

THE BIG STONE POST.

LEADING PAPER OF SOUTHWEST VA.

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O. E. SEARS, PRESIDENT.

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Notice to Subscribers.

Any person furnishing us the names of ten yearly subscribers or more, and forwarding the cash by postal order, registered letter or express, is authorized to retain fifty cents of the two dollars for each subscriber.

We will not be responsible, however, to such subscribers unless the person acting as agent duly forwards the amount of subscription as directed.

Subscriptions to the Post are payable in advance. In no case will this rule be deviated from.

Citizens of Big Stone Gap who desire to have their papers delivered by carrier early in the morning, will please designate where they wish them delivered. They can send us their address by mail, or call at the office.

The South is now full of Northern and foreign capitalists. They are filling every South-bound steamer, and there is hardly a hotel in any Southern city where one may not read their names on the register.

There is one party from Philadelphia which consists of more than four hundred, traveling in twenty-one palaces cars; there is yet another from Boston, not to mention the foreign Iron and Steel visitors. The writer came through Knoxville a day or two ago, and there he found quite a number who were en route to Atlanta, and who expressed their purpose of visiting Big Stone Gap before their return North. These gentlemen have come on business. They possess large capital and they represent others who wish to invest in Southern enterprises.

The present fall and coming winter will be the busiest season ever known throughout the Southern country. Few, if any among us, appreciate the extent of the monetary forces that are now concentrating for the development of this entire section. Within a few months the most sanguine of our boomers will find his expectations surpassed. But the people of Big Stone Gap must adopt some means of attracting the attention of these visitors. Hand-bills, giving a brief account of the advantages of the place and the way of reaching it should be scattered in every hotel and upon every railroad train within two or three hundred miles of Big Stone Gap. Every possible effort should be made to secure the presence of strangers that they may see for themselves. We have all to gain and nothing to lose by personal investigation and we should make the most of it. A mass-meeting should be held to adopt some plan, appoint some committee and secure the services of agents who will see that this stream of prospectors and investigators does not pass our very doors without knowing of the existence of Big Stone Gap.

Some idea may be formed of the interest which Northern capitalists are taking in the South from the fact that, with the Philadelphia party, which is considered over four hundred, there is an old gentleman over eighty years of age and worth over \$28,000,000. Are the citizens of Big Stone Gap going to remain inert and allow these visiting capitalists to pass within easy reach of us without letting them know there is such a place on the globe?

VIRGINIA THE PLACE.

A Leading Banking Firm of Baltimore Give Their Views as to Where to Put Money. The State Debt.

Hatfield & Co.'s Baltimore Circular.

If we were asked what particular section of this country we considered the most attractive field for enterprise and investment we should answer the state of Virginia. As we have not one dollar invested in any shape in Virginia we consider this an unbiased opinion. We believe that capitalists will find it to their advantage to investigate this most promising field for the employment of capital. We do not say this in disparagement of the claims of other Southern States, for we are believers in the whole section, but think we recognize in Virginia the beginning of a series of industrial pursuits and enterprises which will make the old Commonwealth hum with activity, and will produce most promising opportunities for profitable investment. Virginia has lagged behind her sister States in industrial advancement wholly, in our opinion because of the unsettled condition of her debt and the obstruction which was thus placed upon the inflow of capital. Happily, there is good reason for believing that this hindrance is about to be removed, and that the people of Virginia, realizing the importance of unblemished credit, will respond to the movement to settle the debt and that a satisfactory compromise will be effected.

The bondholders are showing every disposition to effect a settlement of the debt, and are depositing their bonds under the agreement of the committee. There were outstanding January 1, 1890, about \$14,000,000 consols, about \$6,000,000 10-40s, about \$3,000,000 old unfunded bonds, and about \$700,000 peelers. Up to the latest date there have been deposited under the bondholders' agreement \$10,225,500 consols, \$4,403,000 10-40s, and \$1,011,335 old bonds, peels, and coupons; also \$3,259,422.50 of the tax receivable coupons.

