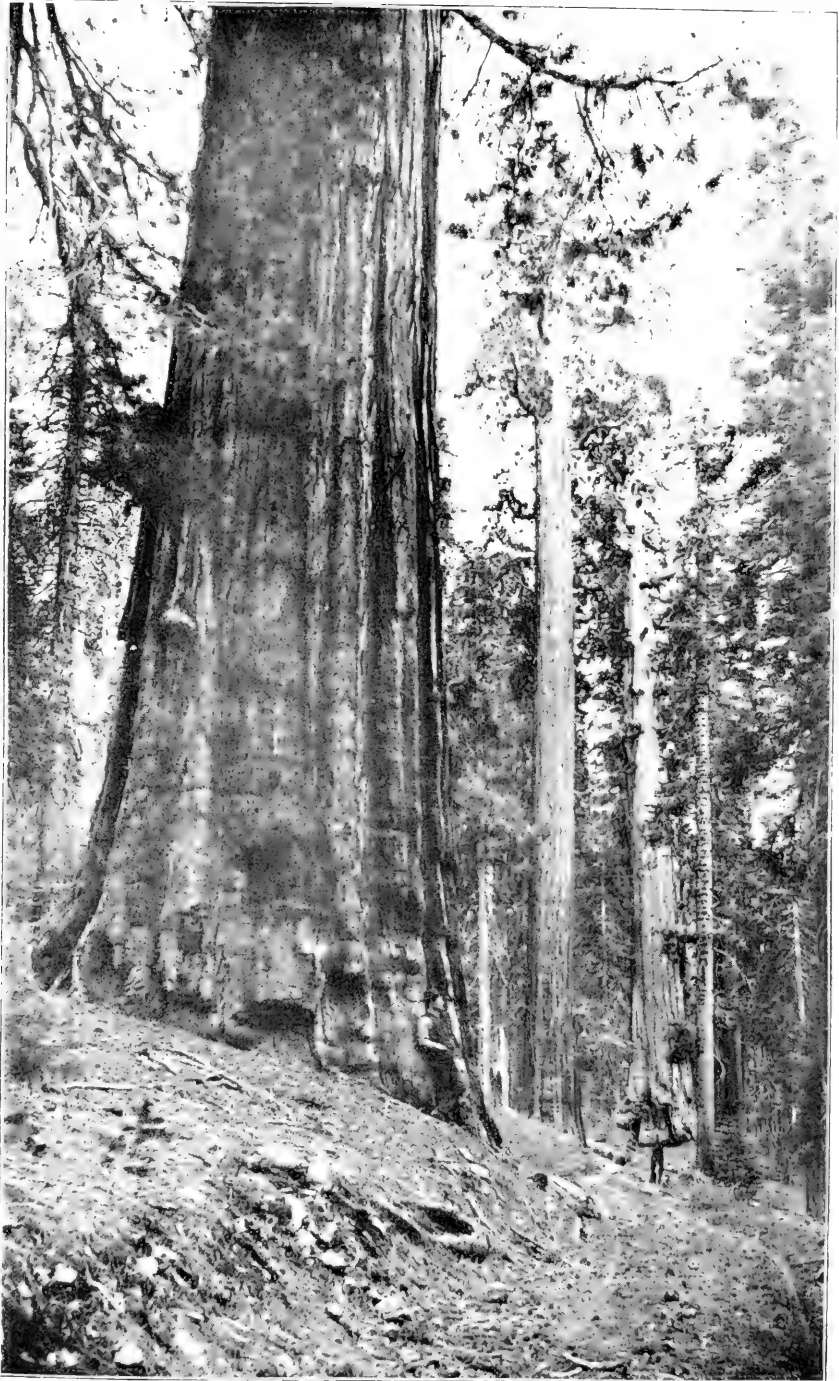
FIG. 1.—STANISLAUS BIG TREE GROVE, SHOWING INTERIOR OF FOREST WITH DENSE STAND OF SEEDLING AND SAPLING BIG TREES, WITH GRAYED AND TRAMPLED SPOT IN FOREGROUND.



FIG. 2.—THE STANISLAUS BIG TREE GROVE: INTERIOR OF FOREST, SHOWING BIG TREE, 22 FEET IN DIAMETER, AND GENERAL APPEARANCE OF FOREST.



SMITH'S CABIN, A GIANT BIG TREE IN THE STANISLAUS GROVE, THE HOLLOW BASE HAVING BEEN USED IN EARLY YEARS AS A HUNTER'S CABIN.



BIG TREES IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE.



THE BIG TREE "WAGON" IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE, SHOWING THE RELATIVE SIZE OF OTHER CONIFERS COMPARED WITH BIG TREES.

was all u-p with him." As this was the downfall of "Old Goliath," he began to fear that old Boreas was getting the best of the match, if he did not claim the gate-money, and that "Smith's Cabin" would be the next giant thrown. But, being a brave man—and who could live such a life as his if he were not?—and knowing well that he could not do better, concluded to look this danger unquailingly in the face, as he had done many a one before it, stay where he was, and take the best, or worst, that might befall him.

MARIPOSA GROVE.

From the following table it will be seen that there are several trees in this grove larger than any in the Calaveras, and that their average size is greater. The average height of the Mariposa trees, however, is less than that of the Calaveras; and the highest of the former, 272 feet, is 53 feet less than the tallest one of the latter. There is a burned stump on the north side of the grove, nearly all gone, but indicating a tree of a size perhaps a little greater than any now existing there. The beauty of the Mariposa Grove has been sadly marred by the ravages of fire, which has evidently swept through it again and again, almost ruining many of the finest trees. Still, the general appearance of the grove is extremely grand and imposing. There are about 125 trees over 40 feet in circumference.¹ (See Pls. VII and VIII.)

Height and diameter measurements of trees in the Mariposa Grove.²

No.	Height.	Diameter at ground.	Diameter at 6 feet above the ground.	Remarks.
	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	
6	.....	24.7	.....
7	.....	23.1	.....
11	.....	19.8	.....
12	244	19.8	.....
15	272	.....	.....
16	.....	27.6	.....	Hollow.
20	.....	23.1	17.5	
21	.....	.....	14.0	
27	250	15.3	.....
29	.....	28.6	.....
31	186	11.4	9.4	
35	.....	20.7	16.2	
38	226	8.6	.....
49	194	.....	.....
51	218	17.8	12.4	
52	249	.....	12.7	
60	.....	26.0	18.8	Burned at base.
64	.....	26.0	15.9	
66	221	12.7	.....
69	219	11.4	.....
70	225	14.0	.....
77	197	.....	8.8	
102	255	.....	15.9	
158	223	.....	.....
164	243	.....	8.8	
169	25.4	.....		Much burned at base.
171	.....	26.3	.....	Badly burned on one side.
174	268	.....	13.0	
194	192	.....	14.6	Two trees, united at the base.
205	229	28.0	.....	Much burned on one side; formerly over 100 feet in circumference.
206	235	22.4	.....
216	.....	.....	20.1	Much burned at base.
226	219	.....	15.3	
236	256	.....	14.6	
238	.....	.....	18.2	Burned on one side.
239	187	.....	8.5	
245	270	26.0	21.4	Do.
253	.....	23.7	19.1	
262	.....	17.8	.....	Half burned away at base.
275	.....	21.0	.....
286	.....	24.2	.....	Burned on one side nearly to center.
290	.....	.....	14.6	
301	.....	.....	16.2	
304	260	29.5	.....	All burned away on one side.
330	.....	29.2	.....
348	227	.....	16.2	

¹From J. D. Whitney's "Yosemite Guide-Book."

²Compiled from J. D. Whitney's "Yosemite Guide-Book" (1870).

