

REPORT

OF THE

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS,

IN THE

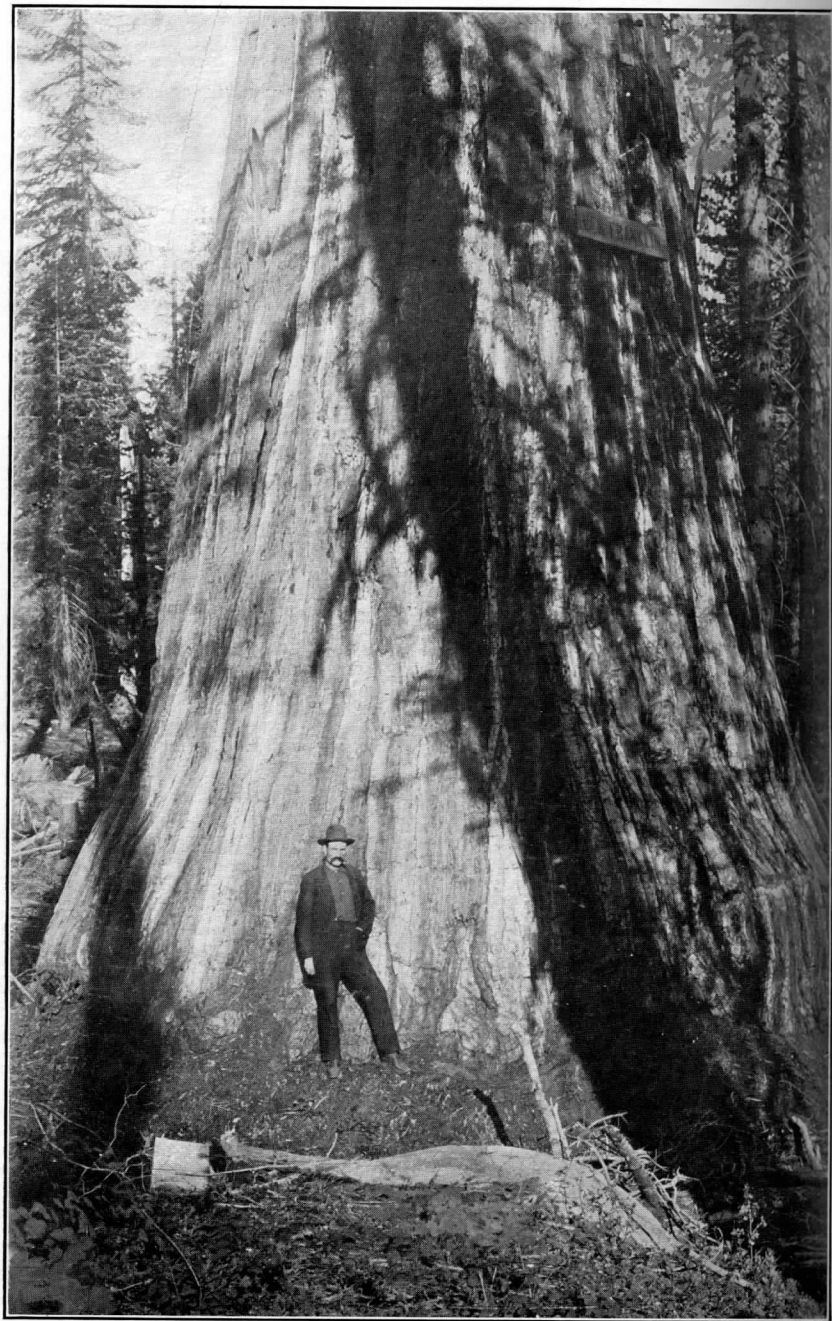
STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

1902.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1902.



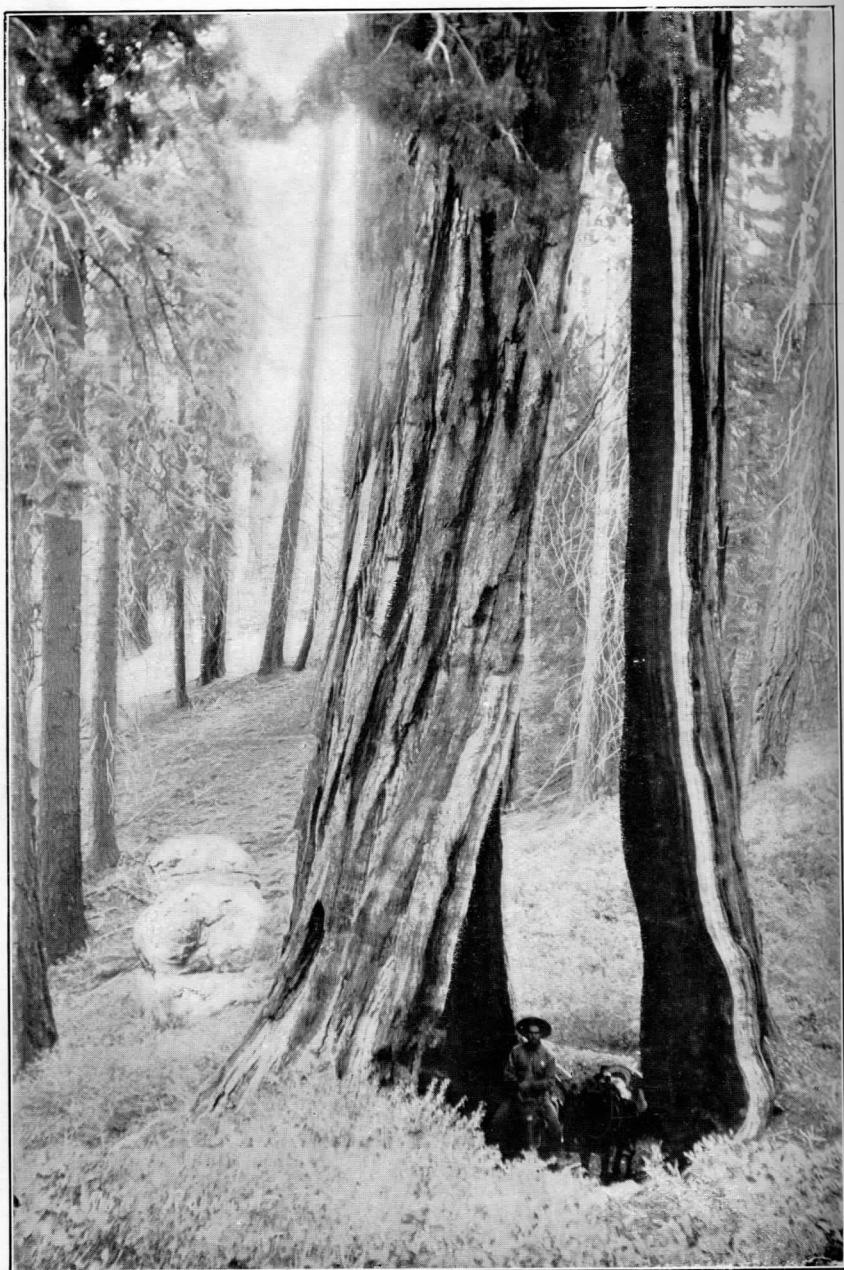
BEN. FRANKLIN, GENERAL GRANT PARK, A PERFECT SPECIMEN OF SEQUOIA GIGANTEA.



