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HOUSE BUILT OF SINGLE TREE.

Inquiry Made by President Taft Results in an Interesting Contest Among Lumbermen of the Far West.

The recent hewing of a yellow fir log at Buckley, measuring 60 inches square and 98 feet long, has aroused considerable comment, but the annals of the lumber industry of Washington contain even more remarkable incidents, writes a Seattle correspondent in the New York Tribune. When President Taft was in the Panama Canal Zone recently his attention was called to several huge spud sticks in the big dredges, and he asked where it was possible to obtain such timbers. The identical timbers were shipped from Bellingham, Wash., last summer. Each measured 36 inches by 40 inches and was over 90 feet long.

The recent challenge of Portland, Ore., for the biggest timbers sawed in the world has been answered from many parts of Washington. Portland mills sawed two sticks for Panama 36 inches square and 60 feet 10 inches long. Bellingham, Wash., came forward with a claim for a sawed spud stick for a dredge measuring 40 inches square and 92 feet long, and laid further claim to furnishing lumber 125 feet long.

The prize winner, according to local millmen, should be a log sent from here to San Francisco, which was too big—so big that no mill could saw it, the trimming having to be done by hand with axes. The log measured 34 inches by 54 inches and was 104 feet long when hewn into shape. The largest log ever cut in any mill in the State was 72 inches in diameter at the smallest end.

Near Elma, Wash., the remarkable feat of erecting a fourteen-room house from the lumber of a single yellow fir was recently accomplished. There were nearly 38,000 feet of lumber in the logs of the tree. Six logs 28 feet long, the largest one 7 feet in diameter at the smallest end, were made from the fir. The measurement of the stump of the tree inside the bark was exactly 9 feet. The trunk straight, and for over one hundred feet not a limb appeared, the total length of the tree being over three hundred feet.

Near Snoqualmie Falls a year ago a giant tree was blown across a deep canyon. The huge trunk of the former monarch of the forest forms a foot-bridge ten feet wide. The log has been levelled and teams are often driven across it by venture-some drivers. A monster cedar measuring 66 feet 3 inches around above the bulge of the root, was blown down a few weeks ago near South Bend. The cedar was 11 feet in diameter, 75 feet above the ground. At South Bend a great cedar is standing 18 feet in diameter. At Montezano is another cedar 14 feet 4 inches in diameter. On the Johns river there are groves of cedar trees that vary from 10 to 24 feet in diameter. Very few of them are hollow.

There is a cedar tree in Snohomish county owned by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, which is declared to be the largest tree on the continent, exceeding in girth by three inches the largest in the famous redwood forest of California. This cedar measures 104 feet 4 inches in circumference, and it is over 150 feet to the first limb, which is believed to be five feet in diameter.

On the west slope of the Cascade Mountains a giant red fir was recently blown across the tracks of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Traffic was blocked by the monster log, which measured eight feet in diameter. There was no saw for miles big enough to cut the timber, and as the railroad company could not wait the five days required to saw out a section from the log, dynamite was placed in deeply bored holes and the huge log blown into splinters. It was easier and cheaper to repair ten rods of roadbed than to saw through seven feet of solid fir wood.

The density of the timber of this State is unequalled in the world. In Clallam county, according to official measurement, the timbered area runs 26,000,000 feet to the square mile. The stand on small areas is even more dense. One acre recently cruised showed 300,000 feet of standing timber. A Pacific county mill cut

500,000 feet from a little less than two acres. A forty-acre tract in Clallam county contains 9,900,000 feet of standing timber. There are 8,500,000 feet of fir, 390,000 feet of spruce and 180,000 feet of hemlock. The quarter section of which this tract is a part contains 19,000,000 feet of fir, 2,790,000 of spruce and 700,000 of hemlock.

There are 35,000 square miles of timber standing in this State. This would make a plank road three inches thick and 500 feet wide twice around the world.—Philadelphia Record.

HOLD RECORD FOR AGE.