We understand the committee is now formulating a plan of settlement which will be submitted to the Advisory Board, and upon their approval to the bondholders. If endorsed by the bondholders negotiations will be opened with the State and

in our mind a successful determination is almost assured. The Advisory Board consists of Messrs. Cleveland, Thomas, George S. Cox, and G. G. Williams. These gentlemen will no doubt give the subject full consideration and will weigh the claims and rights of the bondholders versus the ability of the State to pay. So great is our confidence in the personnel of this committee that we should, if holders of Virginia bonds, be content to abide by their arbitration and accept any compromise which they may declare advisable considering the interest of the bondholders and the ability of the State.

STEEL PROFITS NORTH AND SOUTH.

Figures That Show the Superior Advantages of the South in Steel Making.

(Philadelphia Special.)

"The stockholders of the Pennsylvania Steel Company held a special meeting today and voted to increase the capital stock from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The new stock will be issued to present stockholders at \$100 a share, and the realizing \$3,000,000 from this sale will be devoted to paying the balance due on the Sparrow Point Works, and the remaining \$1,500,000 will be used for working capital. It was reported to the stockholders that the business of the last six months had been the most profitable of the company's history. The dividends last year were 18 per cent in cash and stock, but the actual profits were over 30. The stockholders listened to the report with great good feeling, and expressed themselves unanimously in favor of the old law and a protective tariff.

"A special meeting of the Bethlehem Iron Company will be held on November 26th, to vote on a proposed increase of the capital stock from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The company has just secured some fat Government contracts and must enlarge its plant. It is a close corporation and is understood to make 25 per cent a year.

"The directors of the Cambria Iron Company, which lost \$1,000,000 on the Johnston road, propose to issue \$1,000,000 more stock, making the capital stock \$5,000,000. A syndicate, headed by Drexel & Co., offer to take the stock at \$58 per share, but the stockholders want to buy it themselves at par. The company has a surplus of \$4,000,000 after making good the flood damage, and paid 10 per cent last year in spite of the great loss. It is expected to earn 30 per cent this year.

"The Phoenix Iron Company, the largest concern in the steel beam trust, has just created a mortgage for \$1,000,000, with the proceeds of which it will enlarge its plant. Its works are running night and day.

"The Thomas Iron Company has just declared a stock dividend of 25 per cent, thus increasing its capital from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000. The dividend represents earnings withheld from the stockholders and invested in the property. The company earned \$483,000 in the year ending June 30, but only distributed 10 per cent in dividends. An English syndicate bid \$4,500,000 for the works but the offer was refused.

Well, the Southern iron men ought to be able to secure the share of the "pie." If the steel makers of Eastern Pennsylvania can make 30 to 50 per cent on product wrought from imported Michigan ores, costing from \$6 to \$8.50 a ton, surely the South can do fairly well at making steel from ores that cost from 75 cents to \$1.25 a ton in the stockhouse. If they can thus prosper, making steel from iron the first cost of which is never less than \$16 a ton, and will average near if not quite \$20 a ton, certainly the South should get on with iron that can be smelted at a profit of \$10 a ton.

We too, may as well be for the old flag, a prohibitive tariff and an appropriation for sweetening, while these things are going. Give the South a chance in the race and she will get there in the lead, and our people are disposed to take the chance whether it is "given" or not.

Southern steel will become a factor of importance anyhow. It will be a troublesome one if the steel makers of the East who need high protection undertake to hold up prices above the normal. The manufacture of the article in the South is carried on at so low cost, that the industry is established, that it will be bound to regulate the market. Remember this ten years hence and tell us whether the Times is a prophet.

NEW CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

A Company Organized for the Construction of the Virginia & Kentucky Railroad.

WYTHEVILLE, Va., Oct. 15.—A number of prominent men here to organize a construction company to build the Virginia & Kentucky railroad. Among them were C. E. Wortham, of Richmond; W. N. Kuffin, of C. H. Conrad, and A. G. Stortz, of Danville; H. Newberry, of Bland; H. E. Stuart, of Russell, and others. The company was organized with General James A. Walker as president; W. N. Kuffin, of C. H. Conrad, and C. E. Wortham, general manager. The prospects that the road will speedily be built are good.