THE BEAUTY OF BIG TREES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

The beauty of the Big Trees and their surroundings is nowhere more vividly described than in Mr. John Muir's "Mountains of California." He says:

So exquisitely harmonious and finely balanced are even the very mightiest of these monarchs of the woods in all their proportions and circumstances there never is anything overgrown or monstrously-looking about them. On coming in sight of them for the first time, you are likely to say, "Oh, see what beautiful, noble-looking trees are towering there among the firs and pines!" their grandeur being in the meantime in great part invisible, but to the living eye it will be manifested sooner or later, stealing slowly on the senses, like the grandeur of Niagara, or the lofty Yosemite domes. Their great size is hidden from the inexperienced observer as long as they are seen at a distance in one harmonious view.

When, however, you approach them and walk round them, you begin to wonder at their colossal size and seek a measuring rod. These giants bulge considerably at the base, but not more than is required for beauty and safety; and the only reason that this bulging seems in some cases excessive is that only a comparatively small section of the shaft is seen at once in near views. One that I measured in the Kings River forest was 25 feet in diameter at the ground, and 10 feet in diameter 200 feet above the ground, showing that the taper of the trunk as a whole is charmingly fine. And when you stand back far enough to see the massive columns from the swelling in step to the lofty summit dissolving in a dome of verdure, you rejoice in the unrivaled display of combined grandeur and beauty. About 100 feet or more of the trunk is usually branchless, but its massive simplicity is relieved by the bark furrows, which instead of making an irregular network run evenly parallel, like the fluting of an architectural column, and to some extent by tufts of slender sprays that wave lightly in the winds and cast flecks of shade, seeming to have been pinned on here and there for the sake of beauty only.

The young trees have slender, simple branches down to the ground, put on with strict regularity, sharply aspiring at the top, horizontal about half way down, and drooping in handsome curves at the base. By the time the sapling is five or six hundred years old this spiry, feathery, juvenile habit merges into the firm, rounded, dome form of middle age, which in turn takes on the eccentric picturesqueness of old age. No other tree in the Sierra forest has foliage so densely massed or presents outlines so firmly drawn and so steadily subordinate to a special type. A knotty, ungovernable-looking branch 5 to 8 feet thick may be seen pushing out abruptly from the smooth trunk, as if sure to throw the regular curve into confusion, but as soon as the general outline is reached it stops short and dissolves in spreading bosses of law-abiding sprays, just as if every tree were growing beneath some huge, invisible bell glass, against whose sides every branch was being pressed and molded, yet somehow indulging in so many small departures from the regular form that there is still an appearance of freedom.

The foliage of the saplings is dark bluish green in color, while the older trees ripen to a warm brownish-yellow tint like *Libocedrus*. The bark is rich cinnamon brown, purplish in young trees and in shady portions of the old, while the ground is covered with brown leaves and burs, forming color masses of extraordinary richness, not to mention the flowers and underbrush that rejoice about them in their seasons. Walk the Sequoia woods at any time of year and you will say that they are the most beautiful and majestic on earth. Beautiful and impressive contrasts meet you everywhere; the colors of tree and flower, rock and sky, light and shade, strength and frailty, endurance and evanescence, tangles of supple hazel bushes, tree pillars about as rigid as granite domes, roses and violets, the smallest of their kind, blooming around the feet of the giants, and rugs of the lowly *Chamaebatia* where the sunbeams fall. Then in winter the trees themselves break forth in bloom, myriads of small four-sided staminate cones crowd the ends of the slender sprays, coloring the whole tree, and when ripe dusting the air and the ground with golden pollen.

The fertile cones are bright grass-green, measuring about 2 inches in length by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in thickness, and are made up of about 40 firm rhomboidal scales densely packed, with from 5 to 8 seeds at the base of each. A single cone, therefore, contains from 200 to 300 seeds, which are about a fourth of an inch long by three-sixteenths wide, including a thin, flat margin that makes them go glancing and wavering in their fall like a boy's kite. The fruitfulness of Sequoia may be illustrated by two specimen branches $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 inches in diameter on which I counted 480 cones. No other Sierra conifer produces nearly so many seeds. Millions are ripened annually by a single tree, and in a fruitful year the product of one of the northern groves would be enough

to plant all the mountain ranges of the world." But very few of the millions of seeds which fall to the ground germinate, "and of those that do perhaps not 1 in 10,000 is suffered to live through the many vicissitudes of storm, drought, fire, and snow-crushing that beset their youth."

AGE OF THE BIG TREES.

The extreme age attained by the Big Tree is still an unsettled question. Statements on the subject vary considerably, some appearing to be exaggerations. One great difficulty, however, in settling the question of age, at least for existing trees, is the lack of a proper number of trunk sections on which to count the rings of annual growth, thus giving unquestionable data on age.

Ring countings from prostrate and burned or decayed trunks and sections of trees felled for other purposes than ring counting, have largely furnished the basis of the age estimates made so far, and from these countings age estimates have been made for trees of other sizes which could not of course be cut down.

These generalizations not being based on ring countings from a series of trunk sections representing the full range in diameter of all trees now known, the statements as to the extreme age possible for these trees are necessarily approximative. It is the opinion of Mr. Hutchings that the average rate of growth is 1 inch of diameter for every twelve years, which would make a tree 25 feet through 3,600 years old. Mr. Muir's observations also roughly corroborate this theory. He writes:

Under the most favorable conditions these giants probably live 5,000 years or more, though few of even the larger trees are more than half as old. I never saw a Big Tree that had died a natural death; barring accidents they seem to be immortal, being exempt from all the diseases that afflict and kill other trees. Unless destroyed by man they live on indefinitely until burned, smashed by lightning, or cast down by storms, or by the giving way of the ground on which they stand. The age of one that was felled in the Calaveras Grove, for the sake of having its stump for a dancing floor, was about 1,300 years, and its diameter, measured across the stump, 24 feet inside the bark. Another that was cut down in the Kings River forest was about the same size, but nearly a thousand years older (2,200 years), though not a very old-looking tree. It was felled to procure a section for exhibition, and thus an opportunity was given to count its annual rings of growth. The colossal scarred monument in the Kings River forest mentioned above is burned half through, and I spent a day in making an estimate of its age, clearing away the charred surface with an ax and carefully counting the annual rings with the aid of a pocket-lens. The wood-rings in the section I laid bare were so involved and contorted in some places that I was not able to determine its age exactly, but I counted over 4,000 rings, which showed that this tree was in its prime, swaying in the Sierra winds, when Christ walked the earth. No other tree in the world, as far as I know, has looked down on so many centuries as the Sequoia, or opens such impressive and suggestive views into history.

These estimates are confirmed by the most recent investigations on the age of the Big Tree.

GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF THE BIG TREE.

Perhaps more impressive even than the size or age of the Big Tree is the past life of the species. As already stated, the fossils show the present survivor to be the remnant of a once numerous family. Dr. Asa Gray writes:

The same Sequoia which abounds in the same Miocene formations in Northern Europe has been abundantly found in those of Iceland, Spitzbergen, Greenland,

Mackenzie River, and Alaska. It is named *S. Jungsdoiffii*, but is pronounced to be very much like *S. sempervirens*, our living redwood of the California coast, and to be the ancient representative of it. Fossil specimens of a similar, if not the same, species have been recently detected in the Rocky Mountains by Hayden, and determined by our eminent paleontological botanist, Lesquereux; and he assures me that he has the common redwood itself from Oregon, in a deposit of tertiary age. Another Sequoia (*S. Sternbergii*), discovered in miocene deposits in Greenland, is pronounced to be the representative of *S. gigantea*, the Big Tree of the Californian Sierra. If the Taxodium of tertiary time in Europe and throughout the arctic regions is the ancestor of our present bald cypress, which is assumed in regarding them as specifically identical, then I think we may, with our present light, fairly assume that the two redwoods of California are the direct or collateral descendants of the two ancient species which so closely resemble them.

