

Lumber Co. Acquires 12,000 Acres South of Stanislaus River in Tuolumne

STOCKTON, Sept. 20.—Sale of the south grove of the Calaveras big trees by Robert Whiteside to the Pickering Lumber Company was confirmed today by J. C. Rassenfoss, manager of the Pickering Lumber Company in Sonora. The sale involves between 11,000 and 12,000 acres of the finest virgin stand of sequoia gigantea in America. The property was held for over twenty-five years by Whiteside and on numerous occasions was sought by the Government and by groups of Californians for public park purposes.

Rassenfoss declined to give out any figures on the big transaction and stated he was not yet in a position to state the intentions of his company with respect to the south grove. He indicated, however, that his company holds vast properties adjoining the south grove and that the company has for some time past been making preparations for logging in this region.

SITUATION CALLED CRISIS

G. E. Reynolds, chairman of the out-of-door committee of the Stockton Chamber of Commerce, who has for several years co-operated with D. Fricot, president of the Calaveras Chamber of Commerce and others in efforts to convert the Big Trees into a State or national park, commented today that "It looks as if the crisis has arrived. The sale may be good news and it may be bad news, depending on the attitude the Pickering interests take toward the movement for the conservation of the magnificent sequoias. There are 1380 specimens of sequoia gigantea, the largest and oldest of the earth's living things, in the South Grove area. Now the property has come into possession of a company whose business is the cutting of timber.

PRESERVATION FAVORED

"Anticipating such a deal, the local chamber communicated with W. R. Pickering to determine his attitude toward preservation of the trees. He expressed the sentiment that they should be saved for posterity, but the Pickering company has logged large areas in Tuolumne county and must reach out for new timber to keep its plants operating."

That the Stockton and Calaveras chambers will at once launch another program for the public ownership of the South Grove was indicated by Reynolds. It is understood that Whiteside will give the local men another option to the North Grove. Reynolds feels, however, that steps should be taken at the same time to have at least 4000 acres of the 12,000 acres in the South Grove, just purchased, set aside for park purposes.

MISSION SOCIETY ELECTS

VALLEJO, Sept. 20.—The new officers of the Methodist Foreign Missionary Society are: President, Mrs. Caroline Nagel; vice-president, Mrs. M. H. Cilley; secretary, Mrs. Ivy Hines; treasurer, Mrs. C. N. Hoover.

The State through the medium of four physicians, developed that death was caused by poison. Evidence was also produced to show that the defendant was the only person to administer medicine to him during the illness. An attorney testified to witnessing Crumroy's signature on the request for the designation of the defendant as life insurance beneficiary.

the Interior is again offering to dispose of surplus buffalo from the great Yellowstone Park herd. This herd, developed from a small nucleus placed in the park several years ago, increased so rapidly that Congress granted permission to dispose of the surplus. The Yellowstone Park herd of buffalo now numbers 850.

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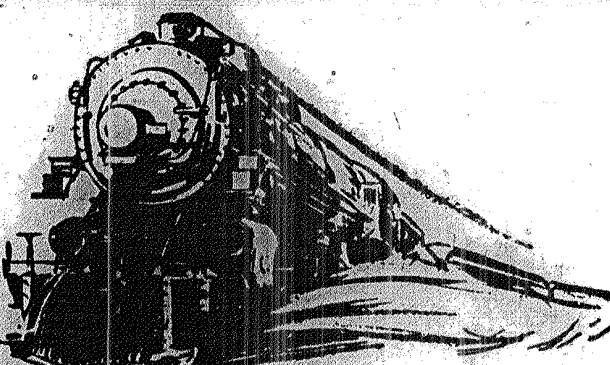
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