Heavy Shipment of Cattle.

PARIS, Ky., Oct. 15.—Moses Kahn, of Cincinnati, agent of M. Goldsmith, of New York, in response to a cablegram from London, Eng., ordering him to buy at any price, has purchased six hundred and forty-five export cattle from Charleston, Alexander, cashier of the Northern Bank of this city. The cattle average about eighteen hundred pounds, which, at 5 cents per pound, aggregate the net sum of \$56,625.

Captains in the South.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 14.—A party of Philadelphia capitalists, numbering 400, reached the city today in three sections of a train of twenty-one palace cars. Many of them have never seen the South and express themselves as much pleased. They will be banqueted at the Lookout Point Hotel tonight, covers being laid for 400 guests, and to-morrow night will be tendered a reception at the Chamber of Commerce. One member of the party is eighty years of age and worth \$28,000,000.

Four Masked Men Rob a Train.

FOUR MASKED MEN, Oct. 16.—The midnight passenger train on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad was robbed Friday night by four masked men, near School City, Mo., at George river water tank. As the train was slowing up to take water the engine was mounted from each side by the masked robbers, who compelled the engineer to dismount and knock at the express door for admittance. The messenger threw out the money packages. It was not a heavy money train. The robbers were evidently novices. The procedure was very similar to the recent work at Ottewill.

Nashville Locomotive Works Burned.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 16.—The locomotive and machine works of the Nashville, Tenn., in the western part of the city, was burned last night. Loss, \$6,000; insured.

Millionaire Found Dead.

NEW YORK, Oct. 16.—Loring A. Robertson, a millionaire leather merchant of this city, was found dead in bed at his home in Brooklyn Friday. Heart failure was the probable cause of death.

Baptizing.

Four persons were baptized last Sunday afternoon just above the foot bridge on East Fifth street by Rev. J. M. McManaway, the Baptist minister. Quite a crowd witnessed the ceremonies from the banks of the river.

SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICS.

The Fight Between the Tillmanites and Independents May Lead to Bloodshed.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 15.—Political talk here since the nomination of Judge Haskell by the anti-Tillman faction, and the almost certain announcement that it will get from the republicans, has assumed a sanguinary hue. Tillman and his party say that the negroes will not be allowed to vote the Haskell ticket. The Haskell party say they shall not only be allowed to vote it, if they like, but that they will be protected in doing so. That the Tillmanites are frightened is evidenced by their application to the Governor to give them the control of the commissioners and managers of election. These were appointed some time before Tillman's nomination, and are composed mostly of straightened democrats.

Tillman got the nomination in the convention demanded of Gov. Richardson to remove his appointees and appoint Tillmanites. The Governor refused. Now they are begging it as a favor, and the Governor still refuses. The situation is therefore this: The Haskell democrats have control of the machinery of elections, and there can be no doctoring of the returns or suppression of the negro vote unless with their connivance, which is not probable.

As to bloodshed, it may be said that it is extremely probable in some of the upper counties. If the Tillmanites attempt to frighten the negroes away from the polls with violence it is sure to be resisted by the Haskellites. There is not much danger in the lower tier of counties, where the Tillmanites are not so numerous.

The republican state committee meets on Monday, and will probably issue a manifesto endorsing the Haskell ticket. At first there was a disposition to let some of the anti-Tillmanites to lead the charge, but Haskell is gaining strength every day. It is estimated that every city and town in the State with a population of over 1,000 will give the Haskell ticket a majority. Tillman's strength lies almost entirely in the country out side the towns and villages. It is difficult to say how this will affect the Congressional elections. The democrats will easily carry the First, Second, Third and Fifth districts. The Fourth, Sixth and Seventh are doubtful.

