

A Tree Three Million Years Old

By Dr. E. M. Kindle, Paleontologist,
Ottawa.

The mountain climber finds it good to pause at times and look back over the route traversed. The hills and valleys left behind are seen to fall into some definite scheme of topography which was not apparent when he was in their midst, and to possess a charm and beauty visible only from the vantage ground lent by distance. It may be equally profitable for the lover of present day forests once in a while to glance back over the geologic trail which the evolution of modern forests has followed. He will find much of the trail of evolution concealed in the obscurity of remote geologic time, but here and there it is clearly outlined by the fossil remnants of ancient forests, many of whose species have long been extinct.

Fossil forests can of course appeal only to those who wish to know how living forests came into existence. They have little to offer the man who can see in a living forest only so many thousand feet of lumber, material for pulpwood or the possibility of a new source of cattle feed in the shape of "hydrolized saw-dust." These of course are important assets of



Fig. 1.—A fossil tree, Red Deer Valley, Aiberta, that flourished three million years ago, and in the shade of which lived the giant dinosaur. This is the largest fossil tree in America and now reposes in the National Museum at Ottawa.

our forests, but their most important assets accrue only to the man whose eyes are not too closely focussed on the dollars

which they may yield. It is to the nature lover who can see in forest aisles, gothic cathedrals, which to many eyes are in-

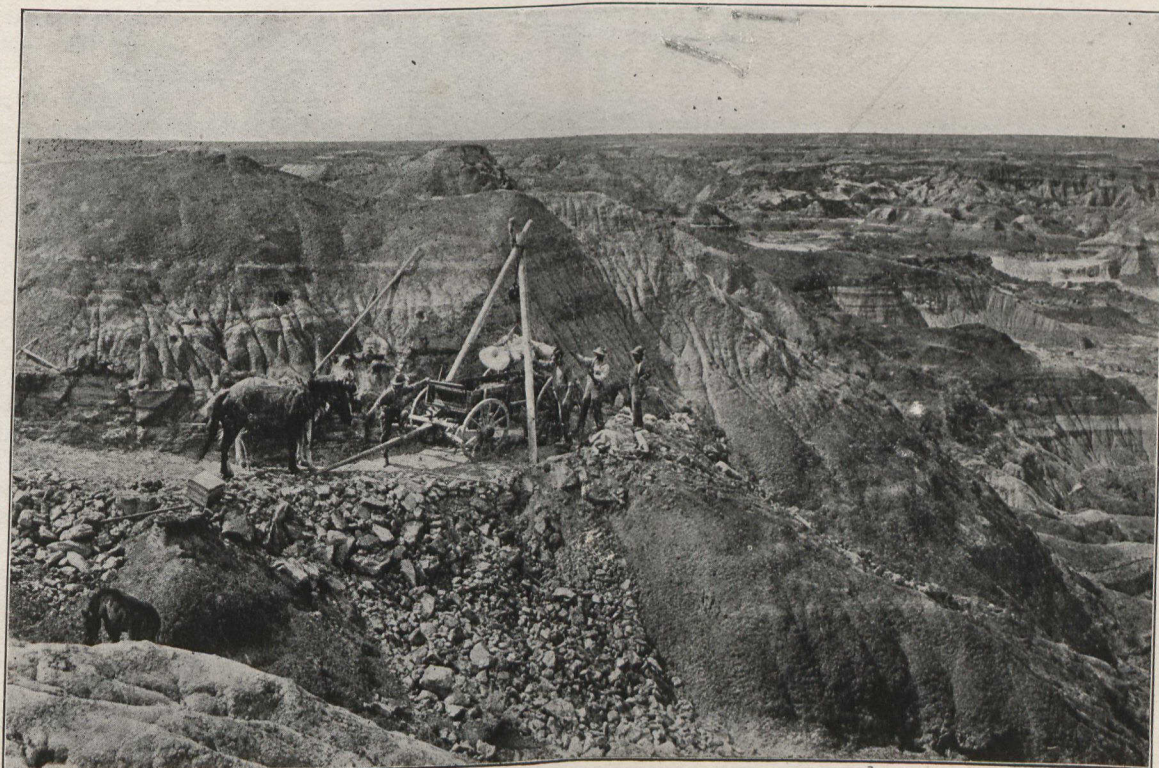


Figure 2.—The 30-foot skeleton of Gorgosaurus was taken up in five sections, the largest of which weighed over a ton. The sections, consisting of the bones held in place by the sandstone matrix, were swathed in burlap dipped in plaster of paris, preparatory to being packed in strong boxes and taken by wagon over the prairie to the nearest railway station. In the above view a section is being lifted by block and tackle into the wagon for removal to the prairie level.