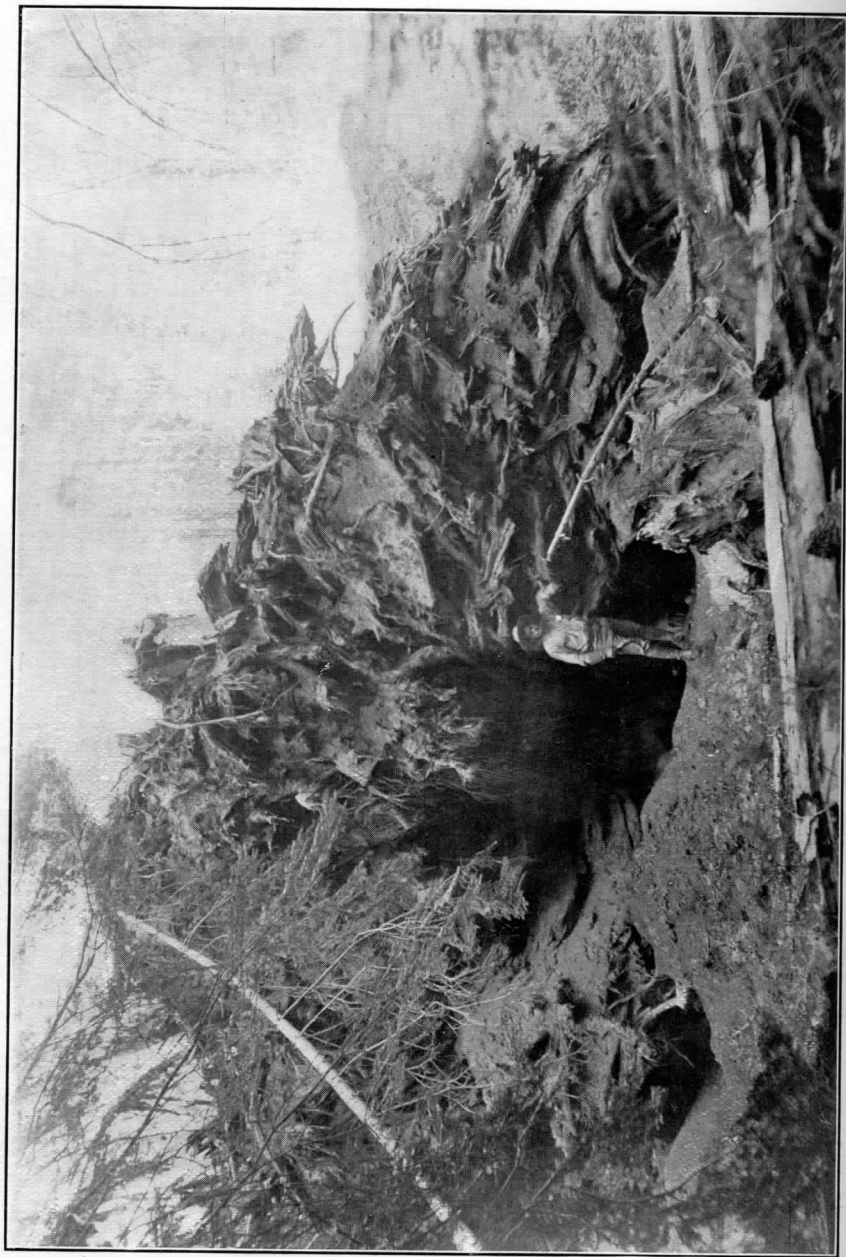
GENERAL SHERMAN



WHERE A MAN FEELS SMALL.



A BURNT GIANT SEQUOIA.



END OF FALLEN SEQUOIA. LONG MEADOW, GIANT FOREST.

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ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA.

OFFICE OF THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT
SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS,
CAMP NEAR MARBLE FORK BRIDGE,
Sequoia National Park, California, August 14, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following report relative to the condition of affairs in and the management of the Sequoia and General Grant national parks, up to and including August 14, 1902, in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903.

Pursuant to Special Orders, No. 128, Headquarters Department of California, June 10, 1902, I marched with Troop F, Third U. S. Cavalry (3 officers and 75 enlisted men), from the Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., June 13, 1902, arriving at Kaweah, Cal., June 28, 1902, where I went into temporary camp on the Hopping range.

This unusually late arrival of the guard at the parks was due to the fact that I did not come with my troop to the United States from the Philippine Islands until May 23, 1902, and the troop being much depleted in numbers, and without horses, had to be filled with recruits and remounted before it could start for the scene of its new duties.

On June 11, while I was still at the Presidio of San Francisco, a committee of citizens represented to me that the Sierra club were going on June 23 to make the trip to Kings River Canyon, via the Giant Forest, and that certain parts of the Old Colony Mill road and the trail from the Giant Forest to the north boundary of the Sequoia National Park were in need of repairs before they would be passable.

The necessary repairs I authorized Forest Ranger Ernest Britten to have made, which he accomplished in time to open the road and trail for the Sierra club, and kept within the balance left from the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1902.

The Old Colony Mill road, or, as it is nearly always called now, the Giant Forest road, being a mountain road, a large portion of which is approximately 5,000 feet above sea level, necessarily needs some repairing each spring, and a part of the appropriation for the improvement of the Sequoia National Park, approximately \$500, should be left over each fall in order that such repairs can be made as soon as the snow melts in the spring and while the ground is still soft.

Upon my arriving at the Three Rivers post-office, 3 miles below Kaweah, I received a letter from the honorable Secretary of the Interior, dated June 12, 1902, designating myself as acting superintendent

of the Sequoia and General Grant national parks, and giving me instructions as to my duties in connection therewith.

Forest Rangers Ernest Britten and L. L. Davis reported to me for duty immediately upon my arrival in camp, and on July 1, I sent Ranger Davis to take temporary station at the General Grant Park.

Detachments were sent to establish small camps where important trails or roads entered or left the limits of the Sequoia Park as follows:

At Cloughs Cave on the south fork of the Kaweah River; at Old Colony Mill on the road to the Giant Forest; at Weishers Mill and Hockett Meadow and at Cold Spring on the Mineral King road beyond Oak Grove; all of these camps, with the exception of the Weishers Mill camp, being inside the metes and bounds of the park.

The first detachment camp established was at Cloughs Cave on July 1, and the others were established as soon after the arrival of my supplies from the railroad station at Exeter, Cal., as possible, the last being the one at Hockett Meadow on July 10.

On the 15th of July troop headquarters was moved to the old road camp of last year on the Giant Forest road within 2 miles of the Marble Fork Bridge, and the detachment camp at Old Colony Mill moved back on the road to Cedar Creek, about half-way to Watsons Spring, where it could be available as a relay station for mail.

This disposition of the troop practically guarded every important entrance or exit to the park, but had my troop been of sufficient size to warrant it I would have established at least two more. One where the trail from the Giant Forest to Kings River Canyon crosses the north boundary line, and one at Alta Meadow where the trail to the Kings River Canyon crosses the east boundary line, and possibly others.

A division of the troop into many detachment camps lessens materially the work of horses and men by decreasing the necessary patrolling to reasonable limits.

As detachment commanders required some time to familiarize themselves with the country surrounding their respective camps and their services became more valuable the longer they remained in the same camp, they were not relieved so long as their weekly reports and the results of the monthly inspections showed a conscientious, intelligent performance of their duties.

CAMP SITES.

The supply camp at Kaweah on the Hopping range was, as the supply camp has always been, on private ground, by permission of the owner, which was granted when asked for by the acting superintendent.

To ask for a favor for the Government was a new experience for me and an unpleasant one.

It will always be necessary to have a supply camp for forage, commissary, and quartermaster stores, etc., at or near the Three Rivers or Kaweah post-office, and one should be purchased and storehouses erected on it. The one used by the troop this year I believe to be the best one available, being near the post-office, close to water, and on comparatively level ground, close to the road, with a fair amount of shade.