Considerable curiosity is manifested here to know whether Senators Hampton and Butler will obey the call of the Tillmanites to come here and take the stump for them. It is said that unless they do so both will be fired out at the expiration of their terms. Whatever the outcome, it is generally conceded that the democratic party in the Palmetto State is irretrievably split in twain. Nothing can heal the breach that has been made, and the negro will at last become the balance of power.

COLEMAN'S S. C., Oct. 15.—Yesterday at the home of Edwin Harper, the nominee for Secretary of State on the Tillman ticket a meeting of the executive committee of the movement denounced independentism as worse than radicalism, and said that these so-called democrats had stolen the "livestock of heaven to serve the devil." It was resolved: "That we urge the State Democratic Executive Committee to leave no stone unturned to persevere democratic success and Anglo-Saxon supremacy, and to trample under foot this hellish, diabolical move to defeat the popular will, even if it requires the calling of a State convention of the party to organize the people into military companies."

In the mean time Judge Haskell is directing the fight, and is not disturbed by the demonstrations against him. As offset reports come from Spartanburg, Oconee, Union, and other counties that Haskell is gaining votes hourly. An old and prominent democrat publishes his declaration to support Haskell because of the incendiary utterances of Capt. Tillman in the past day or two.

The Columbia Daily Record, having the largest circulation in this city, came over to Haskell today, and enjoys the distinction of being the only paper in the state on that side.

In a day or two it is probable that a Republican State Executive Committee will hold a meeting and endorse the nominations of Thursday night. The declaration of Capt. Tillman and some of his followers that the negroes would not be allowed to vote in some counties has lost him all chance of receiving any of the republican vote.

McKINLEY'S DISTRICT IN DOUBT.

Blaine Called Upon to Save the Tariff Bill Man.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—The republican managers of the campaign in Ohio are making desperate efforts to induce Secretary Blaine to go out to the Buckeye country and fire off a speech in behalf of Congressman McKinley. At the present writing Mr. Blaine has not promised to go but is considering the matter. Ohio democrats who have been here recently declare that the Democratic candidate in McKinley's district will be elected no matter how much money is spent or how many of the outside republicans speak in this district. In the last presidential election this district gave over 2,000 democratic majority and the intense feeling this year will bring out all the democratic voters and they can't be bought or misled in sufficient numbers to let McKinley get back to Congress. The gerrymander was for a purpose.

The Knoxville Elstedeoff.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 15.—The Elstedeoff held here Saturday was a great success. It was conducted by Prof. A. Madoc, of Chicago, and W. E. Powell, of Milwaukee. The division of prizes fell equally to local and visiting contestants. Prof. Madoc announces the vocal solos and duets the finest met with up to this date. His seventy-seventh adjudication of Elstedeoffs. The audience last night overflowed Staab's Theater, and was the most cultured ever gathered there upon any occasion. The solo of Miss Mazie Richards, of this city, was one of the most marked features of the evening. Many wishes are expressed for the Elstedeoff to be made an annual festival.

Will Not Wed.

The Report That Miss Davis Will Not Marry Mr. Wilkinson Confirmed.

NEW YORK, Oct. 16.—A special to the Sun, from Syracuse, N. Y., says: "The engagement of Miss Winnie Davis, the 'daughter of the Confederacy,' to Mr. Alfred Wilkinson, of this city, which was announced less than six months ago, and which was created so much interest in all parts of the country, has been broken. Intimate friends here of Miss Davis authorize this statement. They assign as the cause the ill health of the young lady. Miss Davis has not been in good health for some time, and she went abroad for the purpose of recruiting her strength. Her trip was beneficial, but did not restore her fully to health. Her mother and her intimate friends felt that under these circumstances it would be best that the engagement should be broken, and this step was most reluctantly taken by Miss Davis. On the other hand, some of Mr. Wilkinson's friends are of the opinion that the recent reverses of his family, his moderate income, and the still more recent burning of the old homestead, had some weight in shaping Miss Winnie's decision. Mr. Wilkinson has had nothing to say even to his most intimate friends, and conducts himself admirably under the somewhat trying ordeal. He refuses to be interviewed on the subject, and seems much immersed in business. The statement is made in a local paper that some time ago a prominent gentleman of this city received a request from the South

for information concerning Mr. Wilkinson. The failure of the Wilkinson family was particularly inquired into. This was thought by some to be quite significant at the time.

