

STANDING TREES, AGED 15,000,000

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brown, yellow and red tints that appear in much of the material. The sand and clay in which these trees were buried were afterward washed away and the petrified trunks were thus exposed at the surface after millions of years of burial.

Some of the tree trunks are six feet in diameter and more than 100 feet in length. In the first forest there is a fine trunk that forms a natural bridge over a small ravine, the water having first washed away the overlying clay and sand, and then, following a crevice, worked out a channel underneath. This log is 110 feet long and is four feet in diameter at the butt and one and one-half feet at the top. To support this remarkable bridge, which was on the point of falling, a concrete pier has been placed under one end of the log.

The petrified woods are beautiful objects for study. When thin slices are carefully ground down to a thickness of three-thousandths of an inch or less and placed under the microscope they show perfectly the original structure of the wood, all the cells being distinct, though they are now replaced by chalcedony through nature's chemistry.

By studying these thin sections F. H. Knowlton, of the United States Geological Survey, has found that most of these trees were of the species *Araucarioxylon arizonicum*, a tree of very ancient type, which lived at the same geologic time also in the east-central part of the United States, where the remains of some of its associates have also been found. These associated included other coniferous trees, tree ferns, cycads and gigantic horsetails, which indicate the further interesting fact that at that time the rainfall of the Southwest was abundant.

Advertises Inspected Meat.

"GOVERNMENT inspection is your protection," announces a butchering company in Boise City, Idaho, recently. "Look for the government inspection stamp upon every side of beef, pork or mutton from which your order is cut. Let it be your guide when buying meat. It symbolizes and guarantees purity and cleanliness. It insures you clean meat from healthy animals."

When laws were enacted several years ago providing for inspection of drugs, produce and foods generally—especially meats—there was considerable resentment for a while among dealers; but that is seldom encountered nowadays. The modern business man not only obeys the Federal laws, but advertises the fact to assure his customers that the thing he sells is pure, clean and out of a sanitary plant.

Each piece of meat permitted to go into interstate commerce is marked "United States inspected and passed," and every can of meat, "United States inspected and passed by Department of Agriculture," assuring the consumer that the product is from animals inspected by the government, in a sanitary establishment, and that it is sound, healthful, and otherwise fit for food, and that it did not contain any prohibited dyes, chemicals, or preservatives at the time it left the place of manufacture.

Every packing plant doing an interstate or foreign business in meats must operate under inspection. Inspectors are placed in it to see that it is kept in a sanitary condition. Every animal brought to it for slaughter is inspected by an inspector of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture. If any meat or product is found to be unwholesome or otherwise unfit for food it is condemned and cannot be used for human food.

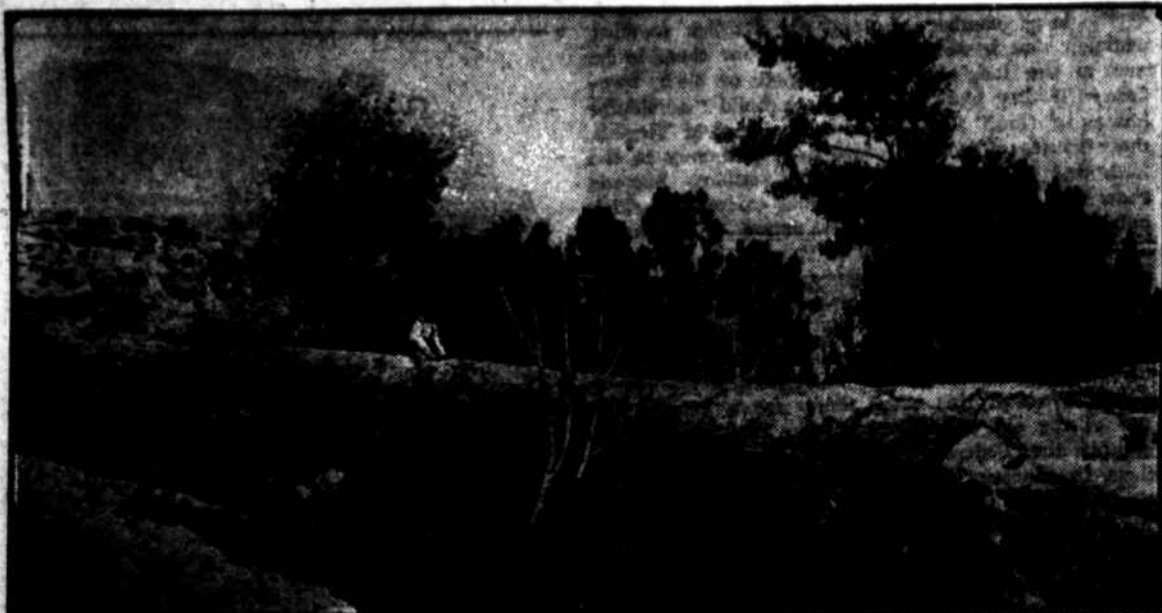
All animals are killed under the eyes of the inspectors, and every carcass receives a post-mortem examination to detect any evidence of disease that might have escaped the ante-mortem inspector. Every piece of meat when ready to be shipped is stamped under the supervision of a representative of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and that stamp carries with it to the consumer an assurance of wholesomeness. Every animal brought into the United States and every one shipped is inspected by the bureau.

Jam in Patent Office.

PATENT OFFICE officials have been swamped with work as a result of a deluge of applications on new inventions during the last six months. All records have been broken for that period of time and there are now awaiting classification and filing 51,865 patent applications.

