

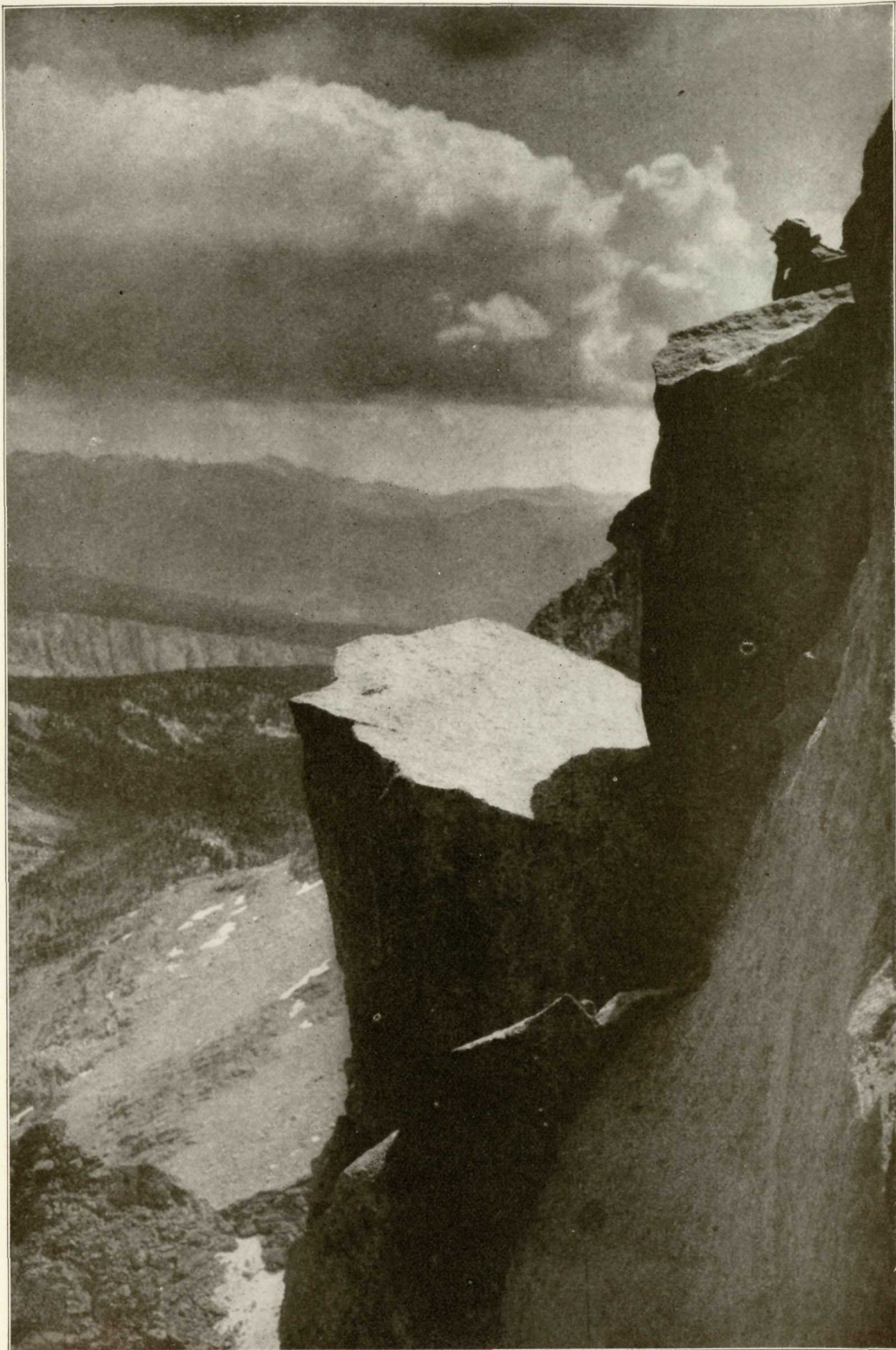
THE BIG TREE NATIONAL PARK

THE
S E Q U O I A
NATIONAL PARK



Photograph by A. C. Pillsbury

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FRANKLIN K. LANE, *Secretary*



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, within an area of two hundred and thirty-seven square miles, are found several large groves of the celebrated *Sequoia gigantea*, popularly known 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 entrance is Visalia, California.