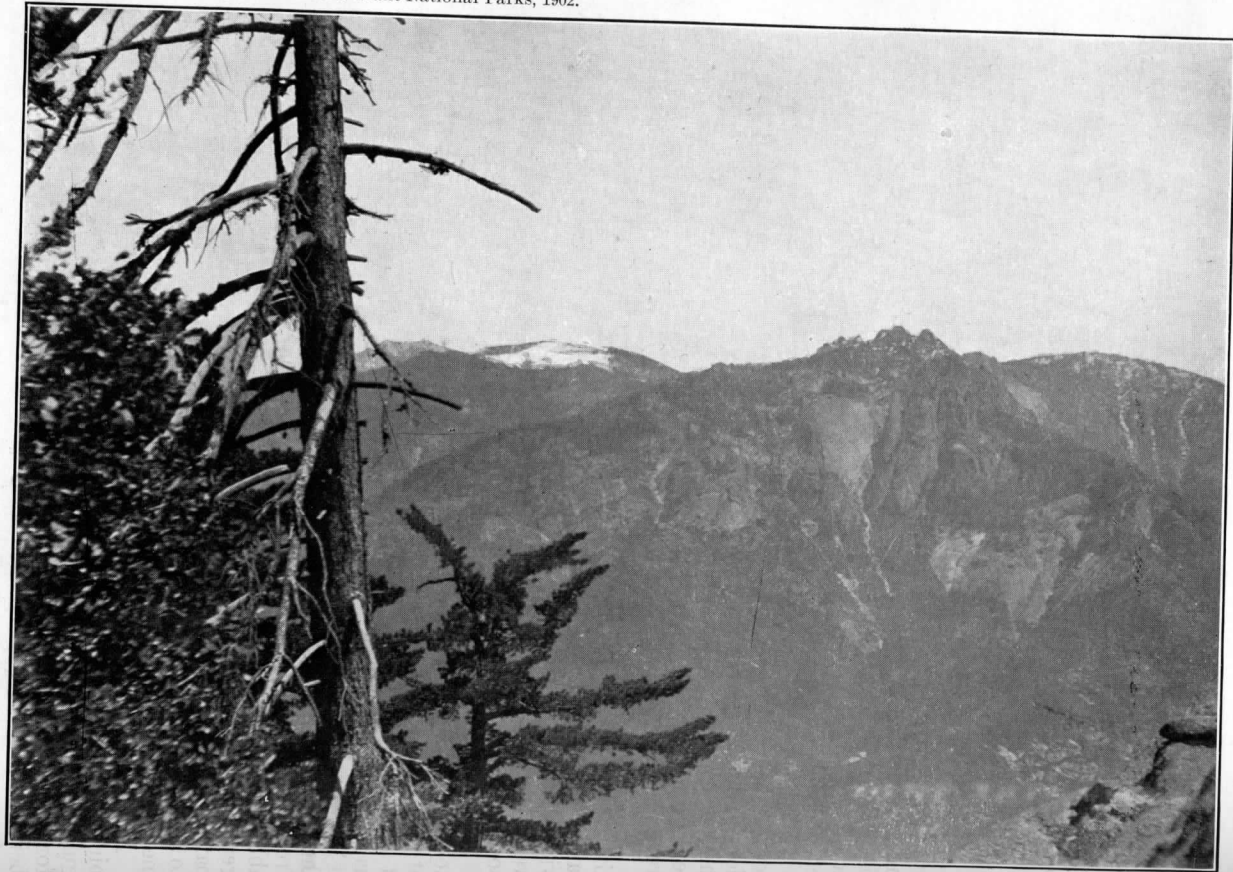
The detachment camp sites are all excellent for small details.

At the relay mail camp at Cedar Creek I had constructed a large



WHERE FOREST AND MEADOW MEET.

Rept. Acting Supt. Sequoia and Gen. Grant National Parks, 1902.



A VIEW OF SNOW IN MIDSUMMER.

watering trough, which was badly needed for stock coming up the Giant Forest road, and when the underbrush had been cleared away the place made an ideal camp for a noncommissioned officer and three men.

The old road camp near the Marble Fork Bridge made an excellent camp for headquarters, and was very convenient to the work on the Giant Forest road.

Next year the headquarters' camp can be placed either in or near to the Giant Forest proper, where a great many beautiful camp sites will be available as soon as the Giant Forest road is finished far enough to admit of the necessary supplies being hauled there.

GUNS IN THE PARKS.

I received numerous communications and was spoken to by many civilians regarding the alleged killing of game by soldiers on duty in the park during past seasons, and Forest Ranger Ernest Britten furnished me with such data in regard to the matter as he was in possession of, in compliance with instructions contained on page 7 of your letter of June 12, 1902, to me.

With so many small detachments from the main camp in charge of noncommissioned officers it is a difficult matter to prevent an occasional violation of the regulations regarding hunting in the parks, but there is a way to absolutely prevent it, and I adopted it, as I was determined that no such charge should be made under my administration.

I required the carbines of the troop and all the carbine ball ammunition to be turned in, and had them boxed and stored at the supply camp at Kaweah, so that my men on detached service were armed only with the revolver; and while I remained on duty at the parks there was not a carbine taken by any of my men within the metes and bounds of either of the parks.

If the soldiers on duty in the parks carry their carbines, whether or no they use them to hunt in violation of the regulations, the civilians of the surrounding neighborhood are only too quick to accuse them of it and to use this as an excuse for hunting themselves, claiming they have as good a right to hunt in the parks as have the soldiers. Again, if the general public believe that the soldiers violate the regulations, they are consequently loath to report any violations by others; and from the day that I disarmed my men I found that a new and very reliable source of information was immediately open to me, for the public generally, and California in particular, have the interests of these parks at heart, and the better class of the inhabitants are only too glad to render all assistance in their power to further a conscientious enforcement of the rules and regulations.

As soon as it was known that my soldiers were not to carry their carbines, both forest rangers, who had always previously carried their guns, voluntarily gave them up, which removed the last possible chance for anyone to charge that the rules and regulations of the parks were being violated by those on duty in them.

Immediately upon my arrival I announced that no guns would be allowed to be carried through the parks, without first being presented at headquarters to be sealed, unless the owners were accompanied by an authorized guide and had special permission in writing from me.

Whenever guns were sealed for tourists who desired to retain them

in their possession during the time they were within the limits of the park, the owners were informed at the time the guns were sealed that if they were found within the park with the seal broken their arms would be taken from them.

In case it should be considered good policy by the Department to instruct future superintendents to pursue the same course regarding firearms in the parks, I would respectfully suggest that a tin tag be devised; with wire attached, similar to that used by railroad companies for sealing freight cars, which could be easily put in place over the trigger, hammer, or magazine of a gun. Such a tag would not be broken by the guns being packed, and would be more serviceable and better than the use of tape and sealing wax.

Within a few days after I had made this announcement regarding the sealing of firearms some tourists from San Francisco were discovered by one of my detachments with two rifles in the Sequoia Park, and I immediately took up their arms and ammunition, holding the same subject to your order, as required by regulations. The owners of the guns raised considerable objection to this, and formally by letter demanded the return of their arms, which I refused, again outlining my policy of enforcing the regulations. The matter was taken up by the press of the State and published extensively, and I believe with a beneficial effect.

After the beginning of the open season for deer, which begins in California August 1, I granted written permission for an authorized guide to conduct across the Sequoia Park to the Forest Reserve a small hunting party. Forest Ranger Britten reported to me that he believed the party had hunted inside the limits of the park, and upon investigation I found this to be true, one of the party having killed a buck in violation of section 6, rules and regulations of the park, and another having killed a doe, or female deer, in violation of the same park regulation and also in violation of paragraph 626 E, fish and game laws of the State of California.

The firearms of the party were immediately taken up by me. The entire party were then summarily removed from the park in compliance with section 13 of the rules and regulations, the permit of the guide was revoked, and the member of the party who had violated the state game laws was later taken in hand and arrested by the civil authorities.

Up until I left there were no further violations of the regulations regarding hunting in the parks; nor do I expect there will be, as such publicity was given to these that if any one believed, as some persons seemed to, that the rules and regulations of the parks were printed for formalities sake, their strict enforcement soon disabused all tourists of any such idea.

POWER OF ARREST.

The board of fish commissioners of the State of California tendered me August 7 a commission of appointment as deputy State fish and game commissioner, to serve without compensation, and after due consideration I acknowledged the same before a notary and filed my oath of office with the secretary of state of California at Sacramento.

The authority thus conferred under the laws of California is equal to that of a sheriff, and had I possessed it previous to the time a doe



MANY ACRES OF SOLID GRANITE, TREES GROWING OUT OF SAME.

was killed in the park, after summarily removing the offender from the park I could have arrested him and turned him over to the civil authorities personally.

Neither of the forest rangers on duty in these parks, and but few of them on duty in the surrounding forest reserve, are deputy fish and game commissioners, which it seems to me they should be. Those who are not and with whom I have spoken regarding the matter seemed to have no other reason than that their voluntary acceptance of this office would make for them enemies of a certain class in the vicinity of their homes or place of duty, which to me seems no reason at all.

I would respectfully recommend that the honorable Secretary of the Interior require all forest rangers to be deputy fish and game commissioners, as personally, I consider that the protection of the game in the parks and in the forest reserve is their first and most important duty.