Congestion has existed for two years in the Patent Office, and legislation for relief received a setback during the March shift in Congress. These conditions are said to have greatly hampered manufacturers and exporters. Officials say there is little prospect for improvement unless Congress grants additional salaries and personnel, many employees having left the service.

REMARKABLE NATURAL BRIDGE



THE softer stone which at one time surrounded this petrified tree, has been washed away by the weathering action of rain, frost, wind, and time, so that now the trunk forms a natural bridge, forty feet long, over the ravine. This is probably the only petrified stone bridge in the world. Since the picture was taken a concrete support has been put under the trunk to prevent further cracking, and the destruction of this wonder of the world.

Policies Irreconcilable—Gibbs.

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Would Cripple Germany.

LOOKING at these facts as a scientific problem the French foreign office says:

"The solution is obvious, Germany must be broken up. She must be cut off from her resources. Her industry and organization must be crippled. France must strengthen Poland and drive a wedge between Germany and Russia, who would otherwise unite for military aggression. The safety of France, her glory and power, depend upon keeping Germany poor, and at all costs and all risks that shall we do."

France hasn't the least intention of relinquishing the left bank of the Rhine. She has every intention of handing over the rich industrial districts in Upper Silesia to Poland and so drain Germany of one of her chief sources of wealth and power. She is prepared to see Germany fail in the payment of indemnities, and to force her to fail if necessary, in order to have a pretext for applying fresh sanctions and breaking up Germany by economic severities.

Now that, in my judgment, is a reasonable and logical policy except for one flaw in the argument and one moral law.

The flaw is just this. All countries in Europe and many beyond Europe depend for their recovery of trade upon an industrial revival in Germany, Austria, Poland, Russia and the Baltic States, and they will not support a policy which destroys all chance of that for the sake even of French security. If France pursues that policy she will be alone in Europe except for Poland, who is bankrupt, unstable and anarchical.

Such a policy may succeed for fifteen, twenty or twenty-five years, but the time will come when France will no longer be able to support a great standing army and when Germany, broken to bits, maybe, and separated into many isolated communities of German folk, poverty stricken and desperately enraged, will reunite in a great wave of racial passion and will relight the fires of hell. That is the flaw in the French argument which thrusts itself into British minds. They may believe that a French policy along these lines is suicidal and bound in the long run to bring down Europe into the gulfs of ruin by another monstrous war for our children or our children's children.

Silesian Plebiscite.

BUT there is a moral aspect to the French policy which cannot be ignored over this Upper Silesian question which is France's test of British friendship.

France says we are bound in honor to support our Polish allies.

England says we are bound in honor by our own pledge to abide by the plebiscite which was decided in favor of Germany. To all impartial students of history there can be no doubt that Upper Silesia is strictly and lawfully German, built up by German

wealth and industry, colonized by German folk half a thousand years ago, never a part of Poland, never claimed by Poland until the peace conference less than three years ago, and with a mixed population speaking a special dialect which is no more Polish than German.

Korfanty and his bands are insurgents and not local inhabitants, demanding self-government. It seems clear, therefore, that the French demands in behalf of Poland are not in accordance with international justice, but are based on a policy of self-interest and self-defense which might be justified in an expediency for the peace of the world. But it is the conviction of most English people that the fulfillment of this policy would make for future war and would quite destroy all chances of some system of gradual disarmament which most of us hope may follow the Washington conference.

France and England will continually compromise on their points of difference, but there will be increasing exasperation, which is already divorcing the public opinion of both countries, unless the French minorities, who see eye to eye with us, prevail, or, what is more possible, unless the French people, who, as a whole, are anti-militarist in instinct and are only supporting the present policy for the sake of national security, realize the appalling danger to their future if they are isolated.

Demobilize Russians.

IT is necessary to assure the French people of safety by other means than by breaking up Germany, and that may be done, I think, by demobilizing Russia, without whose military support Germany would be impotent in a new war of revenge.

Out of the enormous tragedy of the Russian famine that good at least may come, for the evil of Bolshevism and its tyranny may be overthrown not by armed force but by world charity.

This famine in Russia which is menacing millions of poor peasants is our supreme test of charity and if all nations will follow the quick lead given by the United States in Secretary Hoover's offer the Russian Red armies will be disarmed more easily than by corrupt revolutionary generals seeking to replace the new tyranny by the old despotism.

It is time for a truce in Russia as well as in Ireland, and the spirit of Christian charity applied to political affairs will destroy the philosophy of force and ordeal by battle. It is, after all, the strongest weapon in the world, though least used by those who profess its faith.

In Great Britain public opinion is set fair for peace at home and abroad and there will be no toleration of any renewal of armed strife in Ireland. It is probable that the present government will postpone an appeal to the country on that issue until after the Washington conference, but meanwhile all sides are preparing for the next general election, which may suddenly be sprung upon them.

It is certain that the present coalition will be broken into many groups, and attempts are now being made in secret conclaves of Liberals to strengthen the opposition by uniting all the moderate liberal thought under the leadership of Viscount Gray in succession to Herbert Asquith, who has disappointed his supporters.

Viscount Gray undoubtedly would gain a great following in spite of his long, sphinxlike silence because in the public imagination he still holds his place as a noble, idealistic figure with world peace as his abiding hope.

President Harding spent the greater part of last week in the seclusion of the summit of Mount Prospect, a short motor ride from Portland, Me., the guest of Secretary of War Weeks. Mrs. Harding and a large party of friends were there, and Mrs. John W. Davis, daughter of the War Secretary, was hostess in the absence of Mrs. Weeks. The place is at the end of a closed private road and four miles from a telephone.