Quartet in a Michigan City Average Eighty-six Years Old.

Port Huron, Mich., May 18.—Such quartets as the one made up of the Leach brothers, of this city, are exceeding rare. Their combined ages total 344 years an average of eighty-six years, which is "going some," to use the vernacular.

Each one has a beard of snowy whiteness, which gives him a patriarchal appearance, and it is a happy sight to see the four of them walking together, each with his cane and wearing a smile that radiates good nature on all whom he meets.

In spite of their greatly advanced years, each one having served more than his allotted time, these brothers enjoy life to the fullest. Each is possessed of all his faculties, and, strangest of all, none of these brothers has been ill a day in his life. They are not active in their advanced years, but all live a retired life, and they enjoy their existence about as well as kids in knickerbockers.

They have pulled the wool over the eyes of Father Time, every one of the brothers can brag some on the weight question. Each one tips the scales at more than 200 pounds, and altogether they are about as husky a quartet for octogenarians as will be found in a search of the world over.—Ex.

STATE NEWS.

Ben Boykin, who in a drunken brawl at Neverson several weeks ago shot "Bug" Williams—Williams dying later in Rex Hospital at Raleigh—was sentenced to six months in jail by Judge Allen at Wilson Superior court last week.

Prof. L. C. Brogden, who has been superintendent of the Kinston graded school for several years, has been appointed by Supt. Joyner as Inspector of the Elementary Public Schools of the State. He will be under the direction of the State Department of Education but his salary will be paid by the Peabody Fund.

J. Hodge Krider, ex-sheriff of Rowan county, died suddenly in Salisbury Friday. He was 52 years old.

Rev. E. A. Yates, D. D., lecturer in the department of Biblical Literature at Trinity College died suddenly in Durham last Friday just after eating dinner. Dr. Yates was one of the oldest Methodist ministers in the State. He joined the Conference at Salisbury in 1860. He has filled several important pastorates and served as Presiding Elder in the Raleigh, Durham and Wilmington Districts. He has been a lecturer in Trinity College since 1900. He was well known in Smithfield where he has preached a number of times.

Andrew Carnegie has given \$1,000 toward the purchase of an organ for the First Baptist church of Salisbury. The conditions under which the gift was made, was that the church raise a thousand dollars. This has been done and the organ has been ordered.

Mrs. Kiss Now Miss Tooth.

New York, May 15.—Because her husband was too free with his kisses Mrs. Julia Kiss has been granted an interlocutory divorce from Mr. Kiss, and she has been given permission to resume her maiden name of Julia Tooth.

The wife said she was very happy with John Kiss till she found that he was spending too much time with Julia Shipkom. She also testified that Kiss was an expert in all sorts of kisses, from the ordinary smack to the soul kiss, but she felt that he should have been less generous with Julia Shipkom, especially when he had a Julia Tooth-some Kiss.—Exchange.

RING LOST TWENTY YEARS.

Former Sweetheart of Girl Prosecuted; Exonerated When Found.

Jasonville, Ind., May 15.—Twenty years ago Miss Mollie Lienhart prosecuted Elijah Fielding, her sweetheart, for stealing her ring, and he was sent to prison protesting his innocence.

He returned here and the two, both of whom have remained single, have not spoken until today. Early this morning the ring, for the theft of which Fielding served a prison sentence, was found near an old spring where Miss Lienhart had dropped it and she remembered then of having been at the spring the day she missed it.

As soon as the ring was found she went to Fielding and begged his forgiveness, and in answer to invitations from her all the neighbors gathered at her home tonight and with Fielding present testified to their pleasure over his exoneration.

ABOUT EX-PRESIDENTS.

Average Period of Life After Retirement is Twelve Years.

President Roosevelt retired from his exalted office while a comparatively young man, and doubtless looks forward to a longer lease of life than has fallen to the lot of a majority of retiring Presidents. John Adams, the second President, lived over a quarter of a century after laying down the cares of office, but the average period of the life of the Presidents after retirement is only twelve years and ten months. The list follows:

George Washington lived two years and nine months after retirement.

