

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
RAY LYMAN WILBUR, SECRETARY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HORACE M. ALBRIGHT, DIRECTOR

# THE NATIONAL PARKS PORTFOLIO

BY  
ROBERT STERLING YARD  
FORMERLY EDITOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

---

SIXTH EDITION

---

REVISED BY  
ISABELLE F. STORY  
EDITOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1931

## FOREWORD

WHEN the first edition of the National Parks Portfolio was issued in 1916, comparatively few people realized the importance and value of the national parks in our national scheme of existence; very few, in fact, knew how many of these reservations there were or where located. The national monuments were practically unknown.

In the past fifteen years, however, great changes have occurred in the national-park and monument system. Whereas in 1916 only 356,097 people visited the national parks, in 1930 a total of 2,774-561 saw these areas, and an additional 472,095 visited the national monuments. And the millions who have not yet visited these areas learn about them through illustrated lectures, books, and magazine and newspaper stories.

In this space of time great changes also have taken place in the administration and development of the parks and monuments. In the earlier years attention necessarily was given to the upbuilding of administrative units and the development of the necessary accommodations to care for the physical well-being of visitors.

Now, this preliminary work having been accomplished, the greatest development in the system is along esthetic and educational lines, and the benefit to visitors has increased accordingly.

To Stephen T. Mather, first Director of the National Park Service, is due the greater part of the successful development of the national park and monument system.

The issuance of the first National Parks Portfolio in 1916 was his personal accomplishment. No Government funds were available for such a publication. Mr. Mather, however, knew that some such book was necessary if the parks were to be made known to the people of the United States. He, therefore, interested seventeen western railroads in the project and with their contribution of forty-three thousand dollars had the National Parks Portfolio prepared and published.

A year later the Government took over the publication of the Portfolio. It is now in its sixth edition and gives representation to the twenty-two national parks and thirty-four national monuments included in the system.

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT,  
*Director, National Park Service.*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## NATIONAL PARKS

	Page
ACADIA, MAINE . . . . .	246
BRYCE CANYON, UTAH . . . . .	237
CARLSBAD CAVERNS, NEW MEXICO . . . . .	243
CRATER LAKE, OREGON . . . . .	101
GENERAL GRANT, CALIFORNIA . . . . .	53
GLACIER, MONTANA . . . . .	147
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA . . . . .	193
GRAND TETON, WYOMING . . . . .	239
HAWAII, TERRITORY OF HAWAII . . . . .	227
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS . . . . .	218
LASSEN VOLCANIC, CALIFORNIA . . . . .	221
MESA VERDE, COLORADO . . . . .	125
MOUNT MCKINLEY, ALASKA . . . . .	225
MOUNT RAINIER, WASHINGTON . . . . .	77
PLATT, OKLAHOMA . . . . .	245
ROCKY MOUNTAIN, COLORADO . . . . .	171
SEQUOIA, CALIFORNIA . . . . .	53
WIND CAVE, SOUTH DAKOTA . . . . .	245
YELLOWSTONE, WYOMING . . . . .	5
YOSEMITE, CALIFORNIA . . . . .	29
ZION, UTAH . . . . .	233

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

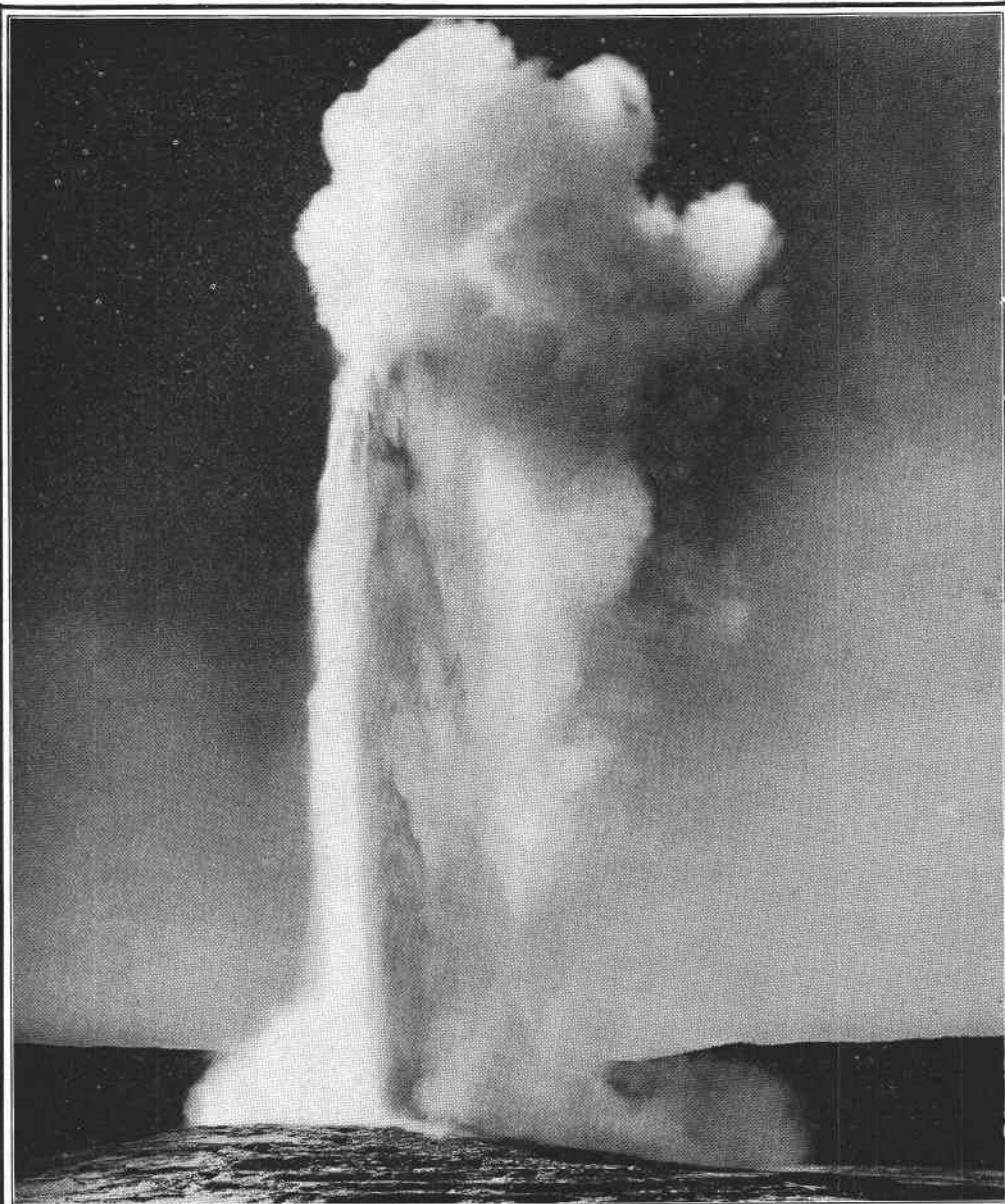
	Page		Page
ARCHES, UTAH . . . . .	270	KATMAI, ALASKA . . . . .	253
AZTEC RUINS, NEW MEXICO . . . . .	267	LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERN, WYO-	
CANYON DE CHELLY, ARIZONA . . . . .	270	MING . . . . .	261
CAPULIN MOUNTAIN, NEW MEXICO . . . . .	263	MONTEZUMA CASTLE, ARIZONA . . . . .	257
CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA . . . . .	263	MUIR WOODS, CALIFORNIA . . . . .	251
CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO . . . . .	260	NAVAJO, ARIZONA . . . . .	265
COLONIAL, VIRGINIA . . . . .	272	NATURAL BRIDGES, UTAH . . . . .	259
COLORADO, COLORADO . . . . .	260	PETRIFIED FOREST, ARIZONA . . . . .	266
CRATERS OF THE MOON, IDAHO . . . . .	268	PINNACLES, CALIFORNIA . . . . .	264
DEVILS TOWER, WYOMING . . . . .	257	PIPE SPRING, UTAH . . . . .	267
DINOSAUR, UTAH . . . . .	261	RAINBOW BRIDGE, UTAH . . . . .	262
EL MORRO, NEW MEXICO . . . . .	263	SCOTTS BLUFF, NEBRASKA . . . . .	267
FOSSIL CYCAD, SOUTH DAKOTA . . . . .	268	SHOSHONE CAVERN, WYOMING . . . . .	260
GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE,		SITKA, ALASKA . . . . .	266
VIRGINIA . . . . .	271	TUMACACORI, ARIZONA . . . . .	265
GLACIER BAY, ALASKA . . . . .	269	VERENDRYE, NORTH DAKOTA . . . . .	263
GRAN QUIVIRA, NEW MEXICO . . . . .	265	WUPATKI, ARIZONA . . . . .	269
HOVENWEEP, UTAH-COLORADO . . . . .	270	YUCCA HOUSE, COLORADO . . . . .	267
MAP OF PARKS AND MONUMENTS . . . . .			274

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A NATIONAL PARK AND A NATIONAL MONUMENT

**T**HE two classes of reservations comprising the national-park and national-monument system differ primarily in the reasons for which they are established. National parks are areas set apart by Congress for the use of the people of the United States generally, because of some outstanding scenic feature or natural phenomena. Although many years ago several small parks were established, under present policies national parks must be sufficiently large to yield to effective administration and broad use. The principal qualities considered in studying areas for park purposes are their inspirational, educational, and recreational values.

National monuments, on the other hand, are areas reserved by the National Government because they contain objects of historic, prehistoric, or scientific interest. Ordinarily established by presidential proclamation under authority of Congress, occasionally these areas also are established by direct action of Congress. Size is unimportant in the case of the national monuments.

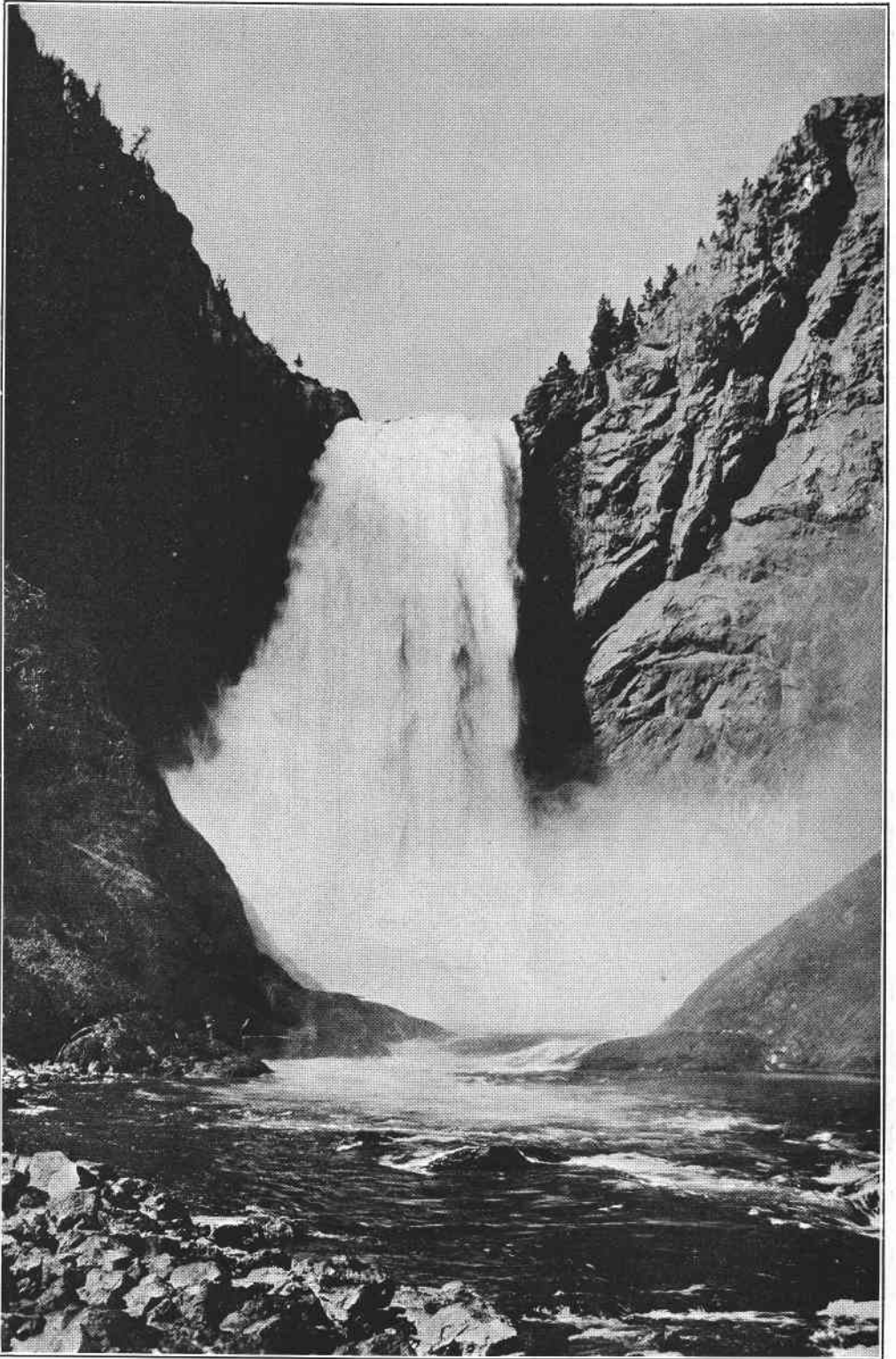
A few of the national monuments are under the supervision of the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture because they are located within national forests, and several others are administered by the War Department because of their military significance. The majority of them, however, are administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, and only these latter are considered in this book.



*Photograph by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

*OLD FAITHFUL*

# YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



*Photograph by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

THE GREAT FALLS OF THE YELLOWSTONE, NEARLY TWICE AS HIGH AS NIAGARA  
Below these falls the river enters the gorgeously colored Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone



*Copyright by W. S. Berry*

ANTELOPE

## THE LAND OF WONDERS

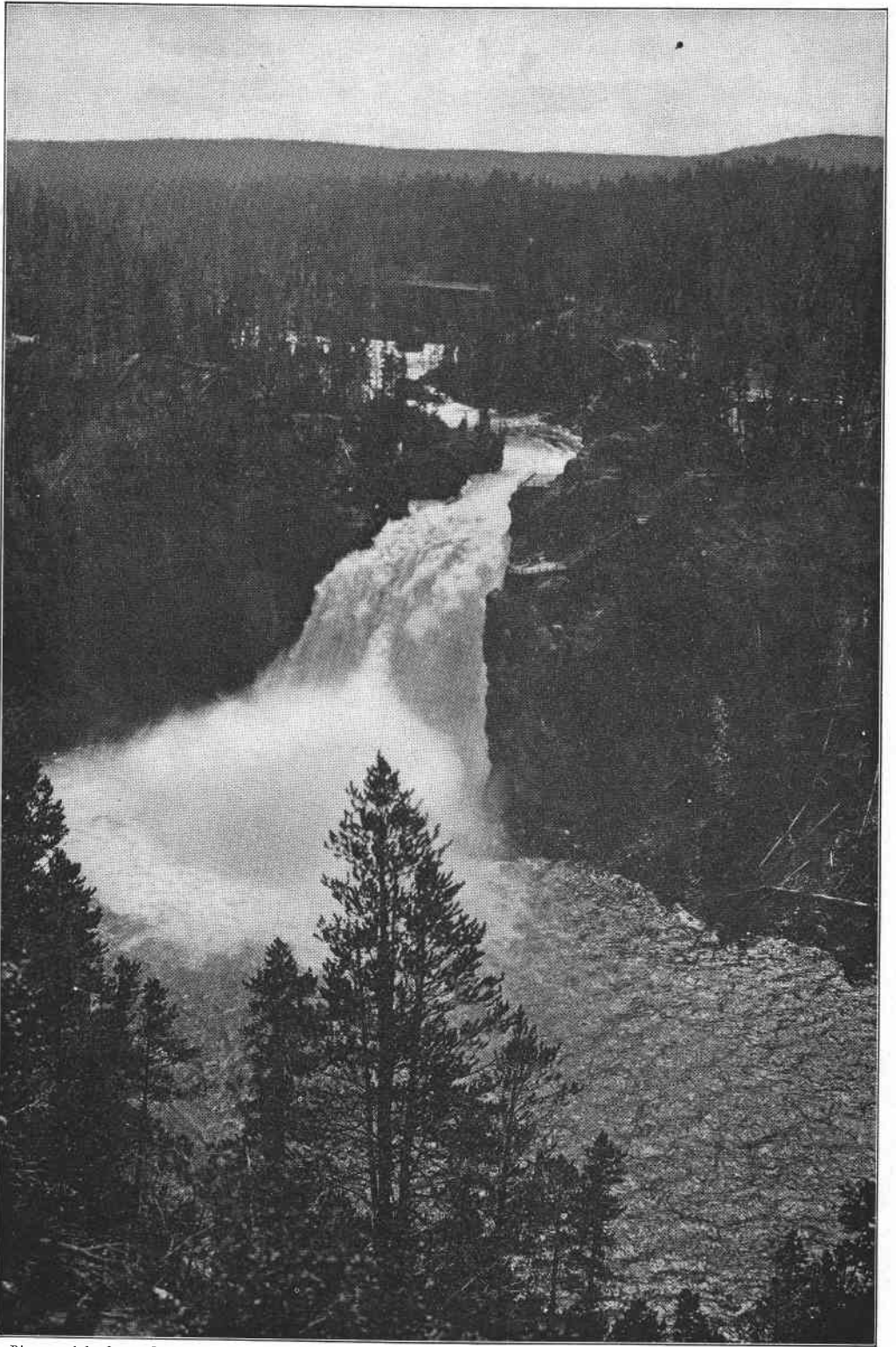
**T**HE Yellowstone National Park is the largest and most widely celebrated of our national parks. It is a wooded wilderness of over thirty-four hundred square miles. It contains more geysers than are found in the rest of the world together. It has innumerable boiling springs whose steam mingles with the clouds.

It has many rushing rivers and large lakes. It has waterfalls of great height and large volume. It has fishing waters unexcelled.

It has canyons of sublimity, one of which presents a spectacle of broken color unequaled. It has areas of petrified forests with trunks standing. It has innumerable wild animals which have ceased unduly to fear man; in fact, it is unique as a bird and animal sanctuary.

It has several great hotels and lodges, and also many free public automobile camp grounds. It has a good road system.

In short, it is not only the wonderland that common report describes; it is a fitting playground and pleasure resort of a great people; it is also an ideal summer school of nature study.



*Photograph by George R. King*

THE UPPER FALLS OF THE YELLOWSTONE, A FEW MILES BELOW YELLOWSTONE LAKE  
Above these falls the rushing river lies nearly level with surrounding country; below begins the canyon





*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

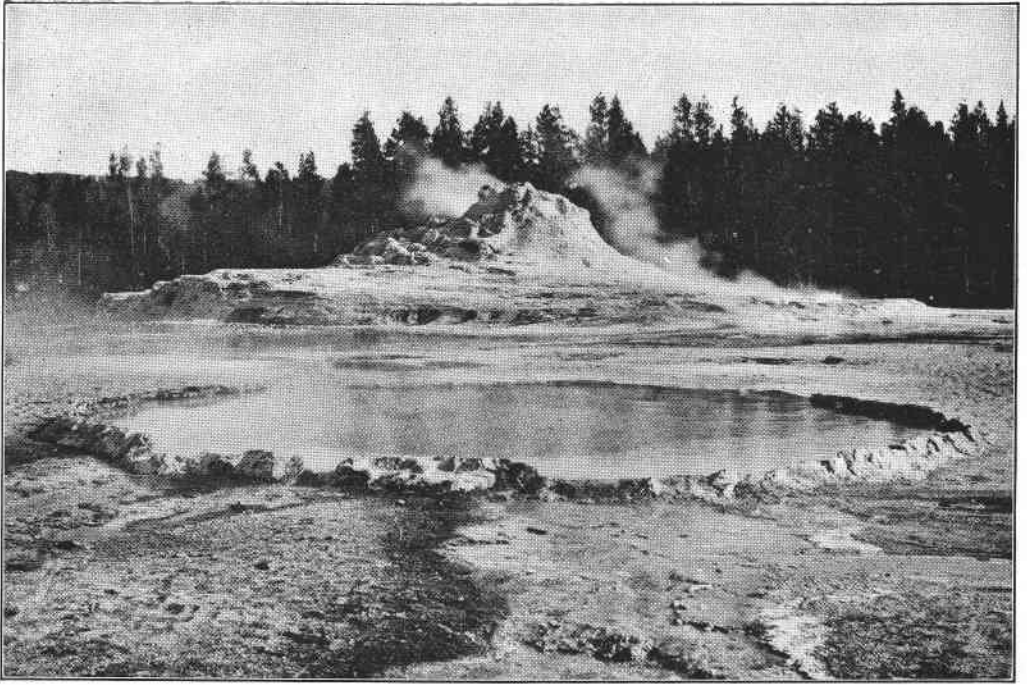
RAPIDS ABOVE UPPER FALLS

## THREEFOLD PERSONALITY

**T**HE Yellowstone is associated in the public mind with geysers only. Thousands even of those who, watches in hand, have hustled from sight to sight over the usual stage schedules, bring home vivid impressions of little else.

There never was a greater mistake. Were there no geysers, the Yellowstone watershed alone, with its glowing canyon, would be worth the national park. Were there also no canyon, the scenic wilderness and its incomparable wealth of wild-animal life would be worth the national park.

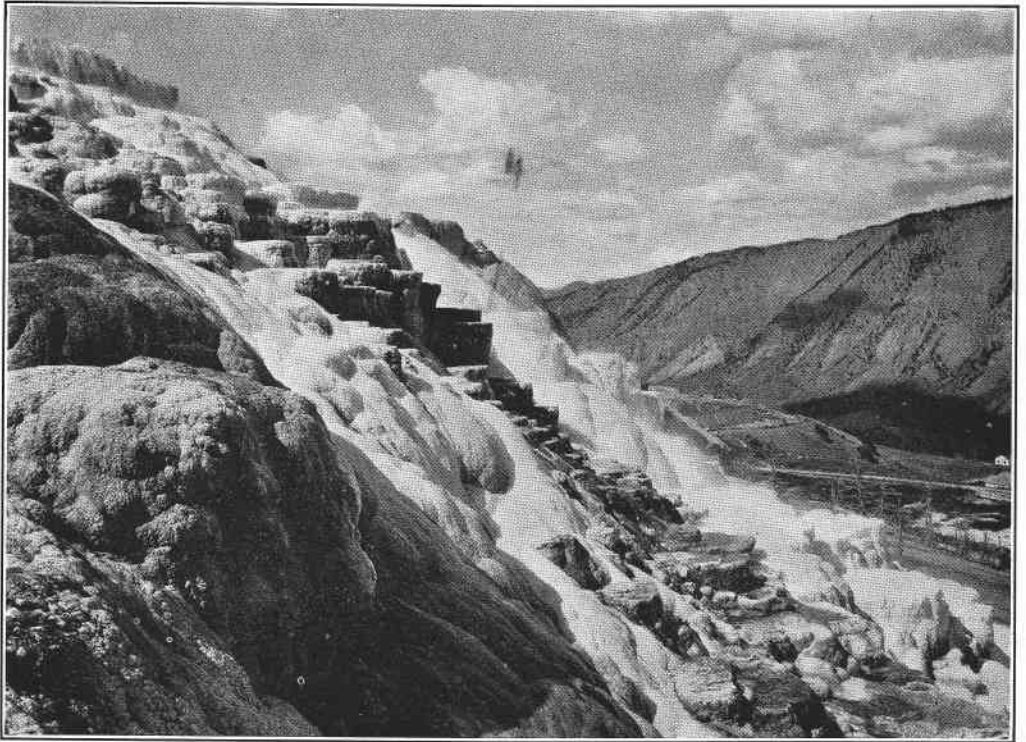
The personality of the Yellowstone is threefold. The hot-water manifestations are worth minute examination, the canyon a contemplative visit, the park a summer. Dunraven Pass, Mount Washburn, the canyon at Tower Falls, Shoshone Lake, Sylvan Pass—these are known to very few indeed. See all or you have not seen the Yellowstone.