The forests of the arctic zone in tertiary times contained at least three other species of Sequoia, as determined by their remains, one of which, from Spitzbergen, also much resembles the common redwood of California. Another, "which appears to have been the commonest coniferous tree on Disco," was common in England and some other parts of Europe. So the Sequoias, now remarkable for their restricted station and numbers, as well as for their extraordinary size, are of an ancient stock; their ancestors and kindred formed a large part of the forests which flourished throughout the polar regions, now desolate and ice clad, and which extended into the low latitudes in Europe. On this continent one species at least had reached to the vicinity of its present habitat before the glaciation of the region. Among the fossil specimens already found in California, but which our trustworthy paleontological botanist has not yet had time to examine, we may expect to find evidence of the early arrival of these two redwoods upon the ground which they now, after much vicissitude, scantily occupy.

NATURAL REPRODUCTION OF THE BIG TREE.

It may be said that the north groves of Big Trees show little or no signs of extending their very limited range, hardly, even, of holding their present place, except under the most favorable conditions. Mr. Sudworth, dendrologist of the Division of Forestry, makes the following statements about the Calaveras Grove and Stanislaus Grove of Big Trees, which, it is important to notice, have been protected from both fire and grazing since the early fifties:

Unlike the other species of its kind (Sequoia), the Coast Redwood, the Big Tree reproduces itself so slowly and with such uncertainty as to be practically at a stand-still in these groves. A few seedlings took root in 1853-1855 in the Calaveras Grove, and are now 2 or 3 feet in diameter. There is no other evidence of increase in this grove, although the large trees are in a most thrifty state. The forest is not well watered, and the humus is too dry to encourage the reproduction of this species. Pines, firs, and cedars appear better able to propagate themselves on the same ground. On the borders of the grove the soil is so constantly dry and exposed to the trampling of grazing herds as to allow no reproduction outside of the forest. Moreover, the small, heavy seeds are carried to no considerable distance by the winds, as in the case of the pines, firs, and cedars. But if the reproduction of the Big Tree were the best conceivable, it would take several thousand years to replace the present groves after they were destroyed.

The Stanislaus Grove is sparingly watered in parts by small perennial spring streams, and as a result shows a few small patches of Big Tree seedlings. (See Pl. V. fig. 1.) The constant soil moisture in the vicinity of these streams enables the seed to germinate, but only where big logs and other heavy débris exclude cattle and sheep. To lumber this tract would certainly soon effect the drying up of the small water supply, as it has already done elsewhere. The preservation of the race of Big Trees in this locality is unquestionably dependent on maintaining the present groves intact.

One region there is, however, where the Big Trees are reproducing themselves with some regularity. This is on the South Fork of the Kaweah River, and particularly on both branches of the Tule River, where there are young trees in abundance and of almost every age. But the discouraging aspect is that these groves are at present likely

to be cut down, and should this happen, the reproduction noted will avail little in perpetuating the species, without the protecting influence of the mother forest.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BIG TREE.

The following technical description of the Big Tree is taken from Prof. C. S. Sargent's "Silva of North America:"

The average height of *Sequoia Wellingtonia* is about 275 feet, and its trunk diameter near the ground 20 feet, although individuals from 300 to 320 feet tall, with trunks from 25 to 35 feet thick, are not rare. During four or five centuries the tapering stem is clothed with slender, crowded branches, which are erect above and horizontal near the middle of the tree, and below sweep toward the ground in graceful curves, thus forming a dense narrow strict pyramid. Gradually the lower branches disappear, and those at the top of the tree lose their aspiring habit; the trunk, which is much enlarged and buttressed at the base, and fluted with broad low rounded ridges, becomes naked for 100 or 150 feet; and the narrow, rounded crown of short horizontal branches loses its regularity, and gains picturesqueness from the eccentric development of some of the branches or the destruction of others. (See Pls. III, VII, and VIII.)

The bark of old trees is from 1 to 2 feet in thickness, and is divided into flat rounded lobes 4 or 5 feet wide, corresponding to the lobes of the trunk, and separating into loose-fibrous scales; it is light cinnamon-red, and the outer scales are slightly tinged with purple, which is more conspicuous on the much thinner bark of young trees. The leading branchlets are stout, pendulous, and furnished with numerous slender crowded much-divided rather closely appressed lateral branchlets, forming dense masses of spray; dark blue-green, like the leaves when they first appear, at the end of two or three years and after the disappearance of their leaves the branchlets are reddish-brown, more or less tinged with purple, and covered with thin close or slightly scaly bark.

The leaves are ovate, acuminate, or lanceolate, rounded and thickened on the lower surface, concave on the upper surface, and marked with bands of stomata on both sides of the obscure midribs, rigid and sharp pointed, decurrent below, spreading or closely appressed above the middle, and from one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch, or on stout leading shoots often one-half an inch in length; on young seedling plants they are linear-lanceolate, short-pointed, thin, spreading, pilose, often ciliate on the margins, and from one-half to three-fourths of an inch in length.

The flowers, which open late in the winter or in early spring, are produced in great profusion, especially the staminate, which often cover the whole tree, and dust the forest and the ground below it with their golden pollen. The staminate flower, which is usually terminal, varies from one-sixth to one-third of an inch in length, with ovate acute or acuminate denticulate connectives, and is subtended by broadly ovate scales rounded or acute at the apex, keeled on the back, concave on the inner surface, and slightly erose on the margins. The pistillate flower is about one-third of an inch long, with from 25 to 30, or rarely from 35 to 40 pale yellow scales, slightly keeled on the back, gradually narrowed into long slender points, and bearing from 3 to 7 ovules under each scale.

The fruit is ovate-oblong, from 2 to 3½ inches in length, from one-half inch to 2¼ inches in width, and dark red-brown; the scales are furnished on the upper side, near the base, with two or three large deciduous dark resin-glands, and are gradually thickened upward from the base to the apex, which is only slightly dilated, and is from three-fourths of an inch to 1¼ inches long, and from one-fourth to one-half of an inch wide, deeply pitted in the middle, which is often furnished with an elongated reflexed mucro, and frequently transversely ridged; at maturity they remain straight and rigid and open only slightly, the cone retaining its original form even when dry. From 3 to 7 seeds are produced under each scale; they are linear-lanceolate, compressed, from one-eighth to one-fourth inch in length, light brown, and surrounded by lateral united wings broader than the body of the seed, apiculate at the apex, and often unequal.

The Big Tree is the largest inhabitant of the American forests, and the most massive-stemmed although not the tallest tree in the world. It grows in an uninterrupted belt, chiefly associated with the Sugar Pine, the Douglas Fir, and the Incense Cedar, from the middle fork of the American River southward along the western flank of the California Sierras for a distance of about 260 miles to the head of Deer Creek, the northern limit of this belt being near the thirty-ninth and its southern just south

of the thirty-sixth degree of north latitude, and its elevation from 5,000 to 8,400 feet above the level of the sea.

The wood of the Big Tree is very light, soft, not strong, brittle, and coarse-grained, but very durable in contact with the soil. It is bright clear red, turning darker on exposure, with thin nearly white sapwood, and contains thin dark-colored conspicuous bands of small summer-cells and numerous thin medullary rays. The specific gravity of the absolutely dry wood is 0.2882, a cubic foot weighing 17.96 pounds. Manufactured into lumber, it is used locally for fencing and in construction, and is made into shingles.

BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE OF THE BIG TREE.

The selection of the proper scientific name for the Big Tree has been the subject of much discussion, and is a question concerning which there is still considerable disagreement among authorities. Since the tree first became known to botanists it has received the five following scientific names:

1. *Wellingtonia gigantea* Lindley. 1853.
2. *Sequoia gigantea* DeCaisne. 1854.
3. *Taxodium Washingtonianum* Winslow. 1854.
4. *Sequoia Wellingtonia* Seeman. 1855.
5. *Sequoia Washingtoniana* (Winkl.) Sudworth. 1898.

For reasons founded on the fixed principles in botanical law, the first two names are permanently barred from use. The present dissension among authorities centers on which of the last two names should be applied to the Big Tree. It is believed, however, that *Sequoia Washingtoniana* is the correct name for this tree, as shown in Bulletin 17, Division of Forestry, United States Department of Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIG TREE INTO CULTIVATION.