John Adams lived twenty-five years and three months.

Thomas Jefferson lived seventeen years and three months.

James Madison lived nineteen years and three months.

James Monroe lived six years and four months.

John Quincy Adams lived nineteen years and served in the House of Representatives.

Andrew Jackson lived eight years and three months.

Martin Van Buren lived twenty-one years and four months.

William Henry Harrison died precisely one month after his inauguration, April 4, 1841.

John Tyler lived seventeen years after his retirement.

James K. Polk lived three months.

Zachary Taylor died in office, sixteen months after his inauguration.

Millard Fillmore lived twenty-one years after his retirement.

Franklin Pierce lived twelve years and seven months.

James Buchanan lived six years and eleven months.

Abraham Lincoln died in office.

Andrew Johnson lived six years and four months after retirement, and served a portion of a term in the United States Senate.

Ulysses S. Grant lived eight years and four months after retirement.

Rutherford B. Hayes lived eleven years and eleven months.

James A. Garfield died four months after his inauguration.

Chester A. Arthur survived one year and eight months after retirement.

Grover Cleveland lived ten years and seven months.

Benjamin Harrison lived eight years.

William McKinley died in office.

Only two of Mr. Roosevelt's predecessors returned to public life, John Quincy Adams dying while a member of the House of Representatives, and Andrew Johnson passing away while United States Senator. Mr. Roosevelt may also return to Washington as a Senator, but whether he does or not, the people of the country, regardless of politics or religion, will wish him a lease of life far beyond the three score and ten allotted to mankind.—Salt Lake Herald.

"So you think that African expedition will exert a civilizing influence?" "Yes, I have been looking at the map and trying to pronounce the names of some of the towns. If there is anything that Africa needs, it's spelling reform."—Washington Star.

Sensible men show their sense by saying much in few words.—Franklin.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN BENSON.

The Herald's Correspondent Replies to an Article in Last Week's Journal

In the Smithfield Journal of last week appeared an article entitled "The Benson Election" in which it pretended to state the facts in regard to the government of the town of Benson previous to and since the Fusion gang were elected in 1907. Quoting from the Journal: "For a number of years previous to the municipal election of 1907 the affairs of that town had been in the hands of the Democrats." This is true. Now let us see how the affairs of our town were conducted with J. M. Britt as Mayor, Jas. H. Rose, J. F. Lee and Preston Woodall as Commissioners and Jno. W. Ryals, as Chief of Police. We find the town out of debt with plenty of funds in the treasury and at a regular meeting held Tuesday night, August 14, 1906, there was in the treasury a balance of \$719.85 and no debt. The commissioners being good business men and seeing this amount of cash in hand reduced the rate of taxation from 50 to 33 1-3 cents on the \$100.00 valuation of property and from \$1.50 to \$1.00 on the poll. This is the strongest proof of the righteous and economical administration of the officers of our town and the Democrats of Benson point with pride to their record here.

The Journal goes on to say "That the Republicans took control of the town two years ago and received from the retiring Democrats \$1.14 in cash and an indebtedness of about \$2,500. This statement in part is not true in as much as the debt of the town was only about \$2,000.00 and now let us see why this debt. In October 1906 our town being entirely without facilities for fighting fire our progressive board of Commissioners deeming it very necessary to provide the means for this purpose (our town having been twice swept by flames in about one year) purchased from the Howē Engine Co. at a price of \$2,300.00, of which \$450.00 was paid cash, one of the best engines for fighting fire in the State, leaving a balance of \$1850.00 against the town. The purchase of this engine necessitated the digging of several wells for the engine was no good without water, and for this purpose the Democratic board spent a reasonable amount, leaving the town about \$2,000.00 in debt in May 1907 when the Radicals took control.