ROMANCE AND SIN.

Touching Details Connected with the Shooting of Ed. Martin.

(Montgomery Special.)

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 14.—Clarence D. Martin, brother of Edward Martin, shot and fatally wounded in Birmingham by a woman claiming to be a wife of the former, is a resident of this city. He is connected with some of the best families in the State, and denies that he was ever married to the woman claiming to be his wife, and claiming that she has been blackmailing him and his family for years. He left Alabama to rid himself of her, coming to this city, where she accompanied him and leaving her at this point. While in this city she stopped at Sallie Foster's, a well-known house of prostitution. Young Martin remained there about three days before leaving. She immediately followed him to Texas. He returned to Alabama without her, but she still hounded his footsteps, following shortly after. While here nothing is known of her; she remained closely in the house in which she lodged, and very few remember her presence in this city. A prominent citizen of Eufaula, Ala., who is at present in the city, and who knows the antecedents of the woman, says she is one of the best families in Georgia, her father having been on the bench of that State for years.

WEST VIRGINIA FLOODED.

Great Damage in Wheeling and Vicinity. B. & O. Bridge Washed Away.

WHEELING, W. Va., Oct. 12.—Another tremendous rain storm, for which Wheeling is rapidly acquiring a National reputation, struck this city at 5 o'clock this evening, doing a large amount of damage. In the valley of Caldwell's Run, where a dozen lives were lost in 1888, six or eight families were flooded out and three bridges carried away, while a number of cattle were drowned and much property destroyed. In the valley of Wheeling Creek the water was terrible, and the people up the valley suffered greatly. Two bridges on the Pittsburg division of the Baltimore & Ohio is also blocked, and the Chicago express is struck on the Bellaire bridge over the Ohio. Other roads suffer proportionately. There is considerable loss throughout the city, and the Eighth Ward is without illuminating gas, natural gas or water, through the breaking of street mains.

A KAISER ABROAD.

He Makes a Dash On An Elderly Lady, Who Gives Him Trouble.

(New York Sun Cable Letter.)

Kaiser Wilhelm is masquerading at the Austrian Emperor's hunting estate at Muerzitz in the Styrian national costume, which is described as picturesque and well suited to supplement with a brown felt hat of home-made cloth and a woven coat of home-made cloth and a rosette of chamois hair. This finery was much bedraggled on the first day of the hunt, which was carried on amid a storm of snow and hail, but the Kaiser was very much pleased, as he managed to kill two chamois, while the King of Saxony bagged only one, with three goats thrown in, and the Austrian Emperor shot nothing at all. The Kaiser's sport was nearly spoiled by an amorous old lady, who had followed him from Berlin with a view to declare her passion amid the romantic surroundings of the Styrian Alps. She actually managed to get within hailing distance of the beloved object, and was about to begin her declaration despite the howling storm, when she was seized by the keepers and dragged away. Only a half hour was given her to dry out, and she was then sent back to Vienna, where, at the latest accounts, she was awaiting her loved one, fully assured of his affection.

Deputy's Tribute to Cleveland.

(N. Y. Correspondent, Philadelphia Times.)

