

# MONARCH OF FOREST.

### Biggest Tree in the World Discovered by a Woman.

Under Its Lowest Limb, Which Itself Is the Size of a Mighty Oak, a Twenty-Story Skyscraper Might Easily Stand.

The biggest tree in the world has just been found by a woman. The tree has been named Methusalem, though its age is probably much greater than was that of the oldest man of history. Its discoverer is Mrs. Mattie Duncan, a modern Diana of the wonderful California forests. Methusalem is a sequoia, or "big tree," about 480 feet high, 128 feet 3 inches in circumference a foot from the ground and 99 feet 7 inches at seven feet from the ground. At one place it is nearly 50 feet in diameter. The largest tree known heretofore is 108 feet in circumference one foot from the ground and 93 feet around at six feet from the ground. The monster was discovered last August near the Gen. Grant national park, and was measured by John Muir, the noted naturalist. It was then considered a world marvel, and even Californians doubted if it could be beaten.

But Mrs. Duncan's find, made 200 miles further south, far exceeds any other. It is a beautiful tree, 240 feet to the first limb, finely proportioned, straight and clean-barked from top to bottom.

Under its lowest limb, which itself is the size of the largest eastern oak, a 20-story skyscraper might stand. Stood beside the Great Pyramid, the tree would wave 30 feet above its top.

The discovery of Methusalem was a remarkable incident, especially as it was made by a pretty little woman, whose courage and marksmanship have made her one of the best known huntresses in California.

Mrs. Duncan, says the New York World, was chasing a cinnamon bear over a spur of Mount Moses, 50 miles south of the Sequoia national park. She was alone, and the country was an exceedingly rough one, but she did not mind that. It was a hard and dangerous climb to follow the bear, but she stuck to it for miles, sometimes crawling on hands and knees, sometimes letting herself down over steep precipices and again climbing almost hand over hand.

In this way the enthusiastic bear hunter finally found herself in wilds that appeared never to have been entered by man. In a heavy forest growth many miles from any human habitation she found Methusalem, and the bear was forgotten.

A few days later Mrs. Duncan returned to her find accompanied by her husband and her brother, S. C. Edwards, an artist living at Fillmore, and a party of lumbermen. The big sequoia was christened, measured and photographed. After a brief little christening ceremony, a hymn was sung and a card giving the name and date of the discovery was tacked to the trunk.

The region is known as the Tule River basin, and is thickly timbered with the same rare species as that here described—Sequoia gigantea. This and the Sequoia sempervirens are the only survivors of a genus that is known to have flourished ages ago in the interior of North America, the arctic circle and Asia and Europe. To-day all that remain are confined to the central portion of the Golden state.

In the Tule river country several large sawmills are converting the mammoth logs into building material and the industry is thriving. An expert has figured from its dimensions that Methusalem contains 730,000 feet of inch lumber.

Around Dillonwood, on the north fork of the Tule, are some remarkable trees. One is the Wishbone, a living tree, through whose trunk runs a wagon road. Another one is the "Hercules," 30 feet in diameter, which is used as a residence and store. It has two large rooms on the ground.

The Eight Sisters, a handsome group of eight trees, stand in a perfect row and average 14 feet in diameter and 250 feet in height. Among the logs that litter the ground is one burned out at a remote time. It is 93 feet long and the hollow throughout is 23 feet in diameter. In it is room for a large camping party in summer, and in winter it has sheltered dozens of men and horses at a time.

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# EDISON AS A READER.

Rarely Takes Up a Book Unless It Is Recommended by His Wife or Some Friend.

The play of Thomas A. Edison's mind is as wonderful as the characteristic way in which he does his reading. Outside of his technical reading he is said never to read a book unless it is spoken of to him by his wife or some friend. Then he sits down and reads until he has finished it. One evening he happened to be unusually engrossed with some "problem," and was nervously pacing up and down his library like a caged lion.

To divert his thoughts, says the New York Times, his wife came in and picked up the first book she saw. It



THOMAS A. EDISON. (Famous Inventor Who Is Said to Sleep Less Than Any Other Man.)

happened to be "The Count of Monte Cristo."

"Have you ever read this story?" said Mrs. Edison to her husband. He stopped and looked at the title. "No, I never have. Is it good?"