Several of the counties of California have county game wardens, but Tulare has not, and with a view to a better unity of action between the State and the General Government officials in this important matter, I recommended to the State board of supervisors for California that a game warden be appointed for Tulare County, which recommendation was indorsed by the Tulare County Fish and Game League, and other kindred organizations, which I hope will result in the ultimate appointment of such an official, not only for Tulare County, but for Fresno County and the others adjacent to both the Sequoia and the General Grant parks.

FIRES.

There was one fire only, and that near Moro Rock early in August. I believe this was started by lightning, but it was easily extinguished by the troop before it had caused any damage.

Upon my arrival Forest Ranger Britten reported to me that one camping party of three persons had endangered the Giant Forest by failing to extinguish their camp fire on June 26, and that he had put it out the day following.

I immediately sent First Lieut. Geo. B. Comly, Third Cavalry, with Ranger Britten and two enlisted men with instructions to overtake the said party and to arrest them and bring them to headquarters, provided they were overtaken within the limits of the park, and in case they were outside the limits of the park to order them to return under penalty of having the matter turned over to the proper civil authorities.

The party was overtaken in the Kings River Canyon and ordered to return, which they did, presenting themselves at my camp on July 9. Their enforced return broke up their summer outing, besides putting them to considerable expense, and in this case I deemed the publicity of a reprimand, due to the prominence of the offending parties, to be all that was required to meet the ends of justice.

The tourist travel through the Giant Forest, which is really the Sequoia National Park, over the Old Colony Mill road will increase from year to year as the road is extended and the park becomes better known, and it seems to me to be of the first importance and the duty of a superintendent to prevent the forest's destruction by fire, which can only be done by properly impressing on the tourist public the danger of a neglect of the regulations regarding fire.

NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS.

On July 4 I received the new rules and regulations for the Sequoia and General Grant national parks, dated June 2, 1902; 6,000 for the Sequoia and 1,500 for the General Grant Park, the same being in three varieties, to wit, in circular form, on muslin, and on cardboard.

Copies of these new rules and regulations I immediately furnished the officers and enlisted men of my command, requiring them to familiarize themselves with the same. All tourists were subsequently furnished each a copy of these regulations, and, as soon as possible, all old regulations posted at entrances or exits to the parks or within the parks were replaced by the new. All passes or permits were also indorsed on the back of a copy of the new rules and regulations, so the possibility of a tourist pleading ignorance of the regulations as an excuse for their violation was avoided.

Messrs. Broder and Hopping, who had been granted a permit by the honorable Secretary of the Interior to transport passengers through and to conduct camping parties in the Sequoia National Park, rendered me valuable assistance in the distribution of these regulations, and I do not know of a single case of their violation by any tourist who was a member of one of their parties.

There should be a paragraph added to the regulations prohibiting dogs in the parks, as they scare the squirrels, quail, grouse, and other small game, and run the deer, which are much more afraid of them than they are of man, and while it is not at all likely that any game has ever been actually killed by dogs in the parks, yet they should be excluded along with firearms, in order that the game may not only increase, but may also become as tame as possible.

Special notices were posted prohibiting the cutting of bark from the giant sequoias, and all detachment commanders instructed to watch for violations of it. This special form of vandalism seems to be common with certain classes of tourists who have the relic mania.

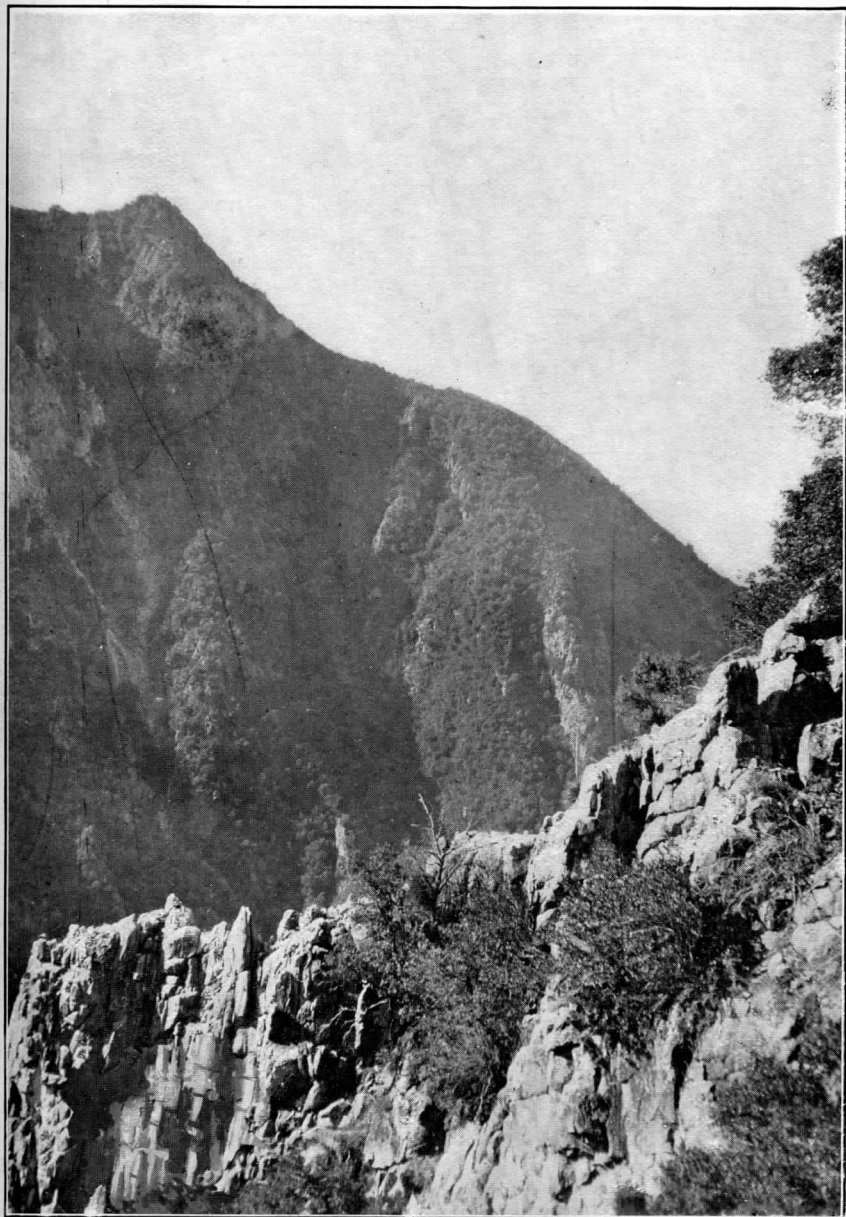
THE GIANT FOREST ROAD.

An act of Congress approved June 28, 1902, making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, having authorized an appropriation of \$10,000 for the Sequoia National Park and \$2,500 for the General Grant National Park, to be expended for the protection and improvement of said parks and for the construction and repair of bridges, fences, and trails and extension of roads, the work was commenced July 15, per telegraphic authority of the honorable Secretary of the Interior dated July 12, 1902.

The work was continued on the lines of preceding years and as outlined in a tentative plan submitted by me, as directed in your letter of instructions to me of June 12.

The work of continuing the Giant Forest road was pushed as rapidly as possible. Immediately upon my arrival I had engaged all workmen who were employed during the past year on the work, so that when telegraphic authority was received to proceed with the improvements there was no delay, and every man being familiar with the work required of him, things ran like clockwork from the beginning.

The civil engineer who has been employed by acting superintend-



POINT ADMIRATION, GIANT FOREST.

ents from the start, Mr. George Welsh, besides being an expert in mountain road building, possesses the rare and valuable trait of being able to command men without friction and to get the most work possible from them. With his valuable assistance I was gratified to see the work on the Giant Forest road progress much more rapidly and satisfactorily than I had anticipated.

Beyond the Marble Fork Bridge, at which the road extension ended last year, there was a great deal of solid rock, but this was quickly passed, and by to-day nearly a mile of road has been practically completed, and the right of way has been cleared as far again.

It is hard for one not familiar with the character of the country in the Sierra Nevada Mountains to appreciate the difficulty and expense of constructing this road, and I am convinced that another year's work will at least be required before the road can enter the Giant Forest.