At the dinner given to John Russell Young, at the Astor House, New York, last Thursday, in honor of Gen. Roger A. Pryor, Chauncey M. Depew paid a high compliment to ex-President Cleveland, who was one of the guests. After speaking about the distinguished man about the board, he said: "If I were asked to name the most forceful character in American life, the man who best represents the energy, the unswerving determination and the courage of the true American, the man who knows duty, and it alone when public service commands it, the man who was in war, and is for peace in peace, I would name General W. T. Sherman. But if I am to name the typical American, the man who loves and believes in his country beyond everything else, the man who determining once in what direction his duty leads, cannot be swerved from the path, the man who is doggedly persistent in what he believes to be right, the man who thinks not of self, but of his country and its needs, I would name Grover Cleveland. What he has accomplished is the very highest tribute to the possibilities of American citizenship. A country is not to be won by bluff. He shed lustre upon the city of Buffalo, he shed lustre upon the high profession which he has chosen. As the mayor of his native city he presented as his record a clean and economical administration. Coming into the highest position in the land without previous experience and with scarcely a precedent to guide him in the conditions which surrounded him, he won the affection of his party and commanded the respect of his opponents. I find myself in one of the privileged positions of my life in being permitted to express in my voice Cleveland and not a typical American."

Mr. Cleveland sat next to Mr. Depew, and when he arose he bowed first to that gentleman, and said feelingly: "If what he has said of me is true, I occupy a prouder position than I ever dreamed of doing." He then quickly dropped the subject of himself, and without the slightest reference to politics or public affairs spoke simply as a member of the bar. He presented the appearance of a man in the perfection of physical vigor. It was interesting to study the conflicting emotions expressed in the faces of those who earnestly watched and listened to him. Murat Halsted, for instance, one of his most biting critics in the public press, viewed him at first distrustfully, but before he had been speaking long the Field Marshal's hands were the most vigorous in their applause, and it was curious to notice how men turned to their neighbors and muttered, "There is no doubt that Cleveland is a great man." He impressed every one with the fact that he was not an orator or an after-dinner talker, but that he was a thinker, and that he felt earnestly everything that he said.

IN THE MAHOAGNY CAMPS.

Interesting and Exciting Scenes in the Forests of British Honduras.

(From the Globe Democrat.)

An interesting story about mahogany cutting and rafting has reached the State department from Cistula, British Honduras. Belize, the capital of the British possessions in Central America, now a city of considerable commercial importance, owes its origin and wealth to the mahogany cutters. During the first half of the present century princely fortunes were quickly accumulated in the business, especially by those who had the good fortune to secure contracts from the English government for the mahogany which was formerly largely employed in naval architecture. Since iron and steel have taken the place of wood in the construction of public ves-

sels the mahogany trade has decreased to a notable extent, although it is still large and profitable.

The expense and difficulty of getting out the wood are much greater. Few trees can now be found near a river of sufficient water to float the logs. Having secured a suitable locality and arranged with one of the exporting houses of Belize to advance the means in provisions and cash to carry on the works, the mahogany cutter hires his gang of laborers for the season. Nearly all labor contracts are made during the Christmas holidays, as the gangs from the mahogany works all congregate in Belize at that time. The men are hired for a year at wages ranging from \$12 to \$20 per month. They generally receive six months' wages in advance, one-half of which is paid in goods from the house which furnishes the capital, and the other half is paid in cash, mostly wasted in dissipation before they leave the city. Early in January the works are commenced. Camps or "banks," as they are called, are organized at convenient places on the margin of some river in the district to be worked. Temporary houses thatched with palm leaves are erected for the laborers, and a substantial building for the store and dwelling of the overseer.

All work in mahogany cutting is done by tasks. The best laborers are out at daylight, and generally finish their task before 11 o'clock. The rest of the day can be spent in fishing, hunting, collecting India rubber and sarsaparilla, or in working up mahogany into dories, paddles and bowles, for all of which they find a ready market. Game and fish are abundant, the former consisting of two varieties of hogs (warree and peccary), deer and antelope, tapir (mountain cow), monkeys, two varieties of wild turkeys, armadillos, gibbons, Indian rabbits, partridges, quail, manatees, parrots, etc. The rivers abound in excellent fish, and can be caught by trapnet and light traps, inexhaustible.