Half a dozen miles away is the General Grant National Park, whose four square miles were set apart because they contained the General Grant Tree, second only in size and age to the patriarch of all, the General Sherman Tree.

On Sequoia's favored slopes grow other monsters, also. It is the park of big trees of many kinds; and it is the park of birds.

The Sequoia National Park is the gateway to one of the grandest scenic areas in this or any other land. Over its borders to the north and east lies a land of sublime nobility whose wild rivers and tortuous canyons, whose glacier-carved precipices and vast snowy summits culminating in the supreme altitude of Whitney, will make it some day surpassed in celebrity by none.

THE BIGGEST THING ALIVE



Photograph by Lindley Eddy

THE GENERAL SHERMAN TREE

The largest and oldest living thing in all the world



OF the 1,156,000 sequoias, young and old, which form these groves, 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 astonishing dimensions:

General Sherman: diameter, 36.5 feet; height, 279.9 feet.

General Grant: diameter, 35 feet; height, 264 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



THE General Sherman Tree is the oldest living thing. At the birth of Moses it was probably a sapling. Its exact age cannot be determined without counting the rings, but it is probably in excess of thirty-five hundred years. This looks back long before the beginning of human history. When Christ was born it was a lusty youth of 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 and age only to the General Sherman Tree



Photograph by George F. Belden

"DEEP IN THE WOODY WILDERNESS"

OTHER PEOPLE'S SEQUOIAS

IT was to preserve these trees from destruction that Congress created the national park in 1890; and yet, with the one exception of the General Sherman Tree, the greatest trees and all the finest groups of greater trees in the Giant Forest, the grove of largest trees, are not the property of the nation but of individuals. The park was created out of public lands without provision for acquiring the private holdings that happened to lie within its boundaries.

What the park's creation, therefore, has done for most of the oldest and largest sequoias is merely to make it unprofitable to cut and market them.

But owners cannot be expected to forego profit when, with the park's inevitably increasing popularity, these holdings acquire earning ability. Once visitors begin to throng the park, no law can prevent the fencing of these Big Tree clumps for the charging of admissions; nor can the public welfare control the kind and appearance of the hostleries which some day surely will be built beneath some of our greatest sequoias, nor even stop the raising of spiral stairways round their great trunks to lookouts and lunch platforms among their branches.

The time has come for public-spirited citizens to combine subscriptions to save them, under the provision of the Sundry Civil Act of March 3, 1915 (38 U. S. Stat. 863), which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior "to accept patented land or other right of way whether over patented or other land in the Sequoia National Park that may be donated for park purposes."