*Photograph by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

### CRESTED POOL, ONE OF THE INNUMERABLE HOT SPRINGS

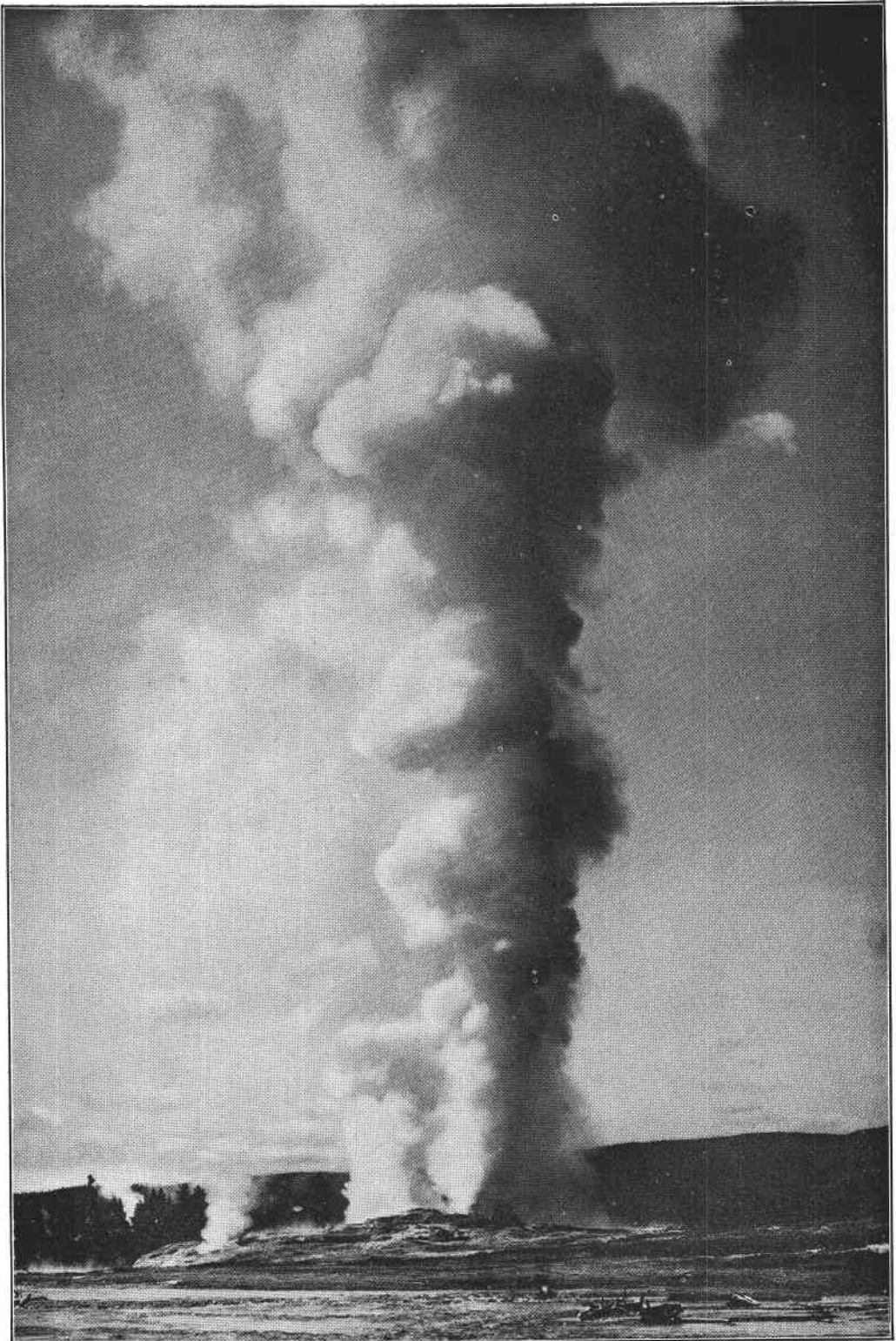
These springs, whose marvelously clear water is a deep blue, have an astonishing depth



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

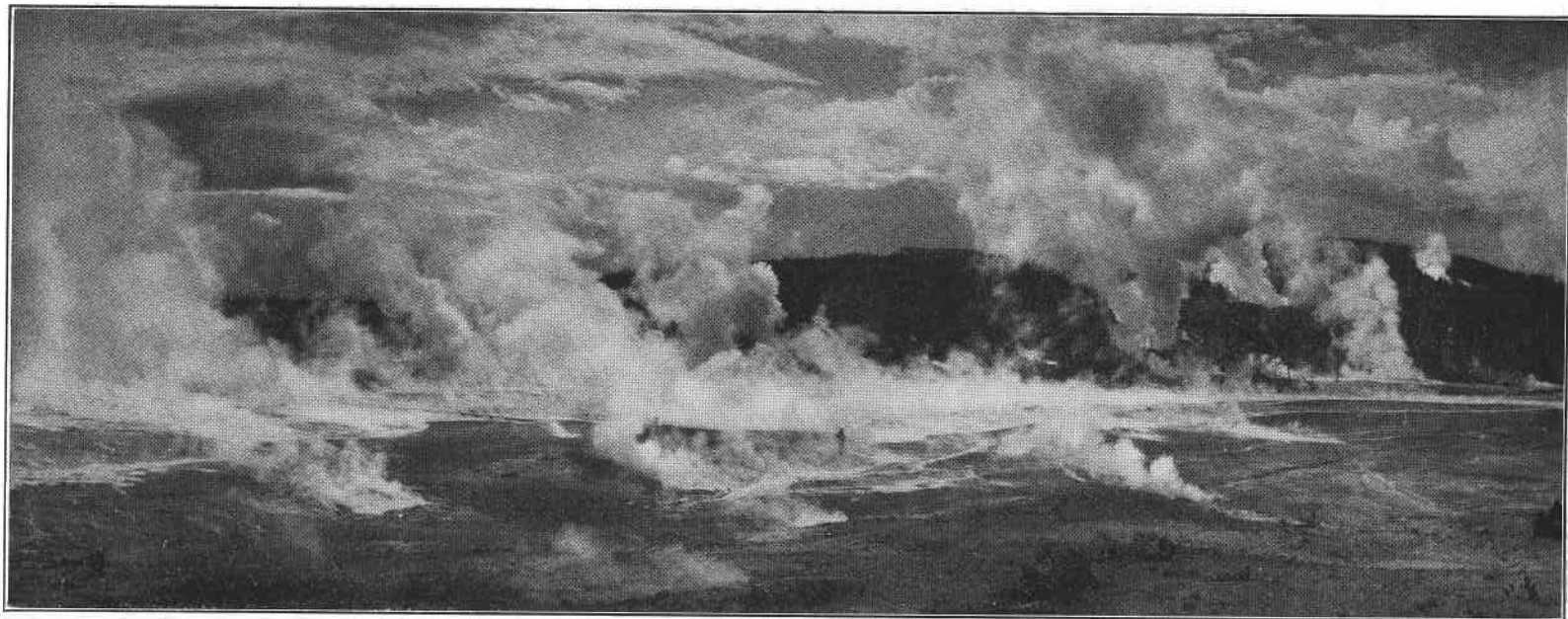
### THE CARVED AND FRETTED TERRACES AT MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS

These great white hills, deposited and built up by the hot waters, sometimes envelope forest trees



*Photograph by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

THE GIANT GEYSER, IN MANY RESPECTS THE GREATEST OF ALL  
It spouts for an hour at a time, the water reaching a height of 250 feet. Interval, four to sixteen days



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

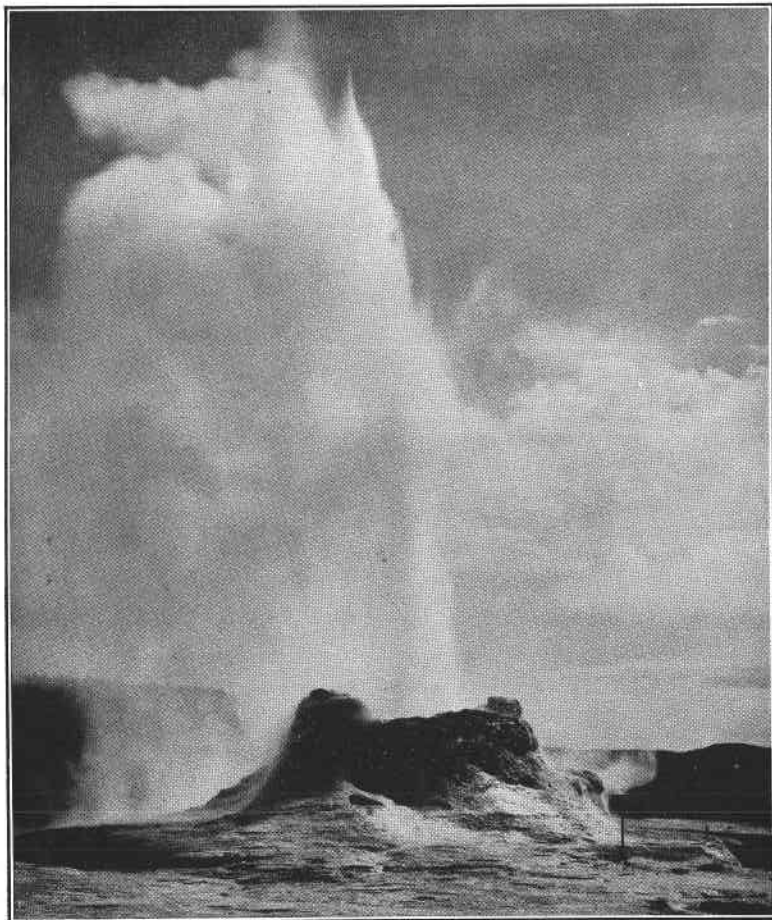
#### THE NORRIS GEYSER BASIN

## GEYSERS SPOUT AND STEAMING VAPORS RISE

**T**HE first view of the geyser basins affords a sensation never to be forgotten. Early explorers imagined they smelled brimstone. Early lecturers were hissed and sometimes even stoned in the streets as imposters. Certainly the imaginative beholder acquires thrills he never before experienced.

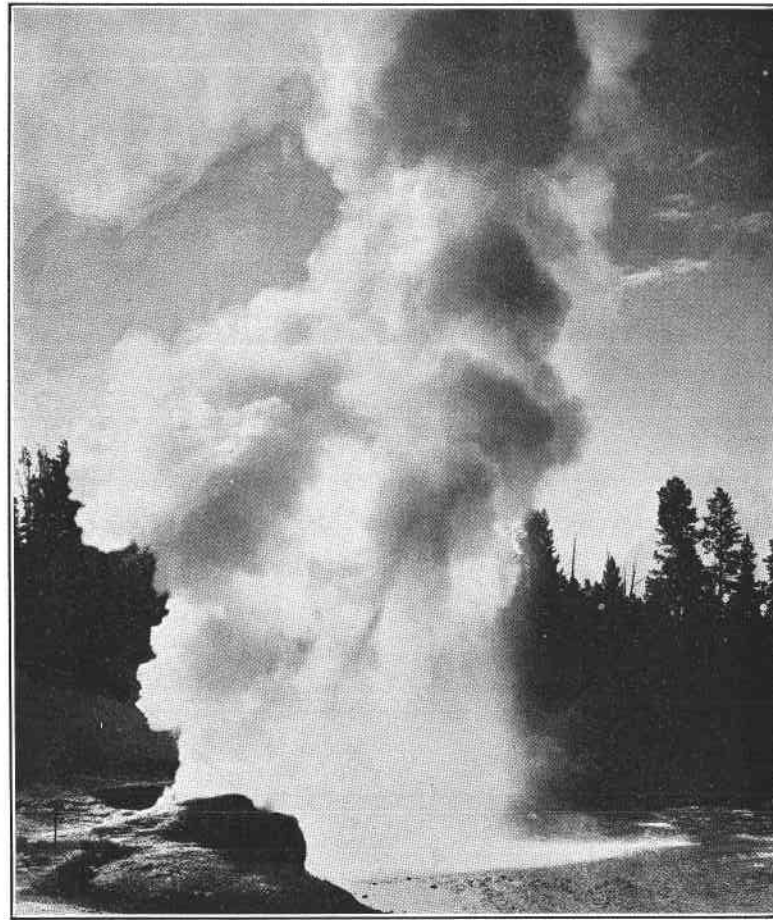
There are more than forty geysers accessible in the

three large basins on the west side. Some spout every few seconds, some every few minutes, others at intervals of hours or days, a few at irregular intervals of weeks. The eruptions vary from several feet to two hundred and fifty feet. But the whole region bubbles and hisses and steams. Geysers occur where the earth's internal heat approaches its surface.



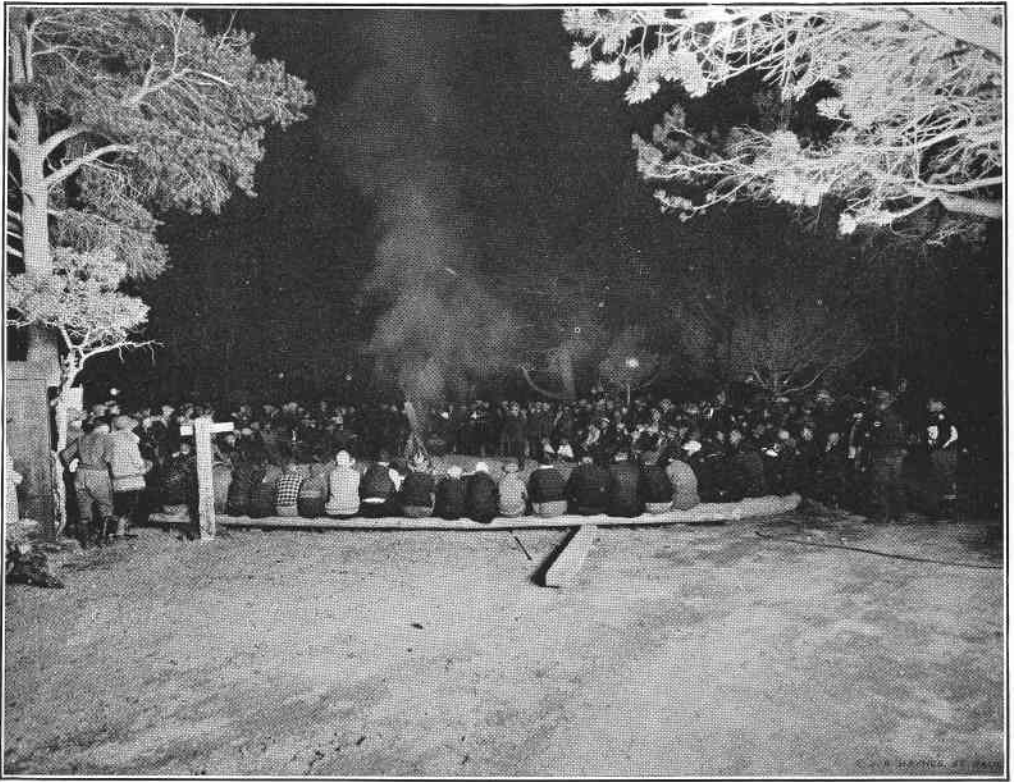
*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

CASTLE GEYSER, SO NAMED BECAUSE OF ITS SYMMETRICAL CONE



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

THE LIVELY RIVERSIDE GEYSER WHICH PLAYS EVERY FEW HOURS



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

THE CAMP FIRE WHERE TRUE WESTERN THRILLERS ARE TOLD

## MANY-COLORED CANYON

**F**ROM Inspiration Point, looking a thousand feet almost vertically down upon the foaming Yellowstone River, and southward three miles to the Great Falls, the hushed observer sees spread before him a most glorious panorama. The steep slopes are inconceivably carved by the frost and the erosion of the ages. Sometimes they lie in straight lines at easy angles, from which jut high rocky prominencés. Sometimes they seem carved from the side walls. Here and there jagged rocky needles rise perpendicularly like groups of gothic spires.

And the whole is colored as brokenly and vividly as the field of a kaleidoscope. The whole is streaked and spotted in every shade from the deepest orange to the faintest lemon, from deep crimson through ail the brick shades to the softest pink, from black through all the grays and pearls to glistening white. The greens are furnished by the dark pines above, the lighter shades of growth caught here and there in soft masses on the gentler slopes and the foaming green of the plunging river so far below. The blues, ever changing, are found in the dome of the sky overhead.



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

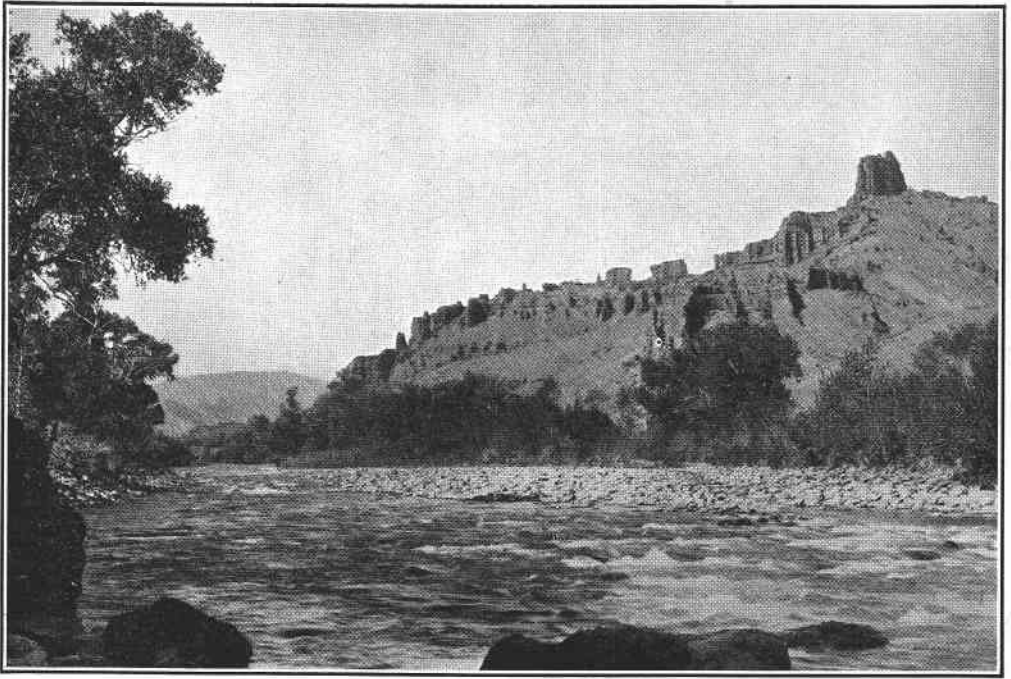
SYLVAN LAKE, BELOW SYLVAN PASS, CODY ROAD



*Copyright by Gifford*

VIEW FROM MOUNT WASHBURN SHOWING YELLOWSTONE LAKE IN DISTANCE

The northern east side is a country of striking and romantic scenery made accessible by excellent roads



*Photograph by J. E. Haynes*

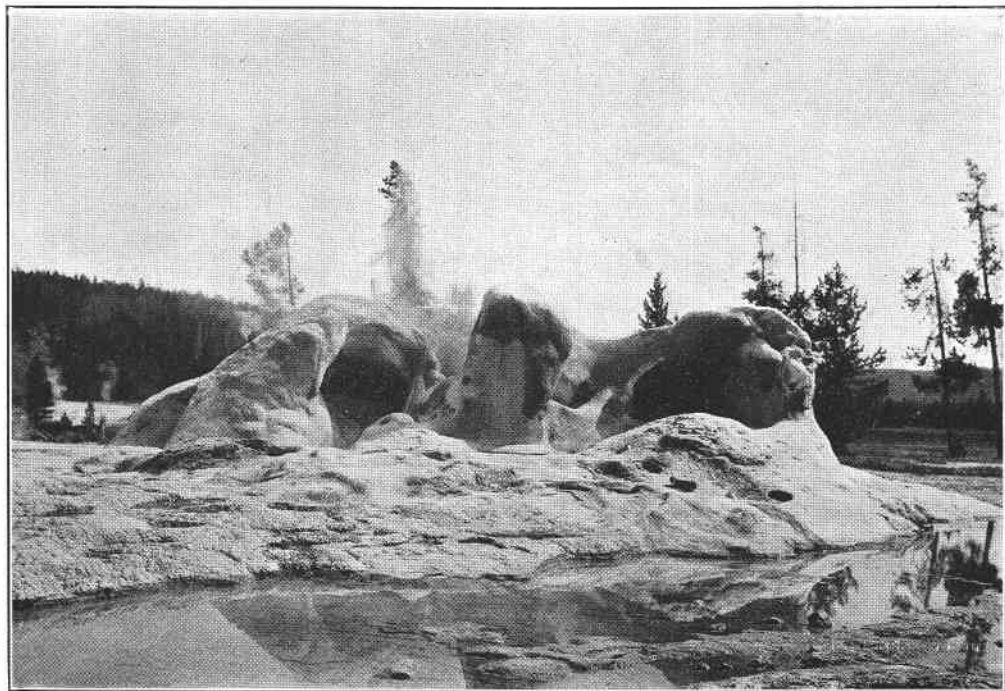
THE HOLY CITY FROM THE CODY ROAD, EASTERN ENTRANCE



*Photograph by J. E. Haynes*

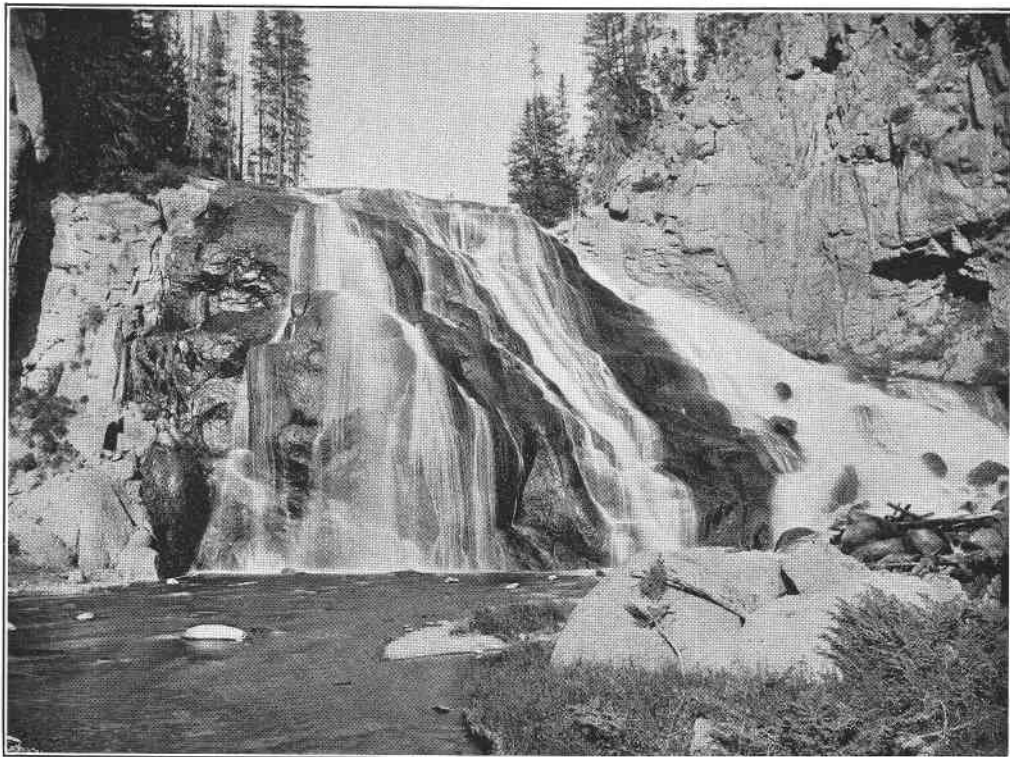
ENTERING YELLOWSTONE FROM THE SOUTH—LEWIS FALLS





*Copyright by J. E. Haynes*

### UNIQUE GROTTO GEYSER FORMATION



*Photograph by J. E. Haynes*

### BEAUTIFUL GIBBON FALLS IN THE GIBBON RIVER

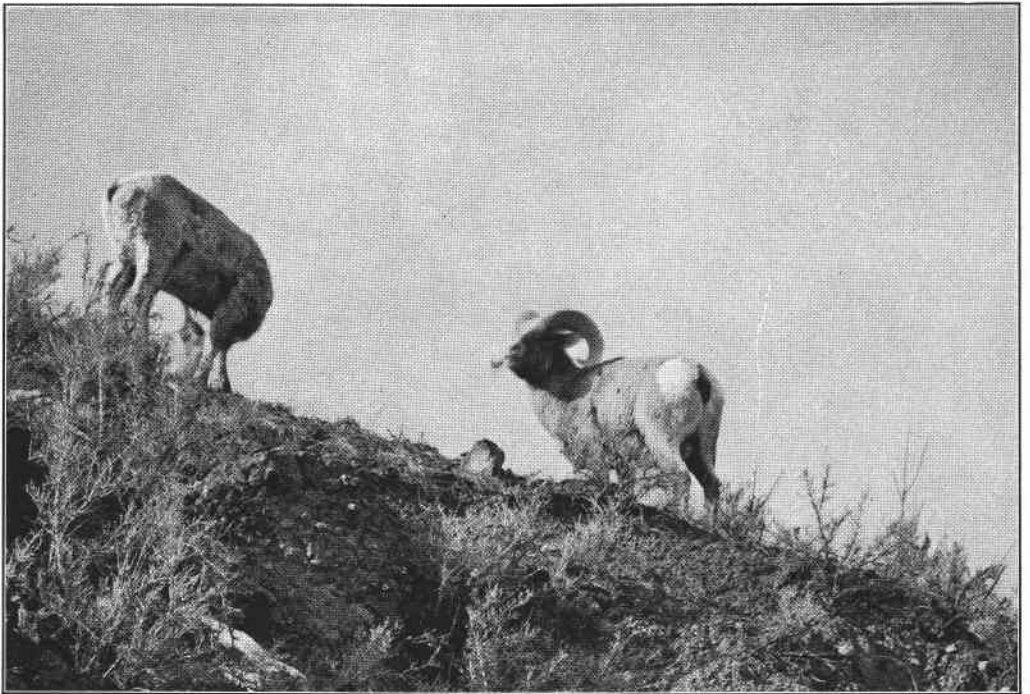
48195°—31—2

[ 17 ]



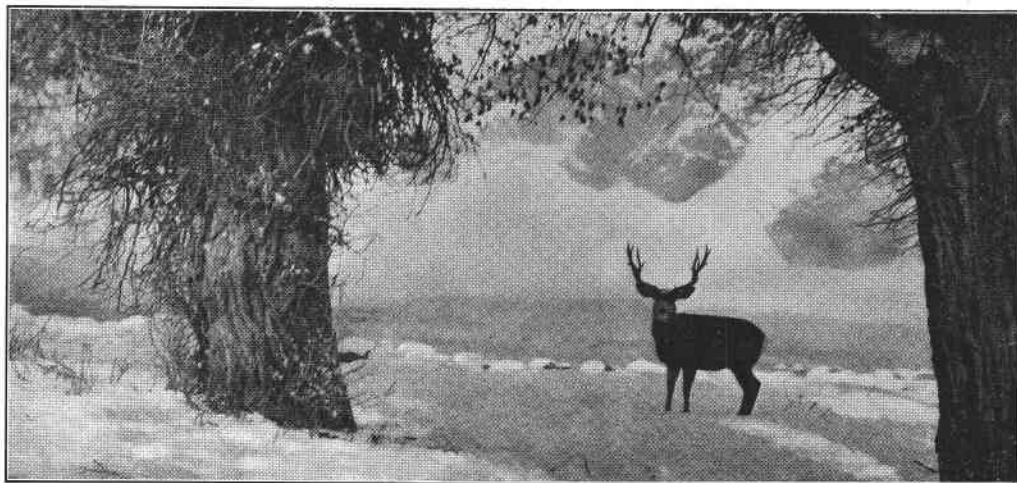
*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

A GRIZZLY BEAR AND HER CUBS



*Photograph by Albert Schleichien*

IT IS THE NATURAL HOME OF THE CELEBRATED BIGHORN, THE ROCKY-MOUNTAIN SHEEP



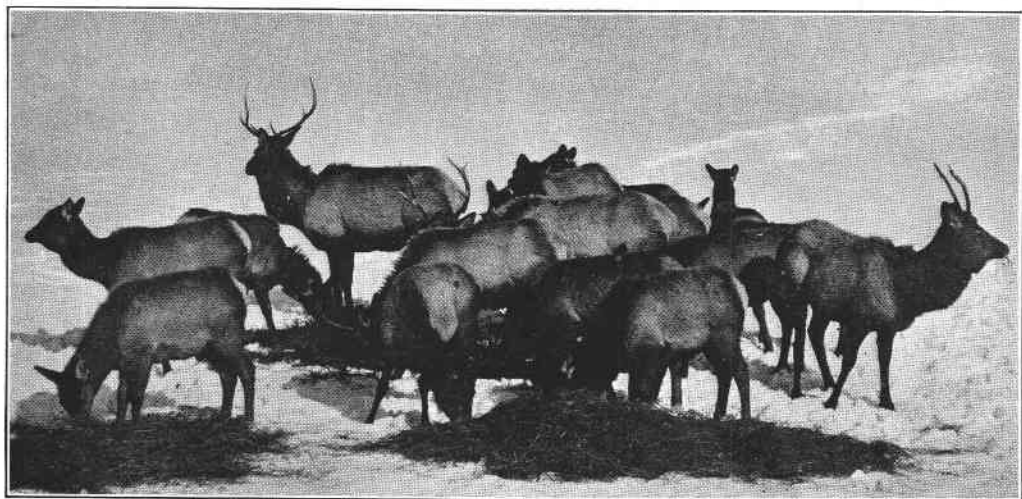
*Photograph by G. Swanson*

DEER MAKE UNEXPECTED SILHOUETTES AT FREQUENT INTERVALS

## GREATEST ANIMAL REFUGE

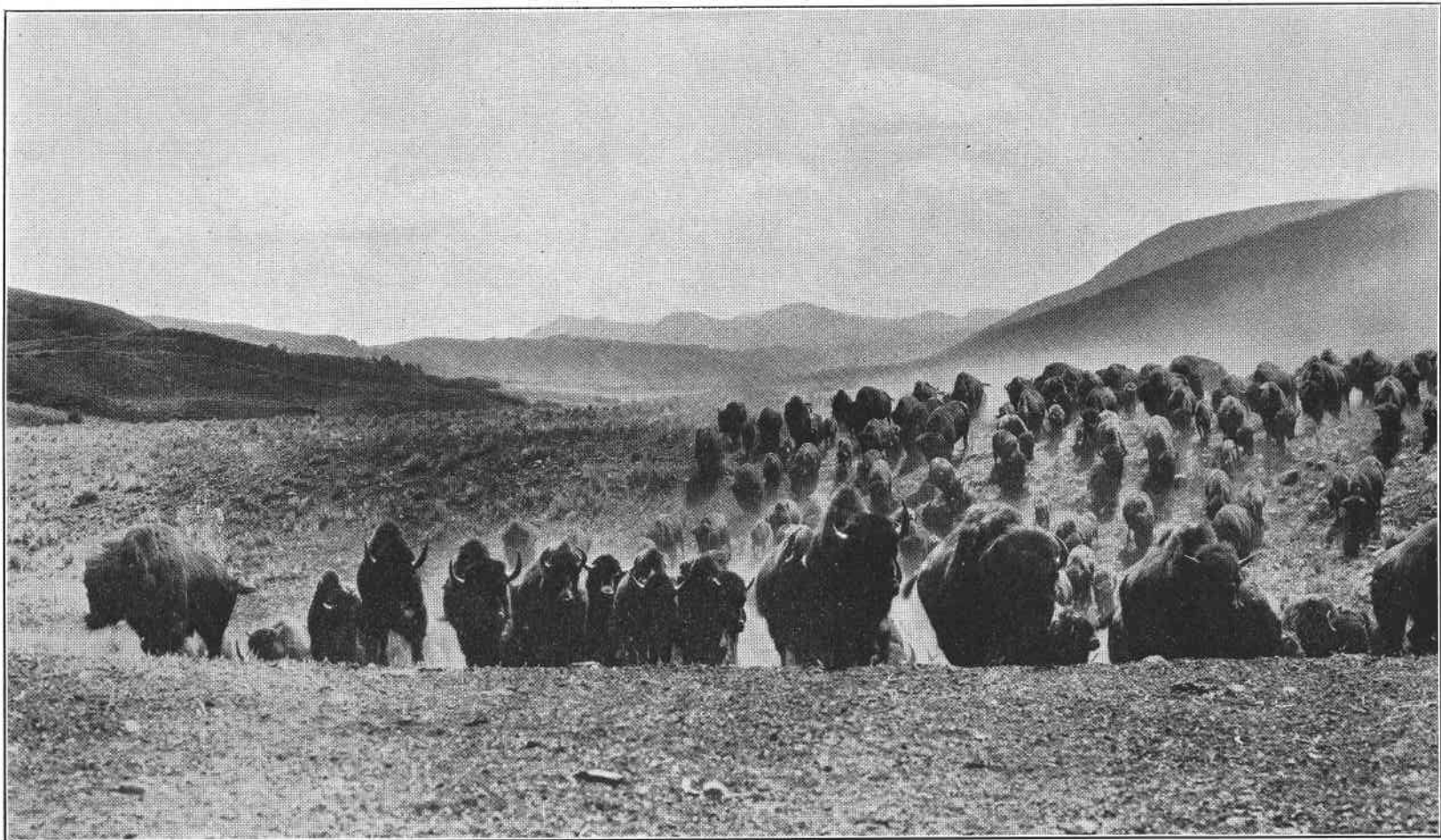
**T**HE Yellowstone National Park is one of the largest and most important game preserves in the world. Since it was established in 1872 hunting has been strictly prohibited, and elk, bear, deer, antelope, bison, moose, and bighorn mountain sheep roam the valleys and mountains in large numbers. Fourteen thousand elk, for instance, live in the park. Antelope, nearly extinct elsewhere, here abound.