The regular laborer for a laborer in this country consists of four pounds of salt pork and seven quarts of flour per week, which is delivered to him every Sunday morning. The abundance of game and wild fruits enable the mahogany laborer to save a large part of his rations, which he either sells to his employer or sends home to his family. The standard of morality in the mahogany camps is decidedly low. Women of easy virtue are always present, and can be bought for a few dollars. Disputes and questions concerning such women are settled by the overseer in accordance with regulations long established and recognized by the laborers; for instance, a man who entices a woman away from another with whom she has been living must pay all expenses incurred by the latter in bringing her to the camp, and supplying her with clothing and ornaments.

The owner or overseer of mahogany works is a distinguished personage within the district of his operations. He lives well, often luxuriously, and has many varied sources of enjoyment. His rustic dwelling in the country is supplied with every modern and many luxuries. He travels up and down the river in a bateau made of mahogany and fitted up regardlessly of expense for enjoyment and convenience. He carries everything needed for hunting and fishing, and his lockers are supplied with the choicest viands, wines, liquors and cigars. His crew consists of from twelve to twenty skillful rowers, generally Indians, and a captain, cook and waiting boy. He camps out at night on the bank of the river, where savory dishes are prepared which would puzzle the uninitiated. No man is considered complete without *entremets* of monkey and iguana, and *la criolla*, delicious and the uninitiated.

The mahogany tree hunter is the most important and best paid laborer in the service. Upon his skill and activity largely depends the success of the season. Mahogany trees do not grow in clumps or clusters, but are scattered promiscuously through the forests and hidden in a dense growth of underbrush, vines and creepers. It requires a skillful and experienced woodsman to find them. No one can make any progress in a tropical forest without the aid of a *machete* and a heavy brush knife. How to cut his way step by step.

The mahogany is one of the largest and tallest of trees. The hunter seeks the highest ground, climbs to the top of the highest tree, and surveys the surrounding country. His practiced eyes detect the mahogany by its peculiar foliage; he counts the trees within the scope of his vision, notes direction and distances, then descends and cuts a narrow trail to each tree, which he carefully blazes and marks, especially if there is a rival hunter in that vicinity. The axemen follow the hunter, and after them go the sawyers and the pack-trail men.

To fell a large mahogany tree is one day's task for two men. On account of the wide spurs which project from the trunk at its base scaffolds have to be erected and the tree cut off above the spurs, which leaves a stump from ten to fifteen feet high, a waste of the very best wood.

While the work of felling and hewing is in progress other gangs are employed in making roads and bridges over which the logs are to be hauled to the river. One wide truck pass, as it is called, is made through the center of the district occupied by the works, and branch roads are opened from the main avenue to each tree. The trucks employed are clumsy and antiquated contrivances, which no American would think of using. The axle and boxes are imported from England, and the other parts of the truck are made on the ground. The wheels are of solid wood, made by sawing off the end of a log and fitting iron boxes in the centre. No tire or spokes are needed. New wheels are in constant requisition, and repairs are frequent and expensive delays. Most of the trucking is done at night by torchlight, the only light being that thrown from the leaves and twigs of the breadnut tree, which gives them more strength and power of endurance than any other obtainable food.

The trucking is done in the dry season and the logs collected on the bank of the river and made ready for the floods, which occur on the longest rivers in June and July and on all in October and November. The logs are turned adrift loose and caught below near tidewater by booms. Indians and Caribs follow the logs, down the river in jupans to release those which are caught by fallen trees or other obstacles. The logs are quite judgment and experience is requisite to determine at what exact stage of the flood the logs should be let loose. Should the water rise at what they call "top-gallant flood" before the logs reach the boom many of them would be carried over the bank and left high and dry in canabrakes and thickets or covered up by sand and rubbish. From the boom the logs are rafted to the embarcadero and "manufactured" for shipping.

The manufacturing process consists in sawing off the log ends which have been bruised and splintered by rocks in the transit down the river, and in relining and rehewing the logs by skillful workmen, who give them a smooth and even surface.