When once completed into the Giant Forest it should be continued, as previously recommended, in a circular direction to points of interest in the forest, making a complete circuit of the forest. This will make easily accessible to the tourists the part of the Sequoia National Park which really is the park proper, as the Giant Forest contains nearly all the big trees within the reservation, and the largest body of *Sequoia gigantea* in the world.

I would respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to make each year an annual appropriation of \$10,000 for the improvement of the Sequoia National Park, and that the continuance of the Giant Forest road be made the main object of this improvement for at least a few years to come.

When once the road is completed into and around the Giant Forest there should be some improvements made on it to obviate the necessity of future expenditures for repairs, and these improvements could be made for from \$5,000 to \$6,000. Such improvements to obviate future repairs as I refer to are, making turn-outs for teams passing each other, knocking off some points of rock, making more culverts, so all water could go under and not over the road, constructing a ditch on the upper side of the road to carry the surface water to these culverts, decreasing in places the slope of the upper bank above the road, so as to obviate the caving in on the road, etc.

These improvements I consider as necessary in order to make the road more permanent, but as far as constructed to-day it is a good, safe, passable road, and an excellent one compared to other mountain roads.

The Giant Forest road when completed should also be carefully surveyed to determine its position with reference to section lines, and I look to see it some day farther extended into the Kings River Canyon.

CABINS FOR USE OF RANGERS.

In previous years the tools used in the improvements have been stored each winter at Three Rivers, being hauled down the mountains at the end of a season and up again at the beginning of the next. In order to obviate this I had constructed cabins at Watsons Spring, Old Colony Mill, and the Marble Fork Bridge, and had the tools all stamped "U. S.," as they had not been previously.

These cabins can serve as temporary shelter for the rangers if caught

in the mountains during a storm, and in case small repairs have to be made on the road which one or two men can do, the tools will be at hand for the rangers' use, as they will also be in case they are needed to fight fire, when rakes, shovels, and axes are especially needed.

GENERAL GRANT PARK.

Up to date the work in the General Grant National Park has consisted mainly of continuing the work of clearing up the rubbish and down timber in the sequoia grove and burning it, thus protecting the trees from fire and adding to the appearance of the park. Considerable repair work was also put on the fence, as it will be necessary to do each year on account of the heavy snows in this park.

If it is contemplated to build a road to replace what is known as the "Stevens grade," which I am strongly in favor of, it will be necessary to add to the appropriation for this park about \$4,000 for the construction of 2 miles of new road. If this is done the General Grant Park will then be easy of access to tourists, which it is not now, as the Stevens grade is an exceptionally steep, dangerous hill, and as it can be replaced at such a comparatively small expense I would respectfully recommend that the Department ask for this addition to the next appropriation, making \$6,500 for the General Grant National Park for the next fiscal year.

TELEPHONES.

There should be telephone connections from Weisher's mill on the east boundary of the park on the Mineral King road and the supply camp at Kaweah, and also from the main camp near or in the Giant Forest and the supply camp. The only communication now is by mountain courier, and from Kaweah to the Giant Forest is over 25 miles over such a steep road that nearly all of the distance must be covered at a walk or slow trot, there being but few places allowing of the rapid gaits being used.

Were such telephone connections installed as I have suggested they would facilitate the road work, be of great use to tourists visiting the park, aid the acting superintendent in the performance of his duties, and in case of fire might save many hours in getting the troops to the scene.

MARBLE FORK BRIDGE.

Before leaving the parks I made arrangements to have the Marble Fork Bridge painted, with a view to its permanent preservation in its present excellent condition.

I would respectfully suggest in this connection that it would be well to have prepared for my successor two notices on metal, to be posted one at either approach to the bridge, prohibiting riding or driving over the bridge faster than a walk.

I have drawn up and posted at the bridge temporary notices of my own conveying this information to persons crossing, but in my opinion such a notice should be one prescribed by the Department, to be operative for all time under all superintendents.



MORO ROCK—SAW TOOTH RANGE IN DISTANCE.

DEAD AND DOWN TIMBER.

In compliance with an indorsement from your office requiring me to submit a detailed report of my views regarding the working of dead and down timber, I reported under date of July 26 as follows:

"I would not recommend the working of said timber except at the sides of and near the Giant Forest road, and after this road is completed to enter the groves of *Sequoia gigantea* in the Giant Forest. I would not recommend that any of these dead and down giants be disturbed.

"Were it contemplated to clear away all underbrush and dead and down timber in the Giant Forest it could not be done, in my opinion, for \$50,000 or even more, and were it accomplished I should consider it labor and money ill spent, for the Giant Forest would then have lost its primeval, wild, natural look, and this wild scenery and picturesqueness is to me one of its principal charms. Again, the litter and rubbish resulting from the cutting up of a giant redwood would, I believe, constitute a more dangerous fire trap than the tree itself if left unmolested.

"All rubbish should, however, be cleared away from around the immediate vicinity of the principal giants for 100 yards, and entirely from the General Grant Park.

"There are, however, at present near the Giant Forest road thus far completed many ordinary sized dead and down trees which it would be an improvement to have removed, for the reason that they constitute fire traps where they are near the road, adding nothing to the appearance of the park, and because they are where they could be worked to the advantage of the Government should the Department see fit to authorize it."

For instance, a good sugar pine log could be worked where it lay into shakes or shingles, or a cedar log into posts. The fir trees, which are most numerous, can not ordinarily be worked to a profit on the ground, as they are useful principally only to make such mill timber as rafters, joists, or scantling.

The rule in this country if applied to the working of pine and cedar or other logs would give to the Government without expense one-fourth of the resulting shakes or posts, which could be used in constructing fence, tool sheds, or cabins for park guards.

Such pine, cedar, fir, or small redwood trees, dead or down, near the Giant Forest road as it would be to the improvement of the park to remove, could each and every one be separately so designated by the acting superintendent and worked by individuals in the manner and on the terms as above outlined, but beyond this I would not recommend, for the reasons I have stated, any further action in the matter.

REGISTER BOOKS.

Securing from the Department a supply of blank books, I required each of my noncommissioned officers to keep a careful register and description of all persons and parties entering or leaving the metes and bounds of the park on the road or trail where they were stationed. These register books enable persons or parties to be traced who violate the regulations, or in case they should be lost, and taken together at the end of the season furnish a complete list of all tourists who visited the park.

TRAILS.

The two forest rangers here accomplished a great deal in perfecting the trails in the parks, especially the trail up the South Fork of the Kaweah River past Cloughs Cave to Hockett Meadow, which is one of the principal trails into the Sequoia National Park.

After my arrival Ranger Britten, assisted by three laborers, constructed a new trail into and out of the Marble Fork Canyon where the trail crosses it leading from the Giant Forest to Kings River Canyon. The old trail was very steep and rocky and the new one, which was finished in about a month, is of even, gentle grade and will make much easier and pleasanter the travel for tourists over this much-traveled route.

A better trail should be constructed from the Giant Forest to Alta Meadow; thence via Redwood Meadow to Mineral King.

If a trail were constructed from Cahoon or Willow Meadow on the Marble Fork northeast, parallel to the Marble Fork and crossing the park line southeast of Mount Silliman, thence to Roaring River and on between Sable Mountain and Mount Brewer on the Forest reserve to Mount Whitney, it is said three days' travel could be saved in the journey as over the trails now followed.