These animals have long since ceased to fear man as wild animals do everywhere except in our national parks. While few tourists see them who follow the beaten roads in the everlasting sequence of stages, those who linger in the glorious wilderness see them in an abundance that fairly astonishes.



*Photograph by S. N. Leek*

IN WINTER WHEN SNOWS ARE DEEP PARK RANGERS LEAVE HAY IN CONVENIENT SPOTS



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

YELLOWSTONE'S BUFFALO HERD IN FULL STAMPEDE IS A THRILLING SIGHT

# ANIMALS REALLY AT HOME



*Photograph by Edward S. Curtis*

UNLIKE THE GRIZZLY, THE BLACK BEAR CLIMBS TREES QUICKLY AND EASILY

VERY different, indeed, from the beasts of the after-dinner story and the literature of adventure are the wild animals of the Yellowstone. Never shot at, never pursued, they are comparatively as fearless as song birds nestling in the homestead trees.

Wilderness bears cross the trail without haste a few yards ahead of the solitary passer-by, and his accustomed horses jog on undisturbed. Deer by scores lift their antlered heads above near thickets to watch his passing. Elk scarcely slow their cropping of forest grasses. Even the occasional moose, straying far from his southern wilderness, scarcely quickens his trot. Herds of antelope on near-by hills watch but hold their own.

Only the grizzly and the mountain sheep, besides the predatory beasts, still hide in the fastnesses. But even the grizzly now comes to the bear feeding ground and the mountain sheep loses fear and joins the others in winters of heavy snow when park rangers scatter hay by the roadside.



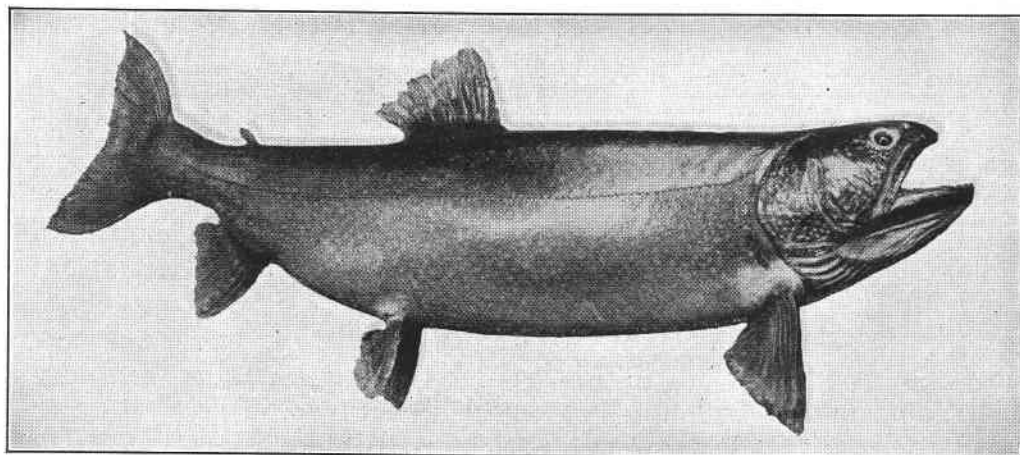
*Photograph by S. N. Leek*

## THE PARADISE OF ANGLERS

**T**HE Yellowstone is a land of splendid rivers. Three watersheds find their beginnings within its borders. From Yellowstone Lake flows north the rushing Yellowstone River with its many tributaries; from Shoshone, Lewis, and Heart Lakes flows south the Snake River; and in the western slopes rise the Madison and its many tributaries. All are trout waters of high degree.

The native trout of this region is the famous cutthroat. The grayling is native in the Madison River and its tributaries. Others have been planted.

Besides the stream fishing, which is unsurpassed, the lakes, particularly Shoshone Lake and certain small ones, afford admirable sport.



*Photograph by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

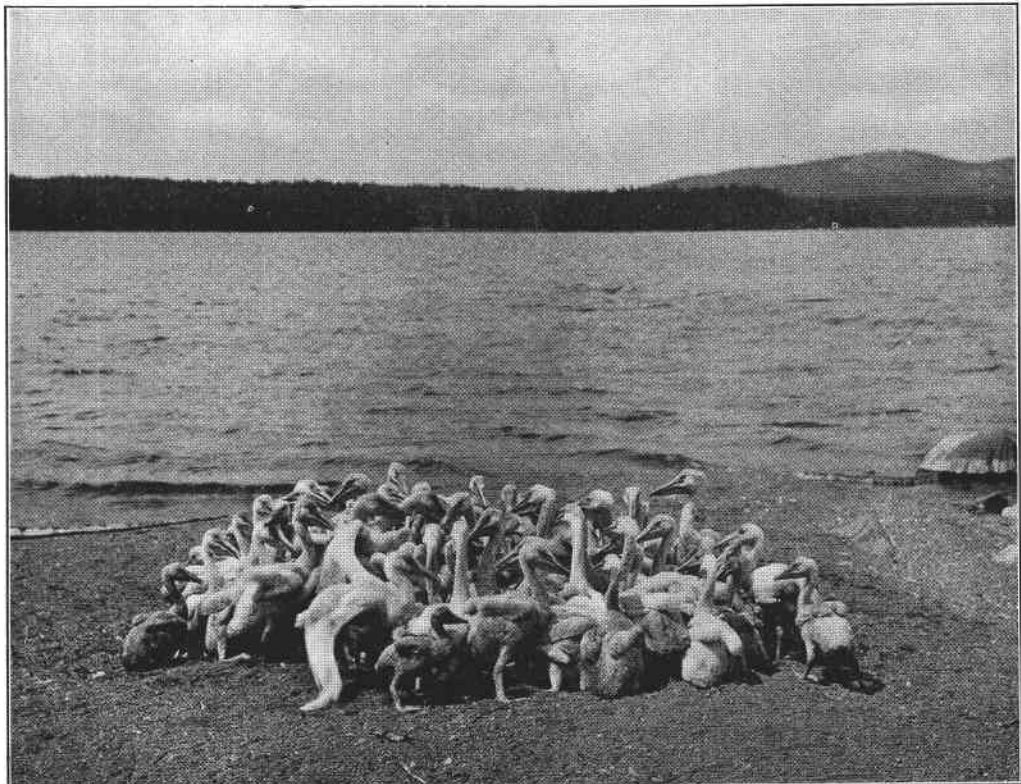
### A BIG LAKE TROUT FROM SHOSHONE LAKE

The game cutthroat is the commonest trout in the Yellowstone, but there are six other varieties



*Photograph by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

CUTTHROATS FROM ONE TO THREE OR FOUR POUNDS ARE TAKEN IN LARGE NUMBERS AT THE YELLOWSTONE LAKE OUTLET



*Copyright by Gifford*

YOUNG PELICANS ON MOLLY ISLAND IN YELLOWSTONE LAKE

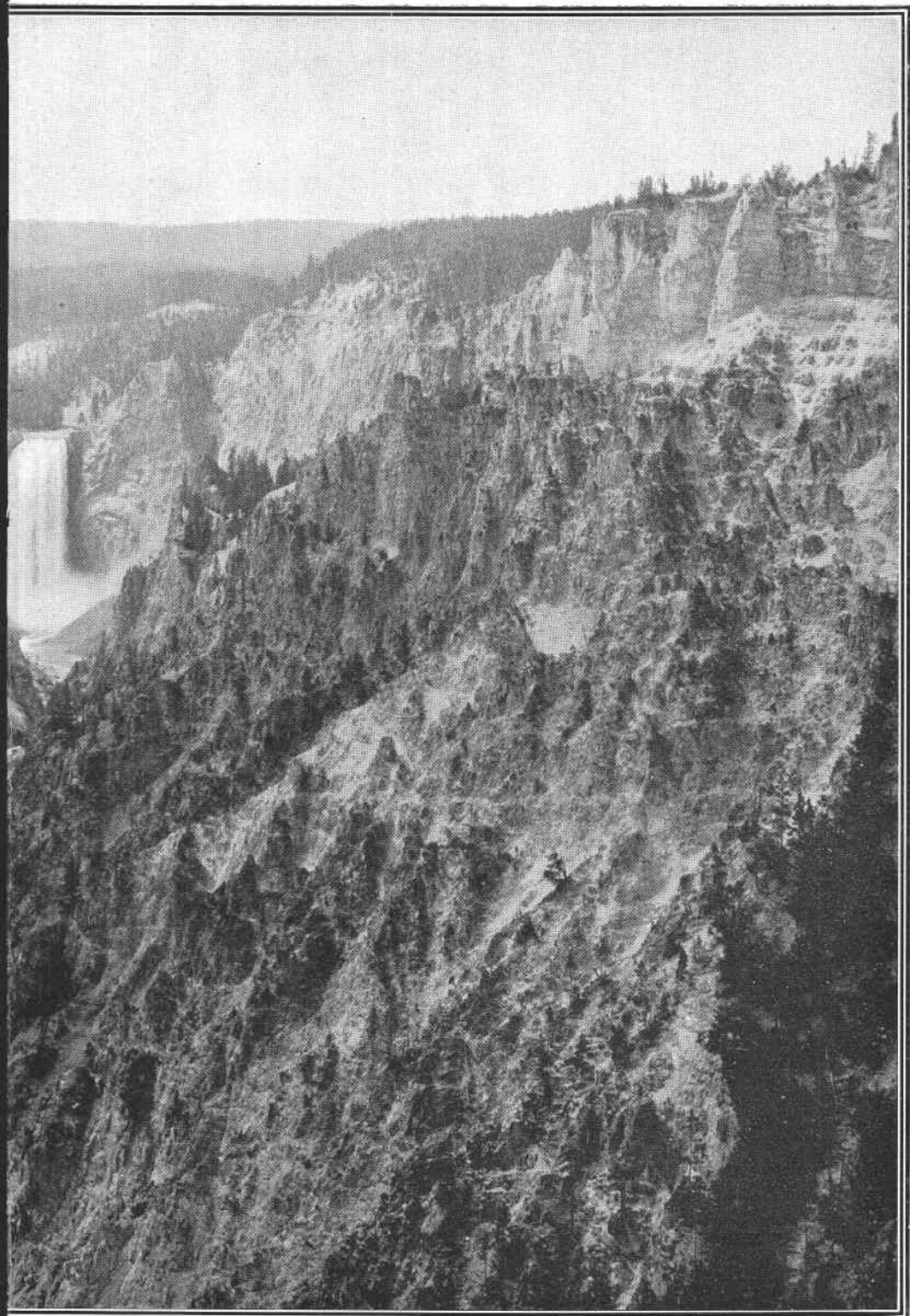
The Yellowstone pelicans are very large and pure white, a picturesque feature of the park



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

STANDING UPON ARTIST POINT, WHICH PUSHES OUT ALMOST OVER THE FOAMING RIVER,  
BEFORE YOU IN A GLORIOUS





A THOUSAND FEET BELOW, THE INCOMPARABLE CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE WIDENS  
KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOR



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes*

PARTY BEING CONDUCTED OVER MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS FORMATIONS



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes*

AUTO CAMP, MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, YELLOWSTONE PARK



Copyright by J. E. Haynes

OLD FAITHFUL LODGE, MAIN BUILDING

## LIVING *in the* YELLOWSTONE

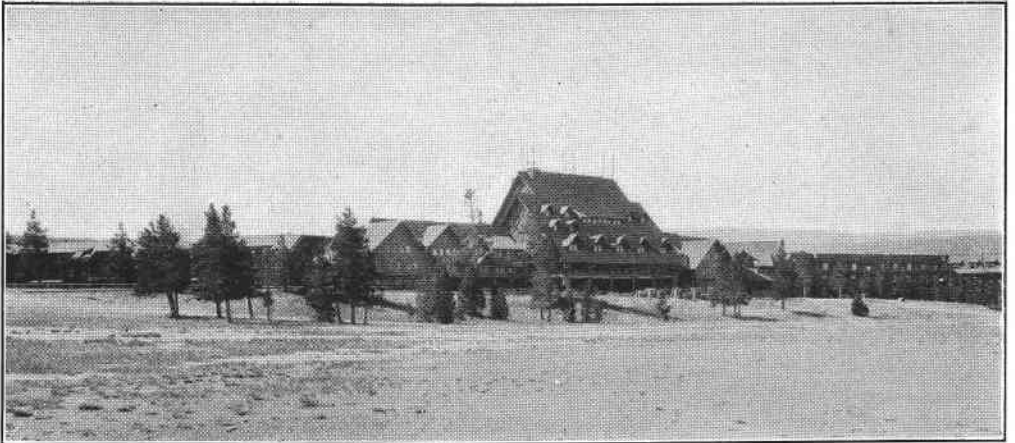
**T**HE park has entrances on all four sides. All have railroad connections; the southern entrance, by way of Jackson Hole and past the jagged snowy Tetons, has three approach roads. The roads from all entrances enter a central belt road which makes a large circuit connecting places of special interest.

Four large hotels are located at points convenient for seeing the sights and are supplemented by lodges at modest prices.

But the day of the unhurried visitor has dawned. If you want to enjoy your Yellowstone—if, indeed, you want even to *see* it—you should make your minimum twice five days; two weeks is better; a month is ideal.

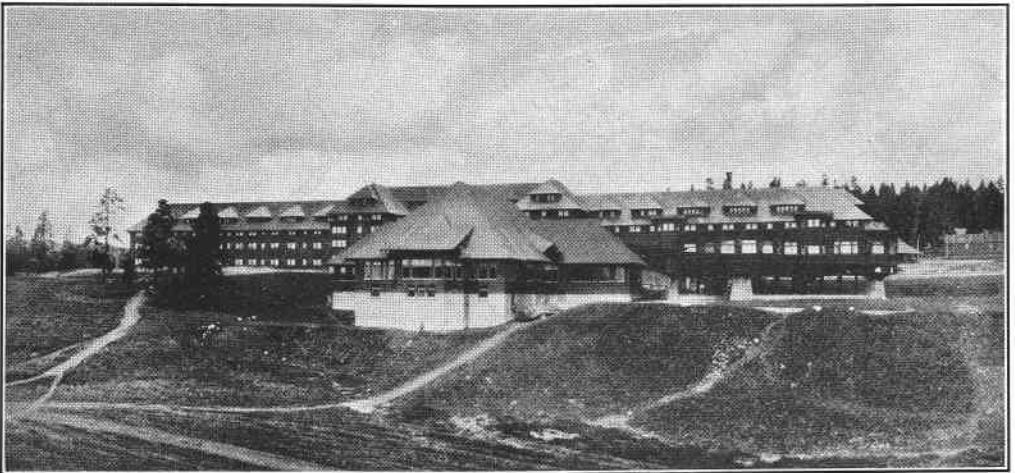
Spend the additional time at the canyon and on the trails. See the lake and the pelicans. Fish in Shoshone Lake. Climb Mount Washburn. Spend a day at Tower Falls. See Mammoth Hot Springs. Hunt wild animals with a camera. Stay with the wilderness and it will repay you a thousandfold. Fish a little, study nature in her myriad wealth—and live.

The Yellowstone National Park is ideal for camping out. When people realize this it should quickly become one of the most lived in, as it already is one of the most livable, of all our national parks.



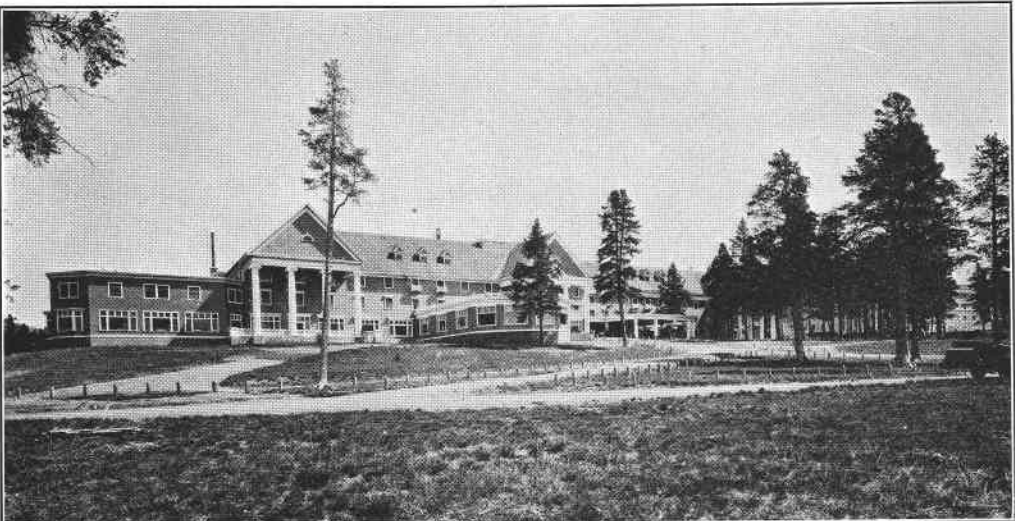
*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

OLD FAITHFUL INN



*Copyright by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

CANYON HOTEL

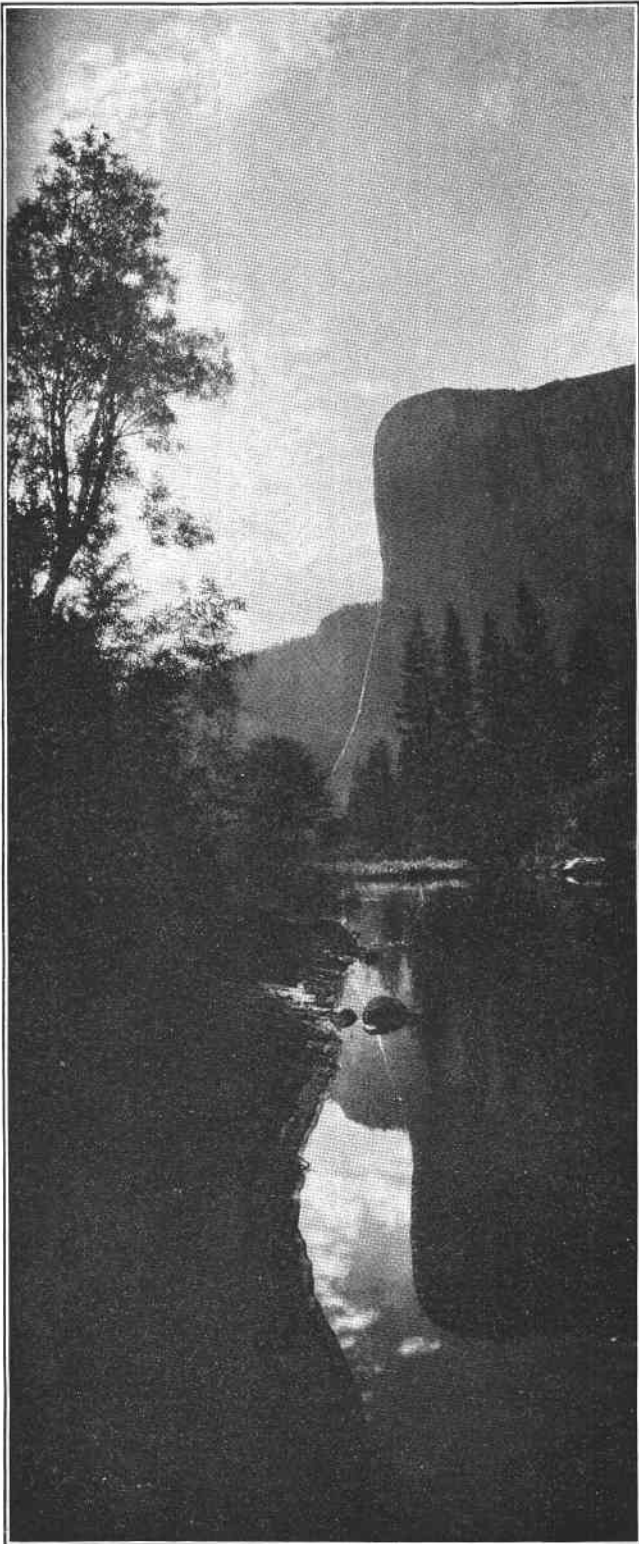


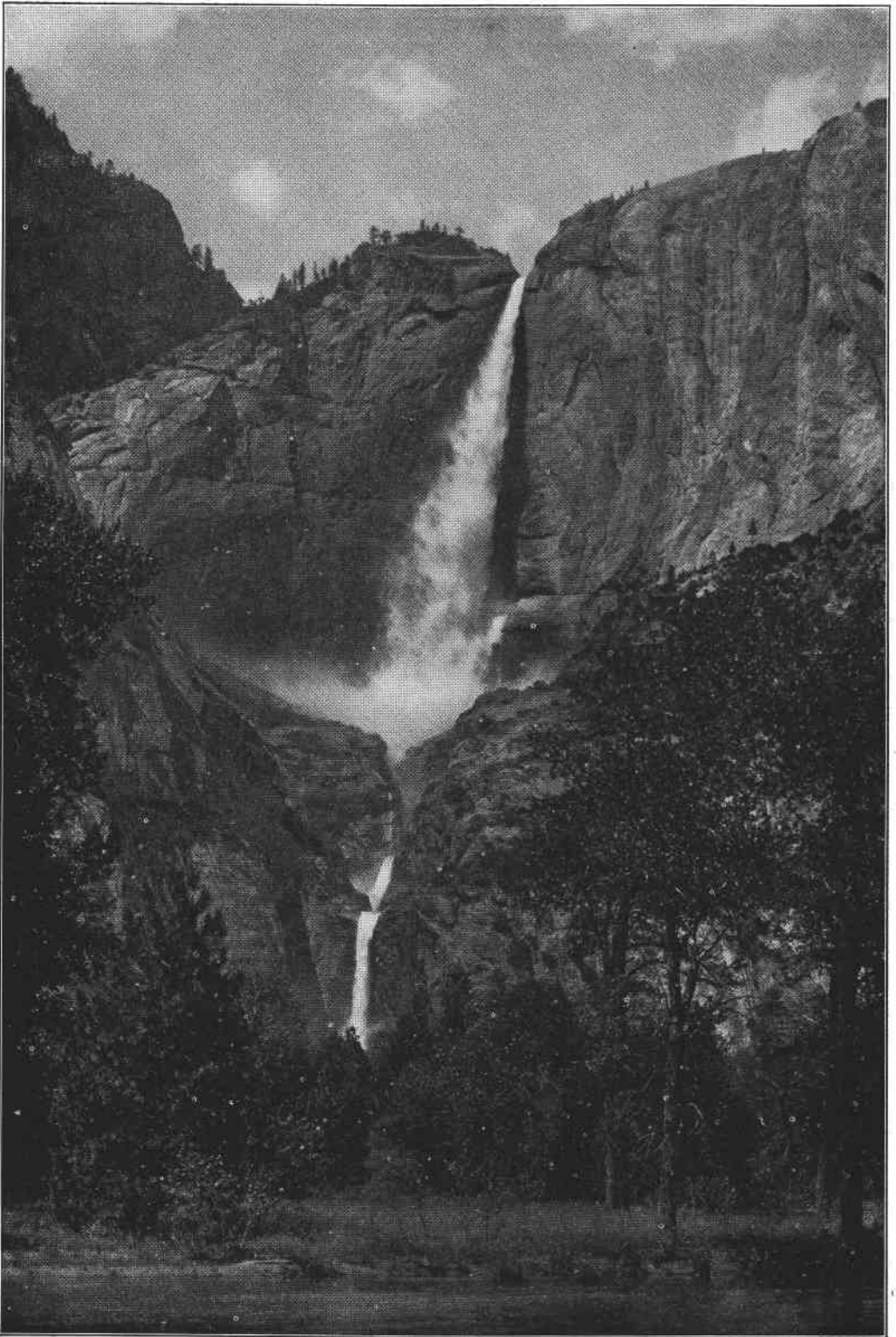
*Photograph by J. E. Haynes, St. Paul*

LAKE HOTEL

THREE OF THE FOUR LARGE HOTELS IN THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Y  
O  
S  
E  
M  
I  
T  
E

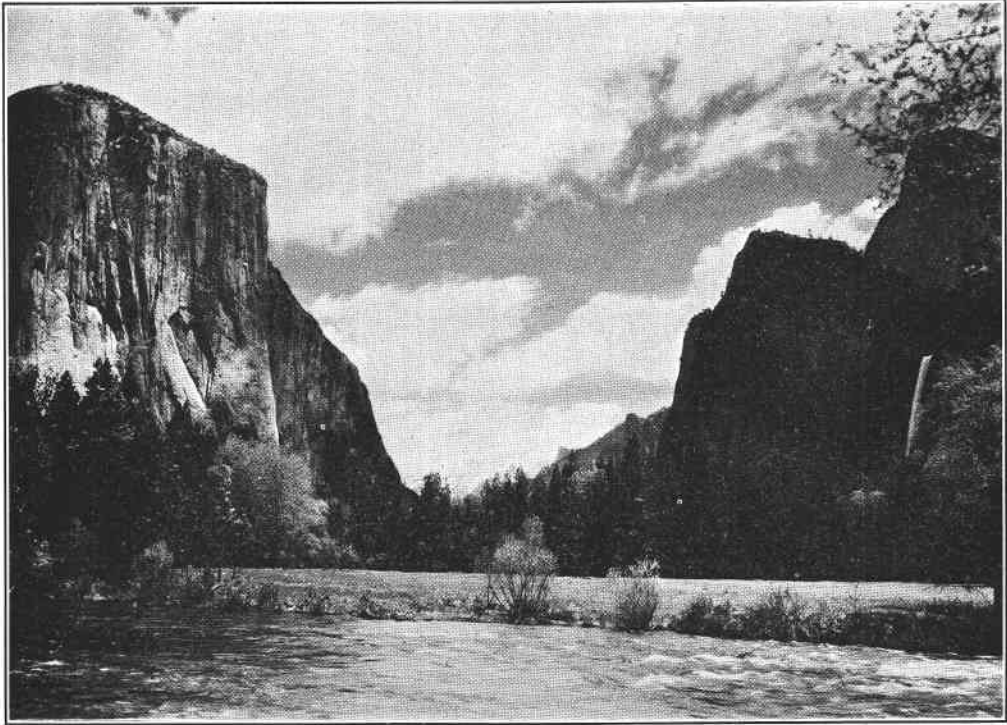




*Photograph by A. C. Pillsbury*

**THE HIGHEST WATERFALL IN THE WORLD—THE YOSEMITE FALLS**

The Upper Fall measures 1,430 feet, as high as nine Niagaras. The Lower Fall measures 320 feet  
The total drop from crest to river, including intermediate cascades, is almost half a mile



