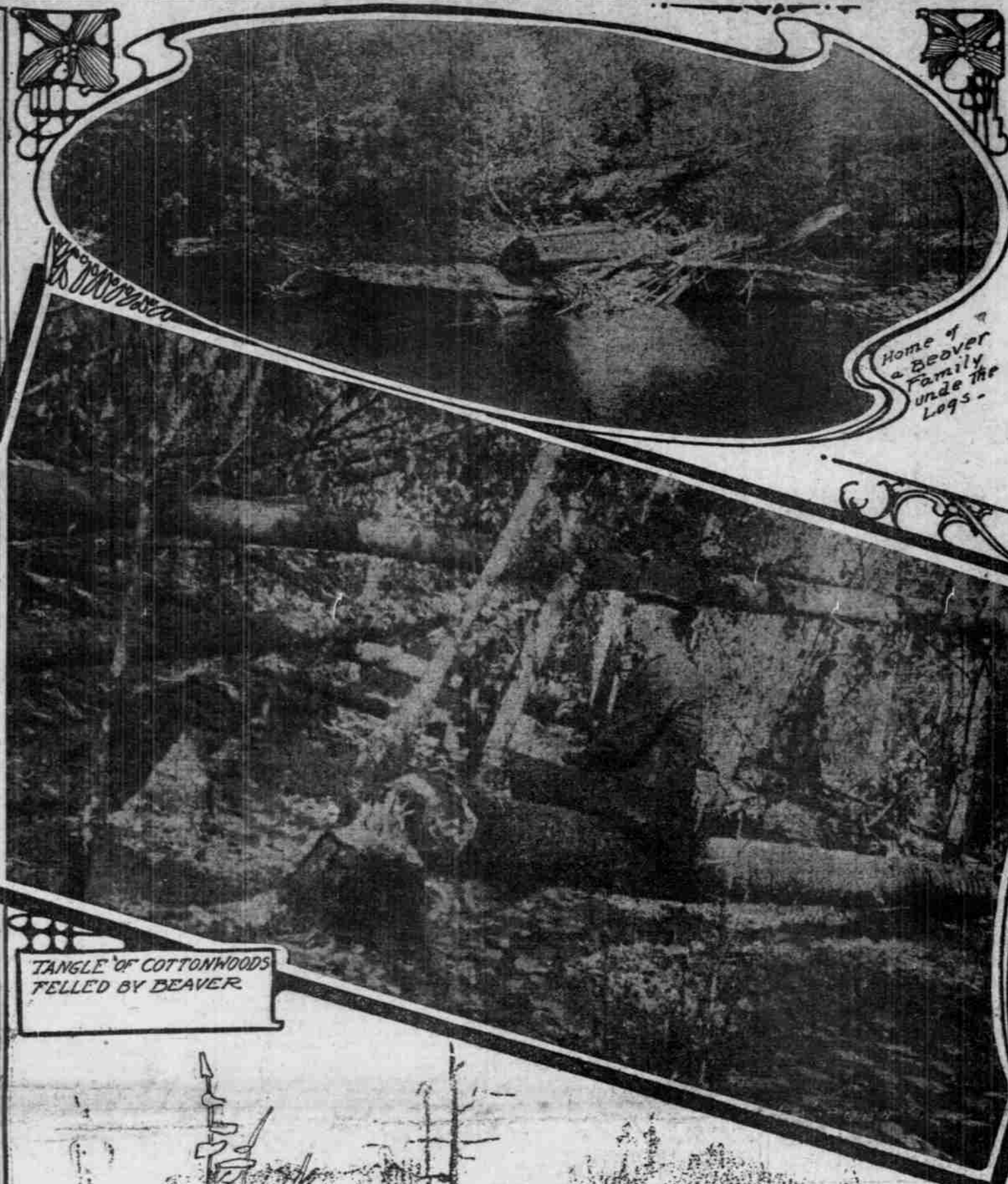




NEWLY DISCOVERED BEAVER CREEK

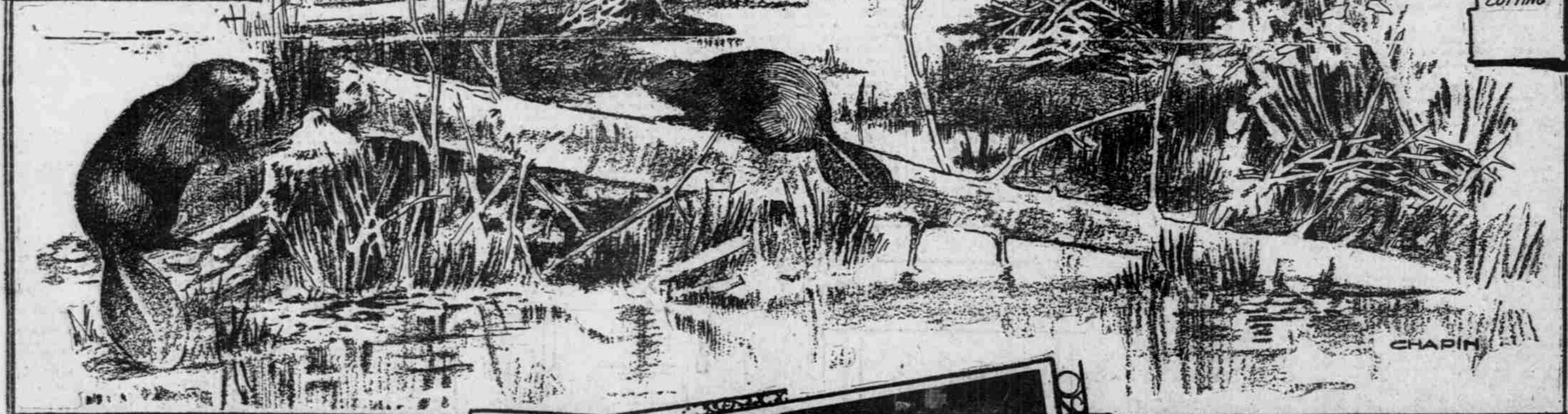


TANGLE OF COTTONWOODS FELLED BY BEAVER

Home of a Beaver Family under the Logs -



Col. Hawkins SAWING OUT A SPECIMEN OF BEAVER CUTTING



CHAPIN



SPECIMENS OF BEAVER WOODWORKSHIP AT THE CITY HALL MUSEUM

Colony of Industrious Beaver Discovered Not Far From Portland

ONE BAND OF INTERESTING WOOD-CHOPPERS SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION NOW BUILDING WINTER HOMES

COLONEL L. L. HAWKINS MAKES A NATURAL HISTORY FIND HE WILL TRY TO PROTECT FROM VANDALS

WORKING among the woods of Oregon, and within a few hours' drive of Portland, is a colony of foresters that stand in a class by themselves. For untiring energy, system of effort and exercise of judgment they have few if any rivals.

When speaking of foresters the thought is usually implied of a group of brawny men armed with sharp axes and saws and chains and teams and other implements used by those of the human tribe who live in the forests for a livelihood. But it happens that the foresters here-in referred to antedate the latter class, and that, rather than being biped timbermen, they are fur-clad quadrupeds—the American beaver, justly called the Kings of rodents. Their axes are the sharp and powerful teeth nature has provided, and they exercise amazing skill in the use of these, as in the other parts of their work in the forests. For forestry is their "chosen profession," and their lives are devoted to the cutting down of trees and utilizing them to their own use and purposes, chiefly for food and building their lodges.

The announcement that there is a colony of live beavers working in the forests a comparatively short distance from Oregon's metropolis will seem quite an extraordinary circumstance to old trap-