Mrs. Edison assured him that it was. "All right. I guess I'll read it now," and within two minutes the "problem," whatever it was, had been forgotten, and he was absorbed in Dumas' great story. As he finished the book he noticed the light of day peeping in, and on looking at his watch found it was five o'clock in the morning.

No sooner had he laid down the book than the forgotten "problem" jumped into his mind, and, putting on his hat, he went to his laboratory and worked unceasingly, without food or sleep, for 36 hours.

# GEN. NORD ELECTED.

New President of Hayti Is 85 Years of Age, But as Watchful as a Young Kid.

No independent country in the world has had more revolutions than the little negro republic of Hayti, which, in this respect, excels even its neighbor, San Domingo, or Venezuela, the political rough horse of South America. A presidential election was recently held in Hayti. No one can tell with any degree of accuracy which of the candidates was really elected, but Gen. Nord is recognized as de facto president, because he has just been allowed to take the presidential oath of office. Gen. Nord has been a prominent figure in the maelstrom of Haytian politics for several years. He comes from the



THE VENERABLE GEN. NORD. (New President of Hayti Has Passed His Eighty-fifth Birthday.)

northern part of the country, near Cape Haytien, and is about 85 years old. The dream of this old negro's life has been to be president of the black republic, and in this ambition he has been relentlessly spurred on by his wife, who had declared that she would be the mistress of the executive mansion, if even for only a few months or days, before she died, a determination in which she has at last succeeded.

**Balloons for Consumptives.** That there is benefit to be derived from the rarefied air, as well as in the climatic change, has prompted Dr. Naugier, of Paris, to suggest, in a recent paper before the Academie de Medicine, the possibilities of hospital balloons. He asserted that a two hours' trip in the air causes an increase of the red corpuscles, an improvement that continues for several days after an ascent. Two such ascents in the course of six or seven weeks he considers as more beneficial to an anaemic than a sojourn of three months in the mountains.

**Here's a Wise Distinction.** Chinese doctors are very particular about the distinction between physicians and surgeons. A Chinese gentleman was struck by an arrow, which remained fast in his body. A surgeon was sent for and, it is said, broke off the protruding bit of the arrow, leaving the point imbedded. He refused to extract it, because the case was clearly one for a physician, the arrow being inside the body.

# NORTH DAKOTA NEWS.

**Guilty of Murder.** Guilty of murder in the first degree with recommendation of extreme penalty, was the verdict of the jury at Fargo in the case of John Rooney. Rooney was unaffected by the verdict and seemed to be the least concerned man in the court room. He is 23 years old, bright looking and rather handsome.

Harold Sweet, the victim, and two brothers of White Earth, Minn., were camped outside the city limits the night of Aug. 26, en route to Courtney, to work in the harvest fields. Rooney and two chums endeavored to hold the three boys up, but there was considerable resistance, and the other two men fled, leaving Rooney struggling with Harold Sweet, who fell dead as a revolver was fired. Rooney was seized by the other two Sweet boys and held till the officers arrived. The prisoner always asserted that one of his pals fired the shot to release him from Sweet's hold.

The defense submitted no evidence at the trial, but the attorney made a strong argument. Rooney is supposed to have a criminal record in Chicago, and is said to have prominent relatives, who may assist him to appeal.

**New Judicial District.** The members of the Ward, McHenry and Pierce county bar assembled at Minot pursuant to a call for the purpose of preparing a bill to be presented to the legislature to organize a new judicial district, to be known as the eighth judicial district, and adopted resolutions to that end without one dissenting vote. The convention adopted an amended bill prepared by a committee appointed at a previous meeting and sent it with a committee to Bismarck to be presented to the legislature and to urge its passage before the judiciary committee.

By the terms of the proposed bill Bottinann, Pierce, McHenry, Ward and Williams counties will be included in the new district. Thirty-nine members of the bar were present or represented by proxy. A. M. Christianson of Towner took the bill to Bismarck and with Alfred Blaisdell and C. Aurland of Minot will appear before the legislature.

**The New Library.** A new public library building, the gift of Andrew Carnegie, was formally opened to the public at Fargo. The event was celebrated by a grand public reception. The cost of building and equipment is \$20,000. It is erected on a site donated by the city at cost of \$3,500. Its exterior is very attractive. The interior is practically constructed as well as being very elegant. The G. A. R. veterans have post quarters in the building. They have presented the library board with a handsome flag as a token of appreciation.