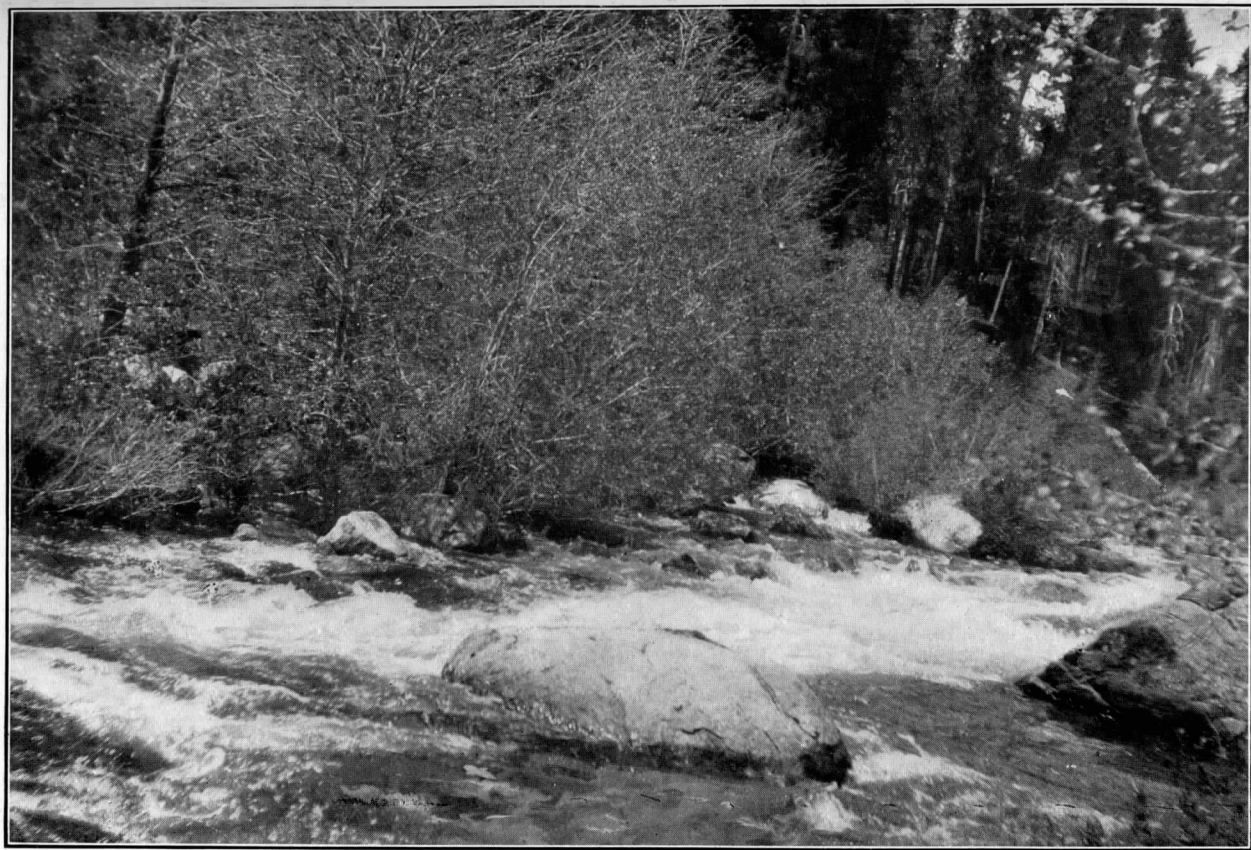
Many more trails, seemingly without number, the territory is so great, could be mentioned, whose construction would greatly facilitate tourist travel in the park and to points of interest in the Forest Reserve, and as something is done each year each succeeding one finds the routes of travel much better than the former.

Ranger Britten is so familiar with every foot of the park reservations, especially the Sequoia National Park, and the Forest Reserve as well, that he is able to travel anywhere, trail or no trail, and this knowledge is of great value to an acting superintendent who, of course, can not become thoroughly familiar with so great an extent of territory in one season, and really only becomes fairly so when his tour of duty is complete.

PATENTED LANDS.

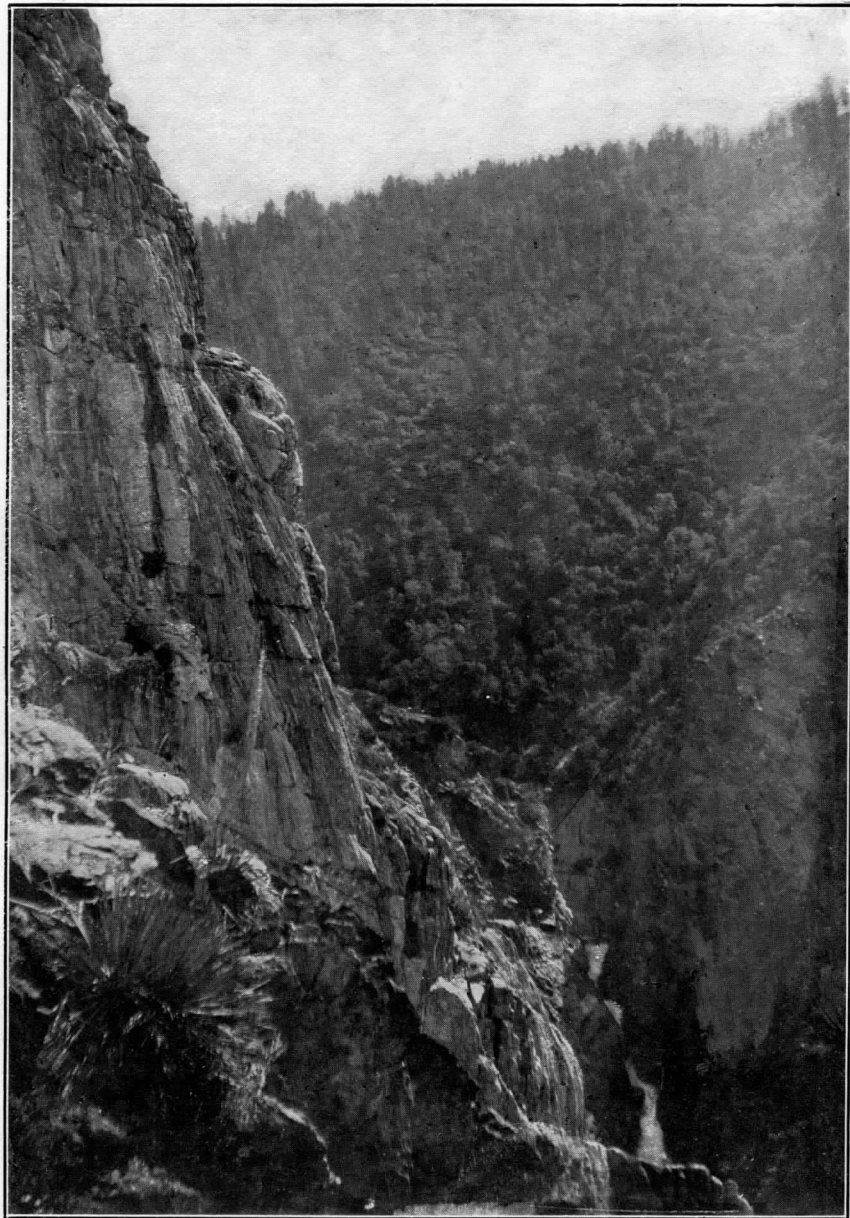
Pursuant to instructions contained in your letter of June 12, 1902, I immediately took steps toward ascertaining the approximate value of the patented lands within the metes and bounds of the Sequoia National Park, together with the probable market value of the different kinds of timber standing or down, with a view to ultimately reaching an approximation of the total value of all the patented lands within the reservation. To complete such a work I am sure will require at least another entire season, as the work is of considerable magnitude, the boundaries or corners of nearly all the patented lands being unmarked and the surveys incomplete.

I secured as soon as possible from the register and receiver of the local land office a list of all the patented lands, with metes and bounds thereof and names of patentees or present owners, and also copies of the original surveyors' field notes, and the work was started on the lands in the Giant Forest, so I am informed by my successor, First Lieut. George B. Comly, Third Cavalry, the surveying work being done by Engineer George Welsh and the estimating by Forest Ranger Britten.



FORD OF THE MARBLE FORK.

Rept. Acting Supt. Sequoia and Gen. Grant National Parks, 1902.



NOT THE TRAIL.

I reported to the honorable Secretary of the Interior soon after my arrival at my new post of duty that there seemed to be no reason for doubting, judging from common report, that when the road is completed into the Giant Forest it was the intention of the owners of patented lands in the forest to cut the timber thereon and to make use of the Government road to haul the same out of the park to be marketed.

I further reported that beyond a doubt if they were permitted to do so it would result in ruining the Giant Forest, and suggested that perhaps it would be within the province of the Department for them to instruct me not to allow hauling over the Government road of any freight, for such hauling would ruin the road, and by stopping temporarily, in this way the only possible outlet for this lumber give time for the Government to appraise and condemn these patented lands. The Sequoia National Park is not really a park so long as they are allowed to exist.

