

OVER THE TREE TOPS.

In these years of advanced engineering, railways have sought and conquered many remarkable places, says the Philadelphia Press. Here we can ride up and down mountains just as if they were little hills, and hurry along the brink of gorges that make us shiver when we look down. From California, however, comes the strangest railroad story and picture for a long time. It tells and shows a train that actually runs over tree tops.

What a singular sensation it must be to realize that one is following a tumbling, spitting locomotive over the very places where kind nature intended birds should rest, and that delightful quiet found among dense foliage reigns supreme. This railroad, down in Sonoma County, California, between the Clipper mills and Stewart Point, is not exactly a passenger, but is a railroad in every sense of the word.

It so happens that when the railroad comes to a place about equi-distant from the two points

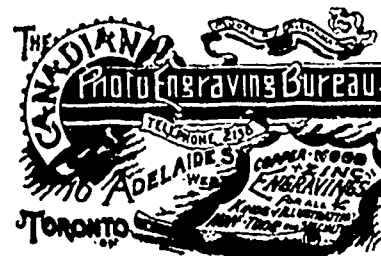
mentioned, a huge ravine is encountered, the side and bottom of which are heavily wooded, two giant redwood monarchs of the forest towering far above the less pretentious growth and imparting an air of almost regal impressiveness.

Now, it was very necessary that the railroad should cross this ravine. It was also true that the building of a regulation railroad bridge would hardly pay. And this is where real genius came to the rescue. If the reader could stand either at the edge of this ravine or on one of its sloping sides, he would see that strangely enough the growth of the trees and their position is such that their tops can be cut off and an almost level surface of stumps be secured.

This is what genius saw, and hence the railroad across the tree tops. In the first place, the big redwoods were sawed off 75 feet from the ground, this being the exact height from the bottom of the ravine to the level of the tops of the trees. Next, trees on either side were sawed off of sufficient length to render their tops in a direct line with

the tops of the redwoods, as well as of the edges of the banks.

In this fashion was nature made to provide the piers and superstructure of the desired bridge. To the lumbermen, even the California veterans, the project seemed almost chimerical, but the builders pushed ahead, and presently one day with a shout of triumph a little logging engine pulled four flat cars and a caboose over the tree tops.



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