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 C. H. Hamilton

THE SIERRA CLUB IN CAMP



Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts

THE CELEBRATED KINGS RIVER CANYON



Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts

MIDDLE FORK OF THE KINGS RIVER



Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts

KAWEAH PEAKS NEAR THE CANYON OF THE KERN



Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts

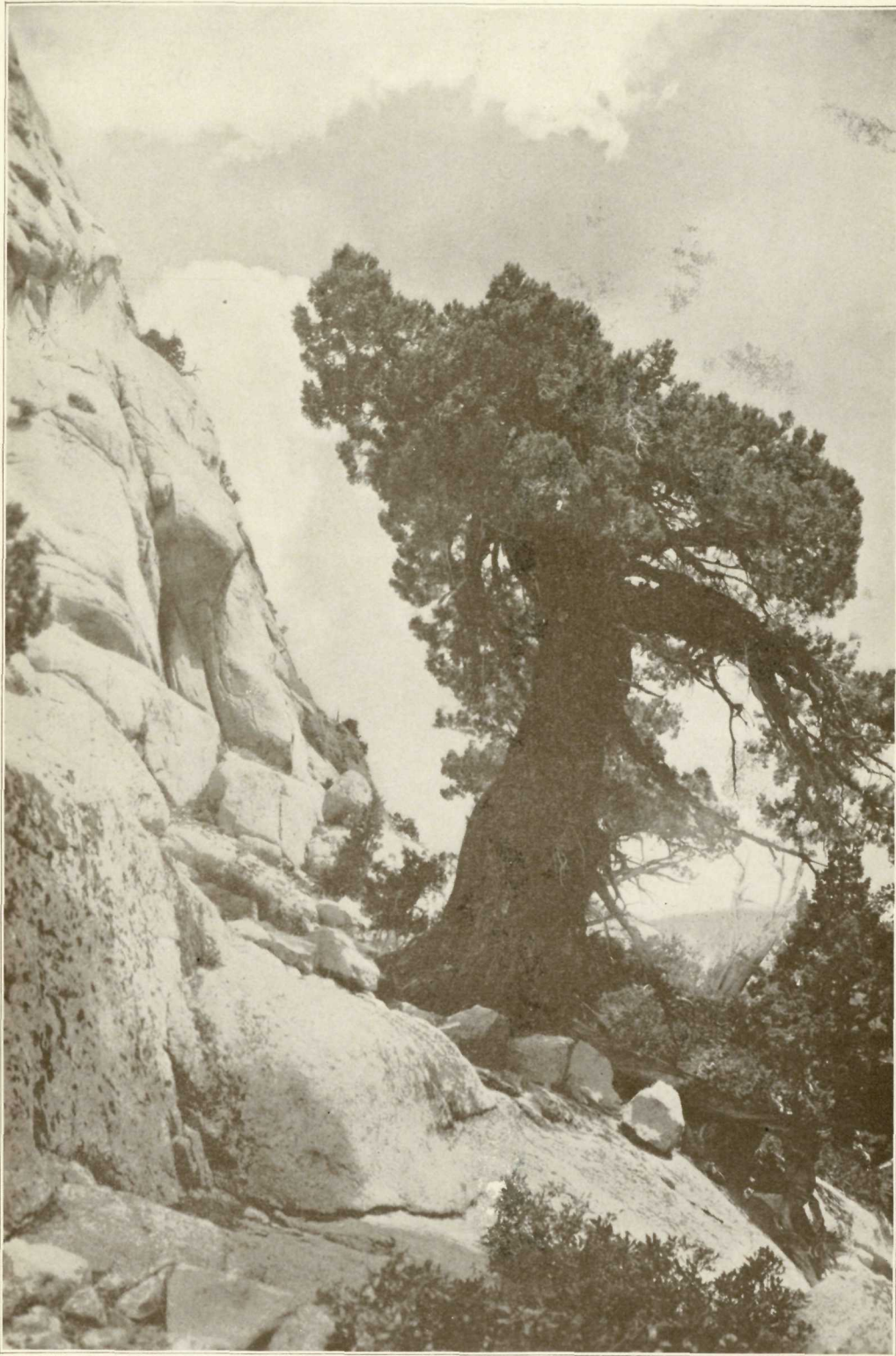
UNIVERSITY PEAK FROM KEARSARGE PASS



Photograph by Lindley Eddy

THE FALLEN GIANT

This trunk measures 288 feet. Sequoia wood is almost indestructible by fire. This tree may have been prostrate for many centuries



Photograph by C. H. Hamilton

AN AGED JUNIPER

Sequoia is the park of big trees of many kinds; and it is the park of birds



“THE GREATER SEQUOIA”