William Lobb visited the Calaveras Grove in 1854 and succeeded in introducing this *Sequoia* into English gardens. It is now one of the most universally cultivated coniferous trees in all the countries of central and southern Europe, but, while it has grown rapidly, it is already beginning to show that the existing climates of Europe do not suit it, and that this glory of the Sierra forests need fear no rival among the emigrants of its race. It has also been occasionally cultivated in the eastern United States, where it does not flourish, although it has occasionally survived in a few sheltered or particularly favorable situations.¹

The best examples of success in cultivating this tree in the East are to be seen in the nursery of Messrs. Elwanger and Barry, Rochester, N. Y., where there are two trees about 35 feet high.

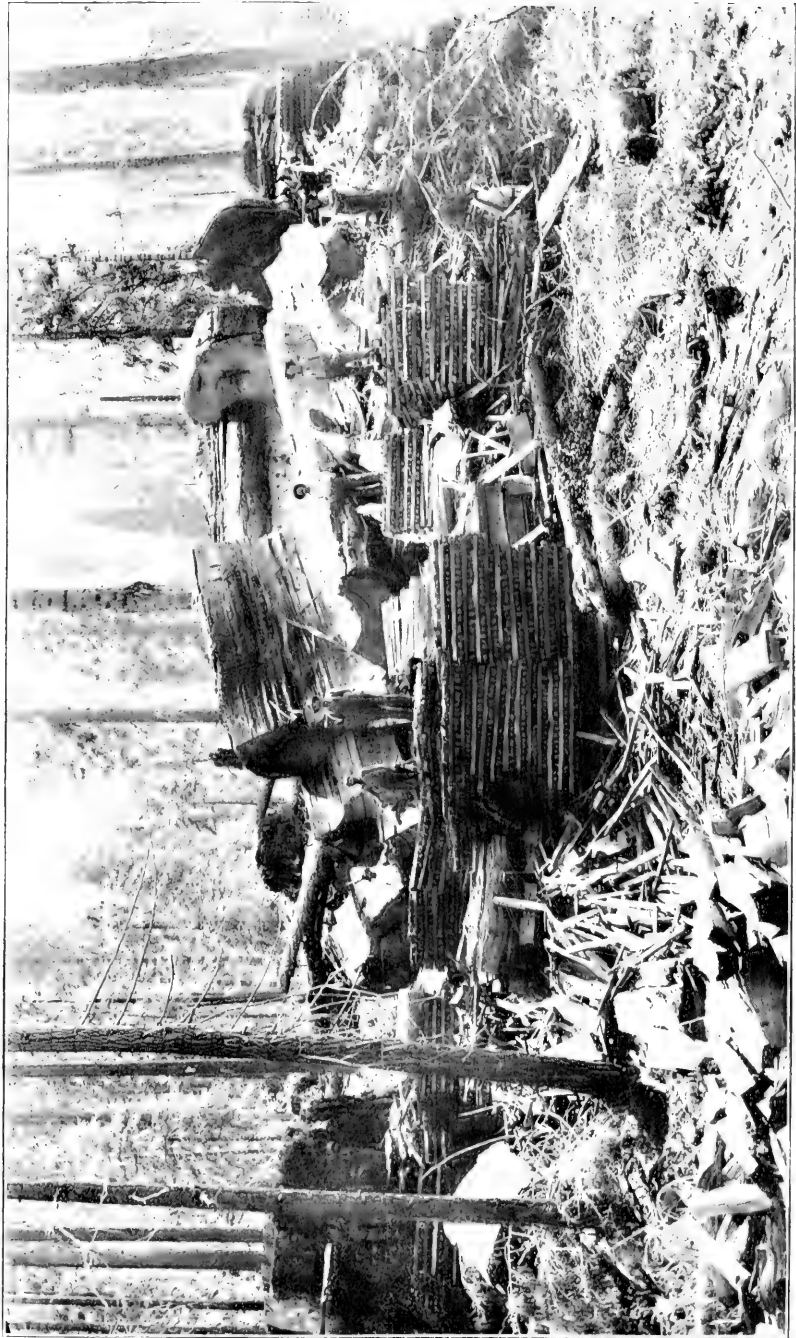
OWNERSHIP OF BIG TREE LANDS.

The ownership of the Big-Tree timber lands of California is divided among the State, the Federal Government, and private individuals.

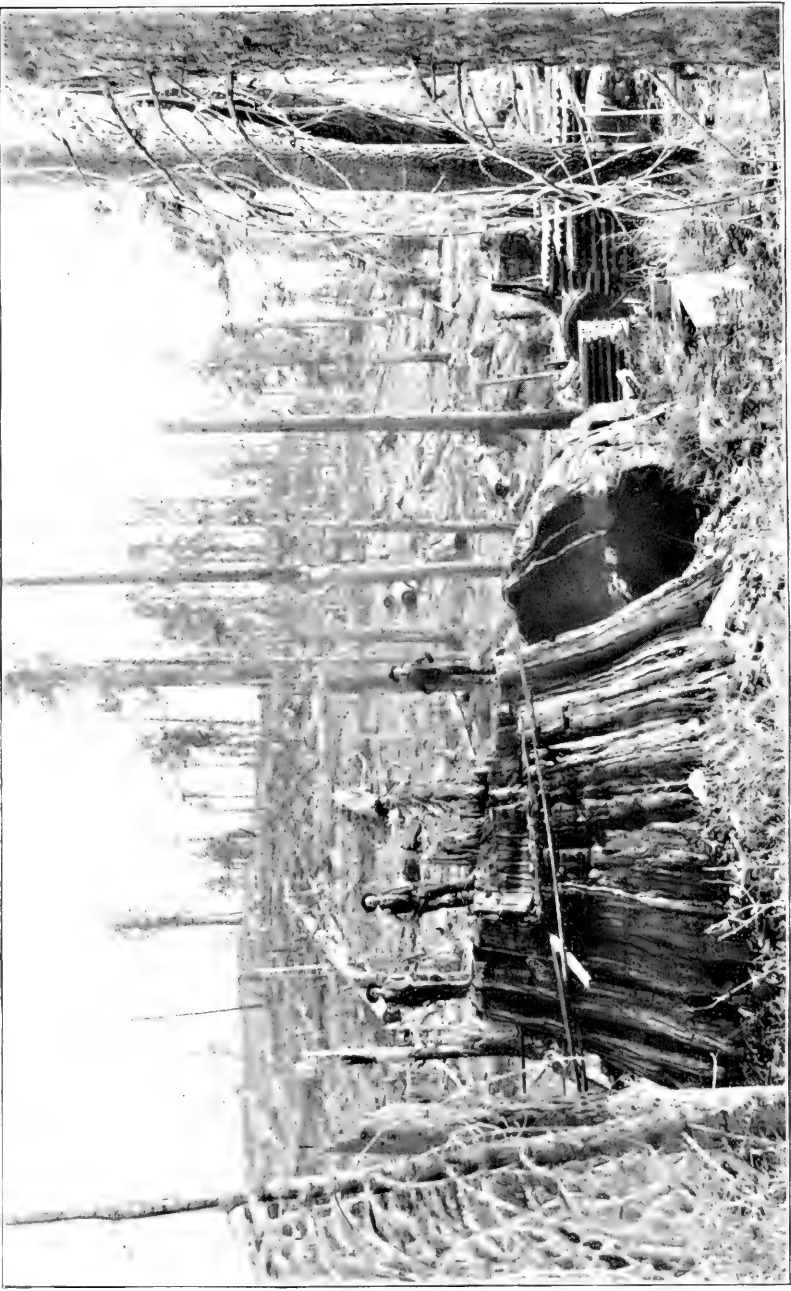
STATE HOLDINGS.

California owns but one tract, which includes the Mariposa Grove. This was ceded to California by the United States in 1865, in an act known as the "Yosemite and Big Tree Grant," by the terms of which the State received the Yosemite Valley proper and the Mariposa Grove, to hold and protect as State parks. The extent of the Mariposa grant is 2 square miles, or, roughly, about 4 per cent of the total area on which the Big Tree grows.