A supply of printed notices, of which the following is a true copy, were received by me from the Department almost by return mail, and were immediately posted throughout the Giant Forest and the Giant Forest road and made public in other ways:

This road is constructed by the Government for the comfort, convenience, and recreation of the public traveling in the park, and is not a part of any system of county highways. Heavy hauling, for commercial or other purposes, which will injure the road is prohibited.

THE FOREST RANGERS.

There should be two forest rangers constantly on duty in the Sequoia National Park and one in the General Grant National Park, which would be an increase of one over those now authorized.

I tried as an acting ranger in the latter park during part of this season Mr. Harry Britten, of Three Rivers, Cal., carrying him on the pay rolls for the improvement of this park, and found him at all times attentive to and enthusiastic and faithful in the performance of his duties.

I would respectfully recommend that the number of forest rangers be increased by appointing Mr. Harry Britten, or some other man meeting the requirements of the position, and that the authority and rank of Forest Ranger Ernest Britten be increased by appointing him chief forest ranger at a salary of \$100 a month.

I believe that if Ranger Britten is thus advanced he will be of greater service to the Department, especially during the winter season, when the troops are withdrawn from the parks, and consider such advancement as I have recommended a small reward for his long, faithful, honorable service in his present position of forest ranger.

Very respectfully,

FRANK A. BARTON,
Captain, Third Cavalry, Acting Superintendent.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT
SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS,*Kaweah, Tulare County, Cal., October 12, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report on the conditions obtaining in the Sequoia and General Grant National parks during the present season of 1902.

Troop F, Third U. S. Cavalry, commanded by Capt. Frank A. Barton, left the Presidio of San Francisco June 13, 1902, under orders to proceed to the above-named parks and act as a guard for the same. The troop arrived at Kaweah, Cal., and went into camp on the Hopping Range on the 28th of June.

Upon arriving at Kaweah my predecessor, Captain Barton, received a letter of instructions from the honorable the Secretary of the Interior concerning the government of the Sequoia and General Grant National parks, and was formally designated as the acting superintendent of the same.

With as little delay as possible detachments under noncommissioned officers were established in camp at the Old Colony Mill, on the Giant Forest road, at Cold Springs and Weishers Mill, on the Mineral King road, and at Cloughs Cave and Hocketts Meadows, on the South Fork trail. Prior to the departure of these detachments the acting superintendent caused all carbines in the troop to be turned in and boxed, the soldiers being armed thereafter with the revolver only, the idea of this being to prevent hunting on the part of detachments and patrols beyond the immediate supervision of the commissioned officers. This I consider a most excellent precaution, for the reason that many of the troopers, being beyond danger of detection and punishment, would undoubtedly seek occasional opportunities to hunt, and thereby violate the very rules and regulations they were supposed to enforce. The feeling of a majority of the inhabitants of this region is quite bitter toward soldiers, because of their having heretofore killed game in the parks (unknown to their officers), and at the same time prevented civilians from doing so. Depriving the soldiers of their carbines, however, renders them almost wholly proof against such accusation.

The detachments having been established, rationed, and foraged at the above-mentioned places, the remainder of the troop left Kaweah on the 15th of July and marched to a point in the Sequoia Park, on the Giant Forest road, about two-thirds of the way from the Old Colony Mill to the Marble Fork bridge, where the headquarters camp was established.

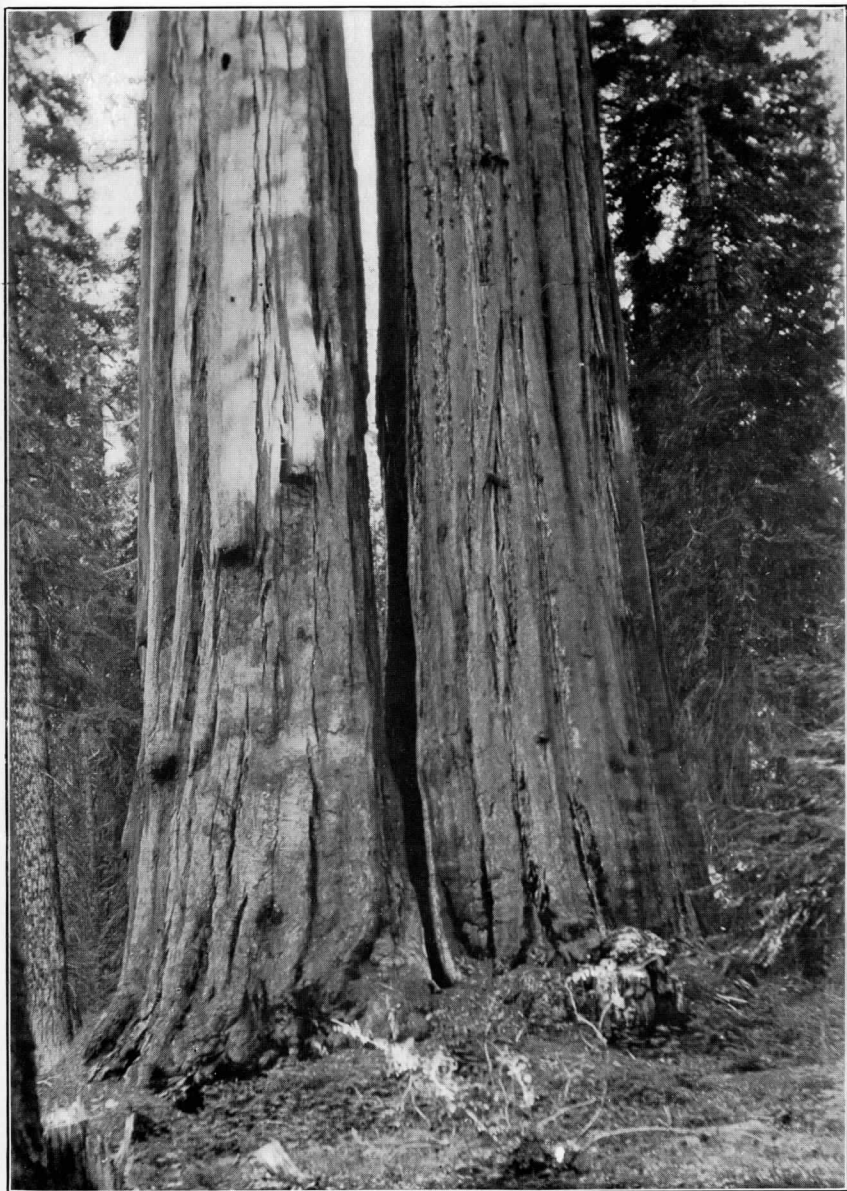
At the same time a detachment was left at Kaweah as a supply camp, and the detachment previously established at the Old Colony Mill was moved back down the Giant Forest road to Cedar Creek, a point nearer the entrance to the park on that road.

A detachment was not located in the General Grant Park for the reason that the regular park ranger, Mr. L. L. Davis, was on duty there and was fully able in himself to protect the interests of that park, the area being small.