**Miners Organize.** The organization of the lignite miners in this state is progressing quietly but effectually. The miners are starting with an 8-hour day and will receive about 35 cents a ton. It is estimated that the average miner will get from \$2.50 to \$3 a day of eight hours. As the union gets more firmly established the organizers assert there will be more outside and experienced miners attracted to this section and it is predicted that the output of the mines will be greatly increased with experienced men.

**That Gold Nugget.** Several parties who have examined the gold nugget reported to have been found by workmen in digging a well at Eldridge on the H. Cornwall farm, pronounced it one of the finest specimens of the kind ever seen. It is very large and resembles a mass of solid gold. The United States land laws about mineral claims have been diligently inquired into ever since the discovery, and there is said to be considerable excitement in the neighborhood.

**Fire at Rolla.** Fire at Rolla destroyed a building and its contents, belonging to Douglas Robertson, a general merchant. The loss is \$21,000; insurance, \$6,500. The building, stock and accounts are all gone.

A small building at the rear of the store was destroyed, but its contents were saved. Mr. Robertson also loses nearly all his household goods and effects. The cause of the fire is unknown, but the blaze is supposed to have been started by burglars.

**Brief Notes.** The first decision to be given by Judge Cochran of the supreme court was one reversing Judge Gasplend in a replevin case.

Burglars entered the Great Northern station at Penn. The amount stolen is not reported.

While attempting to stop a row in Courtney, Sam Atcheson was stabbed in the back near the spinal cord by Thos. Crawford, who used a pocket knife to do the job.

L. B. Hanson, of Sheldon, had a coal fire that was not burning to suit him, and he started to hurry it by pouring kerosene on it from a three gallon can. The stuff exploded and the burning oil covered the unfortunate man, who was severely injured before the fire could be extinguished.

Dwight Buckingham and Guy R. Vowel will represent Fargo college at the inter-collegiate oratorical contest which will be held at Wahpeton on April 12.

Cass county old settlers have organized a county association which will act in conjunction with the general association of the valley.

Mrs. E. H. Sherman of Waish county has after a long struggle received a duplicate pension check to replace one lost some time ago.

The Minto Journal rejoices over the arrival of four tons of hard coal at that town.

Davenport has organized a creamery association.

The people of Devils Lake and vicinity are very much interested in the rebuilding of the Pelican Point bridge, and the improvement of the grade leading to it. This will give access to a rich territory on the other side of the lake, which will soon be opened to settlement.

# NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE.

The Daily Transactions of the Legislature at Bismarck. A Short Summary of the Regular Session.

Bismarck, N. D., Jan. 27.—The first primary election bill of the session was presented in the senate yesterday by Sharpe and passed. It provides only for the election of candidates for county and large city offices. Advocates of primary elections want state and judiciary offices included, and another bill may be presented in the house embodying those additional offices.

An anti-crozier freetracker bill was presented by Senator Main. Other bills presented in the senate were to permit the organization of unorganized counties west of the Missouri river and regulating the payment of expenses of local boards of health.

The house put in more of the afternoon in the discussion of bills in committee of the whole, and passed the Ryan bill, prescribing methods of examination of witnesses. A bill was presented raising the age of consent, at the request of the state C. T. U.

A petition for the commutation of the sentence of Jacob Bassanella from death to imprisonment was presented by the governor. Chief Justice Young of the State Board of Pardons is out of the state, and the bill is expected to make four members of the board a quorum, so that the matter can be acted upon without the necessity of calling the chief justice back from his vacation. Bassanella is to be hanged at Washburn Feb. 20.

Bismarck, N. D., Jan. 28.—Bills were presented in both houses covering a large number of subjects. Davis presented a sweeping primary election measure to the house, calling for primary nominations for all officers. Motion of Richard presented a local option amendment to the constitution. Other bills presented were for the issue of \$400,000 bonds for state schools, dividing the state into four game warden districts and providing places for the same, and a bill to amend the law as now regulating salaries of county superintendents; making an appropriation of \$20,000 for state scoring; bond; making bonds of county treasurers either personal or fidelity at option of county commissioners; providing annual appropriation of \$10,000 for the state board of health; amending drainage law, and fixing time limit for loading of cars.