Again we quote from the Journal "Realizing that it was absolutely necessary to institute some reform the Commissioners immediately cut their salaries in half as well as the fees of the treasurer and began to economize in various other ways." Let us look at the facts. The Democratic board hired J. W. Ryals to police the town, collect the taxes, keep up the bridges and street lamps for \$25.00 per month and he did the work well. The Fusion board paid J. W. Ryals \$32.00 per month and the Mayor informs your correspondent that the town had to pay other men to do most of the work on the streets, and the taxes are yet uncollected. The Democratic board paid W. D. Boon \$12 per year as clerk to the board. The Fusionists paid N. T. Ryals \$50.00 or an increase of \$38.00 on the salary of the town clerk. This looks like cutting salaries and economizing does it not?

Again we quote from the Journal: "The first year they materially reduced the indebtedness of the town." Let us see if the debt has been reduced. Immediately after the Republicans took charge they raised the rate of taxation from 33 1-3 to 50 cents on the \$100 valuation of property and from \$1.00 to \$1.50 on the poll (characteristic of Republicanism. Is this all they did? No. They levied a special tax of \$.62 on the \$100.00 worth of property and \$1.86 on the poll, and with all this amount of tax if their treasurer, J. R. Woodall is to be believed the debt has not been reduced a single dollar but is larger than when they gained control. We are unable to get at the exact amount of the indebtedness as their finance committee has refused to make a report, but the retiring clerk admits that the debt is not less than from \$1,500 to \$1,800. IT IS UP TO THEM TO SHOW WHAT

HAS BEEN DONE WITH THE PEOPLE'S MONEY. The debts of the town are not paid and the people have absolutely nothing to show for their money.

Again we quote "Had it not been for a number of improvements that were made the end of the two years would have found the town out of debt and a good sum of money in the treasury." The people of Benson would like to be permitted to see one improvement made by the Republican board. With the exception of digging three wells on the outskirts of town we see absolutely nothing that has been done. Our sidewalks and streets are in holes and gulleys, the bridges are worn out and some of them a menace to human life, the drain ditches are full of mud and the fifth stands in pools endangering the health of our people. If there is any man who doubts these facts let him come to Benson and see for himself.

Again we quote the Journal "That the extending the limits of the town and a large majority of those taken in were uncompromising Democrats is alone responsible for the change of the political complexion of the town. Let us look at the facts. By this extension 19 voters were taken in. 11 of whom were Democrats and 8 Republicans. The Democratic majority in the election was 13 for the Mayor and 30 for the Commissioner who had the largest majority. So the statement is untrue upon its face; as is seen in the result of the election. What was the cause of the Democratic victory? It was the righteous indignation of an insulted and outraged citizenship protesting against the incompetency and corruption of Republicanism.

REPORTER.

Benson, N. C., May 18, 1909.

GLASS ANNOUNCES DEATH.

Three Times It Cracked, and Each Time a Child Died.

Hospital attendants are not superstitious. This may be because they see death in its multiple forms, and therefore become calloused and skeptical. An incident at the City Hospital yesterday, however, will long be a subject for conjecture and discussion.

On the desk in the receiving ward a water glass, stainless and very heavy, is kept for the use of the employees. To guard against its breakage it is placed in a corner of the desk where nothing can strike it.

Yesterday afternoon, when there were no patients in the ward, a sudden click was heard. Archie Miller, an attendant, looked at the glass and noticed a crack about half an inch long in it, which had not been there before. Scarcely 10 minutes elapsed when the telegraph instrument announced the death of Louisa Young in the children's ward.

The coincidence might have been forgotten had not 20 minutes later the same click been heard on the desk, when Miller again looked at the glass and noticed a second crack a trifle longer than the first. Again there was a short interval of silence, when the ticker spoke once more telling of the death of Edith Williams, also in the children's ward. By this time the strange warning became a subject of comment in the ward.