¹Prof. C. S. Sargent, in "Silva of North America."



LOWERING BIG TREES IN KHAS RIVER. MANUS GOLF IN SPACES. SEE WEST EAST. B. 225 227, C. 1, 1, 5, 2, 2



BR. THE TIMBER CUT FOR GRAPEVINE STAKES, SHOWING ENORMOUS WASTE IN LUMBERING AND DESOLATE APPEARANCE OF SUCH DENuded LANDS.



FIGURE A Big Timber with Axes.



HAULING OUT BIG TREE SAW LOGS ON A LOG SLIDE.



LOGGING RAILROAD IN A BIG TREE FOREST, SHOWING TRAIN CARRYING BIG TREE AND YELLOW PINE LOGS.



FIG. 1.—CALAVERAS BIG TREE GROVE, SHOWING TRAIL IN INTERIOR OF FOREST, WITH A FEW
 TREES AND DEEP UNDERGROWTH OF THE SILDAGON, SHUBS, AND HEMLOCK.
 PLANTS: SHOWS A BIG TREE BARKY BURIAL AT BASE ON THE RIGHT.



FIG. 2.—CALAVERAS BIG TREE GROVE, SHOWING DEEP UNDERGROWTH OF THE SILDAGON, FOREST,
 WITH FIRE-SCARRED BIG TREE ON RIGHT AND SUGAR POLE 8 FEET IN DIAMETER ON LEFT.



FIG. 1.—CALAFIAS BIG TREE GROVE, SHOWING DENSE, WELL-PRESERVED UNDERGROWTH, WITH "THE PROPHER" NEAR CENTER OF GROVE, 32 FEET IN DIAMETER NEAR BASE.

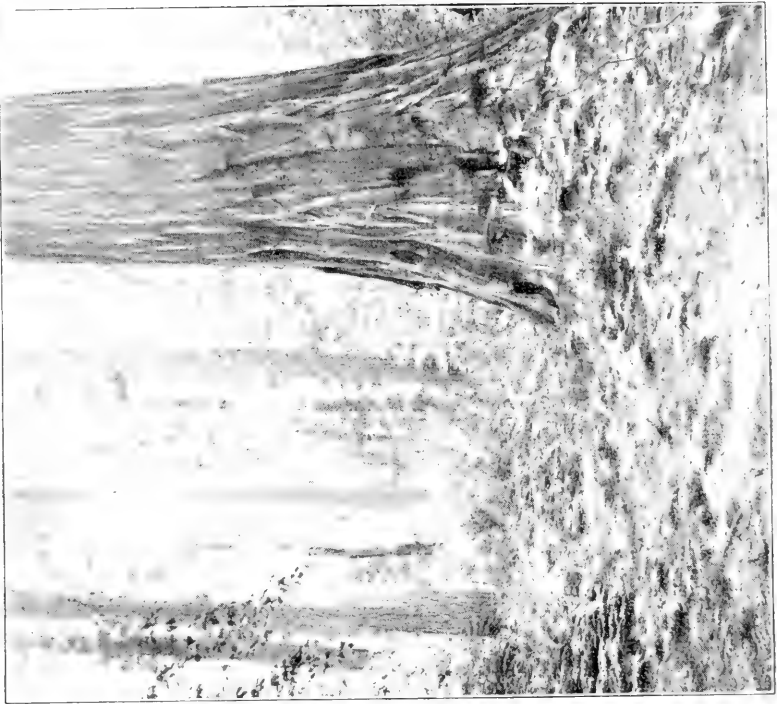
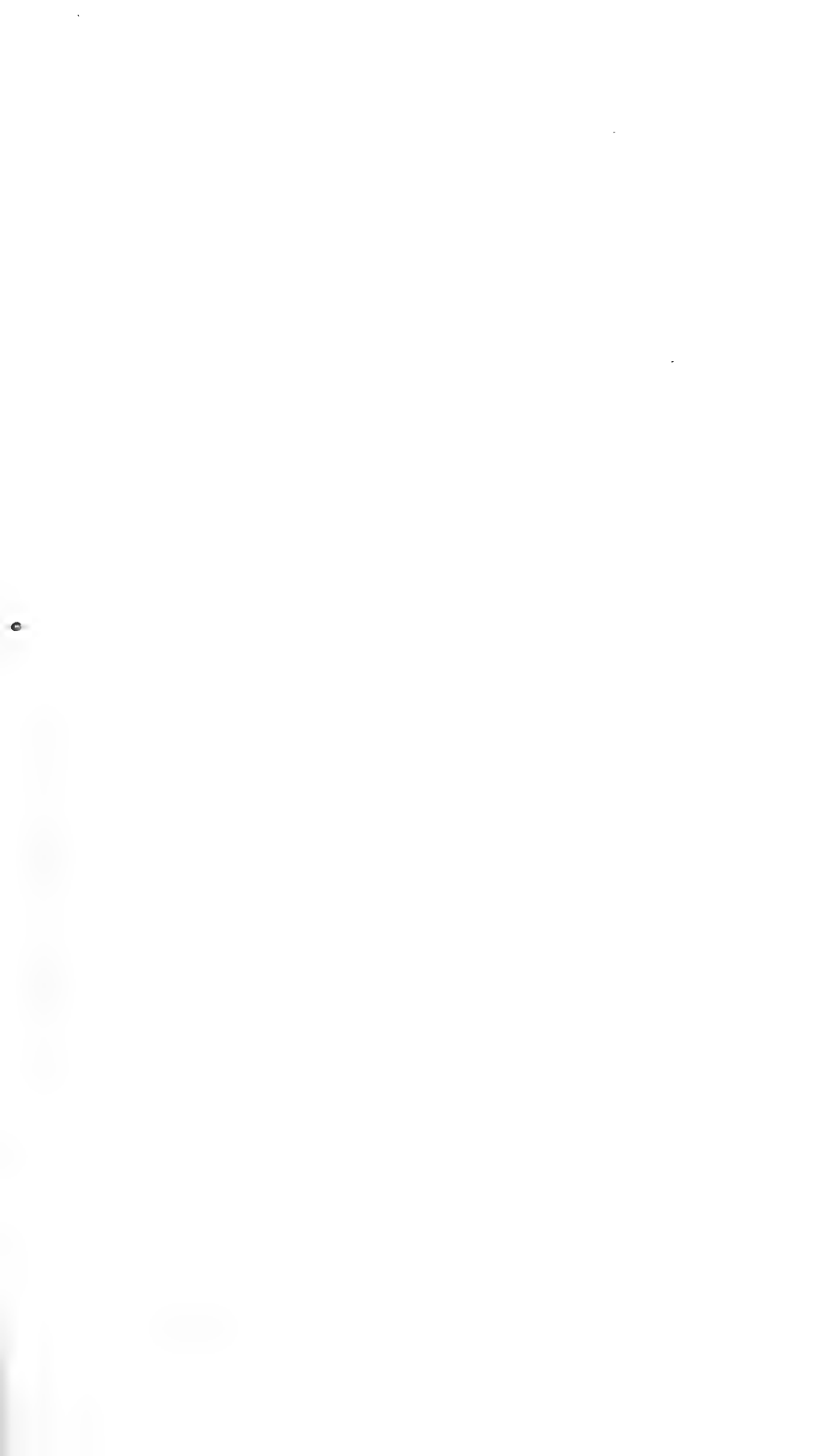
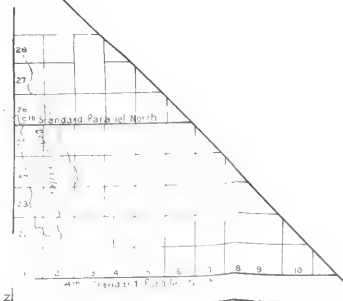


FIG. 2.—CALAFIAS BIG TREE GROVE, SHOWING DENSE UNDERGROWTH OF TREE SEEDLINGS, SHRUBS, AND HERBACEOUS PLANTS IN INTERIOR OF FOREST, WITH BIG TREE 28 FEET IN DIAMETER ON THE RIGHT AND LARGEST SUGAR PINE 65 THE LEFT



Map showing General Location of Big Tree Groves, California.