The house passed the bill requiring all insurance solicitors to have certificates and license from the insurance commissioner, and for members of the State Board of Pardons a quorum for the transactions of business. In the senate a measure called for a statement of expenditures of the \$80,000 appropriation for state and high schools during the last two years, claiming that expenses of advertising law had diverted some of the funds from the aid of schools.

A bill to limit the tenure of county officers to two terms was killed in the house. The Torrens land title law was introduced in the house by Ryan, of Grand Forks.

Two insurance bills were presented, one prohibiting foreign mutual hail companies from doing business in the state and voiding all contracts, and another requiring a deposit of \$50,000 by mutual hail companies doing business in the state with the treasurer.

Bismarck, N. D., Jan. 29.—Twenty-three bills went in yesterday from the two houses of the legislature. In the house bills were presented to prevent the desertion of soldiers from the army, to provide an appropriation for fire-proof furniture at the capitol, prohibiting barbers from working on the streets, and providing a wolf bounty of \$3, providing for beginning of county auditors' terms April 1 instead of March 1, creating a new veterinarian district of Bismarck, Eddy and Foster counties.

In the senate bills were presented repealing the law creating a state board to prevent cruelty to animals and repealing the law providing for a state reward for the arrest and conviction of horse thieves, changing the boundaries of the Fifth and Sixth legislative districts, making it a misdemeanor to travel about with guns and dogs before the hunting season, and the senate committee recommended bills providing for the publication of educational reports, creating a board of trustees for the feeble-minded institute at Grafton, creating a new Eighth judicial district, passing a bill for the purpose of providing for \$66,000 bonds for the state debt school.

The house sent Lamours' a bill making Billy Budget of Grand Forks, a life trustee of the state university, to the attorney general to inquire as to its constitutionality. It also passed another local option amendment to the constitution in the senate similar to the one introduced yesterday by Movius.

Bismarck, N. D., Jan. 30.—The house yesterday returned to the appropriation committee a resolution presented by Cassell, of Steele county, to have published in the Journal a complete list of house employees, with their salary and other particulars. The resolution was referred to the committee on appropriation.

The senate passed the Regan bill for repeal of the law providing for contract engrossment and enrollment of bills by 2 votes more than a constitutional majority. Little, of Burleigh, opposed the repeal of the law on the ground that it was in the interest of economy and should be given a fair test before repeal bill be passed.

Bills introduced today were those providing for legalizing all tax levies in the state since 1899; providing bonds of \$135,000 for the State Agricultural College and appropriation of \$5,000 for experiment station work and location of station at Dickinson; providing that no tax shall be set aside because of technical irregularities in assessment; prohibiting township officers from being interested in contracts; repealing the law limiting county treasurers and sheriffs to two terms of office; directing railroad companies to reimburse farmers for grain and stock furnished and providing for creation of creamery corporations.

The senate passed a bill providing for publication of proceedings of a board of national association. The house passed bills correcting boundary of Ward and Williams counties; providing for reassessment of improvement taxes in cities, and correcting conflict in laws as to time for levying city taxes.

Bismarck, N. D., Jan. 31.—Brief sessions in both houses were held yesterday afternoon. The court room was taken to Tuesday afternoon.

Little, in the senate, introduced a bill repealing the law relating to practice of law in other states before being admitted here, and another fixes the course of law study at three years instead of two.

Taylor's bill prohibits free distribution of drug and medicine samples. Cassell's bill provides for appointment of a board of managers for the Grafton institute for feeble-minded, was passed in the senate. Another measure in the house provides for compensation of assessors in unorganized counties at \$3 per day.

Another bill providing for organization of district high schools, or consolidation, was passed.

Bacon's bill, providing that a voter moving from one precinct to another in the same county shall have a vote in the old one until he gains one in the new precinct, was also passed.

Governor White, in a message to the house, estimated the cost of the maintenance of the capitol and grounds and the governor's residence at \$36,000 for a biennial period, which was sent to the appropriation committee.

The senate bill providing for an issue of \$66,000 bonds for the Devils Lake school for the deaf and dumb passed the house. Another measure in the house fixes the legal rate of interest at 7 per cent. The house committee killed the bill requiring all passenger trains to stop at county seats.

# THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

For the Week Ending Jan. 31. Municipal coal yards have been opened at seven places in Chicago.

The Kansas legislature passed a bill authorizing the use of voting machines in the state.

The business portion and a number of residences of Buck Creek, Ind., were burned.

The president has renominated George E. Roberts, of Iowa, as director of the mint.

John I. Fidler, proprietor of the Forest hotel at Marionville, Pa., killed his wife and himself.

Eight larders and one constable were killed in the encounter at Ormoc, in the Philippines.

Former United States Senator John B. Allen died at Seattle, Wash. He was a veteran of the civil war.

The Wyoming legislature has adopted a memorial to congress favoring the omnibus statehood bill.

Levi Ankeny, millionaire banker of Walla Walla, has been elected United States senator from Washington.

Ex-Gov. Charles Roberts Ingersoll, aged 82 years, died at his home in New Haven, Conn., from general debility.

Weekly trade reviews report continued prosperity in trade and industry and some lessening of coal shortage.

Mrs. Eliza C. Hendricks, widow of the former vice president, gave \$25,000 for a memorial library at Hanover college.

Printing unions in conference at Indianapolis reached an agreement for harmonious action in labor and other matters.

Ariens McClure, 92 years old, builder of the first courthouse in Laporte county, was found dead in bed at Laporte, Ind.

A resolution introduced in the Kansas legislature amends the state election laws so as to exclude all negroes from voting.

Exercises in memory of the late Thomas B. Reed were held in joint convention of both branches of the Maine legislature.

Fears are entertained in North China that Yung Lu, the real ruler of the empire, is plotting another outbreak against foreigners.

Charles Ward, one of the famous Ward brothers' racing crew, world's champion for four-oared races, died at Rockaway, L. I.

Justice Parker, of New York, will tour the south in furtherance of his candidacy for the democratic presidential nomination.

One hundred and twenty-one indictments have been returned by the grand jury against owners of slot machines in Chicago.

Yard conductors and yard brakemen over the entire Erie railway system have been granted an average increase in wages of 11 per cent.

Lucille Colbert, a Bear Creek (Wis.) milliner, was arrested on the charge of setting fire to her shop and burning up nearly the entire town.

While en route to a funeral Benjamin Gillen and Thomas Crisman were run down and killed by a train at a crossing at Darlington, Ind.

William Garland, nephew of a former mayor of Springfield, Ill., fatally shot Mrs. F. B. Neal, of Warrensburg, Mo., and killed himself at Clifton, Ariz.

The Niagara Falls electric power plant was struck by lightning, and one transformer exploded, stopping Buffalo street cars and many factories.

Robert Planquette, the famous pianist and composer of "The Chimes of Normandy" and other well-known operettas, is dead at Paris, aged 53 years.

At the Episcopal convention in San Francisco a proposition to change the name of Protestant Episcopal to Catholic Church of America was voted down.

A volunteer force organized to disperse the larders in the province of Zambales, in the Philippines, was surrounded and defeated, three Americans being killed.

The administration will propose to congress a scheme for an international monetary conference to adjust the ratio of gold and silver currency in the orient and other silver countries.

# THE MARKETS.

New York, Jan. 31.

LIVE STOCK—Steers.....	\$15 @ 15.25
Hogs.....	7.00 @ 7.10
Sheep.....	2.00 @ 2.10
WHEAT—May.....	2.20 @ 2.30
July.....	2.15 @ 2.25
RYE—May.....	50 @ 55
CORN—May.....	42 @ 44
OATS—Track White.....	18 @ 20
BUTTER.....	23 1/2 @ 24 1/2
EGGS.....	13 @ 14

# CHICAGO.

CATTLE—Prime Beef.....	\$6.00 @ 6.40
Texas Steers.....	4.00 @ 4.40
Medium Beef Steers.....	4.20 @ 4.65
Common to Rough.....	3.00 @ 3.75
Bulls.....	4.25 @ 4.50
HOGS—Light.....	6.50 @ 6.80
Heavy Mixed.....	6.00 @ 6.90
SHEEP.....	3.00 @ 3.50
BUTTER—Creamery.....	16 @ 18
Dairy.....	19 @ 20 1/2
EGGS.....	18 @ 20
POTATOES (per bush).....	40 @ 47
MESS PORK—May.....	16.25 @ 16.55
LARD—May.....	9.25 @ 9.75
RIBS—May.....	9.00 @ 9.75
GRAIN—Wheat, May.....	75 @ 80
Corn, May.....	44 @ 44 1/2
Oats, No. 2.....	32 1/2 @ 33 1/2
Barley, Choice.....	56 @ 58
Rye, May Delivery.....	52 @ 52 1/2

