

FOREST LONG UNDER WATER

Submerged Petrified Trees That Must Be Centuries Old—Removed as Menace to Navigation.

When the government ship canal that connects Puget sound with Lake Washington was opened, the waters of the lake were lowered 12 feet. While wire-dragging the lake, says a contributor, the United States coast and geologic survey discovered a submarine forest. The tops of the submerged trees were so close to the surface that they were a menace to navigation. Under-water logging operations to clear the lake were therefore started.

It is thought that the forest is prehistoric, a remnant of one that grew in the Lake Washington area in the days when it was dry land; or that great landslides in remote ages carried the trees into the lake.

The trees were without branches and stood vertical, or nearly so; they were semipetrified. The longest trunk removed was 121 feet 6 inches. The top, 10 inches thick, rose to within 4 feet of the surface of the lake. The butt was 5 feet 6 inches in diameter, and the roots, firmly embedded in the bottom of the lake, had a 20-foot spread. It was found 1,500 feet from the shore.

Off the south end of Mercer Island, in Lake Washington, nearly a hundred trees were destroyed. The cleanup gave a count of more than a hundred trunks during the first three months of 1920, off Manitou point. The largest trunk in that area stood in 121 feet of water, 1,100 feet from shore. The tree was 111 feet long, with a 5-inch top and a 3-foot butt.

Wherever possible, the trees were pulled out by the roots. Fastenings were made to the trunks by dragging the bight of a cable through the water at the required depth. When the bight touched the trunk, one end of the cable was passed through an eye at the other end, and the loop formed was run down to the trees. When the trees were hauled up, they were cut into 4-foot sections and thrown back into the lake. Since they were water-logged, they immediately sank.

Sometimes a trunk was caught that could not be uprooted. Such trees were blasted off at the top until vessels could pass safely above them. An idea of the extent of the submerged forest and the difficulty of removing the towering ancient trees may be determined by the time—three years and six months—that it has taken the engineering corps, working steadily, to make the lake safe for navigation.—Youth's Companion.

Wireless Mast on China's Wall.

A reinforced concrete wireless mast of large dimensions has been erected upon the Chinese wall for the use of the American navy. It is 164 feet in height. The original program called for the making of the mast by the precast method in two parts, and then erecting them by means of derricks, but an accident occurred while the erection was taking place and an American engineer and four coolies were killed. The method of forming in molds was then tried, and although it was much more expensive than the other, it was successfully carried out.

Soft for the Cook.

Dr. Edal Behram of Bombay, India, comes to the fore advocating a permanent menu of shredded cabbage, pink and white; beets, carrots, whole wheat and fruits, nuts and raisins, all to be eaten raw. Applications for permanent K. in the Indian army now in order. Line forms on the right.—Home Doctor.

MAIMS FATHER AND BROTHER

Girl With Pistol Halts Argument Over Furnace—Claims Self-Defense.

Burlington, Ia.—Enraged when her father and brothers engaged in an argument over a furnace about to be installed in their home at Dallas City, Ill., Miss Oralla Barr drew a pistol. She shot her father, George Barr, in the neck, and her brother, Robert Barr, in the chin. Both men have been brought to a hospital in Burlington and Miss Barr is held in the town jail at Dallas City.

Hospital authorities say both men will probably recover.

A special dispatch says that Miss Barr declares that she fired in self-defense, charging that her father attempted to choke her. While the furnace dispute was the immediate cause of the shooting, a disagreement over the estate left by her mother is the real cause, she says.

FIXES WORKING AGE AT 16

Bureau Urges Physical Examination for All Children Entering Industry.

Washington.—Recommendation that a minimum age of sixteen years be set for the entrance of children into industry is made in a report by the permanent committee on standards of physical fitness for children entering employment.

The committee conducted an investigation under the children's bureau of the department of labor, headed by Dr. George P. Barth of the Milwaukee city health department.

No child, according to the recommendations, should be permitted to work until he has been declared physically fit for the particular occupation he is about to take up. Periodical examinations are considered necessary.

Killed Rattlesnake Family.

Poncopog, Mass.—A family of 13 small rattlers and their mother was slain by a visitor to the Blue Hills reservation near here. The mother snake fought for her young to the last. After she was killed it was an easy matter to dispose of the little ones. This is considered an unusually large rattlesnake family.

Dream Showed Husband as Father.

Baltimore.—Seeking annulment of her marriage to William M. Jones, his wife, Anna Belle Jones of Baltimore, Md., asserted that in a dream it was revealed to her that he was her father. Prior to her dream, she said, she had supposed her husband—the father of her two children—was her stepfather.

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