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### Beheading a Forest Giant

You have "walked up" a mighty tree, with your spurs and your roped belt, for something like 200 feet, let us say. And there, where the trunk may be a couple of feet in diameter, "or much more," you proceed to decapitate the monarch of the forest. But the next moment "a number of unexpected things" may befall you—"as the tons-heavy top, with its long massive limbs, dips into space." For one thing, the "kick-off" when the top lets go, after sagging gracefully to a right-angle with the parent shaft, sets the latter "in violent motion"—so violent, we read, that "it swings around fast and furiously in a circle that may reach seventy feet in diameter, as if some terrible power were trying to shake you loose and fling you off." Riding a bucking tree like that, you naturally cling on for dear life with spurs and claws, and you will be lucky if nothing worse happens to you than a fit of seasickness, or a sudden faintness, which will cause you to "hang for a moment inert, with 200 feet below."

If that were all, the "high-climber" would consider it an easy amputation. "But topping is not always so tame an affair, by any means," declares "Oldtimer" Bill the Four L Bulletin, and he proceeds to sketch some of the untoward chances of this colossal surgery of the forest. The trunk to which the high-climber clings may sag and, thus enlarged, draw him against the bark by his rope and squeeze him to death, or break his belt or his back. To save himself, he must let go hands and feet and trusting to his rope to hold him, let himself fall straight down the tree. If he is fortunate, he escapes with bruises. Or he must throw off the rope belt entirely and cling with his bare hands till the trunk becomes steady again. Perhaps the top may not kick off at all, but slide backwards over the trunk just where he clings. In that case he must grip tightly to the side he judges the safer. If he makes a mistake, the raking limbs may brush him off in passing. There are also accidents caused by carelessness, as when a high-climber unwittingly lets go the end of his rope as he holds it in his hand, or inadvertently throws the light over the top of the trunk after topping; and, in addition, many hazards in rigging the tree after it is topped.

Descending is easier work. The high-climber jumps a certain distance down, using both feet and manipulating his rope to hold him safe and to regulate the length of his leaps. On the ground he lays aside his ax and saw and climbs again, this time lading with him a fifteen-pound steel pulley, a steel strap to hang it by, and the end of a small steel cable. At the top of the tree he hangs the steel pulley by its strap and passes

the end of the small cable through the letting the end run to the ground. With the help of this gear all the rest of the heavy spar-tree rigging is hoisted to him and he makes it fast.

First, the ends of half a dozen two-inch cables are run up and are looped around the top to guy the tree to convenient stumps on the ground; more guy-lines are placed around the middle of the spar-tree to keep it from buckling when the high-powered, compound-gear donkey-engine takes a hard pull. Next the high-lead block is hoisted, weighing sometimes as much as a ton. Its sheave is often three feet in diameter, with an axis that runs on self-oiling ball-bearings. The oil reservoirs, "one on each side, may hold fifteen gallons of oil. It is strung by a steel lead strap, much heavier than the guy-lines.

Sometimes this strap breaks, and the results are likely to be very awkward, if not fatal, to somebody. We learn that "topping" is a modern development of lumbering. Its purpose and genesis are thus explained: "Ten years ago, 'ground-topping' was in vogue. Logs were hauled along the ground at the end of a cable to the landing where they might be loaded on cars for rail transport. Naturally, stumps, rocks, bog-holes, rotting stumps and uneven country were always in the way, obstructions hard to overcome. But one day a practical woodman tried a new way. Hanging a lead-block in a tree, high above the ground, he ran his hauling cable through it and from there out to the woods, to the end of the log. When the donkey-engine pulled, the nose of the log was lifted high above obstructions, and with rear end dragging moved along easily. This practice of using high-hung lead-blocks became universal and marked the beginning of the 'high-lead' logging era.

The tree thus rigged is called a spar-tree. The spar-tree serves especially well to transport logs over wide and deep canyons from one hill to another. A cable of tight-line is strung between spar-trees standing on opposite hills, a traveling carriage operated by the hauling cable is rigged upon it, and the logs, fastened to the carriage by a steel sling or choker, move across, suspended in mid-air. The trees chosen for this purpose are big and dependable, often six to eight feet through at the butt and 250 feet in height. They must be trimmed of limbs, topped, guyed and rigged with hauling gear. This practice has created the class of skilled woods-workers called high-climbers or high-riggers."

A high-climber's equipment, we learn, consists of a pair of limeman's spurs and a very wide safety-belt to which is attached a steel core Manila rope ending in a slip-knot. Furthermore—His tools are an axe, a cross-cut saw, a flask of coal-oil for cutting pitch, and a small wedge or two to drive into the saw cut and prevent it from binding the saw. The height at which the topping is done varies. The high-climber begins by chopping a notch or undercut in one side of the trunk; opposite this a back cut is put in with the saw. If the cut pitches he drives his wedges in. When the top begins to lean he withdraws the saw and drops it to the end of its cord, digs his spurs into the tree and braces himself for whatever may come.

Brick's Tasteless is a wonderful blood builder.—Oct 20, 1925

### Minister and Actress

STORY OF PLOT TO EMBARRASS MEXICO.

NEW YORK—Senator Gloria Faure, a beautiful actress from Mexico City, has been made the central figure in an investigation, which the Mexican Embassy declares is the outcome of a conspiracy by the enemies of its Government, who are desirous of embarrassing its fiscal affairs.

Some days ago Mexicans resident in New York addressed a series of complaints to the Commissioner of Immigration, whom they urged to issue a warrant of deportation against the actress on the ground that she had unlawfully accompanied into this country Senator Alberto Paul, Secretary of Finance in the Cabinet of President Calles.

Senator Paul is here to discuss the modification of the De la Huerta agreement.

The complaints were that Senator Faure travelled on a free ticket obtained by false representation in a private car from Hidalgo, which brought the Minister of Finance to New York as the Minister, in whose company she was constantly seen.

The Commissioner forwarded the evidence in the case to the Immigration Board for review in Washington. To-day the Department of Labour issued an announcement stating that the case had been carefully considered and that no action would be taken.

Senator Paul's chief assistant to-day also issued a statement denying that any woman had accompanied the Minister to New York.

The fuller skirts are kept short to prevent a too heavy effect. The fuller skirts are kept short to prevent a too heavy effect. The fuller skirts are kept short to prevent a too heavy effect.

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