*Photograph by J. V. Lloyd*

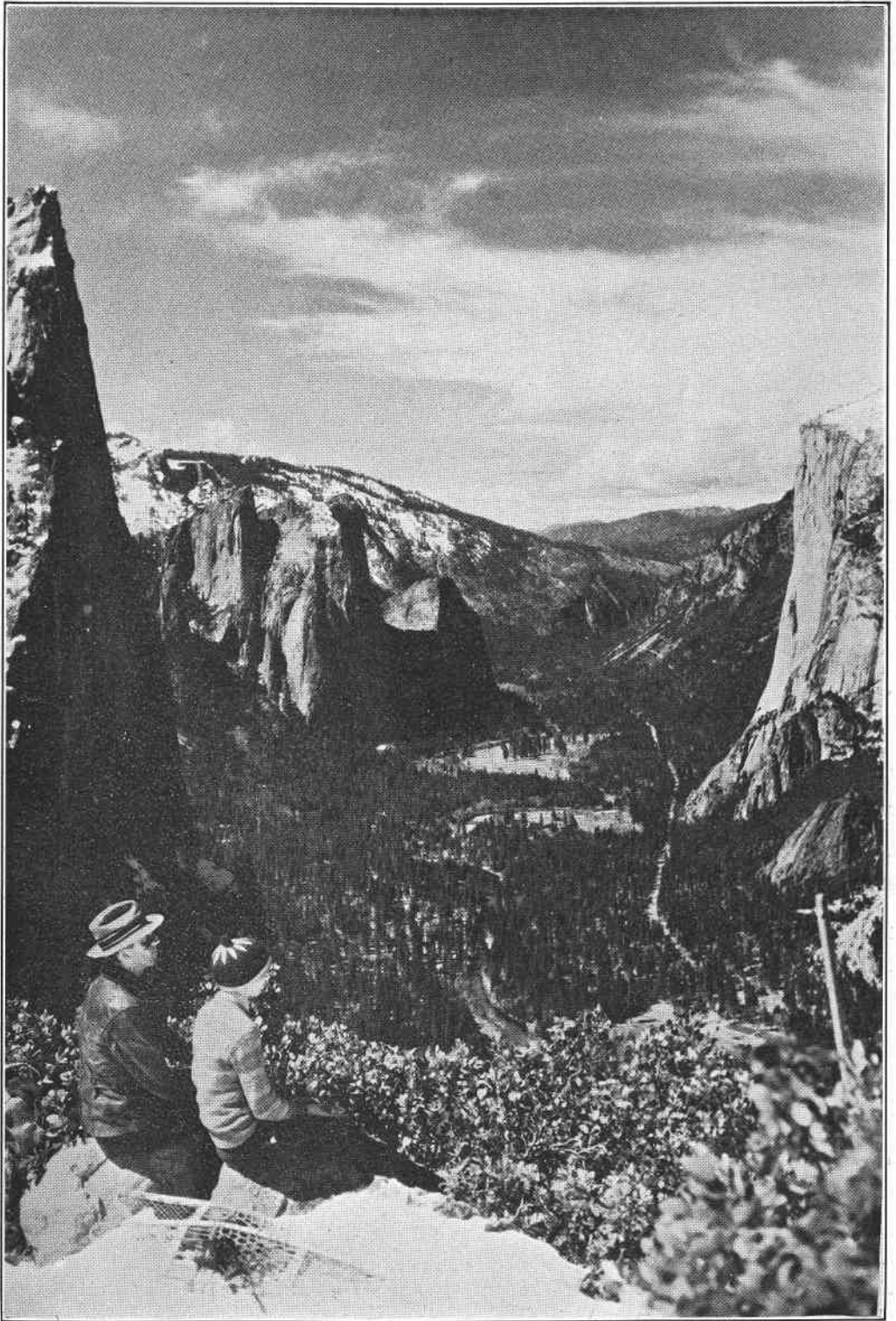
#### THE GATES OF THE VALLEY

## LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

**W**HO does not know of the Yosemite Valley? And yet, how few have heard of the Yosemite National Park! How few know that this world-famous, incomparable valley is merely a crack seven miles long in a scenic masterpiece of eleven hundred square miles!

John Muir loved the valley and crystallized its fame in phrase.

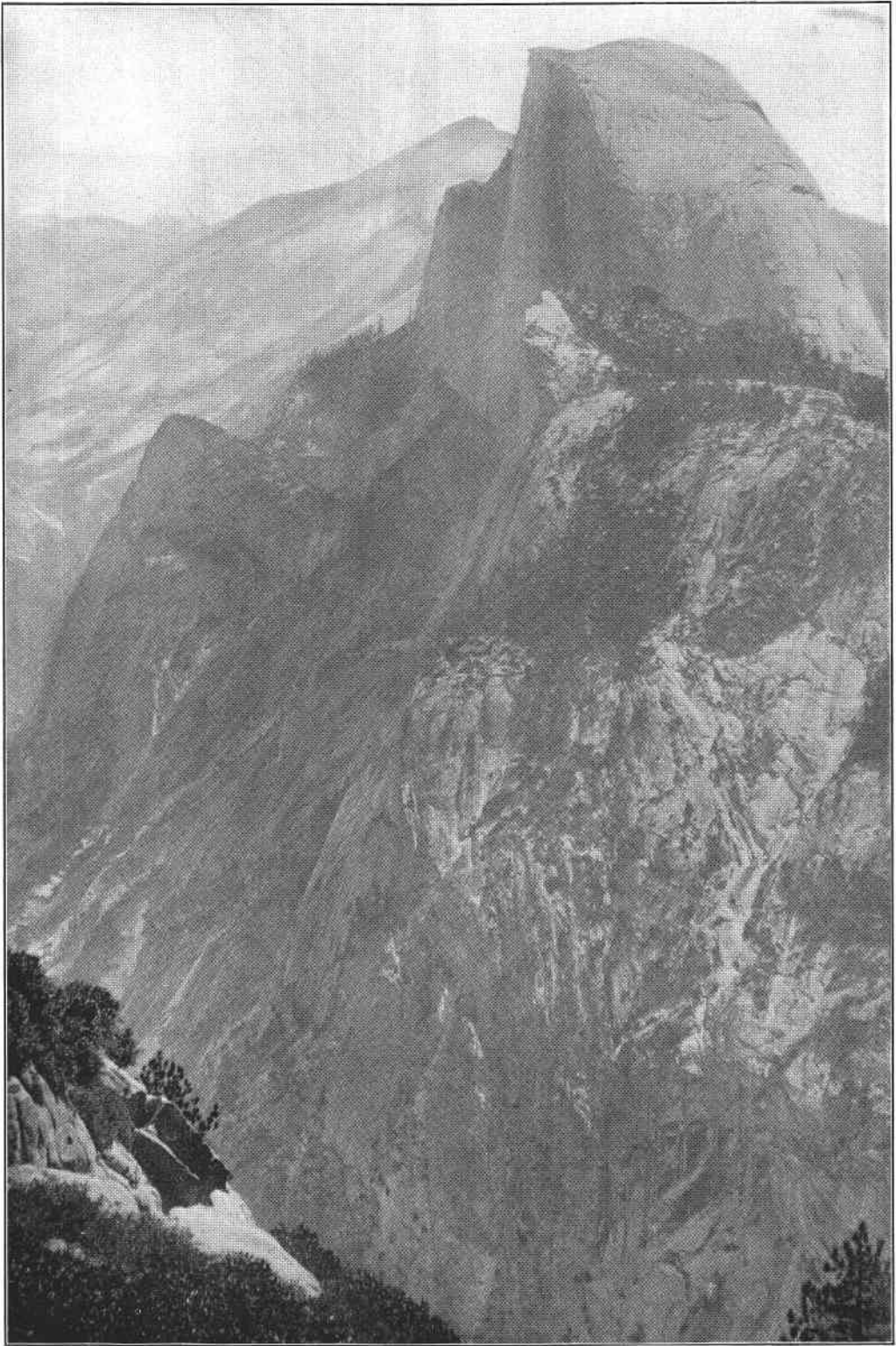
But still more he loved the national park, which he describes as including "innumerable lakes and waterfalls and smooth silky lawns; the noblest forests, the loftiest granite domes, the deepest ice-sculptured canyons, the brightest crystalline pavements, and snowy mountains soaring into the sky twelve and thirteen thousand feet, arrayed in open ranks and spiry pinnacled groups partially separated by tremendous canyons and amphitheatres; gardens on their sunny brows, avalanches thundering down their long white slopes, cataracts roaring gray and foaming in the crooked rugged gorges, and glaciers in their shadowy recesses working in silence, slowly completing their sculptures; newborn lakes at their feet, blue and green, free or encumbered with drifting icebergs like miniature Arctic Oceans, shining, sparkling, calm as stars."



*Photograph by J. V. Lloyd*

VIEW FROM UNION POINT  
On the Four-Mile Trail to the rim of Yosemite Valley

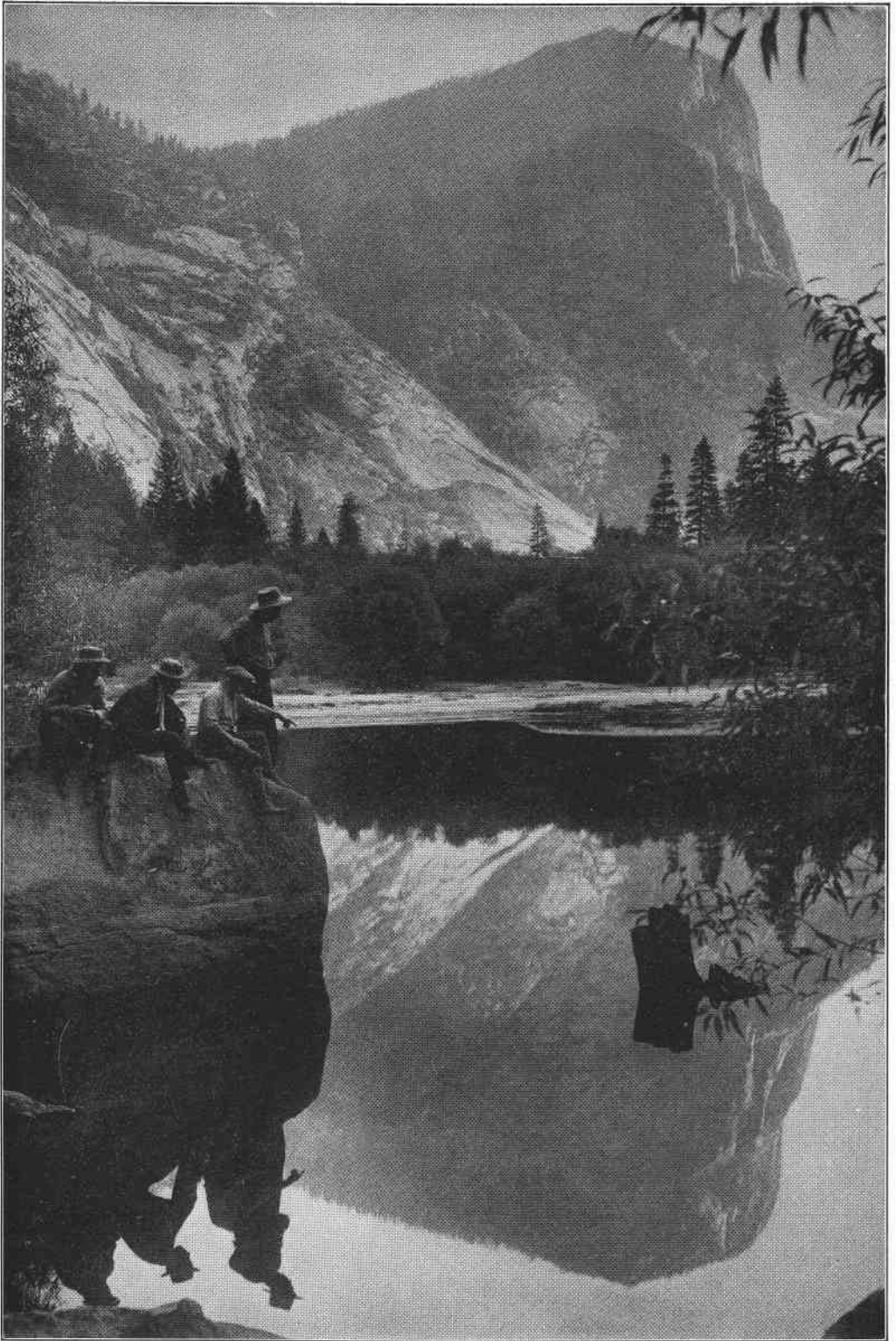




*Photograph by J. T. Boysen*

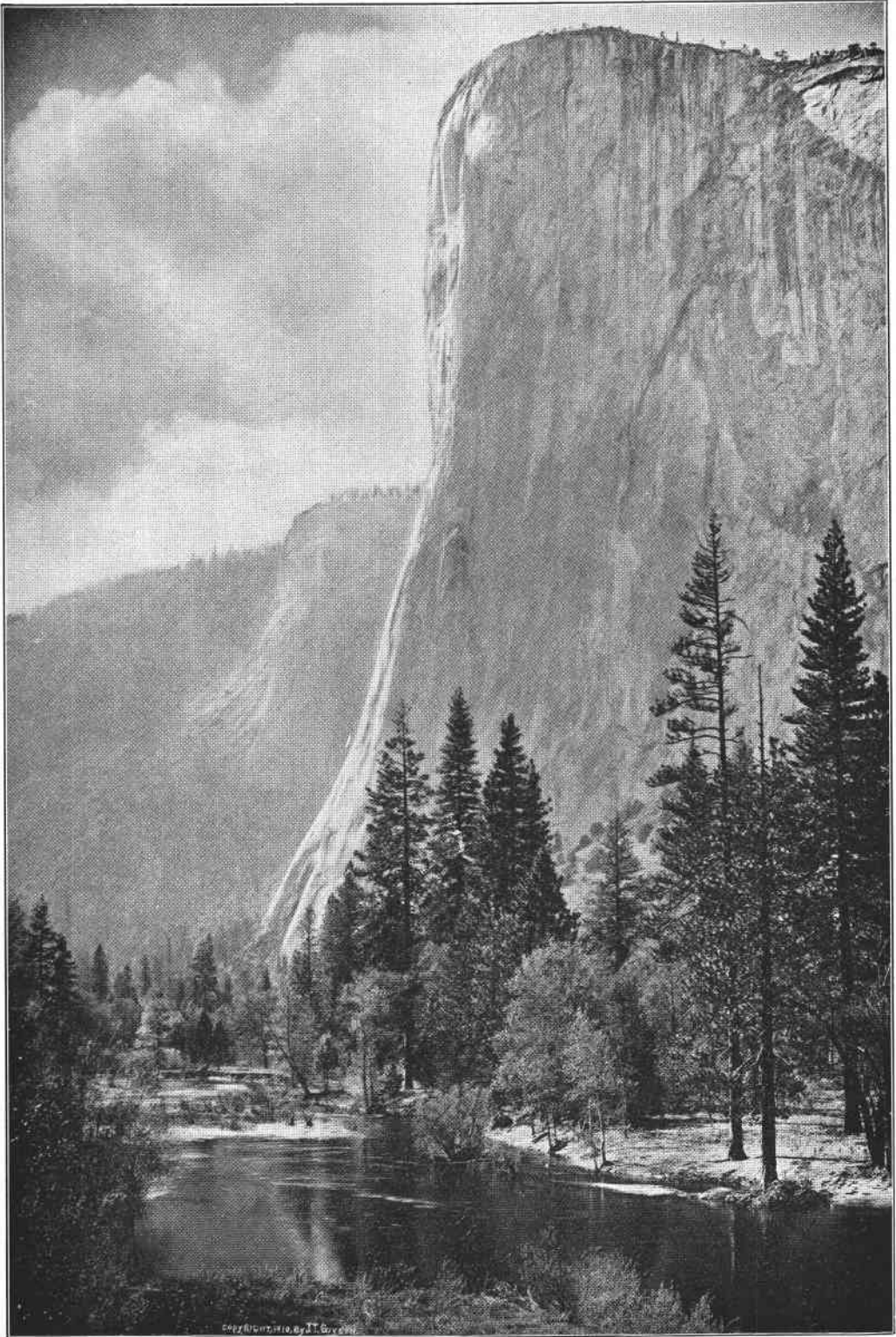
HALF DOME, FROM NEAR WASHINGTON COLUMN

Its summit is 4,892 feet above the floor of the valley



EARLY MORNING BESIDE MIRROR LAKE

This lake is famous for its reflections of the cliffs. Mount Watkins in the background



*Copyrighted by J. T. Boysen*

### EL CAPITAN AT SUNSET

This gigantic rock, whose hard granite resisted the glacier, rises 3,604 feet from the valley floor

# *The* VALLEY INCOMPARABLE



*Photograph by U. S. Reclamation Service*

BEAUTIFUL VERNAL FALLS

THE first view of most spots of unusual celebrity often falls short of expectation, but this is seldom, if ever, true of the Yosemite Valley. The sheer immensity of the precipices on either side of the peaceful floor; the loftiness and the romantic suggestion of the numerous waterfalls; the majesty of the granite walls; and the unreal, almost fairy quality of the ever-varying whole can not be successfully foretold.

This valley was once a tortuous river canyon. So rapidly was it cut by the Merced that the tributary valleys soon remained hanging high on either side. Then the canyon became the bed of a great glacier. It was widened as well as deepened, and the hanging character of the side valleys was accentuated.

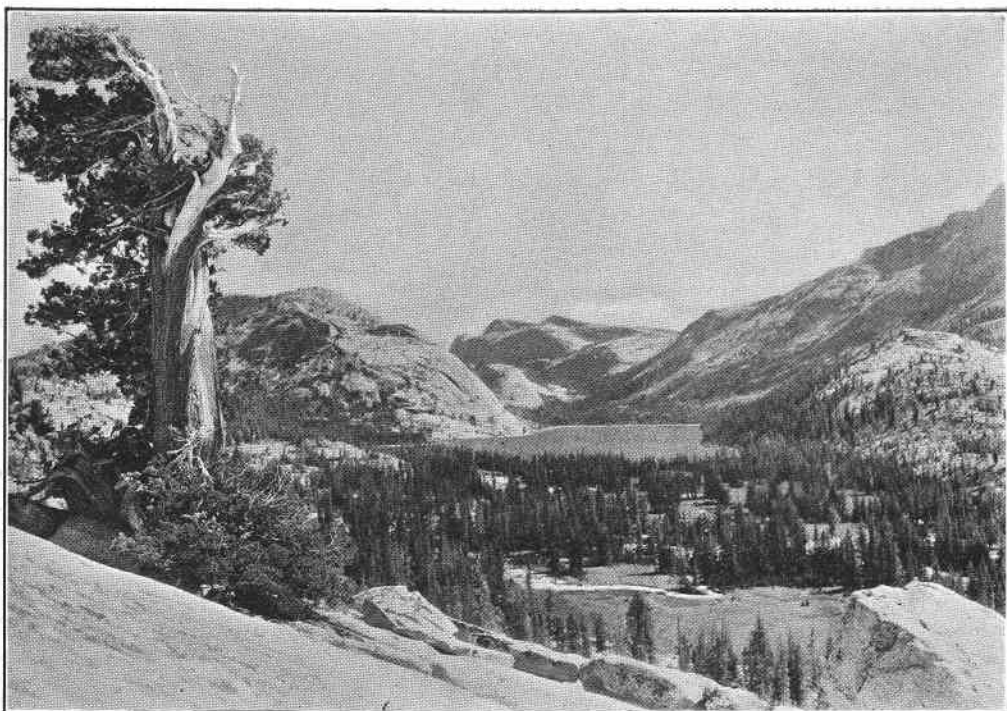
This explains the enormous height of the waterfalls.

The Yosemite Falls, for instance, drops 1,430 feet in one sheer fall, a height equal to nine Niagara Falls piled one on top of the other. The Lower Yosemite Fall, immediately below, has a drop of 320 feet, or two Niagaras more. Vernal Falls has the same height. The Nevada Falls drops 594 feet sheer, and the celebrated Bridalveil Falls 620 feet. Nowhere else in the world may be had a water spectacle such as this.



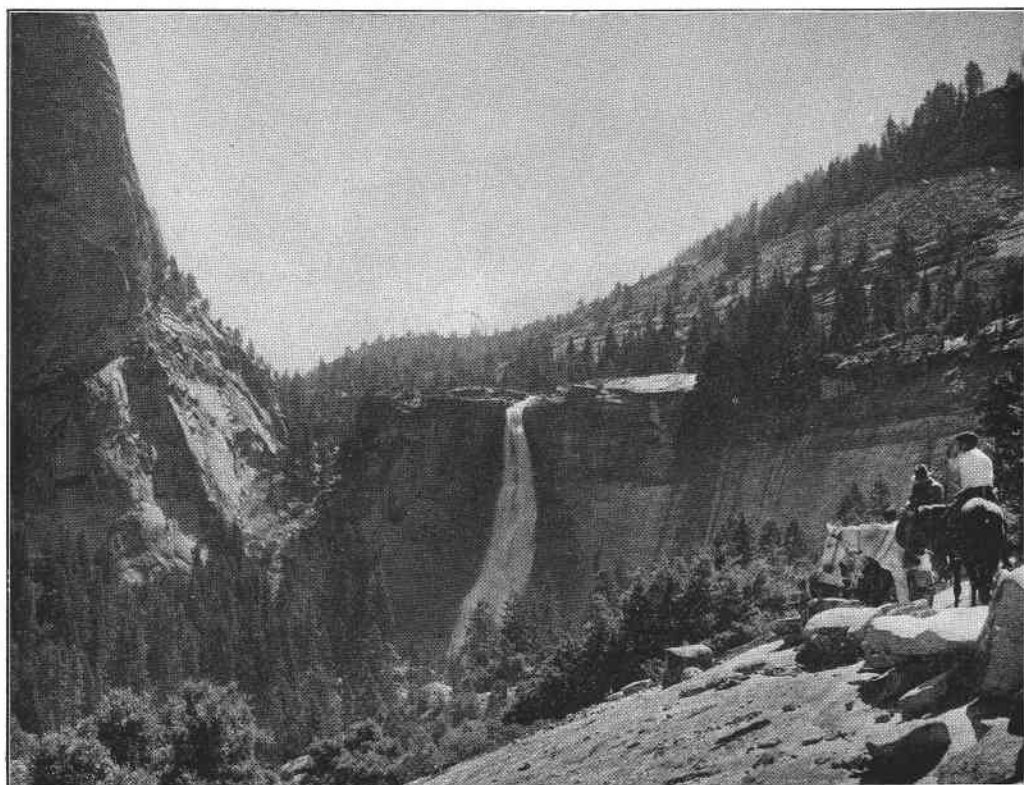
*Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts*

ITS NAME IS SELF-EVIDENT—THE BRIDALVEIL FALLS

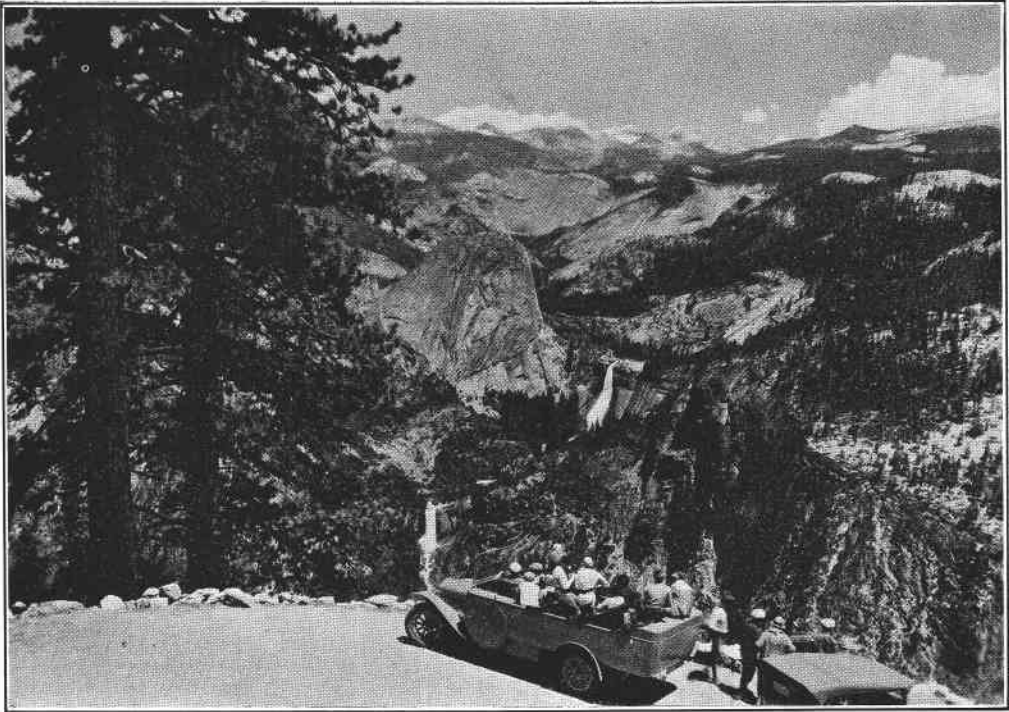


*Photograph by J. V. Lloyd*

TENAYA LAKE, ELEVATION 8,146 FEET, IS TYPICAL OF YOSEMITE'S MANY BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN LAKES

