

NATURE'S WONDERS.

The Marvelous Display of Trees and Woods at the World's Fair.

Commercial Timber of the World—Mahogany from Cubas and Teak from Siam—Natural Freaks from Far-Off Forests.

[Special Chicago Correspondence]

In the Forestry building at the Columbian exposition are to be found some of the most marvelous and interesting exhibits of all the great fair. This will apply more particularly to the farming people, who quite naturally know more about forestry and kindred pursuits than do the people of the larger cities, but for all, whether from city or country there is a world of interest in the queer work of nature as exemplified in the forests of the world.

Situated somewhat remote from the grand central buildings of the fair, in



KENTUCKY SYCAMORE.

the southern portion of the grounds on the lake front, the beautiful repository for forest productions is to many unknown. The general feeling after a ramble through the central buildings is that the principal portion of the fair

was hewn was thirty-five feet in diameter, when standing, and was supposed to have reached the patriarchal age of fifteen hundred years. A part of one side of the tree had rotted, and, after it had been felled, in burning up the surrounding brush, still more of the tree was destroyed by fire, so that the width of the plank represents less than half of the original diameter of the tree. The entire height of the tree was three hundred feet; the plank being cut from a section of the trunk twenty-eight feet from the ground. The plank is the largest in the world, its dimensions being as follows: Sixteen feet five inches wide, twelve feet nine inches long and five inches thick. It is highly improbable if a tree will ever be found that will yield a larger plank; so that the mammoth piece of timber here described may certainly be termed the sight of a lifetime."

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At the Esquimaux village on the world's fair grounds, sealskins and other heavy clothing have been abolished by the forty Esquimaux, men, women and children, and an equal number of Esquimaux dogs, which look like little wolves, look as if they would like to get rid of their heavy coats of fur in this unusual, to them, summer weather. Many huts, built in true Esquimaux fashion, and one simulated ice hut lined with drying skins, are clustered near a little Moravian chapel, and the appearance is an admirable representative of genuine Esquimaux life. The short, stout and swarthy natives are mild and good-humored, and endure with resignation the life which cannot be too happy. At the trading post one may buy cunning little dolls, dressed in full suits of white fur, snowshoes, canoes, moccasins, furs and baskets.

The Fisheries building on the world's fair grounds is always crowded with visitors. It is a pleasantly-cool building to visit on a warm day because of the amount of running water within and the general style of architecture, though it is much smaller than most of the special buildings. There are complete exhibits of fishing products and fishing boats and implements from Norway, Sweden, Russia, Canada, Ceylon, Germany, Great Britain and our own country; shells, corals, cured fish and models of fish hatcheries and fish ways; mounted aquatic birds in great numbers; specimens of fish and casts of fish from many lands, and, festooning the entire rotunda, are great brown nets, one of them three thousand feet long. There are so many life-size dummies dressed in fisherman's costume, sitting in boats, climbing masts or hauling in fish that the newly-arrived visitor is at first quite sure that he is in the midst of living and breathing fisher folk. The external decorations of the building are grotesque figures of all sorts of sea animals.

DANGEROUS SAVAGES.

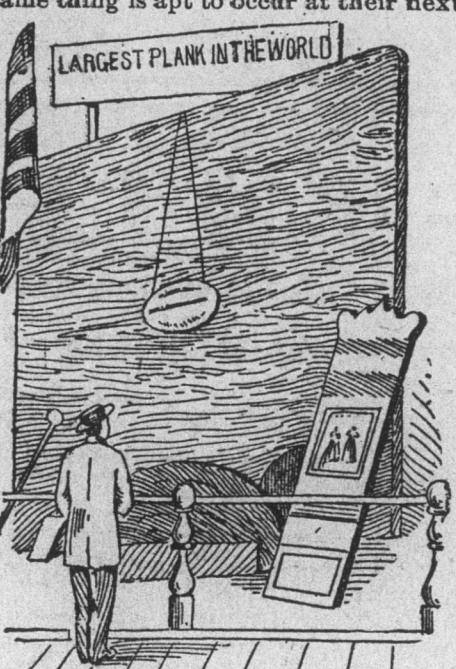
Kentuckians in the Dahomey Village at the World's Fair.