# MILWAUKEE.

GRAIN—Wheat, May.....	73 1/2 @ 75 1/2
Corn, May.....	44 @ 45 1/2
Oats, Standard.....	33 1/2 @ 35 1/2
Rye, No. 1.....	51 @ 52

# KANSAS CITY.

GRAIN—Wheat, May.....	68 1/2 @ 68 3/4
Corn, May.....	38 1/2 @ 39 1/2
Oats, No. 2 White.....	36 @ 36 1/2
Rye, No. 2.....	45 @ 45 1/2

# ST. LOUIS.

CATTLE—Beef Steers.....	\$4.25 @ 5.00
Texas Steers.....	2.00 @ 4.45
HOGS—Packers.....	6.65 @ 6.90
Butchers.....	6.75 @ 7.00
SHEEP—Natives.....	2.90 @ 3.00

# OMAHA.

CATTLE—Native Steers.....	\$2.30 @ 5.00
Cows and Heifers.....	2.20 @ 4.00
Stockers and Feeders.....	2.75 @ 4.50
HOGS—Heavy.....	6.70 @ 6.85
SHEEP—Wethers.....	4.25 @ 5.00

# HOODOOS OF NOTABLE MEN.

Belief in Tokens of Ill Omen Is Not Confined to the Lowly and Ignorant.

Few people who have not a little grain of superstition in their make-up and the average man will try to get rid of any article, however valuable it may be, which he becomes convinced is a hoodoo to him. Such an article is the "violin of death" which now lies buried on Diamond hill, near Honolulu, says the New York Press. This violin, which had been an ordinary musical instrument before, suddenly developed fatal attributes, and within a space of six months two persons who owned it successively committed suicide and a third person mysteriously disappeared and was never found. The violin then came into the possession of George H. Scott, a sergeant in the Sixty-ninth battery coast artillery. The violin had by this time become well known as a hoodoo and Scott after awhile became afraid of the malign influence and buried it at Diamond hill. But the hoodoo still worked, for not long after Scott killed himself.

The story of the Indian idol with a bad reputation for causing disaster which was presented to President Carnot of France shortly before he was assassinated is well known, but the story of that idol is no more wonderful than that of one owned by a resident of Hokiangi, New Zealand. It was presented to him by a Maori chief and he has vainly tried to get rid of it, believing that it brings disaster upon him. Once he threw it under the wheels of a railroad train and in running to get out of the way fell and broke two fingers. He was arrested for trying to wreck the train, while the image came off unharmed. Once he threw it into the sea and it was fished out by a sailor, who returned it to him, and in his rage in not getting a reward beat him until he was nearly dead. The idol is about two feet high and is composed of rosewood and ebony. The owner proposes to burn it as the only way of making an end. If all that the New Zealander tells about his hoodoo idol is true the image is a near relative of the one written about by Ansty in his "Fallen Idol."

Napoleon the Great had two rings which he believed brought him good luck and which he constantly wore. These rings were inherited by Napoleon III. and were as constantly worn by him. When Napoleon III. died and was buried it was proposed to take the rings from his fingers and give them to the prince imperial. But the prince would not have them, although the old retainers of the family prophesied all sorts of dire things from his refusal. When the unfortunate young man was killed in Zululand those who believed in the prophecy of the rings said: "I told you so."

The list of celebrated mascots is a long one. Hoodoos of distinction are, fortunately, less frequently heard about, though nearly everybody has at some time in his life possessed some article which he believed brought him ill luck.

While en route to a funeral Benjamin Gillen and Thomas Crisman were run down and killed by a train at a crossing at Darlington, Ind.

William Garland, nephew of a former mayor of Springfield, Ill., fatally shot Mrs. F. B. Neal, of Warrensburg, Mo., and killed himself at Clifton, Ariz.