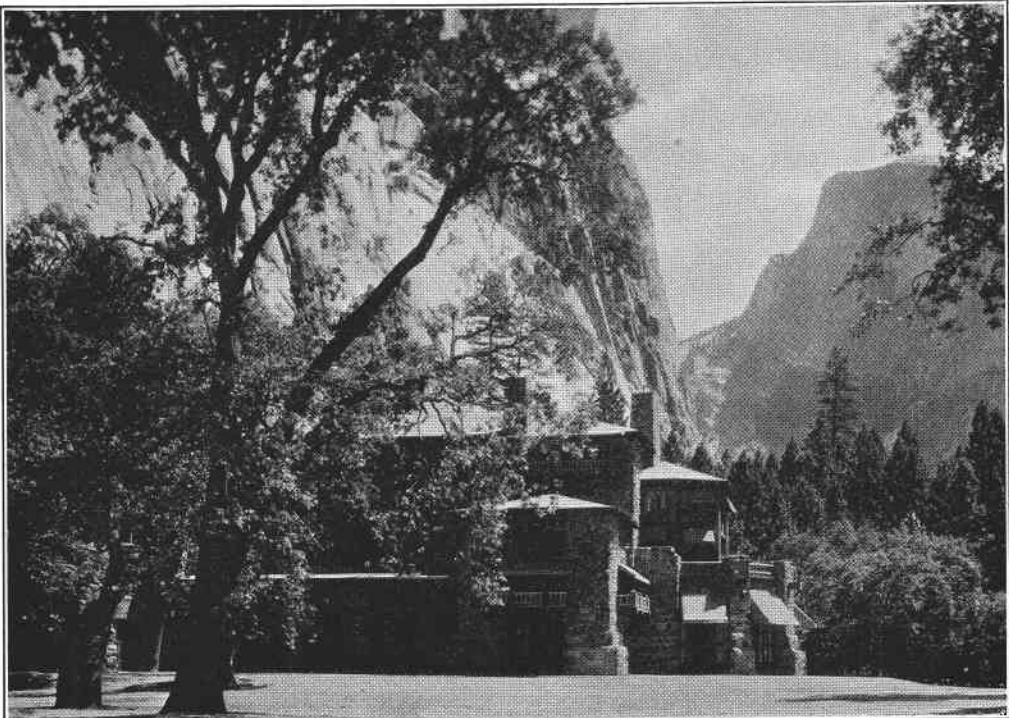


A STRIKING VIEW OF NEVADA FALLS, LIBERTY CAP ON LEFT



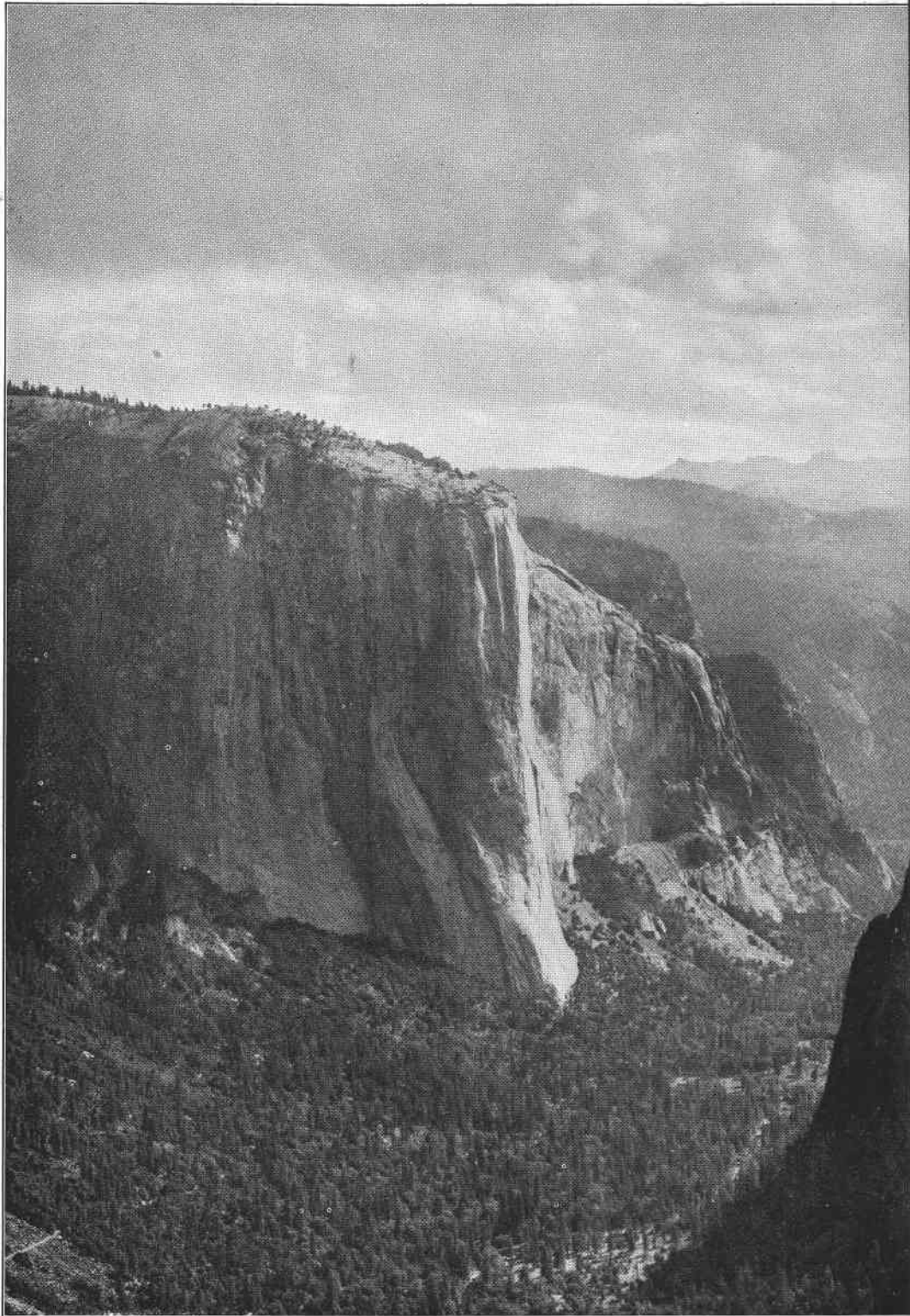
*Photograph by J. V. Lloyd*

VERNAL AND NEVADA FALLS AND LIBERTY CAP FROM WASHBURN TURN ON  
THE GLACIER POINT TRAIL



*Photograph by J. V. Lloyd*

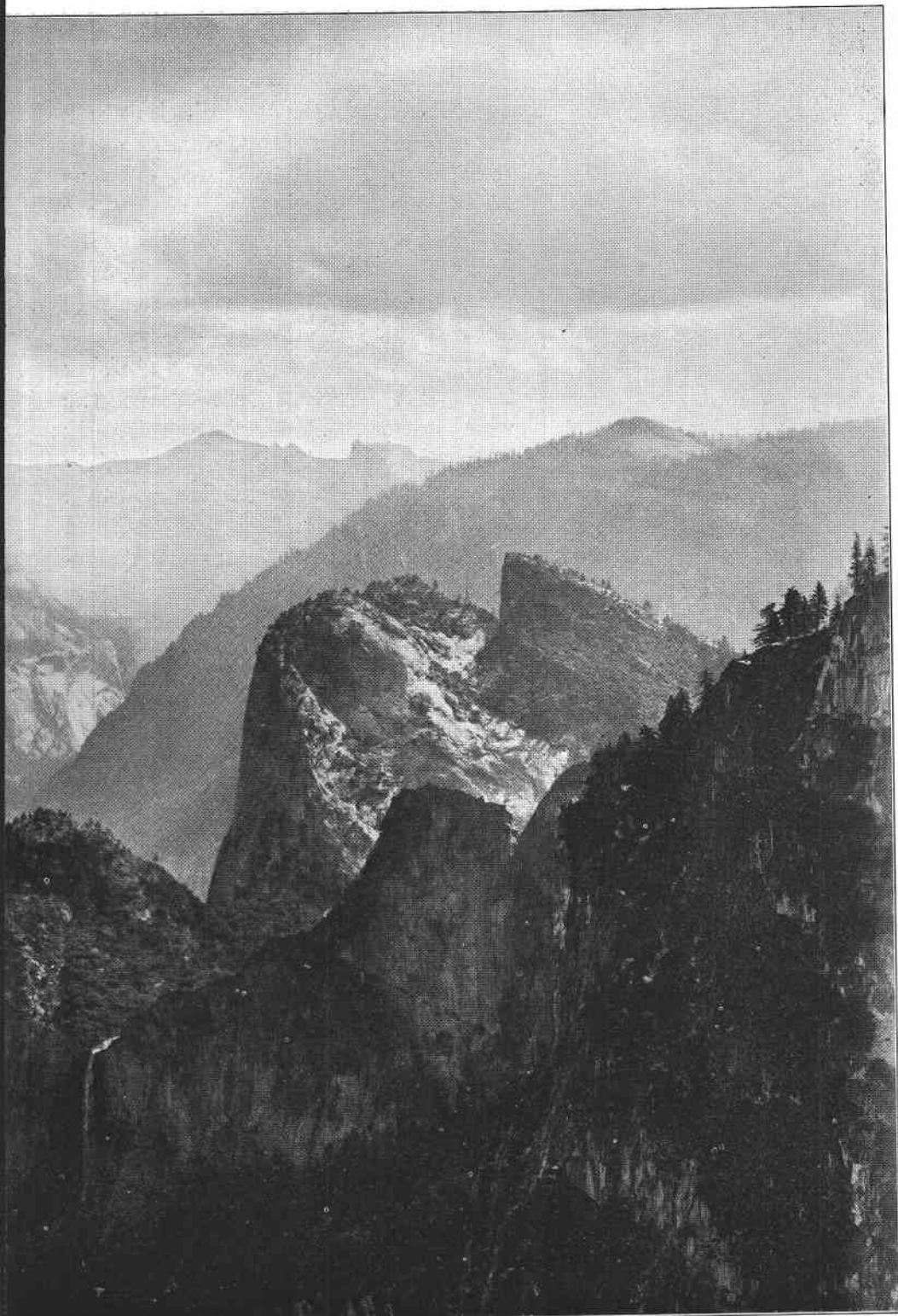
THE NEW AHWAHNEE HOTEL  
Open throughout the year. Its "Bracebridge Dinners" during the Christmas holidays  
are becoming famous



*Photograph by A. C. Pillsbury*

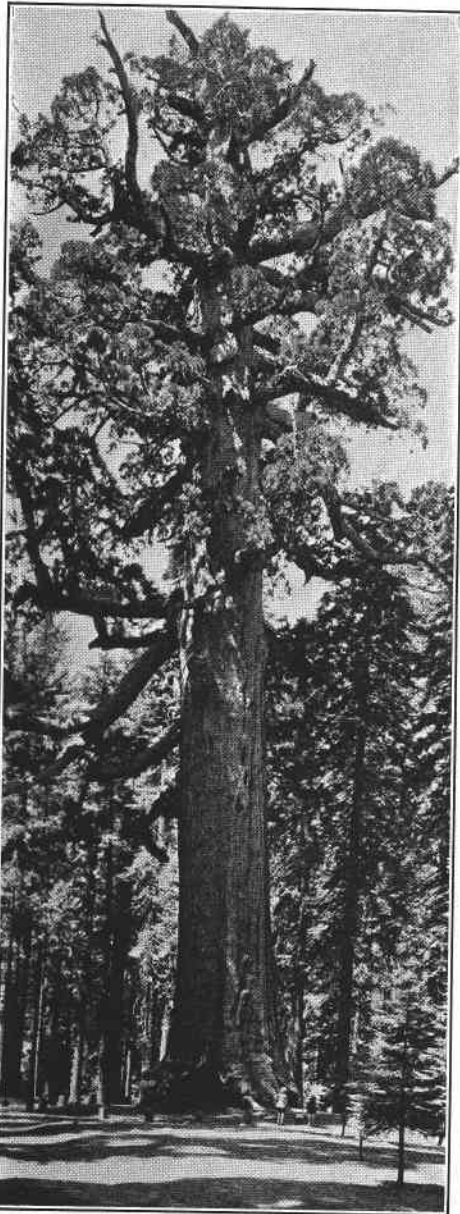
THE SHEER IMMENSITY OF THE PRECIPICES ON EITHER SIDE THE VALLEY'S PEACEFUL  
FAIRYLIKE QUALITY OF THE EVER-VARYING





FLOOR, THE ROMANTIC MAJESTY OF THE GRANITE WALLS, AND THE UNREAL, ALMOST WHOLE, ATTEST IT INCOMPARABLE

# CHARM OF THE SCENIC WILD



THE GRIZZLY GIANT, THE BIGGEST SEQUOIA TREE IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, BELIEVED TO BE NEARLY FOUR THOUSAND YEARS OLD

the trees laden with snowy burdens. The greens have vanished; the winter sun shines upon a glory of gray and white. Winter sports are now very popular on the floor of the valley.

SUMMER in the Yosemite is unreal. The valley, with its foaming falls dissolving into mists, its calm forests hiding the singing river, its enormous granites peaked and domed against the sky, its sound of distant waters, is a thing of beauty. One has a sense of fairyland and the awe of infinity.

Imagine Cathedral Rocks rising twenty-six hundred feet above the wild flowers, El Capitan thirty-six hundred feet, Sentinel Dome four thousand feet, Half Dome five thousand feet, and Clouds Rest six thousand feet! And among them, the waterfalls!

Even the weather appears impossible; the summers are warm, but not too warm; dry, but not too dry; the nights cold and marvelously starry.

A few miles away are the Big Trees, not the greatest groves nor the greatest trees, for those are in the Sequoia National Park, a hundred miles south, but three groves containing monsters which, next to Sequoia's, are the hugest and the oldest living things. Of these the Grizzly Giant—whose diameter is nearly thirty feet, whose girth is over ninety-nine, and whose height is more than two hundred—is king.

Their presence commands the silence due to worship.

Winter has become a feature in the life of the valley. Hotels are open to accommodate an increasing flow of visitors. The falls are still and frozen,



*Photograph by J. V. Lloyd*

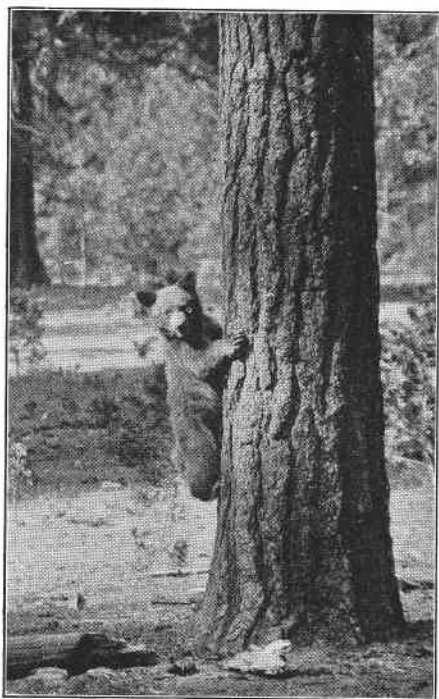
EXCELLENT SKIING IS ENJOYED IN THE HIGH MOUNTAIN COUNTRY  
ABOVE YOSEMITE VALLEY



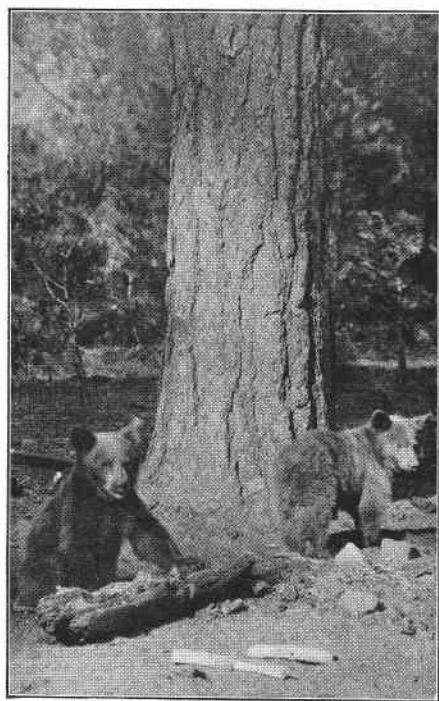
*Photograph by J. V. Lloyd*

DURING THE WINTER-SPORTS SEASON GAILY-COLORED "DRIVE-YOURSELF"  
SLEIGHS ARE POPULAR

# LIVING IN THE WILDERNESS



*Copyrighted by J. T. Boysen*  
WHO'S COMING?



*Copyrighted by J. T. Boysen*  
WOOF!

**L**IVING is comfortable in the Yosemite. A luxurious new hotel, the Ahwahnee, was completed in 1927 to care for both summer and winter visitors, and lodges offer excellent summer accommodations at more reasonable rates. Above the valley are lodges and camps at convenient intervals on road and trail. There is also a hotel on Glacier Point, overlooking the valley.

The Yosemite is an excellent place to camp out. One may have choice of many kinds of mountain country. Nearly everywhere the trout fishing is exceptionally fine. Camping outfits may be rented and supplies purchased in the valley. Garages for motorists and resthouses for hikers are located at convenient intervals. A number of free public automobile camp grounds have been made available by the Government.

A new all-year road into Yosemite Valley was opened to the public during the summer of 1927.

## TIOGA ROAD

**A**BOVE the north rim of the valley the old Tioga Road, which the Department of the Interior acquired in 1915 and put into good condition, crosses the park from east to west, affording a new route across the Sierra and opening to the public for the first time the magnificent scenic region in the north.

The Tioga Road was built in 1881 to a mine soon after abandoned. For years it had been impassable. It is now the gateway to a wilderness heretofore accessible only to campers.

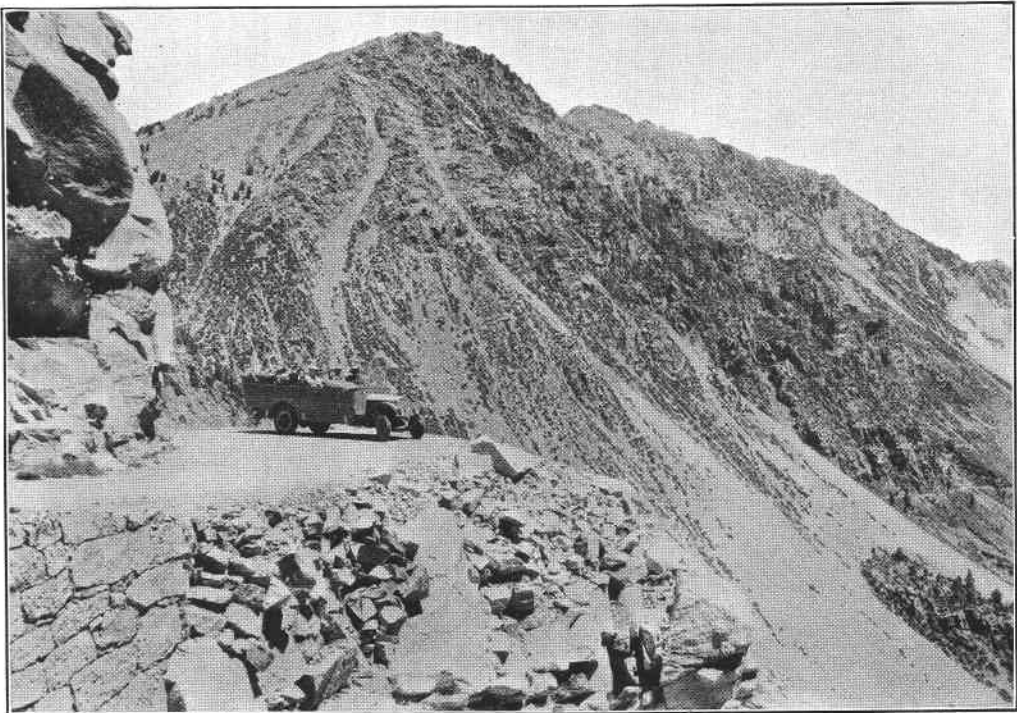
# NORTH OF THE VALLEY'S RIM

**B**EFORE the restored Tioga Road made accessible the magnificent mountain and valley area constituting the northern half of the Yosemite National Park, this pleasure paradise was known to none except a few enthusiasts who penetrated its wilderness year after year with camping outfits. Motorists making the trip from the valley to Lake Tahoe now pass through this area.

It is the region of rivers and lakes and granite domes and brilliantly polished glacial pavements. The mark of the glacier may be plainly traced on every hand.

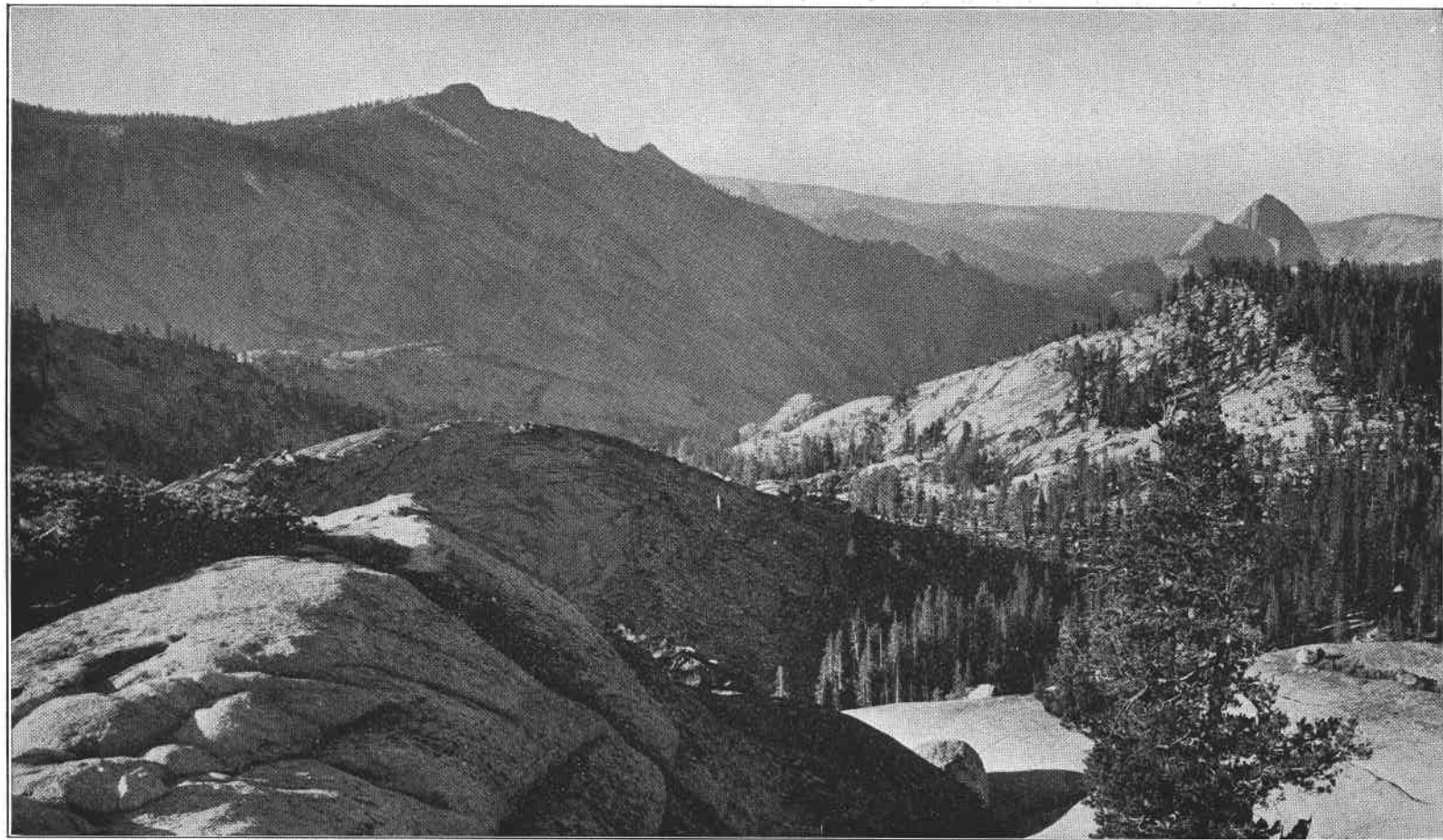
It is the region of small glaciers, remnants of a gigantic past, of which there are several in the park. It is the region of rock-bordered glacier lakes of which there are more than two hundred and fifty. It is the region, above all, of small, rushing rivers and of the roaring, foaming, twisting Tuolumne, second only to the Merced.

From the base of the Sierra crest, born of its snows, the Tuolumne River rushes westward roughly paralleling the Tioga Road. Midway it slants sharply down into the Tuolumne Canyon, forming in its mad course a water spectacle destined some day to world fame.