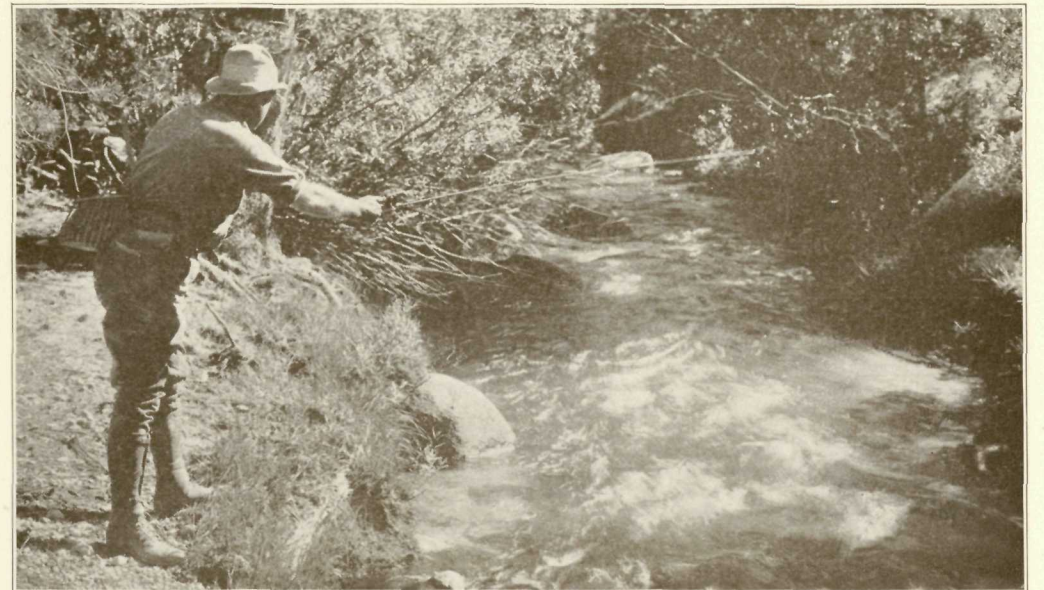
ONE cannot think or speak of the Sequoia National Park without including the extraordinary scenic country lying beyond its boundaries to the north and east. Not that there is much in common between the two, for the park marks the supremacy of forest luxuriance and the outlying country the supremacy of rock-sculptured canyon and snowy summit.

And yet there is the common note of supremacy, each of its own kind.

And there is the common note of continuity, for, from the lowest valley of the wooded park to the peak of our loftiest height, Mount Whitney, nature's painting runs the gamut. The parts are indivisible; to separate them is to cut in two the canvas of the Master.

And so it is that those who know this land of exuberant climax have come to call it “The Greater Sequoia” in order to express not the part limited by the park's official title but the whole as God made it.