A third time, however, the omen was repeated, the glass sprung another crack, and shortly after, the death of Joseph Manning, who lived at 424 West Third street, was announced. "Gee willikins!" shouted Miller, turning pale. "Say, I'd like to go across the street." And so he did.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

EFFECT OF TWO YEARS BITE.

Hydrophobia Developed—Victim Young Lady of Sixteen Years.

Winston-Salem, N. C., May 17.—Miss Maud Kimel, sixteen year old daughter of Daniel Kimel, a prosperous Forsyth farmer, was bitten two years ago by a rabid dog owned by her brother. Last Friday the girl began having fits and today the attending physician diagnosed it a case of hydrophobia. Miss Kimel snaps, snarls and bites at everything she passes and it requires two and three people to control her. Her death is expected within next few days.

THE LUMBER LOBBY IS RICH.

At Least \$100,000 Raised for Its Use—Assessments on Product—Various Mills in Association Called on for \$1 per Thousand Feet of Daily cut.

Washington, May 12.—It develops today that the lumber lobby, which has been operating with considerable energy during the present tariff-making session of Congress, has been supported most lavishly by the lumber manufacturers. An assessment was made on each sawmill in the various associations of \$1 for each 1,000 feet of daily cut. The lumber manufacturers of the States of Oregon and Washington belonging to one particular association were assessed \$28,000, but so far they have paid only \$12,000, and they are being vigorously pressed to pay the rest. Some of the advocates of free lumber here are declaring that the failure to pay the assessment is evidence that the real pressure for protection on lumber is not so much from the sawmill people as from the timber syndicates, who own most of the stumpage.

There is plenty of money, however, for the lobby. It is estimated that \$100,000 has been raised to maintain the special lobby here to try to keep the present rates of \$2 a thousand on rough lumber and the corresponding high rates on other grades. This does not include the expenses of special delegations sent here by lumber organizations in various States and the expenses of individual lumbermen who have come here for the purpose of influencing Congressmen from their own States. A number of lobbyists have been in and about the Capitol ever since last fall. Some weeks ago, while the bill was before the House, the lobbyists gave a series of expensive dinners at the Willard hotel, to which they invited members of Congress and others whom they thought would be influential.—Zach McGhee, in Columbia State.

IRON PUDDLERS' LUCK.

Says He Has Been Left \$30,000 for Saving a Girl's Life.

Pottestown, Pa., May 16.—Peter Renninger, of Reading, a puddler helper at the Glasgow Iron Company Mills, of this place, threw up his job yesterday, drew his pay, sold his personal belongings and started for New York, where he says he is to receive \$30,000 bequeathed to him by a woman for saving the life of her daughter in the Philippines in 1907.

Renninger first received a letter from the woman's attorney, but paid no attention to it. When a telegram reached him yesterday he told his fellow-workmen he would puddle iron no more, as he intended to enjoy his unexpected fortune.

The Expected Happened.

A northern drummer stayed in Atlanta a few days ago. He wanted a bottle of whisky, and he wanted it badly. Not being acquainted with saloon keepers, or, to put it as a policeman did when he heard this story, "possessing a vast ignorance of Georgia in general and Atlanta in particular," he sought a negro in the street, and telling him his wants, asked the man if he thought he could supply them. Now this negro was something of a financier and he gave the stranger a long talk on how difficult it was to get whisky in Georgia, winding up by saying "he reckoned as how he mought get de gemman a bottle, but it was mighty resky work."

Finally a bargain was struck. The negro was to get \$5 and the drummer a quart of whisky. The latter handed the darky a \$50 bill, telling him he could bring the change with the whisky. The negro told him to wait where he was and he would return in a few minutes with both. The expected—though to the drummer it was the unexpected—happened. The drummer waited and waited and then waited some more, but the negro didn't appear. If his patience had lasted, he would probably have been still waiting.

Finally he went to a police court and told his story there. "To think that this happened in Atlanta!" was the disgusted comment of a policeman who heard it.—New York Tribune.