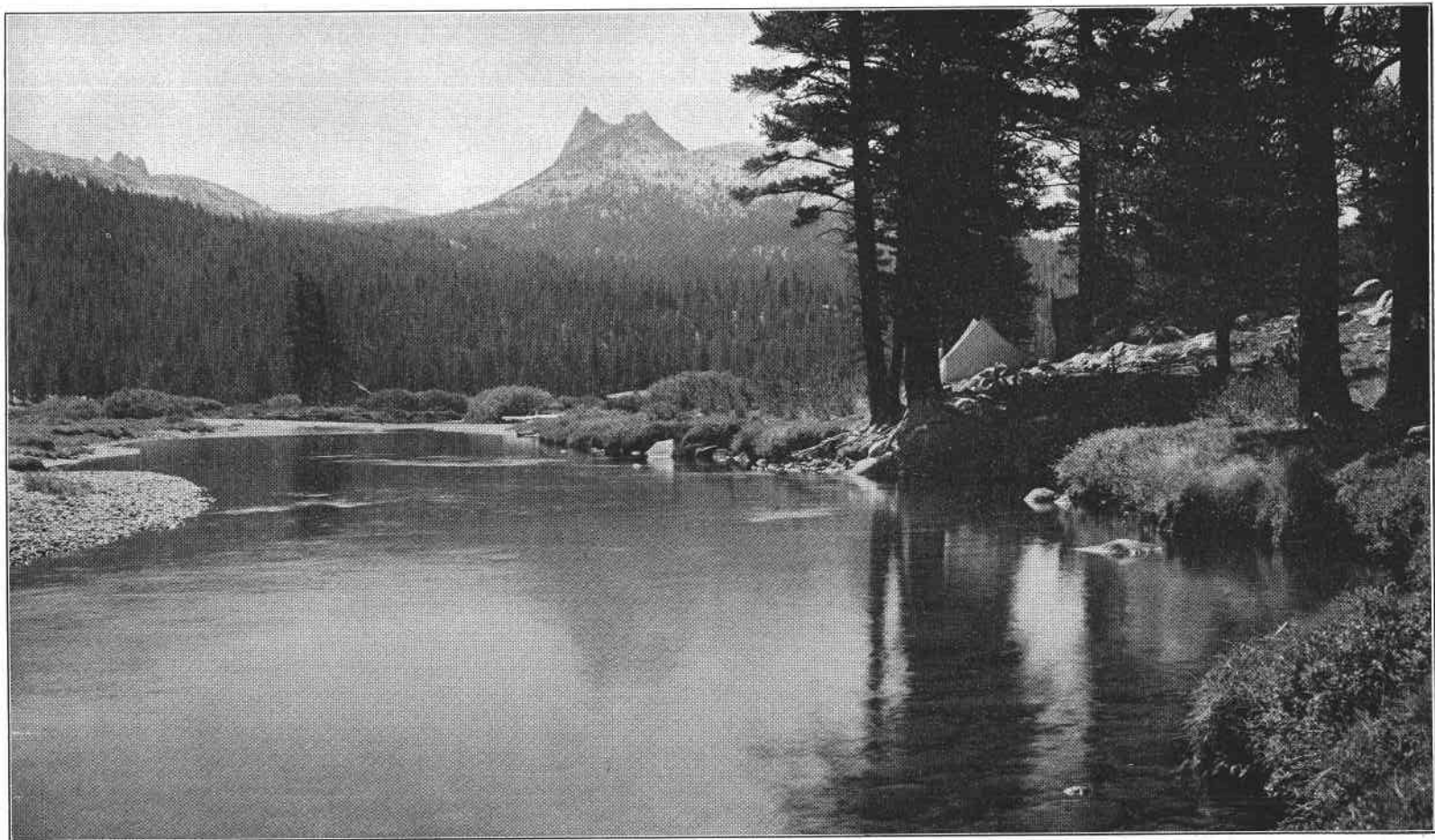
*Photograph by George Stone*

TIOGA ROAD SCENERY



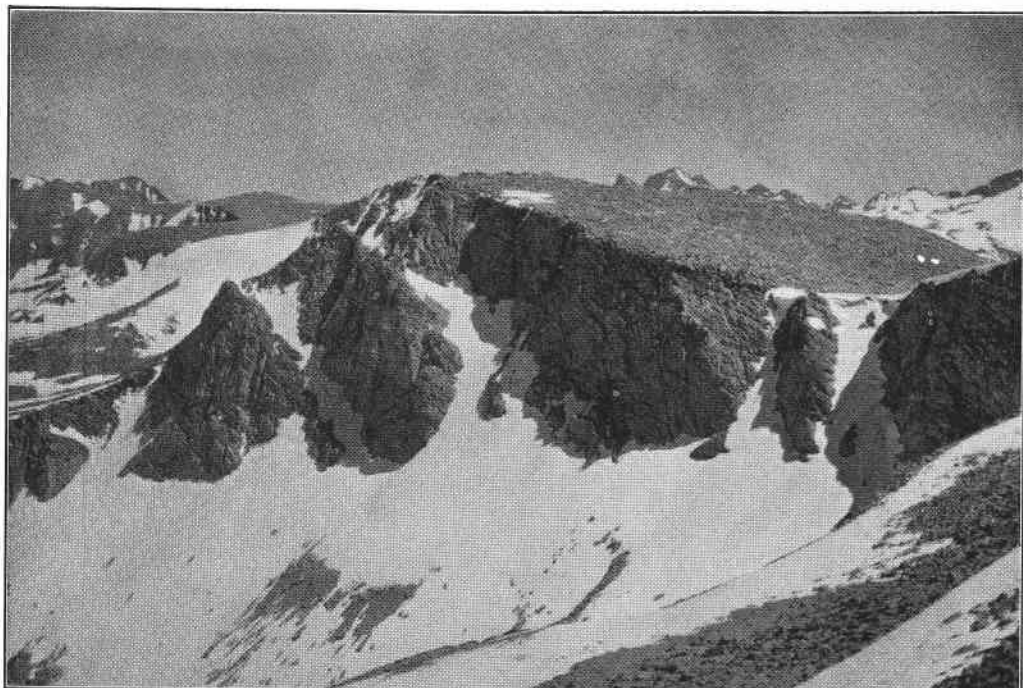
*Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts*

LOOKING DOWN TENAYA CANYON, WITH THE GREAT BULK OF CLOUD'S REST ON THE LEFT



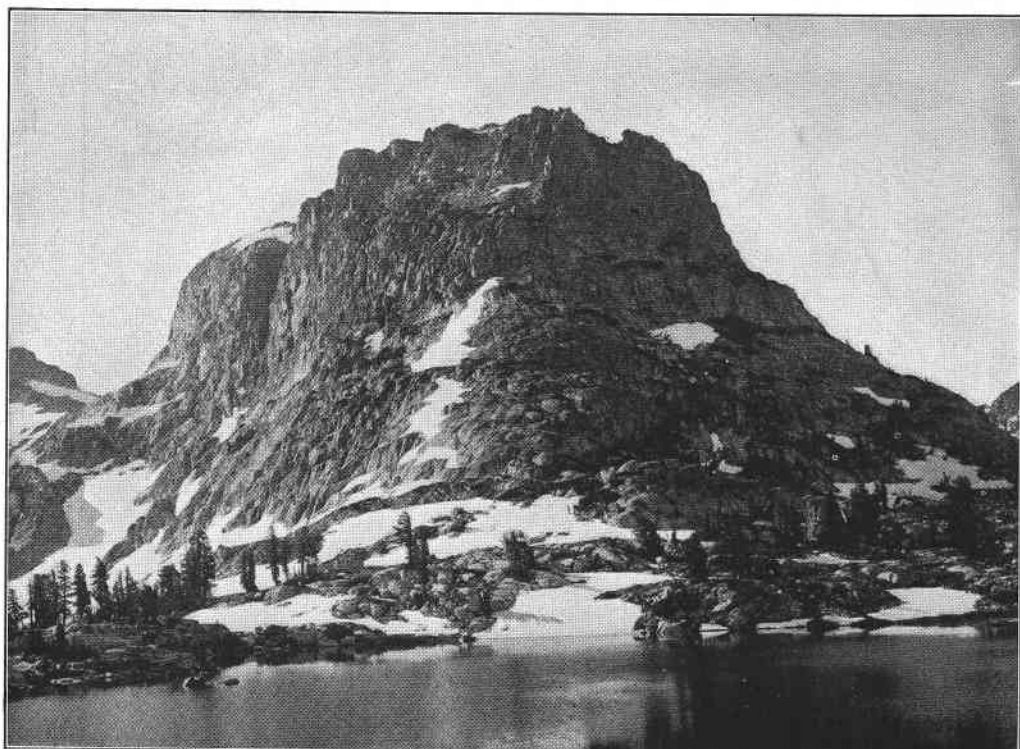
*Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts*

THE CELEBRATED TUOLUMNE MEADOWS, FROM THE TIOGA ROAD NEAR SODA SPRINGS, SHOWING CATHEDRAL PEAK



*Photograph by W. L. Huber*

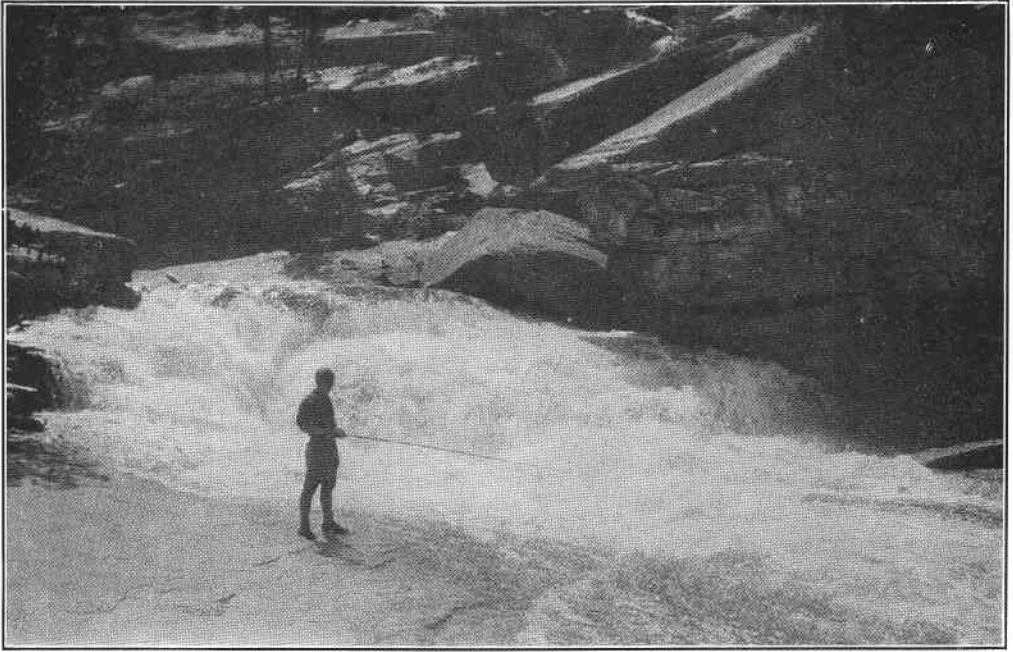
THE HIGH SIERRA: VIEW OF MOUNT RITTER FROM KUNA CREST



*Photograph by Herbert W. Gleason*

BEAUTIFUL ROGERS LAKE AND REGULATION PEAK IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE PARK





*Photograph by J. V. Lloyd*

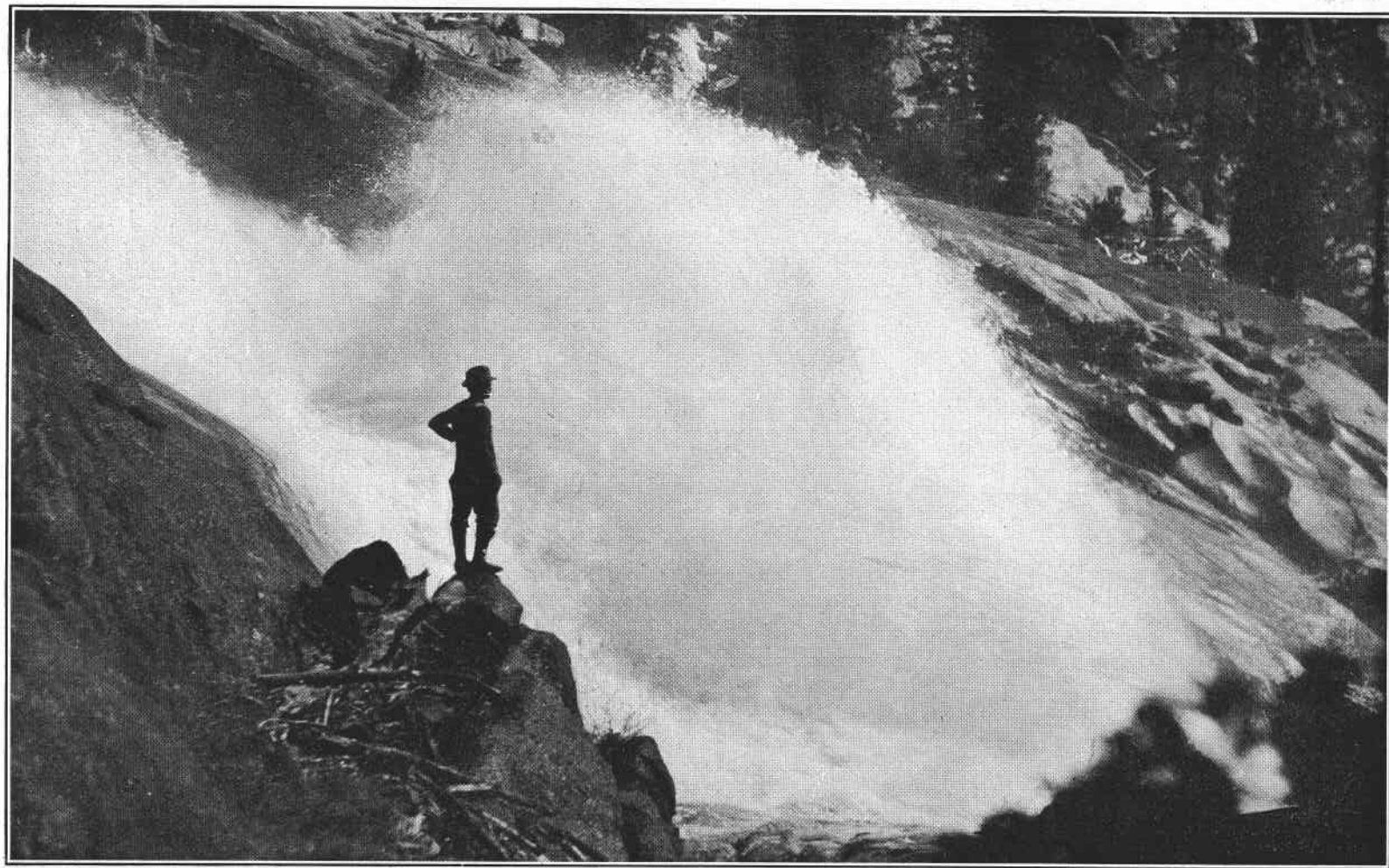
### FISHING IN THE MERCED RIVER



*Photograph by C. O. Schneider*

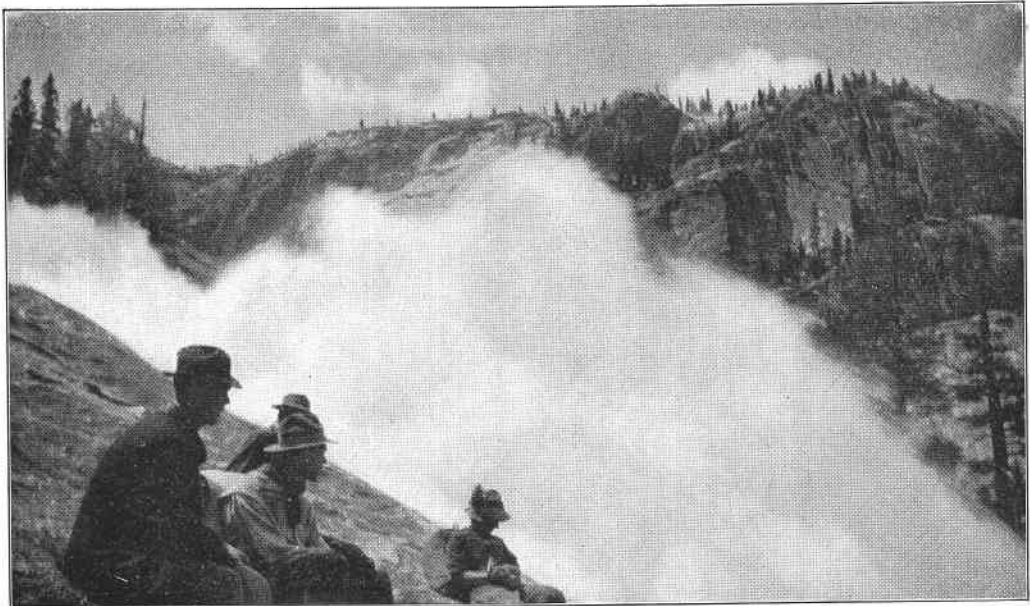
### A BEDCHAMBER IN YOSEMITE

Travelers on the trails carry no tents because it does not rain. A sleeping bag, a pine-needle mattress, a sheltered grove, and a ceiling of green leaves amply suffice



*Photograph by A. C. Pillsbury*

A CLOSE VIEW OF THE BIG WATERWHEEL, TUOLUMNE CANYON

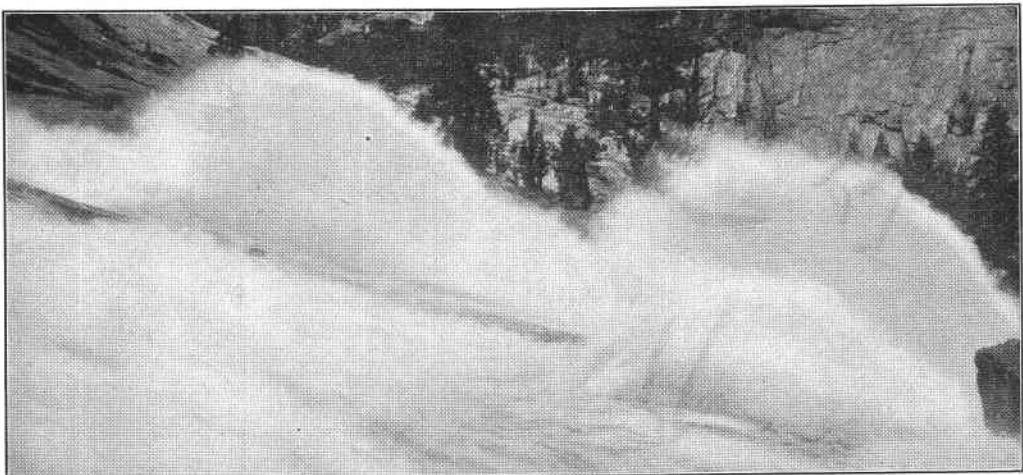


*Photograph by W. L. Huber*

THE WATERWHEEL BELOW CALIFORNIA FALLS

## MAD WATERS OF TUOLUMNE

**A**N EXCELLENT trail leads from the Tioga Road down the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, famous for its leaping waters. Here the river, slanting sharply, becomes, in John Muir's phrase, "one wild, exulting, onrushing mass of snowy purple bloom spreading over glacial waves of granite without any definite channel, gliding in magnificent silver plumes, dashing and foaming through huge boulder dams, leaping high in the air in wheellike whirls, displaying glorious enthusiasm, tossing from side to side, doubling, glinting, singing in exuberance of mountain energy."



*Photograph by A. C. Pillsbury*

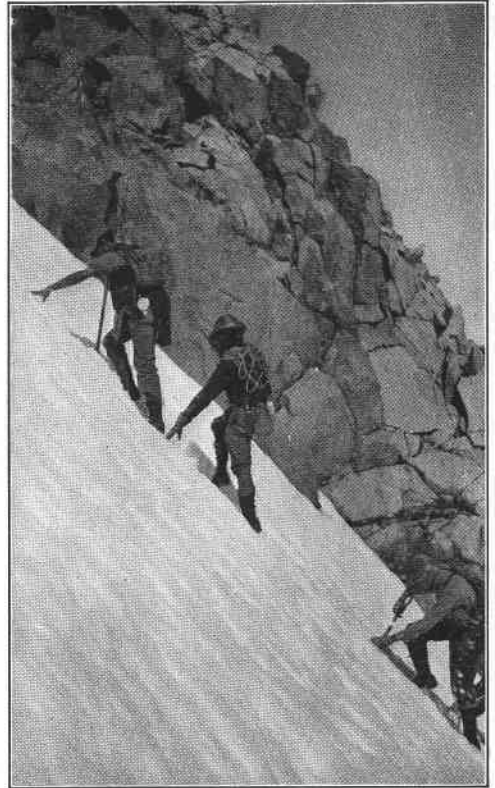
A PAIR OF TUOLUMNE WATERWHEELS

# THE EVERLASTING SNOWS

SUMMITS of perpetual snow are, for most Americans, a new association with Yosemite. But the region's very origin was that Sierra whose crest peaks on the park's eastern boundary still shelter in shrunken old age the once all-powerful glaciers.

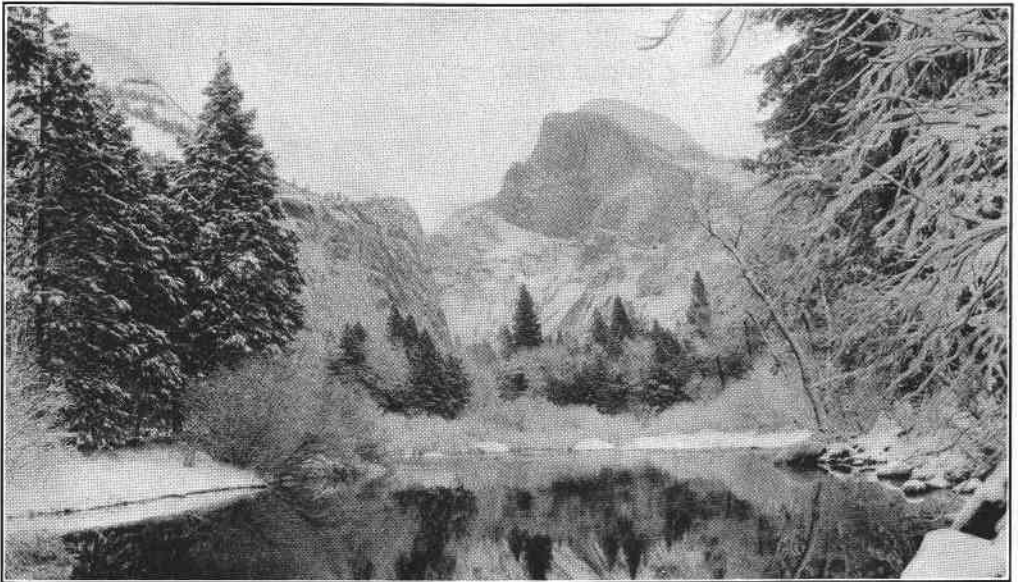
Excelsior, Conness, Dana, Kuna, Blacktop, Lyell, Long—from the companionship of these great peaks descended the ice pack of old and descend to-day the sparkling waters of the Tuolumne and the Merced.

From their great summits the climber beholds a sublime wilderness of crowded, towering mountains, a contrast to the silent, uplifting valley as striking as mind can conceive. Everlasting snows fill the hollows between the peaks and spatter their jagged granite sides. The glaciers feed innumerable small lakes.



*Photograph by W. L. Huber*

ASCENDING MOUNT LYELL



*Photograph by J. V. Lloyd*

HALF DOME IN WINTER

---

---

# SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

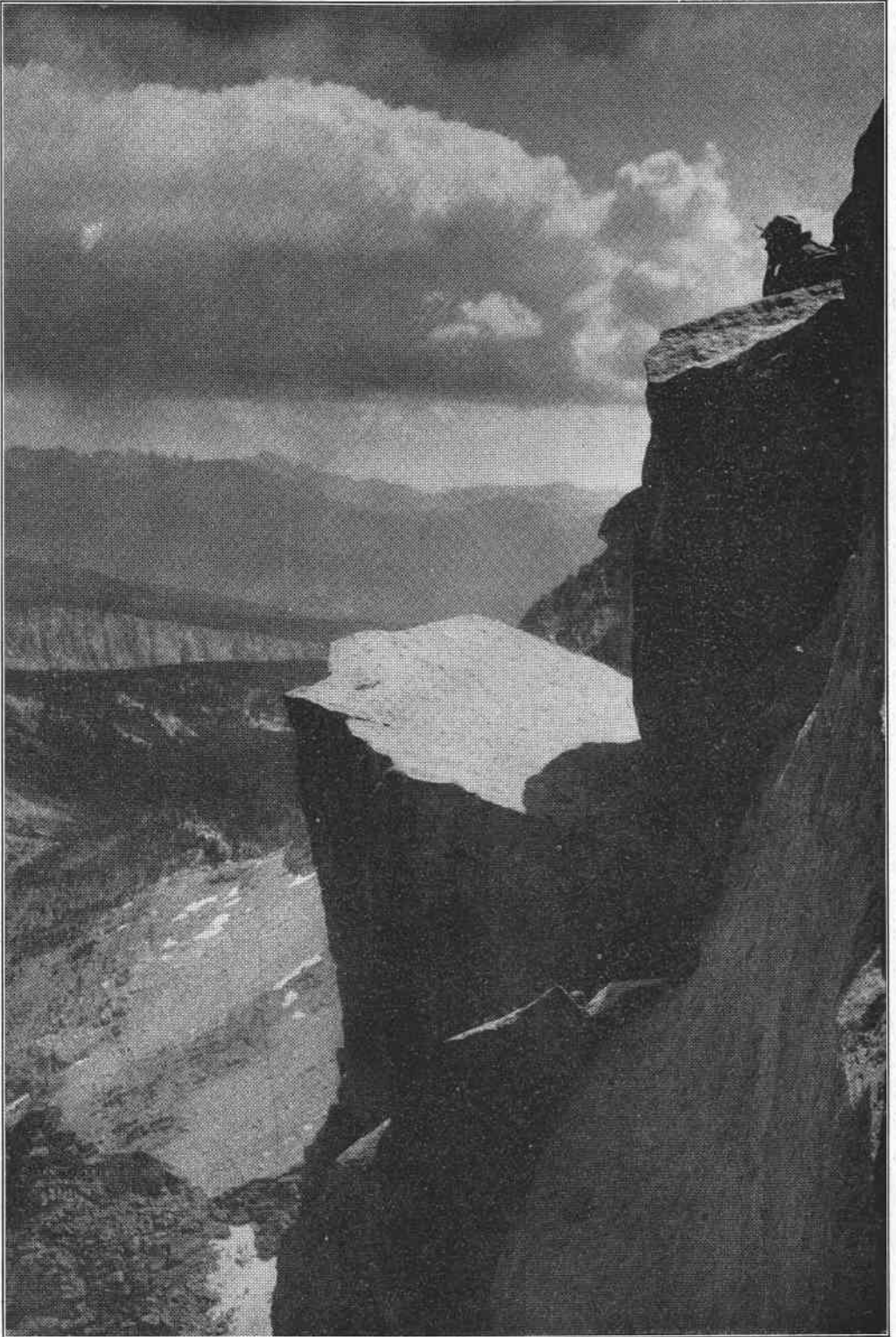


*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

NATURE GUIDE PARTY AT CONGRESS GROUP OF BIG TREES IN GIANT FOREST

---

---



*Photograph by Rodney L. Glisan*

VIEW OF THE BIG ARROYO FROM SAWTOOTH PEAK



Photograph by U. S. Geological Survey

IT IS THE IDEAL PARK FOR CAMPING

## LAND OF GIANT TREES

NATURE'S forest masterpiece is John Muir's designation of the giant tree after which is named the Sequoia National Park in middle eastern California. Here are found several large groves of the celebrated *Sequoia gigantea*, popularly known and widely celebrated as the Big Tree of California.

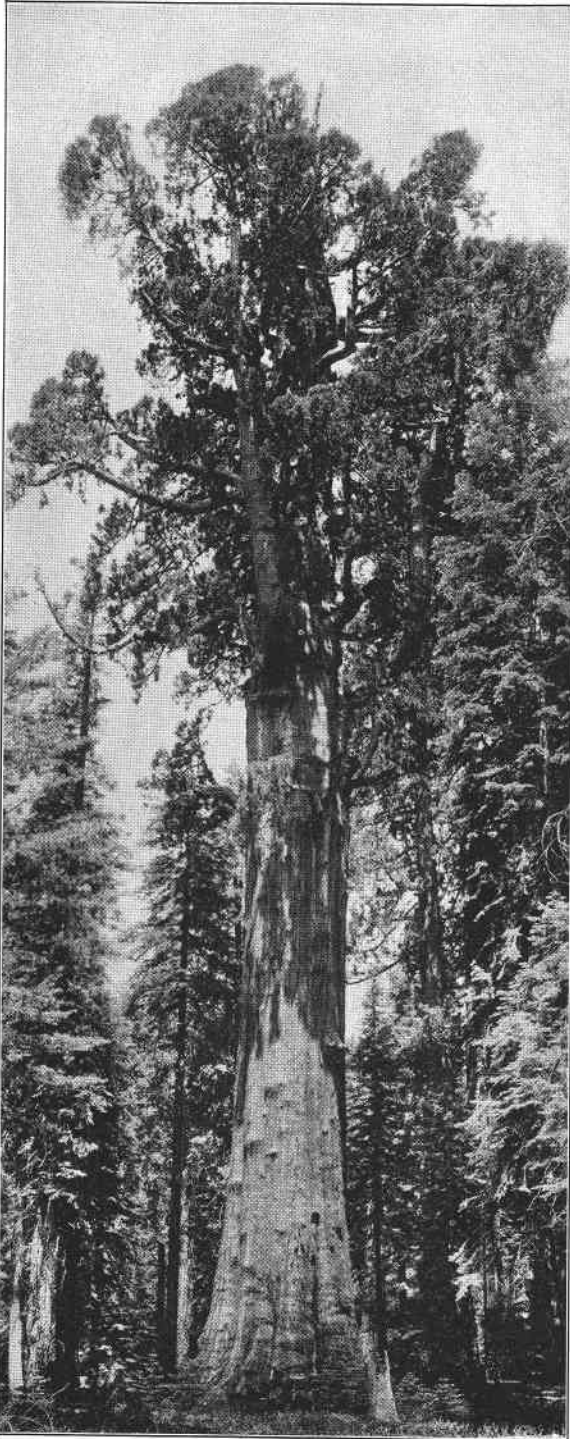
More than a million of these trees grow within the park's narrow confines, many of them mere babes of a few hundred years, many sturdy youths of a thousand years, many in the young vigor of two or three thousand years, and a few in full maturity. The principal entrances are Visalia and Exeter, California.