The logs are then measured, rolled back into the water at the mouth of the river, and are then taken to the cutting and rafting beach, the State department from Cistula, British Honduras. Belize, the capital of the British possessions in Central America, now a city of considerable commercial importance, owes its origin and wealth to the mahogany cutters. During the first half of the present century princely fortunes were quickly accumulated in the business, especially by those who had the good fortune to secure contracts from the English government for the mahogany which was formerly largely employed in naval architecture. Since iron and steel have taken the place of wood in the construction of public ves-

DANIEL BOONE'S DREAM.

A Vision Prophetic of a Century's Progress at the Gap.

(For the Big Stone Post.)

History beareth no certain record of the first European to penetrate through the primeval forests and fastnesses to Big Stone Gap. With little doubt, it was one of those dauntless venturers, pressing with stern-set face on to the perilous, alluring "Bloody Hunting Grounds."

Among the first of these must needs have been the foremost of Kentucky pioneers—that heroic figure, so clear-cut and masterful against the dark background of border-life—Daniel Boone. Between 1769 and 1797 he made several journeys, usually alone, through the mountain passes to Kentucky. It was on one of these trips that he seems to have cut the letters "D. B." into a tree near the meeting of the two forks of Powell's river, just below the Gap. These letters may still be seen, though, probably, more than a century old.

Be that as it may, it requires no tense strain of the imagination to see the old pioneer, toward sunset some day about a century ago, turning the crest of Wallen's ridge, and looking off down the valley as it stretches away in its immaculate beauty, rounded in by the deep-wooded slopes and gently majestic curves of the unchanging hills.

He takes one of those long, earnest surveys in which he himself bears witness he delighted. His eyes linger, ponderingly, upon the abrupt, chasm-like rift in the hills—the grace and mystery of the receding Gap. Then he descends slowly, wrapt in thought; for this man who spent years alone in the forest, was not without a strong touch of fancy, and dim, though dim indeed, foreshadowing conceptions of some great destiny in store for the vast, unpeopled tracts he traversed and loved so well.

He reaches the steep river bank, then, as now skirled by the evergreen laurels. There he clears away a little space for the transient bivouac—his evening tabernacle. He prepares his Spartan meal, listening with finer ears than ours, to the yet untranslated music of the mountain stream. The stars come out, and gazing up through the trees, he draws the drapery of his green couch about him and lies down "to quiet dreams."

Gray mists spread down from the hillside, over the valley, like a great canopy with its fretted edges touching the trees along the river. But they are breaking rapidly. The sun, just glancing over Powell's mountain, pierces and shatters them into a thousand serried streamers, and rolls them up under the caves of the hills. Then a March wind, rushing down from the Gap, drives the last tattered fragments over the verge.

Before the dreamer's eyes the whole valley lies bare, and gleaming in the clear morning light, an unbroken stretch of forest-land—unbroken save just at the point where the two forks of the river meet. Here a little clearing stands out among the trees, for all the world as though it were the entering point of a wedge—human life just beginning to make an impression on the wilderness.

Even now, from the center of this clearing, the curling smoke of a morning camp-fire floats up. About the fire some half-dozen rude tents. Near by a score of pack and saddle horses are corralled. Suddenly from the river bank comes the crack of the hunter's rifle. A herd of deer dash across the border of the clearing, one staggering. The woods ring with the shouts of the pursuers, who soon return heavily laden. Womanly forms and little children moving among the tents lend a touch of pathos to a scene otherwise entirely wild and rudely romantic. Swiftly the morning meal is prepared and eaten, as they stand, like the Israelites of old, ready for departure. With quiet speed the tents are folded up, the crude utensils gathered and the packs adjusted. While the grass is still wet and sparkling, the little cavalcade draws down to the ford. There is a clattering on the stones, a rush of hoof-beats up the further bank and away. The murmur of waning voices floats back through the trees. Then the whole valley lies silent, deserted.

Yet the little clearing at the river ford stands out sharply defined—a mute witness to the presence of some new and fateful influence. And the sun, nearly above, seems to shine lovingly upon it.

The picture fades; the lonely wanderer, raising his head for a moment