They are savages with a big S, says the Cynthiana (Ky.) Democrat, speaking of the Dahomeyans, and the visitor must watch his corners to keep out of danger. Dr. Malcolm Dills, of Carlisle, had a rather exciting adventure there the other day. The doctor was resting in a chair near the stand where the native band was going through its alleged musical maneuvers, when he noticed one of the half-naked savages making peculiar passes at him, but supposing it a part of the performance paid no attention to him. Suddenly the African uttered a loud whoop, sprang past the doctor, and grabbed his friend Spencer by the collar, at the same time making evident attempts to brain him with an iron club. Dr. Dills was on his feet in a moment, and, thinking only of his friend's danger, pulled a large pocketknife and would have plunged it into the savage's breast had not one of the managers grabbed his arm and another taken charge of the African. All was confusion, and in the excitement a large Texan stepped to Dr. Dills and asked where he was from.

"From Kentucky," replied the doctor. "Well, I'm from Texas," exclaimed the giant; "we'll stand together, and no—negroes shall run over us southerners. Let's clean out the whole shebang!" The manager declared he would not have his men hurt for \$50,000. It was explained that they have a superstitious dread of paper and pencils, and Spencer had called down the wrath of his assailant by an innocent little notebook. In the scrimmage the notebook was captured by the enemy, but Spencer finally recovered it. Dills and his party left the village with feelings of relief, and had their money refunded at the gates. An editorial excursion into the grounds week before last came out second best, as the inhabitants of Dahomey captured the notebooks of the entire crowd and tore them into fragments.

To every one who visits the great fair we would say, by all means see the Forestry exhibit. Don't think it not worth your while to look at the trees. There is a great lesson to be learned among them and in viewing them you are brought closer to the great bosom of nature.

has been gone over, and after a cursory glance at the distant buildings on the outskirts the majority of visitors resolve to "take them in" at some future time and be taken themselves home. The same thing is apt to occur at their next



CALIFORNIA REDWOOD.

visit, and there is where they make a great mistake. The southern portion of the grounds, so little visited by many of the people who go to the fair, contains some of the most interesting features of the exposition. There are the cliff dwellings, the Yucatan ruins, the Forestry building, Dairy building, Leather building and the Live Stock department. People are frequently heard to remark: "Oh, I don't care about going away over there. There isn't anything worth seeing over there," etc.; but those who do take the trouble to walk a few blocks further are well repaid for the extra exertion by the rare sights which greet their eyes in that direction.

The Forestry building contains some of the most beautiful specimens of polished and rough woods ever displayed in the world. The building itself is a study in rustic architecture and well worth inspection.

At the extreme southern end of the building is shown the largest plank in the world. It is of redwood, from Humboldt county, Cal. Of the following description is given:

"The great tree from which the plank

was hewn was thirty-five feet in diameter, when standing, and was supposed to have reached the patriarchal age of fifteen hundred years. A part of one side of the tree had rotted, and, after it had been felled, in burning up the surrounding brush, still more of the tree was destroyed by fire, so that the width of the plank represents less than half of the original diameter of the tree. The entire height of the tree was three hundred feet; the plank being cut from a section of the trunk twenty-eight feet from the ground. The plank is the largest in the world, its dimensions being as follows: Sixteen feet five inches wide, twelve feet nine inches long and five inches thick. It is highly improbable if a tree will ever be found that will yield a larger plank; so that the mammoth piece of timber here described may certainly be termed the sight of a lifetime."

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The central exhibit in the building is a grand pyramid built of specimens of wood from all the world. It is a congress of blocks, something decidedly more novel than a congress of blockheads. California's contribution, a cutting fourteen feet in diameter, redwood four hundred and seventy-five years old when Columbus landed under the scant shade of palm trees at San Salvador, forms the base of the pyramid. Around and on it are grouped Ching Chang from Siam, bamboo from Japan, teak wood from India, and specimens from all other countries and from every state in the United States whether designated a prairie state or not. And there is a real, sure enough ax, glass-cased, that figures as a sort of a frontispiece to this wood grouping.

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