Scale of Miles



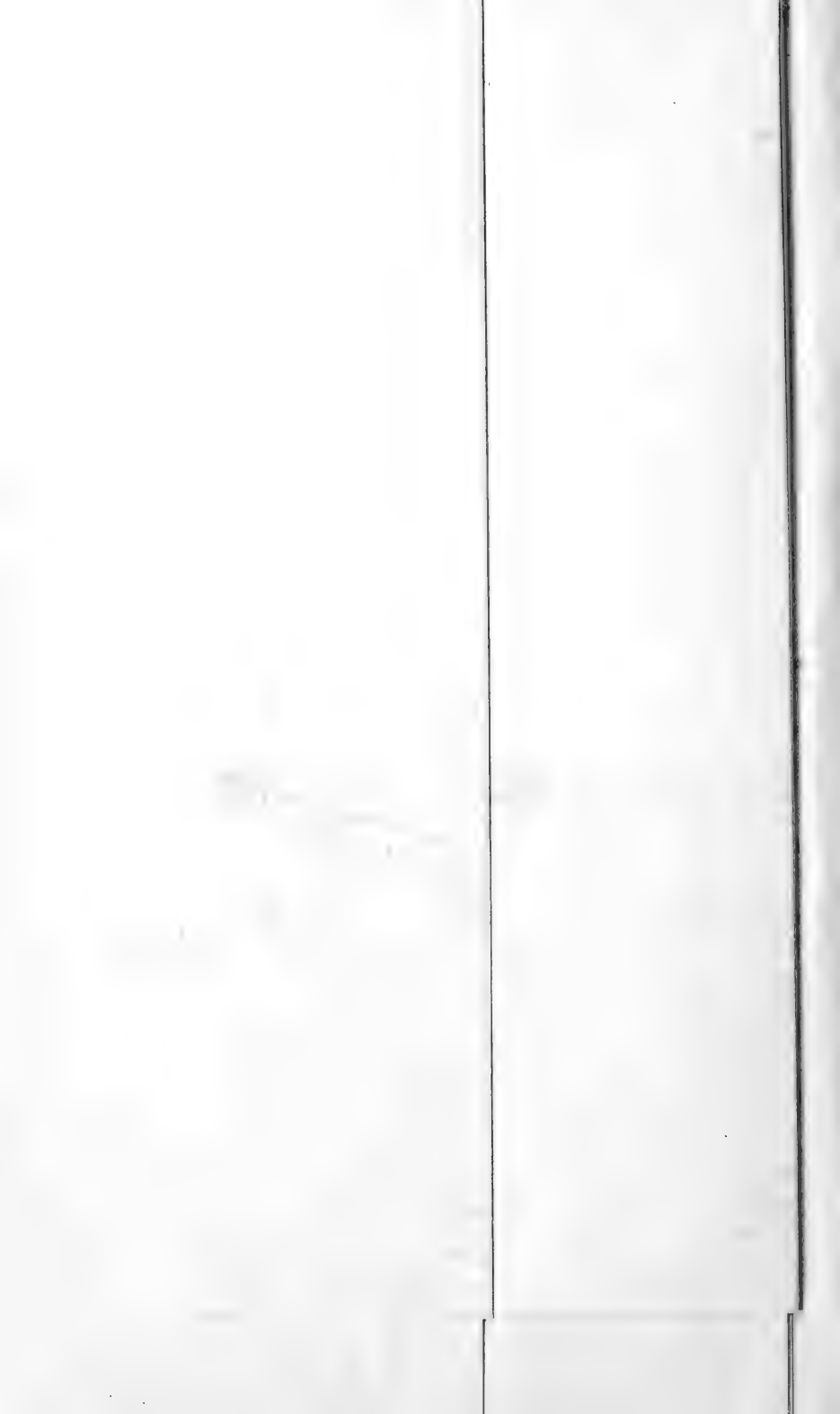
100 ft

Map showing Location of Big Tree Groves in Fresno and Tulare Counties, California.

PLA.FP.507



Scale 3 Miles = 1 Inch.



GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS.

The United States owns and in part controls two considerable areas, comprised within the Sequoia and General Grant National parks. These are very difficult to define. According to the acts of Congress which established them October 1, 1890, they amount, respectively, to 167,280 and 2,560 acres. But it is well known that in the first at least, the Big Trees stand largely in one group on the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, with only very scattering neighbors of their own kind; and a like distinction prevails in the General Grant National Park grove. Furthermore, along the west and south boundaries of the Sequoia National Park, there are seven valid private holdings, amounting to 1,012.87 acres, and an equally good claim of 160 acres in the General Grant National Park. In the first, also, there is a sawmill operating at the edge of the main clump of Big Tree timber, which is again true of the second grove. Consequently, as it is not possible to assert what proportion of these parks contain Big Trees, or just what the private tracts comprise, it is equally impossible to state the extent of the Government holdings in Big Tree timber. It can only be said that they are considerable, but imperfectly defined and poorly protected.

PRIVATE HOLDINGS.

These include by far the greater part of the Big Trees, and, except some groves in Tulare County, they are held by sawmill or logging companies. The large tract on Kings River is almost entirely so owned; and the famous Calaveras or "Mammoth" Grove, which has been carefully preserved since the early fifties, is now owned by a man who is said to represent a lumber syndicate. The Big Trees of Fresno County are controlled by the Sanger Lumber Company. The rest of the southern tracts, in and about and to the south of the Sequoia National Park, are divided chiefly into small areas among private owners.

LOCATION OF BIG TREE LANDS.

The following list, and accompanying large map (Pl. XVI), compiled from notes and a sketch map prepared by Prof. William R. Dudley,¹ give the location, amount, and ownership of Big Tree lands in Fresno and Tulare counties. The data compiled is based upon the Tulare County records of 1899-1900, and upon Professor Dudley's personal examination of the areas in question. The accompanying small map (Pl. XVII) gives the general location of all the Big Tree groves.

Fresno County.

TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST.

No. of section.	No. on map.	Size of claim.	Name of owner.	Residence.
		<i>Acres.</i>		
1	1	a 40	Fannie Wilcox.....	
2	1	a 80	.....do.....	
2	2	a 40	G. T. Nightbert and J. M. Fox	
2	3	120	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Sanger, Cal.
11	4	40	Ellen S. Eastwood.....	
11	3	440	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Do.
12	3	480	.....do.....	Do.
12	5	160	J. W. Blade.....	
13	3	280	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Do.

¹A collaborator in the Division in Forestry, United States Department of Agriculture.

BIG TREES OF CALIFORNIA.

Fresno County—Continued.

TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST—Continued.

No. of section.	No. on map.	Size of claim.	Name of owner.	Residence.
		<i>Acres.</i>		
13	6	340	S. Sweet & Co	Visalia, Cal.
14	3	40	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
15	3	40	.....do	Do.
16	3	320	.....do	Do.
16	7	320	E. D. Sullivan	Do.
21	3	320	Sanger Lumber Co	Do.
22	3	480	.....do	Do.
22	8	160	M. W. Kirkland and D. McRea	San Francisco, Cal.
23	3	440	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
24	3	40	.....do	Do.
24	9	160	W. N. Switzer	Do.
25	3	640	Sanger Lumber Co	Do.
26	3	640	.....do	Do.
27	3	640	.....do	Do.
28	3	640	.....do	Do.
29	3	560	.....do	Do.
29	10	80	James L. Young	Lindsay, Cal.
30	10	160	.....do	Do.
31	11	80	John C. Dunlap	Dunlap, Cal.
32	11	160	.....do	Do.
32	3	40	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
33	3	320	.....do	Do.
34	3	440	.....do	Do.
35	3	640	.....do	Do.
36	3	640	.....do	Do.

TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST.

3	3	80	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
4	3	440	.....do	Do.
5	3	440	.....do	Do.
5	12	160	J. A. Schapp	Do.
7	3	640	Sanger Lumber Co	Do.
8	3	640	.....do	Do.
9	3	640	.....do	Do.
10	3	640	.....do	Do.
13	3	320	.....do	Do.
13	6	160	S. Sweet & Co	Visalia, Cal.
13	13	160	E. Jacob	Do.
14	U. S.	160	United States	Do.
14	3	480	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
15	3	440	.....do	Do.
15	14	120	August Bergin	Do.
16	3	640	Sanger Lumber Co	Do.
17	3	640	.....do	Do.
18	3	640	.....do	Do.
19	U. S.	640	United States	Do.
20	U. S.	160	.....do	Do.
20	3	480	Sanger Lumber Co	Do.
21	3	40	.....do	Do.
21	U. S.	600	United States	Do.
22	15	40	Mrs. Ella Byrnes	Visalia, Cal.
22	16	160	S. Mitchell	Do.
22	3	280	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
22	U. S.	160	United States	Do.
23	3	480	Sanger Lumber Co	Do.
23	16	160	S. Mitchell	Do.
24	3	480	Sanger Lumber Co	Do.
24	17	160	Fox and Sweetland	Lemoore, Cal.
25	3	480	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
26	3	640	.....do	Do.
27	3	480	.....do	Do.
27	U. S.	160	United States	Do.
28	U. S.	160	.....do	Do.
28	18	200	John W. Parker	Dinuba, Cal.
28	3	280	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
29	3	640	.....do	Do.
30	3	640	.....do	Do.
31	3	160	.....do	Do.
33	U. S.	640	United States	Do.
34	19	160	Louis Seligman	Dinuba, Cal.
34	3	320	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
35	20	160	W. E. Weld	Visalia, Cal.
35	3	480	Sanger Lumber Co	Sanger, Cal.
36	3	640	.....do	Do.

Fresno County—Continued.

TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST.

No. of section.	No. on map.	Size of claim.	Name of owner.	Residence.
		<i>Acres.</i>		
7	3	320	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Sanger, Cal.
15	3	160	do.....	Do.
16	3	640	do.....	Do.
17	3	320	do.....	Do.
17	21	160	S. W. Finker.....	Alma, Mich.
17	U. S.	8C	United States.....	
18	U. S.	320	do.....	
18	3	320	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Sanger, Cal.
19	3	320	do.....	Do.
21	3	320	do.....	Do.
21	22	40	D. K. Zumwalt.....	Visalia, Cal.
22	3	160	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Sanger, Cal.
26	3	120	do.....	Do.
27	3	240	do.....	Do.
27	16	120	S. Mitchell.....	
27	21	80	S. W. Finker.....	Alma, Mich.
28	21	80	do.....	Do.
28	23	40	Richard Hedinger.....	Fresno, Cal.
28	3	120	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Do.
29	3	40	do.....	Do.
30	3	240	do.....	Do.
31	3	160	do.....	Do.
32	3	40	do.....	Do.
34	3	160	do.....	Sanger, Cal.
35	3	160	do.....	Do.
36	3	160	do.....	Do.

Tulare County.

TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST.

No. of section.	No. on map.	Size of claim.	Name of owner.	Residence.
		<i>Acres.</i>		
1	3	640	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Sanger, Cal.
2	3	640	do.....	Do.
3	3	160	do.....	Do.
11	24	120	Granville Millsap.....	Sold for taxes, 1899.
12	24	40	do.....	Do.
12	25	80	Frankeman & Son.....	Sanger, Cal.
12	3	200	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Do.
12	26	160	Adaline Comstock.....	
13	26	400	do.....	
13	28	80	E. W. Jardine.....	
14	26	40	Adaline Comstock.....	
24	29	200	J. R. Rodgers.....	

TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST.

1	30	80	S. Plunkett.....	Visalia, Cal.
1	31	160	L. M. Atwill and Benj. Hicks.....	Do.
1	32	80	L. O. Cutler.....	Do.
1	33	40	A. J. Weston.....	Do.
2	33	120	do.....	Do.
2	34	80	Otto Sweet.....	Do.
2	3	80	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Sanger, Cal.
3	3	80	do.....	Do.
5	35	160	E. O. Miller.....	Visalia, Cal.
7	3	80	Sanger Lumber Co.....	Sanger, Cal.
8	36	40	Meyer E. Iseman.....	Visalia, Cal.
10	37	80	Peter McArthur.....	Detroit, Mich.
11	33	120	A. J. Weston.....	Visalia, Cal.
12	33	200	do.....	Do.
13	37	80	Peter McArthur.....	Detroit, Mich.
14	37	240	do.....	Do.
14	38	200	George D. Bliss.....	San Francisco, Cal.
15	38	280	do.....	Do.
15	39	40	P. Dougherty.....	Visalia, Cal.
15	37	120	Peter McArthur.....	Detroit, Mich.
15	40	120	Horace Whitaker.....	Orosi, Cal.
15	41	40	J. S. Boyd or —, —, Howard.....	Reedley, Cal.

Tulare County—Continued.

TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST—Continued.

No. of section.	No. on map.	Size of claim.	Name of owner.	Residence.
		<i>Acres.</i>		
15	42	40	R. Z. Dudley.....	Visalia, Cal.
16	40	160	Horace Whitaker.....	Orosi, Cal.
16	43	160	Tax deed, State of California.....	
16	44	320	William Coburn.....	Springville, Cal.
18	13	80	E. Jacob.....	Visalia, Cal.
19	13	160	.....do.....	Do.
21	40	80	Horace Whitaker.....	Orosi, Cal.
21	45	120	Mary I. Evans.....	
21	46	40	T. Rooney.....	
21	47	80	J. W. Guinn and E. L. Huffman.....	Visalia, Cal.
21	48	40	Estelle Ruggles.....	
22	40	40	Horace Whitaker.....	Orosi, Cal.
22	47	40	J. W. Guinn and E. L. Huffman.....	Visalia, Cal.
22	42	40	R. Z. Dudley.....	Do.
22	37	400	Peter McArthur.....	Detroit, Mich.
22	35	120	E. O. Miller.....	Visalia, Cal.
23	38	440	George D. Bliss.....	San Francisco, Cal.
23	37	40	Peter McArthur.....	Detroit, Mich.
23	49	80	Wm. Z. Garton.....	
24	37	400	Peter McArthur.....	Do.
24	43	80	Tax deed, State of California.....	
25	50	160	Claus Spreckels.....	San Francisco, Cal.
25	35	160	E. O. Miller.....	Visalia, Cal.
26	37	160	Peter McArthur.....	Detroit, Mich.
26	51	160	Estate of Thos. Wootton.....	Fresno, Cal.
26	52	160	C. W. Clark.....	Sacramento, Cal.
27	35	40	E. O. Miller.....	Visalia, Cal.
27	53	120	J. Goldman.....	Tulare, Cal.
27	54	80	A. R. Orr, one-half, and R. Chatten, one-half.....	Visalia, Cal.
27	42	40	R. Z. Dudley.....	Do.
27	55	40	R. Chatten.....	Do.
27	56	40	J. O. Osborn.....	Exeter, Cal.
28	53	280	J. Goldman.....	Tulare, Cal.
28	57	80	A. Lewis.....	
33	58	160	A. D. Halstead.....	Visalia, Cal.
33	37	320	Peter McArthur.....	Detroit, Mich.
34	37	40	.....do.....	Do.
35	52	160	C. W. Clark.....	Sacramento, Cal.
35	35	160	E. O. Miller.....	Visalia, Cal.
36	59	40	Floyd B. Wilson.....	

TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST.

3	37	120	Peter McArthur.....	Detroit, Mich.
4	37	480	.....do.....	Do.
4	60	160	James Halstead.....	Visalia, Cal.
5	37	80	Peter McArthur.....	Detroit, Mich.

TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST.

28	61	40	J. F. Jordan.....	Visalia, Cal.
29	62	120	N. W. Tharp.....	Do.
30	61	40	J. F. Jordan.....	Do.
33	61	80	.....do.....	Do.

TOWNSHIP 16 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST.

5	{ 61 62 63 }	280	J. F. Jordan, one-half.....	} Visalia, Cal.
			N. W. Tharp, one-quarter.....	
			H. D. Tharp, one-quarter.....	
6	{ 61 62 63 }	160	H. D. Tharp.....	} Do.
7	{ 63 64 }		40		Gus. Weinman.....

TOWNSHIP 16 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST.

20	65	40	J. L. Hamilton.....	Exeter, Cal.
21	65	40	.....do.....	Do.

Tulare County—Continued.

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST.

No. of section.	No. on map.	Size of claim.	Name of owner.	Residence.
		<i>Acres.</i>		
23	66	80	Ira Chrisman	Visalia, Cal.
25	67	40	Wm. T. Bell	
26	67	80	do	
26	68	40	Mary E. Southworth	
26	69	40	A. Hammer	Do.
26	70	160	James Fisher	Do.
26	71	160	C. F. Bahwell	Threerivers, Cal.
26	72	120	Lon Lewis	Visalia, Cal.
27	73	240	L. M. Howell	Do.
35	67	80	Wm. T. Bell	
35	35	160	E. O. Miller	Do.
36	72	320	Lon Lewis	Do.

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST.

10	75	80	James McFadzean	Threerivers, Cal.
11	75	80	do	Do.
11	76	40	J. H. Moore, one-fourth	Do.
	77		W. F. Dean, one-fourth	
	78		Maria Luce, one-fourth	
11	79	80	J. D. Mollinex, one-fourth	Visalia, Cal.
12	80	80	Mary M. Atwill	

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST.

18	81	200	John Cutler	Visalia, Cal.
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TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST.

2	82	240	J. M. Canty	Grayson, Cal.
2	83	40	N. P. Dillon	Milo, Cal.
3	82	280	J. M. Canty	Grayson, Cal.
3	83	360	N. P. Dillon	Milo, Cal.
4	83	120	do	Do.
9	83	40	do	Do.
10	83	160	do	Do.
10	84	80	J. F. Lindsay	Said to be same interest as N. P. Dillon.
11	83	40	N. P. Dillon	Milo, Cal.
23	85	80	F. J. Nash, one-half, and Alice A. Nash, one-half.	Salem, Mass.
	86			
24	87	80	J. J. Doyle	Porterville, Cal.
25	88	320	Louisa Greenwald	San Francisco, Cal.
25	89	80	Enterprise Lumber Co.	Springville, Cal.
25	90	80	Jesse Hoskins	Lindsay, Cal.
25	91	120	George E. Guerne in Enterprise Lumber Co.	Springville, Cal.
	89			
26	88	160	Louisa Greenwald	San Francisco, Cal.
26	92	40	A. M. Rexroat	Tipton, Cal.
26	93	40	E. T. Dibble	
26	86	200	Alice A. Nash one-half and L. Bertch one-half.	Salem, Mass.
	94			
26	95	160	Bank of Tulare	Tulare, Cal.
34	95	120	do	Do.
34	96	40	Achille Weil	San Francisco, Cal.
34	97	240	F. H. Smith	
34	98	40	H. F. Rose	
34	99	40	Ida G. Sharp	Munson, Cal.
35	100	160	James Redfield	
35	101	160	E. W. Haughton	Springville, Cal.
36	101	80	do	Do.
36	88	320	Louisa Greenwald	San Francisco, Cal.
36	102	80	James Parriman	
36	103	160	A. M. Coburn	Springville, Cal.

Tulare County—Continued.

TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST.

No. of section.	No. on map.	Size of claim.	Name of owner.	Residence.
		<i>Acres.</i>		
18	88	120	Louisa Greenwald	San Francisco, Cal.
19	88	200	.....do.....	Do.
19	104	160	C. M. Stone.....	Tulare, Cal.
19	105	160	Martha E. Taggart.....	Bakersfield, Cal.
19	106	40	Elizabeth J. Shirley.....	Council Bluffs, Iowa.
20	88	40	Louisa Greenwald.....	San Francisco, Cal.
28	88	40	.....do.....	Do.
29	88	320	.....do.....	Do.
30	88	200	.....do.....	Do.
30	106	80	Elizabeth J. Shirley.....	Council Bluffs, Iowa.
30	107	160	Bella Van Valkenburg.....	Hanford, Cal.
30	91	80	George E. Guerne, in Enterprise Lumber Co.	Springville, Cal.
31	91	80	.....do.....	Do.
31	108	80	E. T. Cosper.....	Hanford, Cal.
31	109	80	J. M. Talbot.....	Santa Rosa, Cal.
31	110	80	J. M. Bowles.....	Do.

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST.

1	88	520	Louisa Greenwald	San Francisco, Cal.
1	85	40	F. J. Nash.....	Salem, Mass.
2	101	160	E. W. Haughton.....	Springville, Cal.
2	88	160	Louisa Greenwald.....	San Francisco, Cal.
2	99	40	Ida G. Sharp.....	Munson, Cal.
3	99	80	.....do.....	Do.
10	103	80	A. M. Coburn.....	Springville, Cal.
11	103	40	.....do.....	Do.
12	88	80	Louisa Greenwald.....	San Francisco, Cal.

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST.

6	88	80	Louisa Greenwald	San Francisco, Cal.
9	111	40	Frank T. Bowers.....	E. O. Miller, Visalia, Cal.
16	112	640	Samuel Davis.....	agent.
35	113	280	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.
35	114	160	Nellie L. Marshall.....	
36	113	640	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 32 EAST.

28	88	320	Louisa Greenwald	San Francisco, Cal.
29	88	400	.....do.....	Do.
31	88	40	.....do.....	Do.
32	88	360	.....do.....	Do.
32	113	80	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.
33	113	320	.....do.....	Do.
33	88	160	Louisa Greenwald.....	San Francisco, Cal.
34	113	280	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST.

1	113	640	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.
2	113	240	.....do.....	Do.
6	113	160	.....do.....	Do.
7	113	480	.....do.....	Do.
7	115	120	James L. Miner.....	Poplar, Cal.
8	115	120	.....do.....	Do.
8	88	240	Louisa Greenwald.....	San Francisco, Cal.
8	113	40	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.
9	113	160	.....do.....	Do.
16	88	640	Louisa Greenwald.....	San Francisco, Cal.
17	88	400	.....do.....	Do.
17	113	240	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.
18	113	160	.....do.....	Do.

Tulare County—Continued.

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 32 EAST.

No. of section.	No. on map.	Size of claim.	Name of owner.	Residence.
		<i>Acres.</i>		
6	115	120	Cornelius A. Davidson	San Bernardino.
6	88	80	Louisa Greenwald	San Francisco, Cal.
6	113	240	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.
7	113	400	.....do.....	Do.
18	113	80	.....do.....	Do.

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST.

35	113	400	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.
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TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST.

1	113	640	Estate of John P. Fleitz.....	Detroit, Mich.
2	113	640	.....do.....	Do.
3	113	520	.....do.....	Do.
10	113	40	.....do.....	Do.
11	113	440	.....do.....	Do.
12	113	640	.....do.....	Do.
13	113	480	.....do.....	Do.

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 32 EAST.

6	113	40	Estate of John P. Fleitz	Detroit, Mich.
7	113	240	.....do.....	Do.
18	113	40	.....do.....	Do.

LUMBERING THE BIG TREES.

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 many of 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 the wood itself is scattered in useless splinters. (See Pls. IX, X.)

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 best shown by the photographs. (See Pls. IX, X, XI, XII, XIII.) The destruction caused by the fall of the 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 5 or 6 or even 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 such 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 Trees as well off as they were before it began.





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