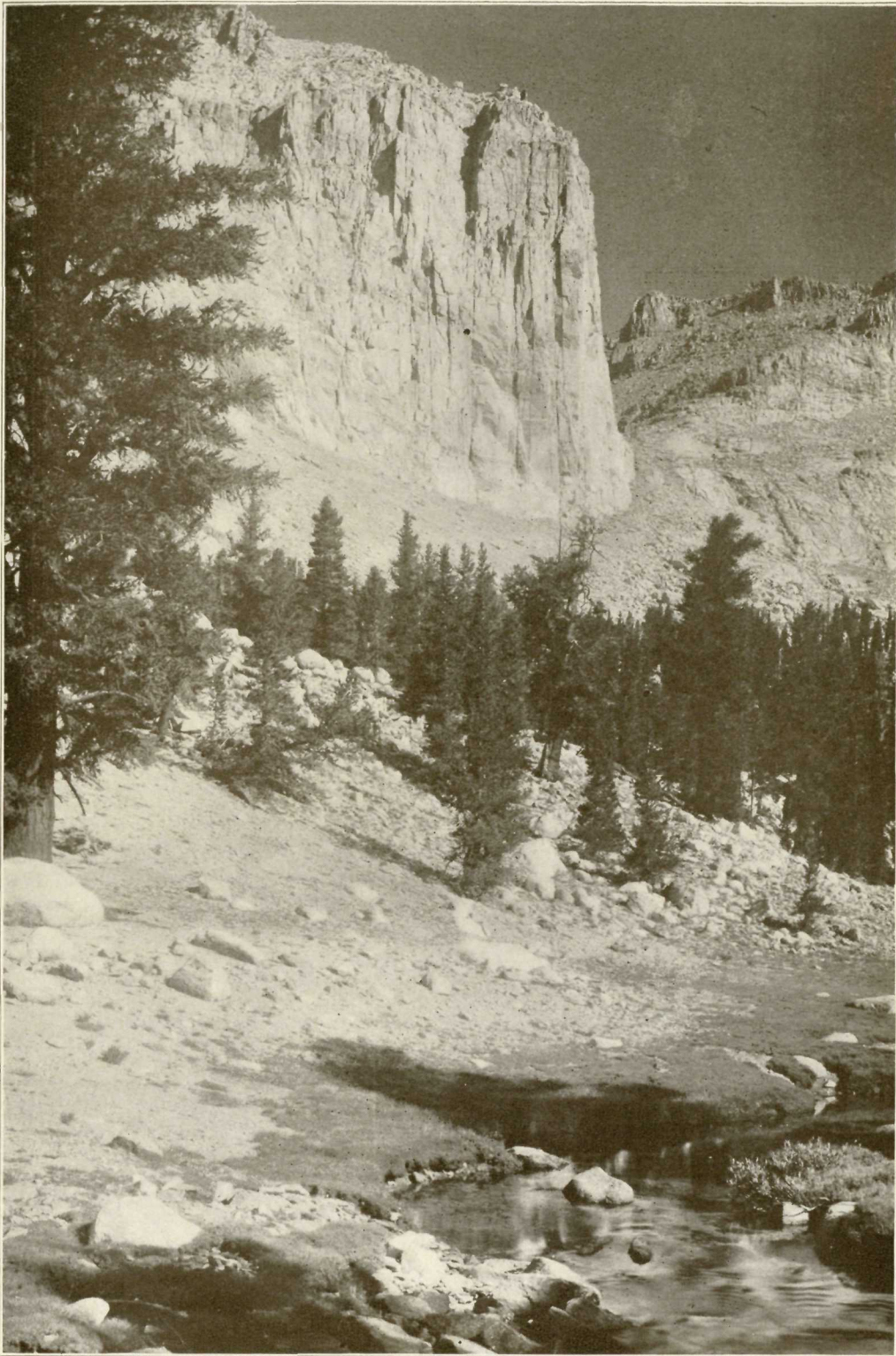
There is a bill now before Congress to enlarge the park boundaries so that they shall inclose it all.



Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts

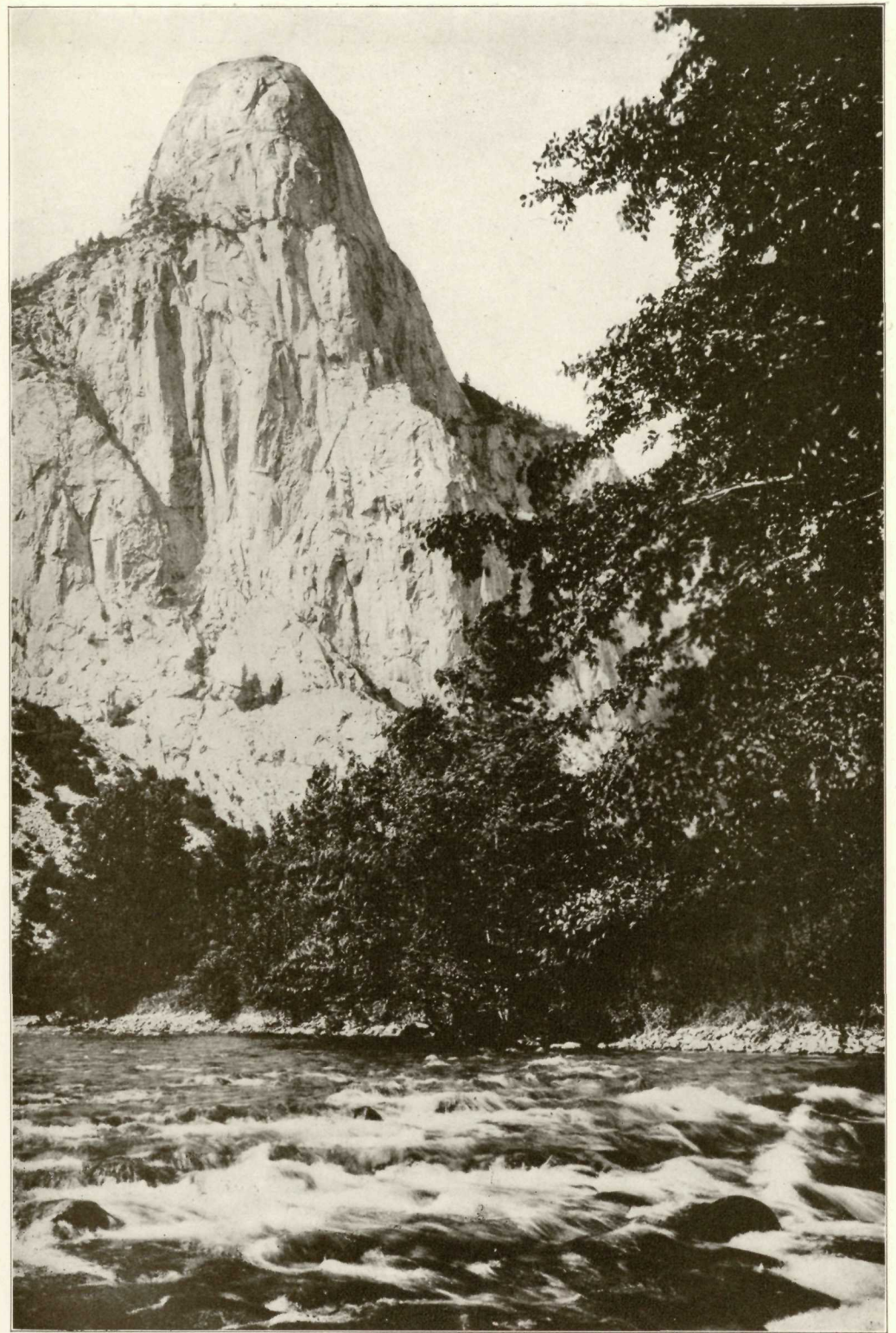
THE GOLDEN TROUT CREEK

The trout caught in this stream are brilliantly golden. They are found nowhere else in the world except where transplanted from this stream



Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts

SCENE ON ROCK CREEK, ONE OF THE FINEST TROUT STREAMS IN AMERICA



Photograph by J. N. LeConte

TEHIPITE DOME, 3000 FEET SHEER ABOVE THE KINGS RIVER

KINGS AND KERN CANYONS

WELL outside the park's boundaries and overlooking it from the east, the amazing, craggy Sierra gives birth in glacial chambers to two noble rivers. A hundred thousand rivulets trickle from the everlasting snows; ten thousand resultant brooks roar down the rocky slopes; hundreds of resultant streams swell their turbulent, trout-haunted currents.

One of these rivers, the Kings, flows west, paralleling the northern boundary of the park. The other, the Kern, flows south, paralleling its eastern boundary.

The Kings River Canyon and the Canyon of the Kern are practically matchless for the wild quality of their beauty and the majesty of their setting. The traveler goes home to plan his return, for this is a country whose peculiar charm lays an enduring clutch upon desire. "The Greater Sequoia" has few visitors yet—but they are worshippers.

Unlike many areas of extreme rocky character, this is not specially difficult to travel; it curiously adapts itself to trails. It is an ideal land for the camper.

But one must go well equipped. There must be good guides, good horses, and plenty of warm clothing. The difference here between a good and an indifferent equipment is the difference between satisfaction and misery.