Near by is the General Grant National Park, whose four square miles were set apart because they contain a magnificent grove of Big Trees, including the General Grant Tree, second only in size and age to the patriarch of all, the General Sherman.

On Sequoia's favored slopes grow other mammoth conifers. The sugar pine, yellow pine, and red and white firs attain a size which would distinguish them were they not in the company of the Big Trees.

Sequoia is also the park of birds, and many interesting species are found here. It is an ideal vacation land for the hiker, the camper, and the fisherman.

# THE BIGGEST THING ALIVE



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

## THE GENERAL SHERMAN TREE

Probably the largest and oldest living thing in all the world

OF the thousands, perhaps millions, of sequoia trees, old and young, twelve thousand exceed ten feet in diameter. Muir states that a diameter of twenty feet and a height of two hundred and seventy-five is perhaps the average for mature and favorably situated trees, while trees twenty-five feet in diameter and approaching three hundred in height are not rare.

But the greatest trees have these astonishing dimensions:

General Sherman: Height, 273.9 feet; base diameter, 37.3 feet; diameter above bulge, 22.1 feet.

General Grant: Height, 266.6 feet; base diameter, 40.3 feet; diameter above bulge, 21.7 feet.

Abraham Lincoln: Diameter, 31 feet; height, 270 feet.

California: Diameter, 30 feet; height, 260 feet.

George Washington: Diameter, 29 feet; height, 255 feet.

A little effort will help you realize these dimensions. Measure and stake in front of a church the diameter of the General Sherman Tree. Then stand back a distance equal to the tree's height. Raise your eyes slowly and imagine this huge trunk rising in front of the church. When you reach a point in the sky forty-five degrees up from the spot on which you stand, you will have the tree's height were it growing in front of your church.



# THE OLDEST THING ALIVE

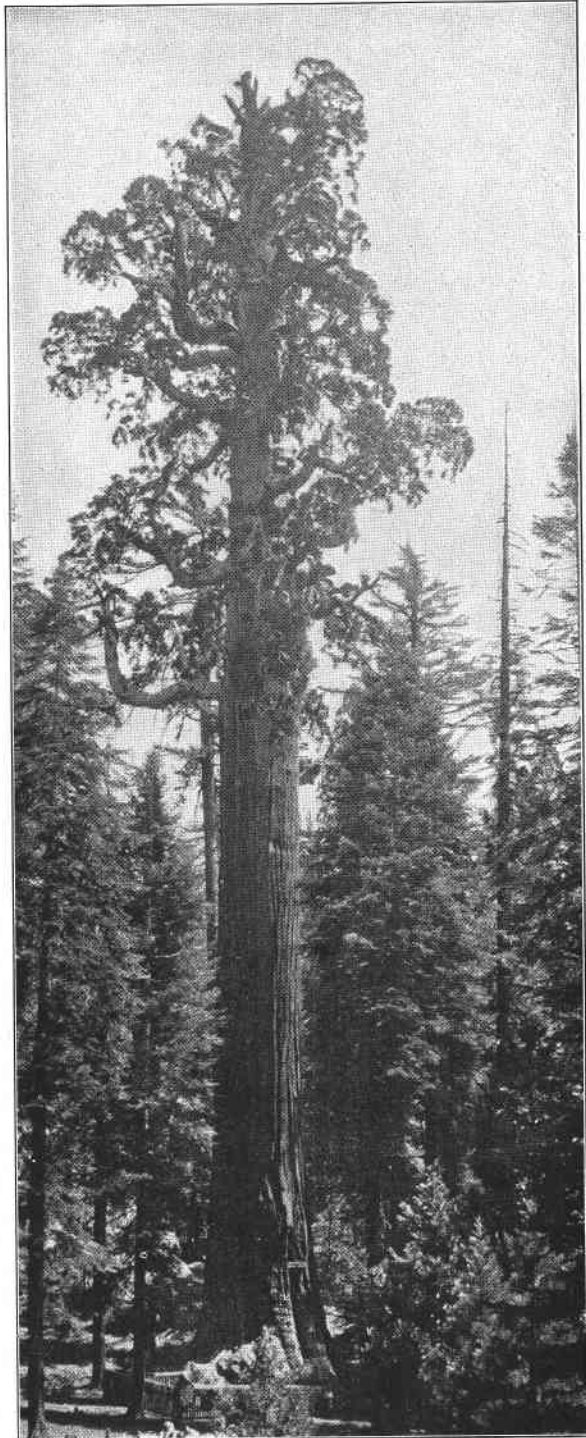
**T**HE General Sherman Tree is perhaps the oldest living thing. At the birth of Moses it was probably a sapling. Its exact age can not be determined without counting the rings, but it is probably in excess of thirty-five hundred years and may be over five thousand years. When Christ was born it was a lusty youth of at least fifteen hundred summers.

There are many thousands of trees in the Sequoia National Park which were growing thriftily when Christ was born; hundreds which were flourishing while Babylon was in its prime; several which antedated the pyramids on the Egyptian desert.

John Muir counted four thousand rings on one prostrate giant. This tree probably sprouted while the Tower of Babel was still standing.

The sequoia is regular and symmetrical in general form. Its powerful, stately trunk is purplish to cinnamon brown and rises without a branch a hundred or a hundred and fifty feet—which is as high or higher than the tops of most forest trees. Its bulky limbs shoot boldly out on every side. Its foliage, the most feathery and delicate of all the conifers, is densely massed.

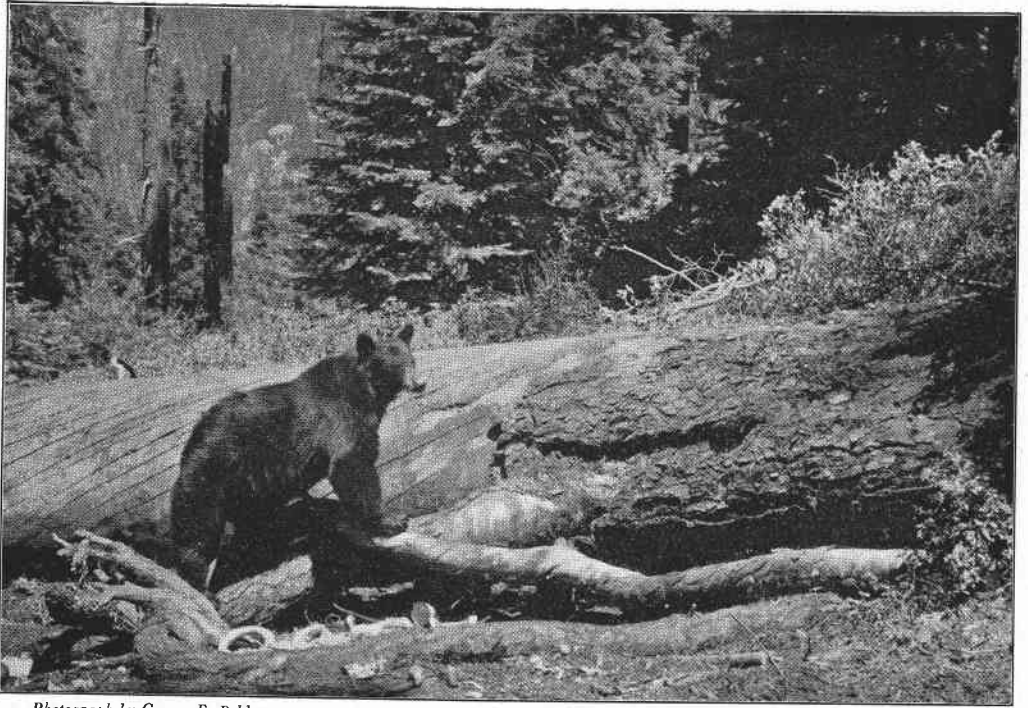
The wood is almost indestructible except by fire.



*Photograph by W. L. Huber*

THE GENERAL GRANT TREE

Second in size to the General Sherman Tree



*Photograph by George F. Belden*

“DEEP IN THE WOODY WILDERNESS”

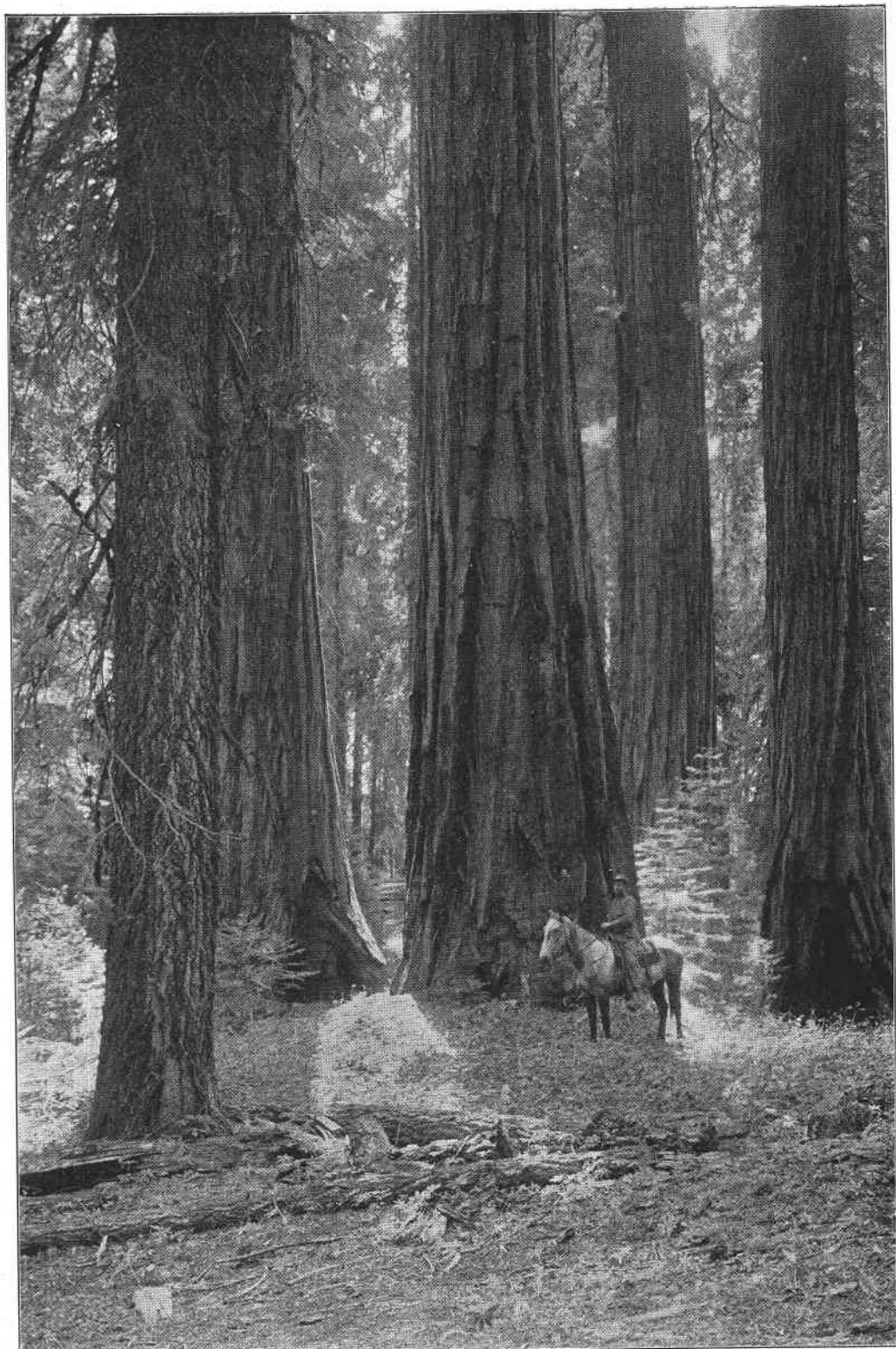
## WILDERNESS OF GIANTS

PERSONS who have been in the Mariposa Grove in the Yosemite National Park have seen Big Trees of the noblest type; but only in the Giant Forest of the Sequoia National Park will they see them in the impressive glory of massed multitude and wildest grandeur. To walk and wonder through these woods, even for a few hours, is to feel an emotion which can be duplicated nowhere else.

It is not the Big Trees alone, as in the Mariposa Grove, that stir the soul, but the bewildering and climatic repetition of giants rising singly or superbly grouped from a dense and seemingly endless forest of noble growths of many other kinds.

Without the sequoias this forest would be notable. With their constant unexpected repetition the effect is dramatic, even breath taking. Many of the largest trees are casually met as the visitor winds through the aisles of pine, and their sudden appearance is the more dramatic because of the freedom of their red pillared stems from the bright green flowing moss upon the trunks and branches of the surrounding pines.

Until July, 1916, when Congress appropriated \$50,000 for the purchase of a part of the private holdings in the Giant Forest, it was our national misfortune and peril that most of these mammoth trees remained the property of individuals. The balance of the property was purchased for \$20,000 by the National Geographic Society and donated to the United States.



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

### VISTAS OF THE GIANT FOREST

Many of these trees were growing thriftily when Christ was born



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

ALTA PEAK FROM MORO ROCK



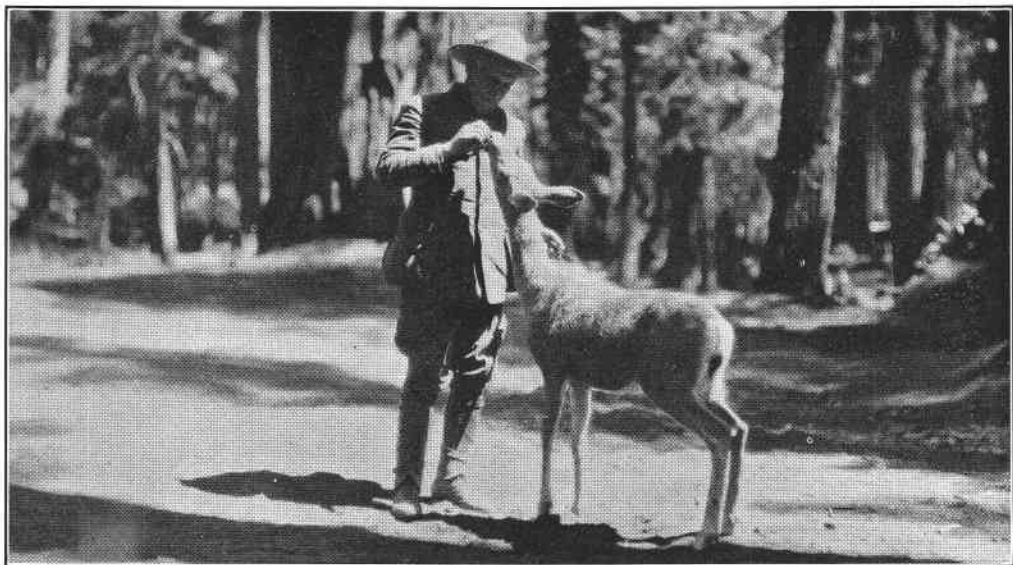
*Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts*

ALTA MEADOWS NEAR THE GIANT FOREST



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

SUNSET FROM THE RIM OF MARBLE FORK CANYON



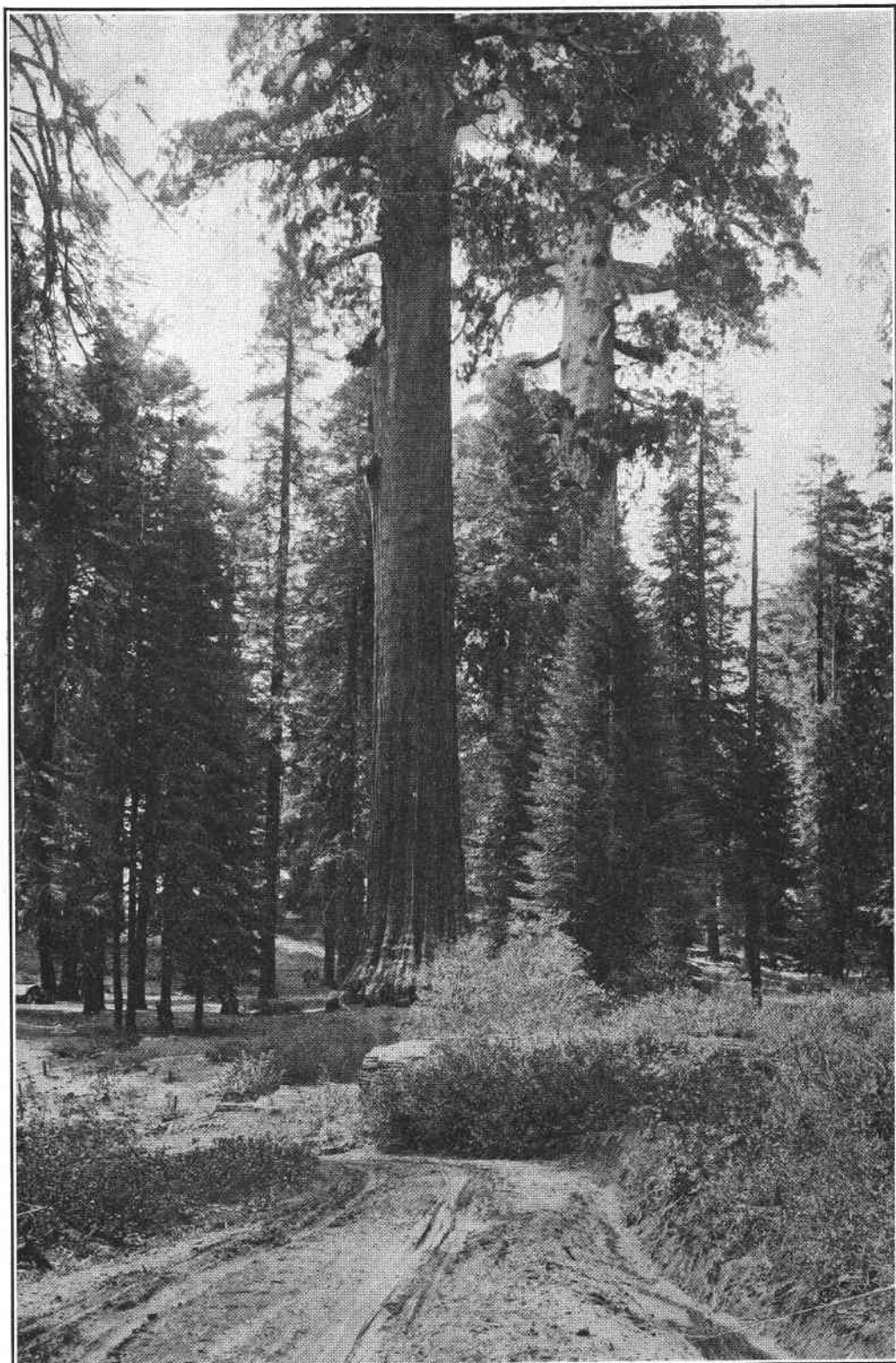
*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

JUDGE WALTER FRY FEEDING DEER IN GIANT FOREST



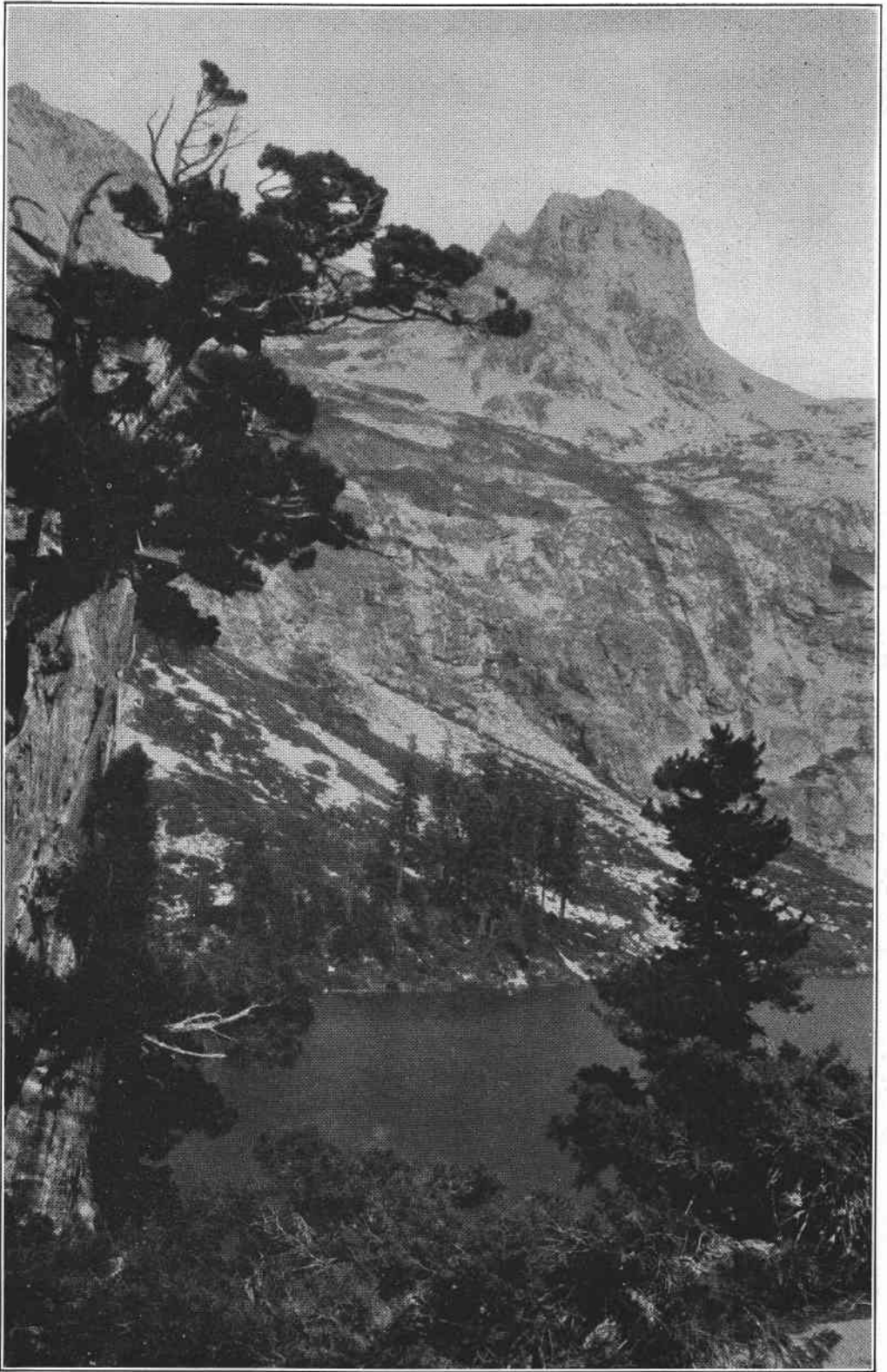
*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

GIANT FOREST LODGE IN THE HEART OF THE BIG TREES  
There is a similar lodge in General Grant Park



*Photograph by H. E. Roberts*

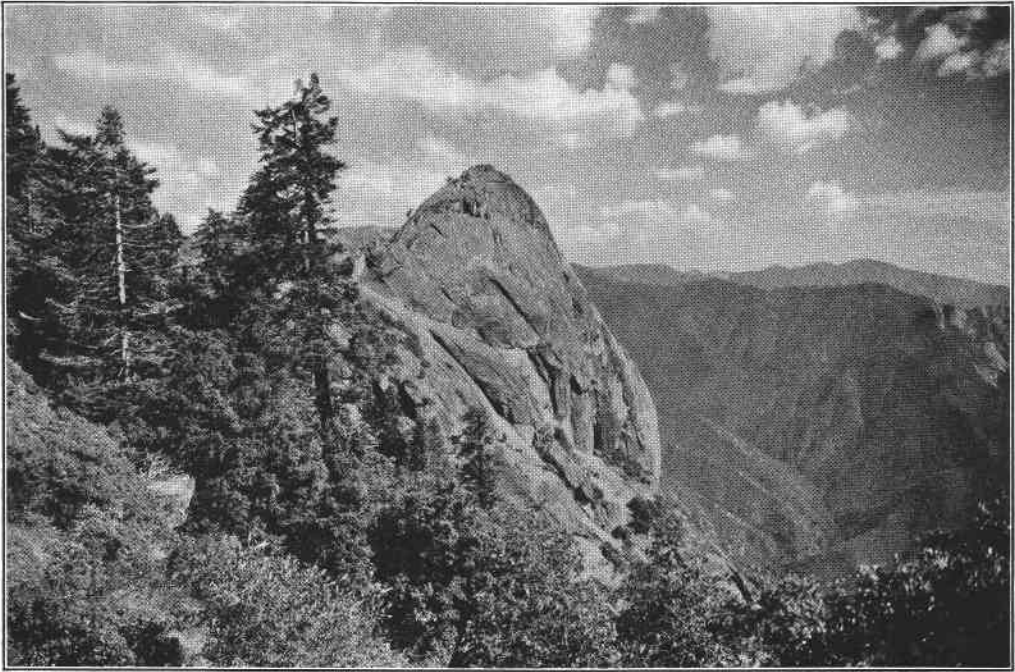
SEQUOIA AND FIR IN THE GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARK



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

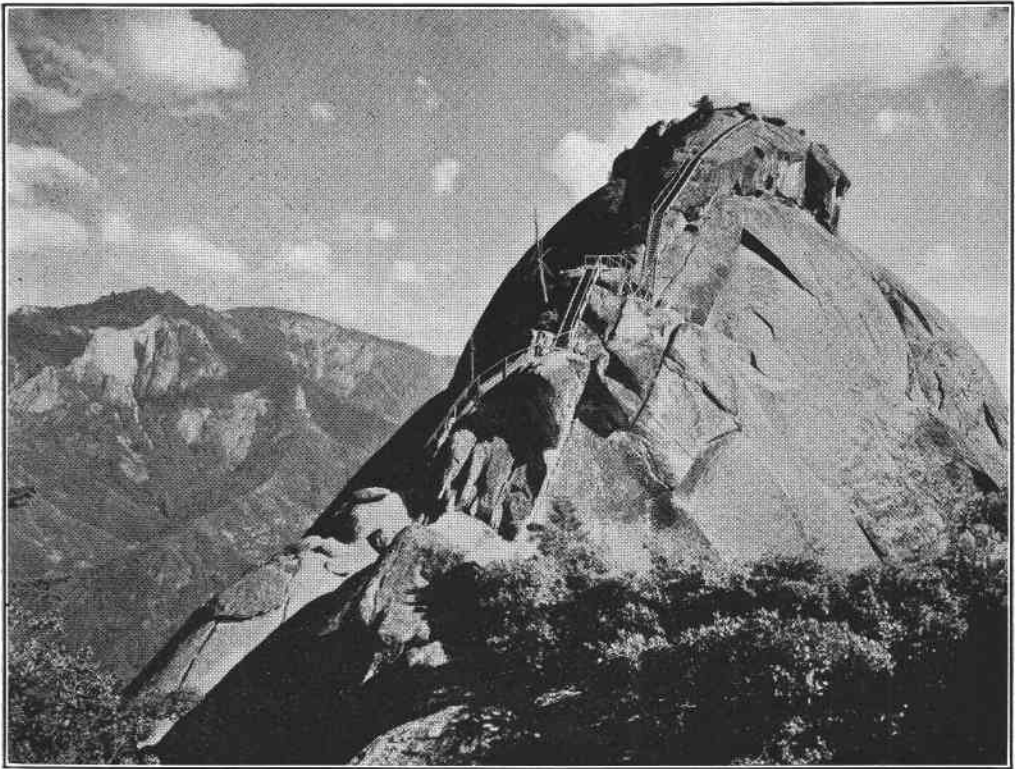
JUNIPER TREES AT HAMILTON LAKE





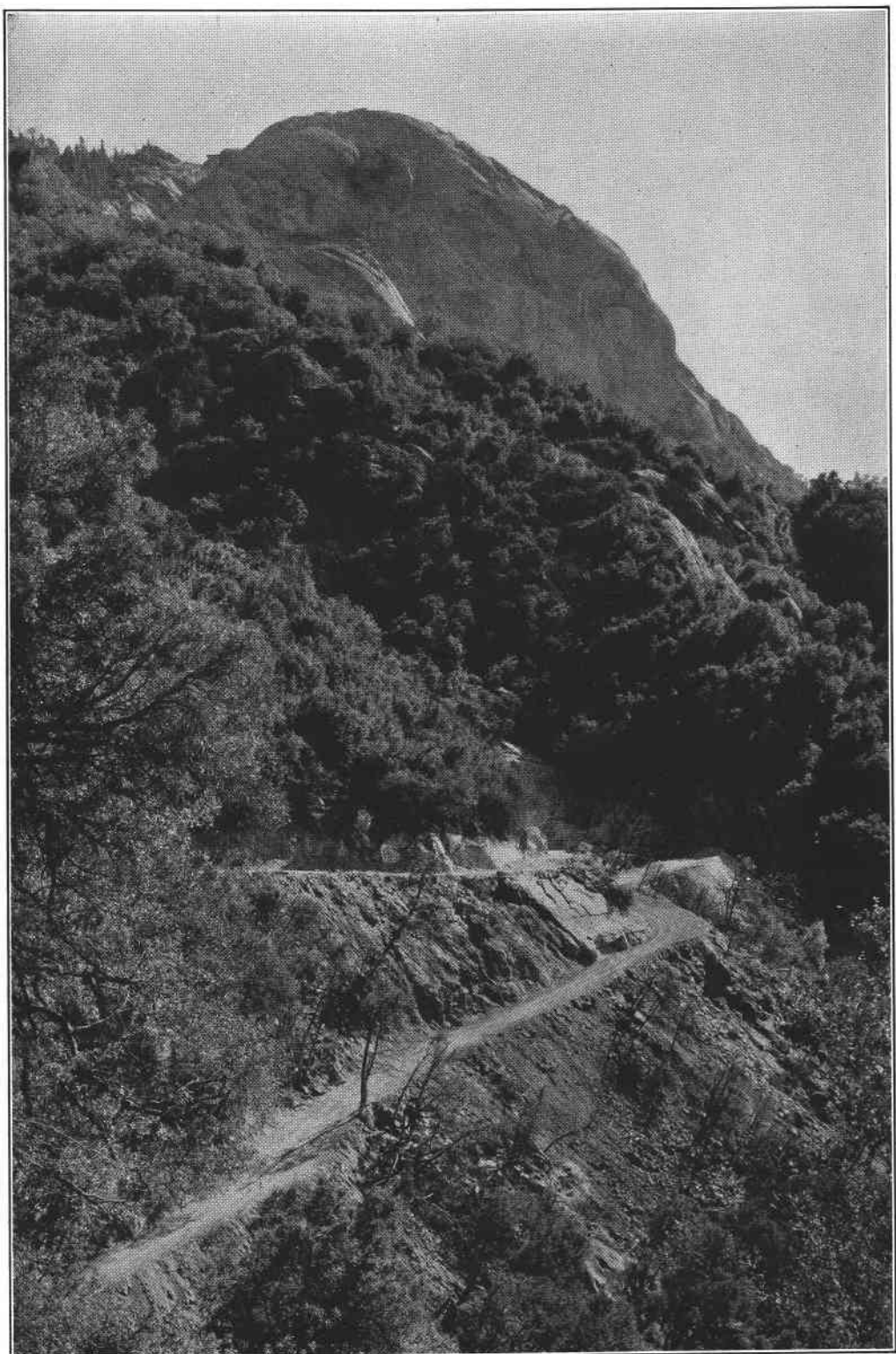
*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

WEST SIDE OF MORO ROCK



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

STAIRWAY UP MORO ROCK



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

GENERALS' HIGHWAY EN ROUTE TO GIANT FOREST

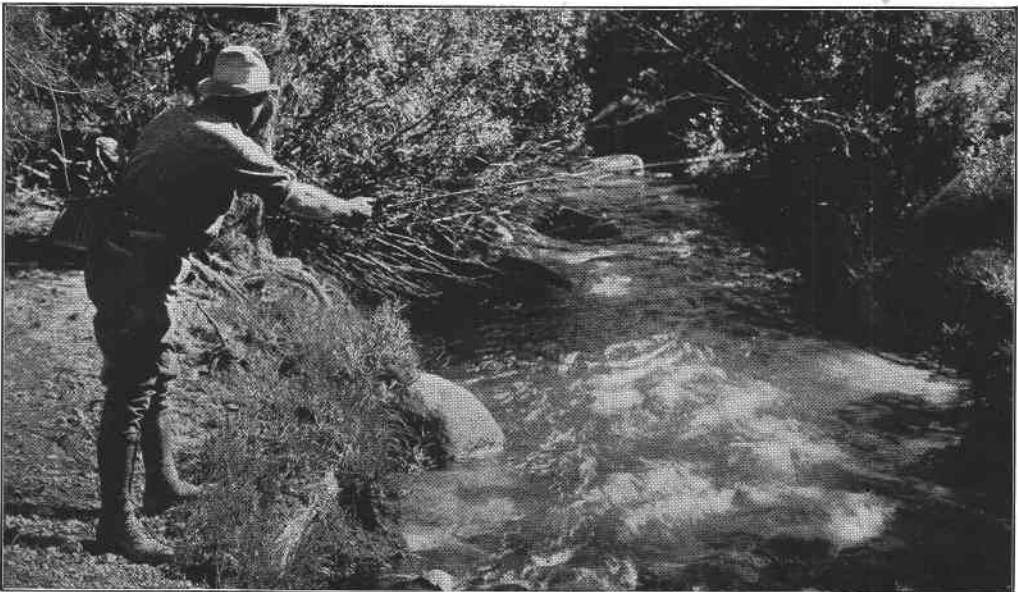


## THE GREATER SEQUOIA

**T**O THE north and east of the original Sequoia National Park lay an area of extraordinarily scenic country. Just as the park was supreme in its forest luxuriance, so the outlying country was supreme in rock-sculptured canyon and snowy summit.

Part of this area was added to the park in 1926, increasing it to an area of six hundred and four square miles. Thus was acquired the Kern Canyon—a Yosemite-like valley thirty miles in length—the whole of the Upper Kaweah watershed with the River Valley and Kaweah Peaks, and Mount Whitney.

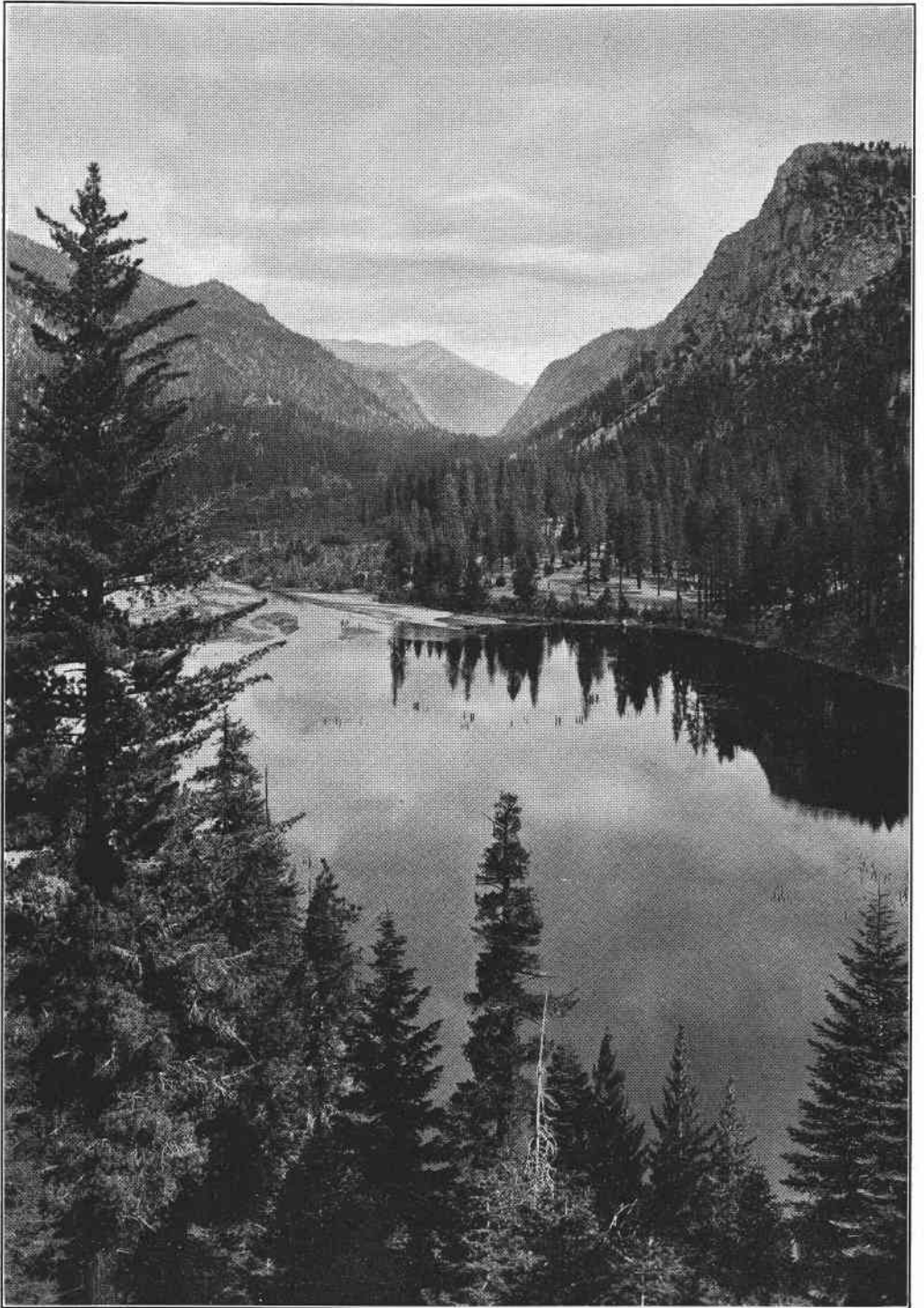
Sequoia Park now contains the largest trees, and outside of Alaska, the largest mountain in the United States. It also has the greatest range in altitude of any of our national parks—from one thousand three hundred feet at the park boundary near Ash Mountain headquarters to fourteen thousand four hundred and ninety-six feet at the summit of Mount Whitney.



*Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts*

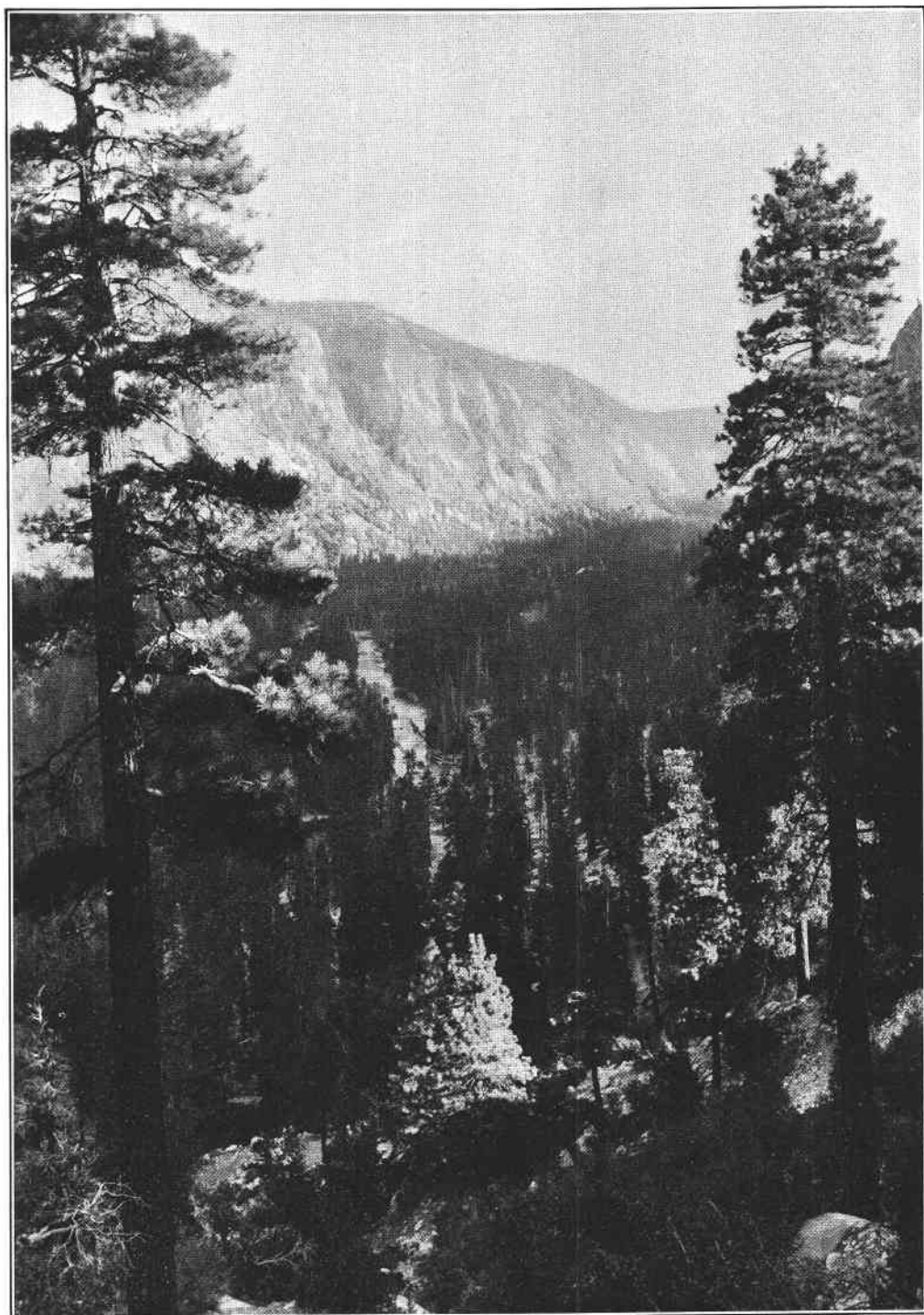
### THE GOLDEN TROUT CREEK

The trout caught here are brilliantly golden. Many lakes and streams in the park have been stocked from this near-by stream



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

BIG KERN LAKE, LOOKING NORTH UP KERN RIVER CANYON



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

LOOKING NORTHEAST DOWN KERN RIVER FROM RATTLESNAKE TRAIL

# KERN *and* KAWEAH CANYONS

THE Sierras contain many of those glaciated canyons to which John Muir gave the general designation of "yosemites" from the chief of them all—the Yosemite Valley. Two of the most notable of these yosemites were added to the Sequoia Park in 1926. These are the Kern Canyon and the Upper Kaweah Canyon or River Valley. The former is over thirty miles long with three-thousand-foot cliffs sculptured and painted in many forms and colors, and it contains the finest fishing stream in the Sierras—the Kern River with native rainbow trout up to nine or ten pounds in weight.

The Upper Kaweah Canyon contains in River Valley, Cliff Creek, Granite Creek, and other tributaries several true yosemites, with cliffs and domes towering thousands of feet above valley floors, streams, and lakes. This region is within a day's journey of the Big Tree groves at Giant Forest and is reached by excellent trails.

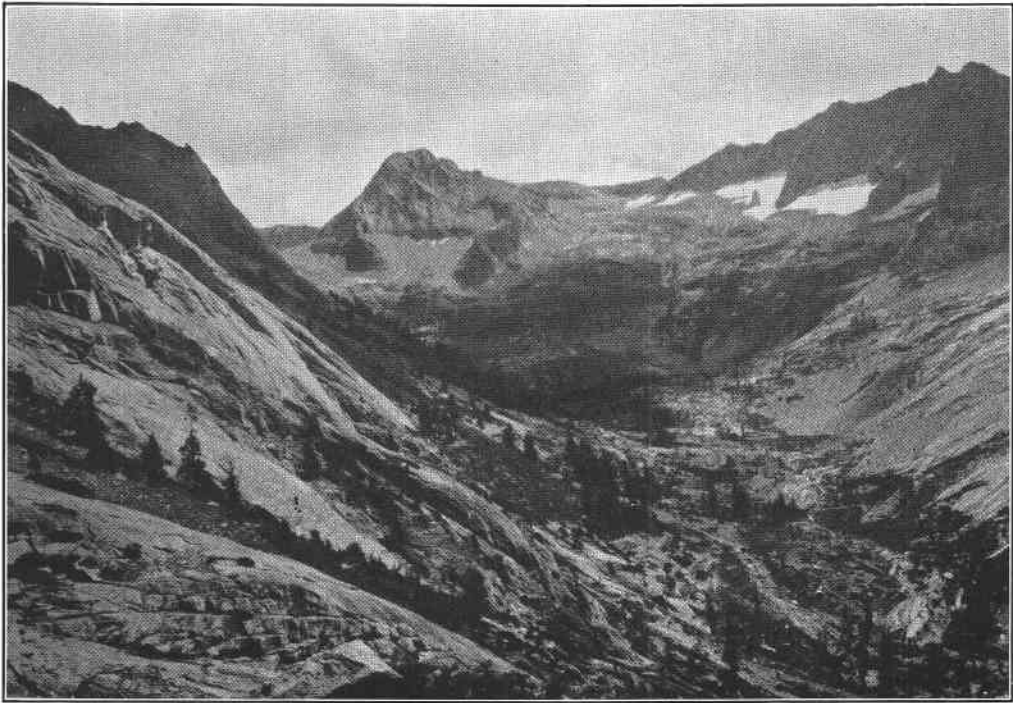


*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

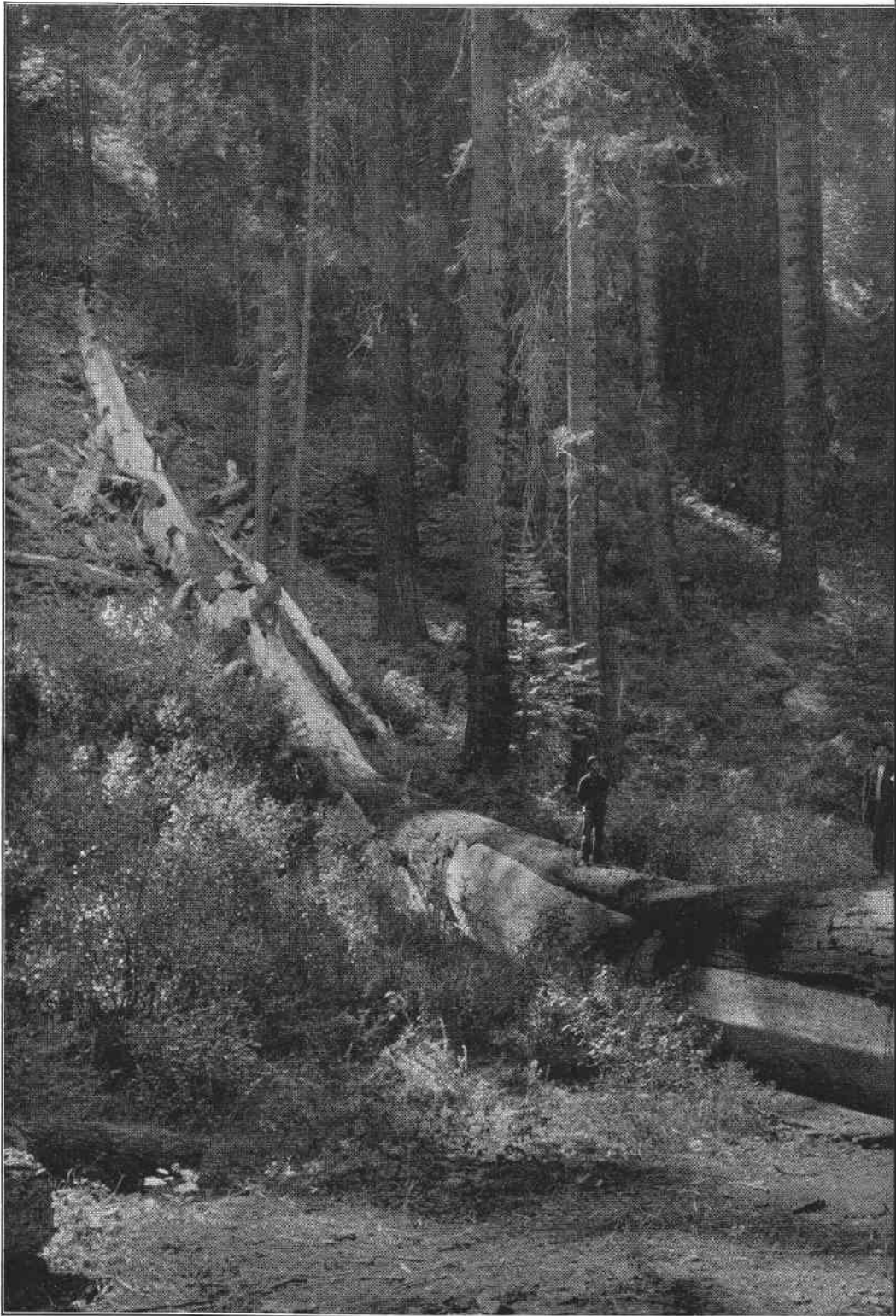
LOOKING DOWN KERN RIVER—KERN DOME IN DISTANCE



LION PEAK FROM MINERS PASS



UPPER END OF MIDDLE FORK OF KAWEAH RIVER



*Photograph by Lindley Eddy*

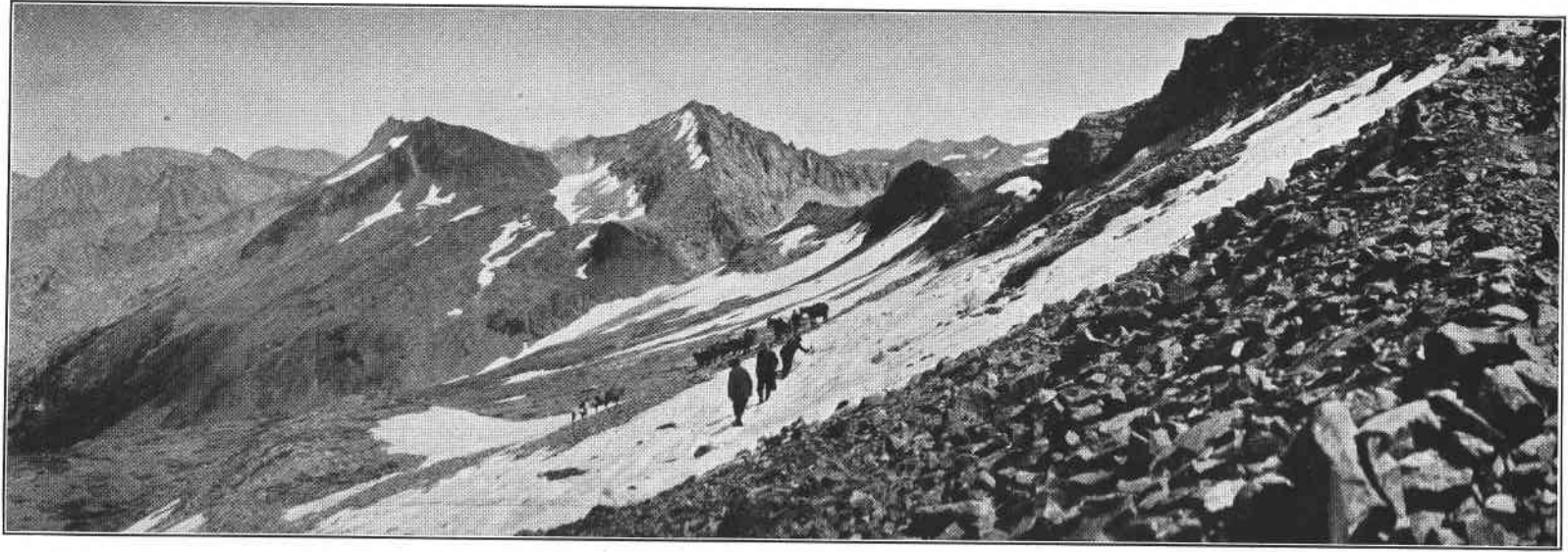
FALLEN

This trunk measures 288 feet. Sequoia wood is almost indestructible





**GIANT**  
except by fire. This tree may have been prostrate for many centuries



CUTTING TRAIL THROUGH ICE ON MINERS PASS

## SIERRA'S CREST, AND LOFTIEST MOUNTAIN

THE Sierra reaches its mightiest climax in Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the United States outside of Alaska. No towering, isolated summit is Whitney, like Mount Rainier and Longs Peak, but literally a climax, for here the Sierra has massed her mountains, tumbled them willfully, recklessly, into one sprawling, titanic heap, as though this were the dumping ground for all left over after the making of America.

Out of this mass emerges one higher than the rest. That is Mount Whitney. Its altitude is 14,496 feet.

The journey to Whitney's summit is a progress of inspiration and climax. From Visalia automobiles carry you under the very shadow of the Big Trees. From there it is a matter of horseback and pack train—out of the Big Tree forest into red firs and little sugar pines; then up among the foxtail pines into the magic land of peaks above the timber line; up the headwaters of the Kaweah; across the splendors of the Great Western Divide; into and over the Kern; then up, up, up, threading passes, skirting precipices, rounding lakes, edging glaciers, to the top.

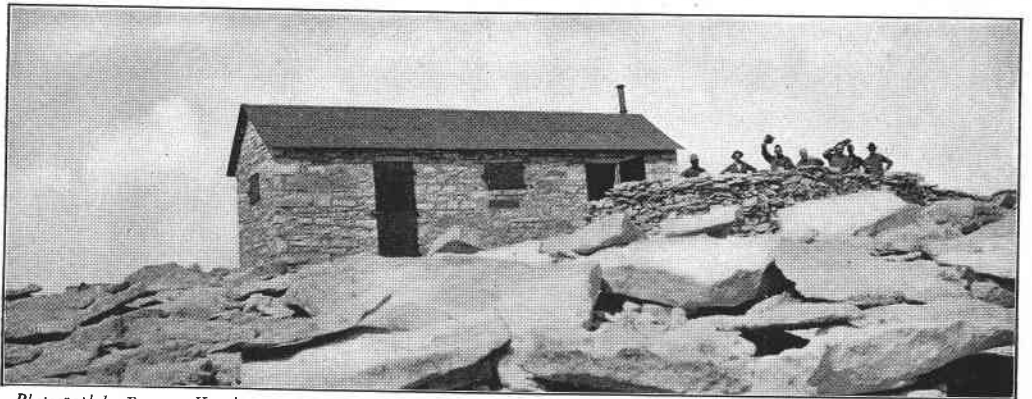


*Photograph by Mark Daniels*

NO TOWERING, ISOLATED SUMMIT IS MOUNT WHITNEY, LIKE MOUNT RAINIER AND LONGS PEAK, BUT LITERALLY A CLIMAX. OUT OF THE MASS EMERGES ONE HIGHER THAN THE REST; THAT IS ALL



THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT WHITNEY, NEARLY THREE MILES HIGH



*Photograph by Emerson Hough*

THE STONE SHELTER ON MOUNT WHITNEY'S SUMMIT