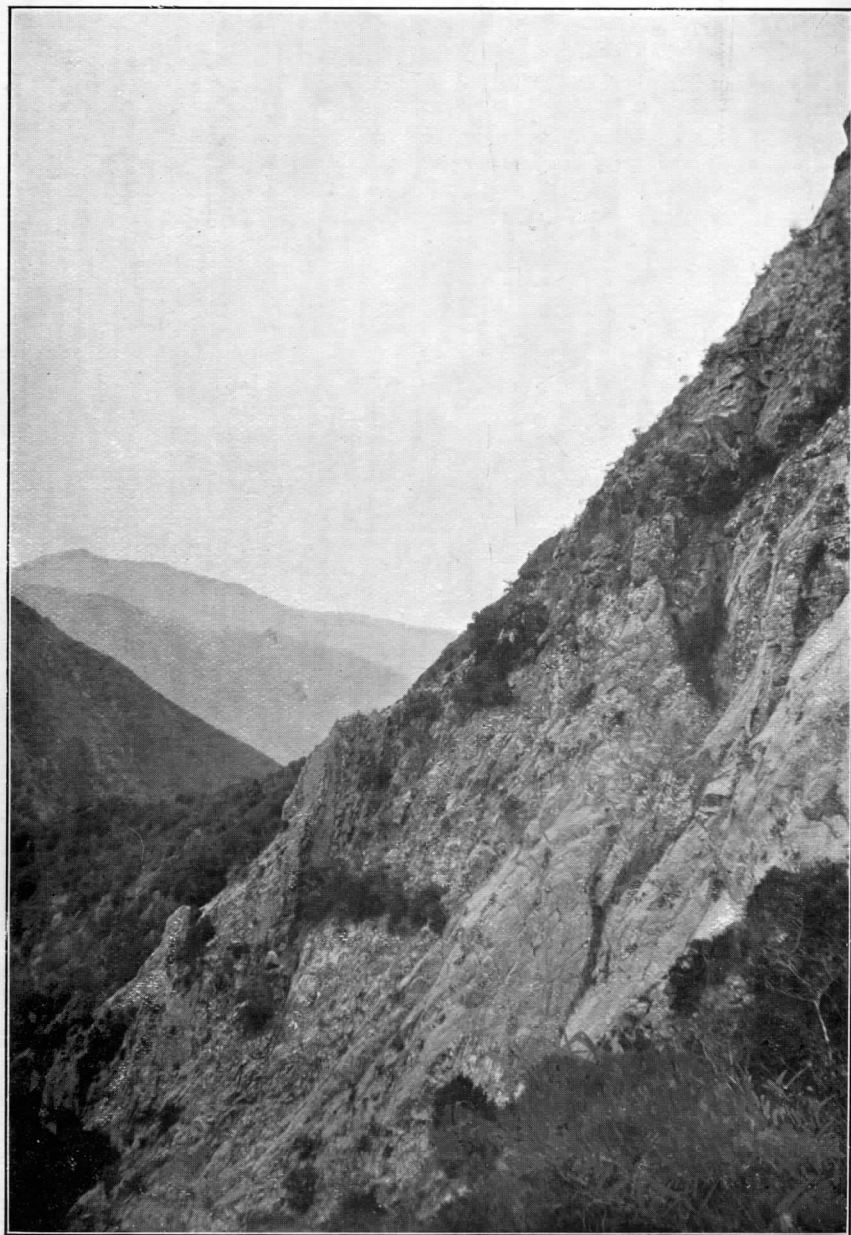
On the 15th of August Captain Barton departed to take advantage of four months' leave of absence, and by virtue of seniority I assumed command of the troop and was designated acting superintendent of the two parks, which position I have occupied till the present time, the close of the season.



CAMP IN THE GIANT FOREST.



TWIN GIANTS.



NOT THE TRAIL.

THE GIANT FOREST ROAD.

The beginning of this season saw the Giant Forest road completed as far as the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River and a substantial Pocett truss bridge spanning the stream. From this point work was continued on the road this year, beginning in the latter part of July and terminating about the middle of September. Another mile of completed road was added and the way cleared for about a mile in advance of this. The work was necessarily slow, because of the unusually difficult nature of the ground; but the amount of road constructed is well made, with a careful regard for grade, which at no place exceeds 8 per cent and averages much less. The work of Mr. George Welch, the surveyor, was highly satisfactory in every respect.

TRAILS.

A new trail was made by Ranger Ernest Britten from Round Meadow, in the Giant Forest, to the General Sherman tree, where it connects with the old trail leading to the north line of the park, and thence to Kings River Canyon. This trail is a great improvement on the former route.

There are at present three trails leading from the vicinity of the Colony Mill through Halstead Meadows to the north line of the park. All three of these are in poor condition, badly laid out, and should be abandoned in favor of one good route, which could be easily made and would be the regular route to the General Grant Park. A branch from such a trail leading into what is known as the "Black-oak country" would facilitate the work of patrolling the park, this branch trail coming back into the Giant Forest road at Watson Springs, on the west boundary line.

Another trail in great need of correction and reconstruction is that from Panther Peak to Alta Meadows. This trail is constantly used both by tourists and patrols, and it is my opinion that steps should be taken without delay to improve it.

A trail is needed along the main Kaweah River, and could be worked on by the park rangers during certain seasons of the year when it would be impracticable for them to be performing other work. Although this trail would not be one for the ordinary use of tourists, it would be of value in permitting the rangers to get in and out of country in stormy weather which otherwise they would not have access to.

If a trail was constructed to run from the Willow or Cahoon Meadow to Alta Meadows via Silliman Mountain and the headwaters of the Marble Fork, a view of what is perhaps the grandest scenery in the park would be obtained.

A very important trail in need of attention is the one from Clough's Cave to Hockett Meadows. This is the direct route to Mount Whitney and the Kern River country.

In order to maintain a proper guard and patrol of the park, I believe it is essential that a trail be established running completely around the park, the route being as close to the boundary line as possible. It would be of vast assistance when forest fires threatened the park from the outside, and permit of an effective patrol.

PATENTED LANDS.

The private land in the park is a most objectionable feature and a difficult problem to contend with.

Obedient to instructions received from the Interior Department, a surveyor, Mr. George Welch, was placed at work locating definitely and marking the metes and boundaries of the patented lands. The work was delayed because of difficulty in obtaining the necessary field notes, and not much progress was made, but with an early start next season the ground should be gone over by the end of the summer.

GAME AND FISH.

I recommend that steps be taken early next season to stock three or four trout streams in the vicinity of the Giant Forest. The fish can be obtained from the State hatchery, and assistance in distributing them and putting them down can be obtained from Messrs. John Broder and Ralph Hopping, who conduct a tourist camp in the Giant Forest. These two gentlemen I believe to have a keen interest in the welfare of the park, and they have undoubtedly done the park a great deal of good.

FOREST FIRES.

There were no serious fires in either park during the season. There were two small blazes in the Sequoia Park and one in the Grant Park, all of which were extinguished without material damage being done.

PERMANENT CAMPS OF TROOPS.

It is my opinion that the headquarters camp of troops should be located in the Giant Forest, with a supply camp at Kaweah. After looking over the ground, I believe the best site in the Giant Forest for a permanent camp is at Circle Meadow. Land should be bought or leased in the immediate vicinity of Kaweah post-office for the location of a permanent supply camp, and there a frame shed erected for the storage of perishable supplies. At each of the detachment camps an inexpensive small shed or log shack should be constructed.

THE GENERAL GRANT PARK.

In the Grant Park this season the work of clearing and burning the underbrush in the vicinity of the big trees was continued and completed. The road was also continued to a point where it will be met by the Converse Basin road.

With its small area a soldier detachment is not necessary in the Grant Park. The regular ranger on duty there is sufficient as a guard.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

In the season of 1903 I recommend, (1) that the Giant Forest road be continued as far as possible over the route already outlined, but I would suggest that instead of about 70 men being employed in that work, as was done this year, the force be limited to 40. The appro-

priation will last longer and the better work be done, for the smaller force could be carefully selected. (2) I also recommend the employment of a force to work exclusively on repairing and constructing trails. (3) The construction of permanent barracks and quarters for the troops. With a small portable sawmill the dead and down timber and timber cleared from the road "right of way" would give ample material. (4) Stocking all available streams in the parks with trout. (5) An increase in the salaries of the rangers. It is a necessity with them to have a pack animal as well as a saddle animal, and their present salary is, in my opinion, insufficient. (6) Establishment of a telephone line between the Three Rivers terminus and the headquarters camp in the Giant Forest via the Kaweah supply camp.

On the 7th of October I received telegraphic instructions to proceed with my command to San Francisco, and left Kaweah on the 13th.

Very respectfully,

G. B. COMLY,
First Lieutenant, Third Cavalry,
Acting Superintendent.

THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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PLAT OF THE Exterior Boundaries of SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK CALIFORNIA.

created by Act of Congress, approved October 1st 1890.

Surveyed by
Isaac N. Chapman, U. S. Deputy Surveyor,
under his Contract N^o 151, dated June 16, 1899
and Special Instructions dated December 27, 1899,
in July and August 1899 & May to September 1900.

Containing 169,605 Acres.

Scale 120 Chains to the Inch.
Mean Declination 15° 16' E.

The above plat of the Exterior Boundaries of Sequoia National Park,
California, is strictly conformable to the field notes of the surveys thereof, on file
in this Office, which have been examined and approved.
U. S. Surveyor General's Office,
San Francisco, California,
February 15th 1901.

J. M. Gleaves
U. S. Surveyor General for California