Photograph by C. H. Hamilton

ARMY PASS IN JULY; ON THE CREST OF THE SIERRA ABOUT TEN MILES SOUTH OF MOUNT WHITNEY



Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts

HERE THE SIERRA HAS MASSES HER MOUNTAINS; TUMBLED THEM WILFULLY, RECKLESSLY, INTO ONE TITANIC, SPRAWLING HEAP



Photograph by H. C. Tibbitts

SUMMIT OF TABLE MOUNTAIN

SIERRA'S CREST *and* OUR LOFTIEST MOUNTAIN

THE Sierra reaches its mightiest climax a few miles east of the present Sequoia National Park in Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the United States. 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 wilfully, recklessly, into one sprawling, titanic heap, as though this were the dumping-ground for all left over after the making of America.

The effect is imposing, breathless, overwhelming.

Out of this mass emerges one higher than the rest. That is Mount Whitney. Its altitude is 14,501 feet.

The journey to Whitney summit is a progress of inspiration and climax. From Visalia automobiles carry you under the very shadows of the Big Trees. From there it is a matter of horseback and pack-train. Over the park boundaries into the magic of the mountains; 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, 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

SUMMIT OF MOUNT WHITNEY. THE STONE SHELTER ON MOUNT WHITNEY'S SUMMIT

THE NATIONAL PARKS AT A GLANCE

Arranged chronologically in the order of their creation

[Number, 14; Total Area, 7,290 Square Miles]

NATIONAL PARK and Date	LOCATION	AREA in square miles	DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS
HOT SPRINGS RESERVATION 1832	Middle Arkansas	1½	46 hot springs possessing curative properties—Many hotels and boarding-houses in adjacent city of Hot Springs—bath-houses under public control.
YELLOWSTONE 1872	North-western Wyoming	3,348	More geysers than in all rest of world together—Boiling springs—Mud volcanoes—Petrified forests—Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, remarkable for gorgeous coloring—Large lakes—Many large streams and waterfalls—Vast wilderness inhabited by deer, elk, bison, moose, antelope, bear, mountain sheep, beaver, etc., constituting greatest wild bird and animal preserve in world—Altitude 6,000 to 11,000 feet—Exceptional trout fishing.
YOSEMITE 1890	Middle eastern California	1,125	Valley of world-famed beauty—Lofty cliffs—Romantic vistas—Many waterfalls of extraordinary height—3 groves of big trees—High Sierra—Large areas of snowy peaks—Waterwheel falls—Good trout fishing.
SEQUOIA 1890	Middle eastern California	237	The Big Tree National Park—12,000 sequoia trees over 10 feet in diameter, some 25 to 36 feet in diameter—Towering mountain ranges—Startling precipices—Fine trout fishing.
GENERAL GRANT 1890	Middle eastern California	4	Created to preserve the celebrated General Grant Tree, 35 feet in diameter—six miles from Sequoia National Park and under same management.
MOUNT RAINIER 1899	West central Washington	324	Largest accessible single-peak glacier system—28 glaciers, some of large size—Forty-eight square miles of glacier, fifty to five hundred feet thick—Remarkable sub-alpine wild-flower fields.
CRATER LAKE 1902	South-western Oregon	249	Lake of extraordinary blue in crater of extinct volcano, no inlet, no outlet—Sides 1,000 feet high—Interesting lava formations—Fine trout fishing.
MESA VERDE 1906	South-western Colorado	77	Most notable and best-preserved prehistoric cliff dwellings in United States, if not in the world.
PLATT 1906	Southern Oklahoma	1½	Sulphur and other springs possessing curative properties—Under Government regulations.
GLACIER 1910	North-western Montana	1,534	Rugged mountain region of unsurpassed Alpine character—250 glacier-fed lakes of romantic beauty—60 small glaciers—Peaks of unusual shape—Precipices thousands of feet deep—Almost sensational scenery of marked individuality—Fine trout fishing.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN 1915	North middle Colorado	358	Heart of the Rockies—Snowy range, peaks 11,000 to 14,250 feet altitude—Remarkable records of glacial period.

National Parks of less popular interest are:

- Sully's Hill, 1904, North Dakota.....Wooded hilly tract on Devil's Lake.
- Wind Cave, 1903, South Dakota.....Large natural cavern.
- Casa Grande Ruin, 1892, Arizona.....Prehistoric Indian ruin.