pers, hunters and pioneers as would the statement that a herd of wild buffalo had been sighted. For the disappearance of the beaver has been simultaneous with that of that distinctly American type, the buffalo.

Fifty years ago the big rodent was plentiful throughout the region west of the Rockies, and in fact in the cold and temperate countries of both hemispheres. Beaver dams checked many of the mountain and forest streams, and broad clearings among the stretches of smaller trees of the forests were frequently met with, and its mound-shaped and substantially built habitations dotted the creek banks in the vicinity of each series of dams.

But, unhappily for the unslushy species, it became greatly prized for its valuable fur, for its toothsome flesh, and, more than all else, for its castoreum, a secretion of great medicinal value contained in its glands. Thus, while nature had provided the rodent with superior powers of combining functions and adjusting acts to ends, it left it with those qualities that proved a sad misfortune to the animal when the value of these became known to that more highly evolved and covetous animal—man.

The adjustments of acts to ends made by this relatively small but rarely intelligent and industrious rodent—King of ro-

dent, if you please—commands at once the respect and admiration of any and all who may care to take the time to observe or study its methods. Untiring in his work, skilled in the performance of it, and using rare judgment in nearly all its undertakings, the beaver rightly lays claim to classification as a separate species.

Col. L. L. Hawkins' Big Find.

Because of the fact that the animal stands at this time practically extirpated, the local colony of beavers is of great importance and interest. It gives an opportunity to study the beaver from a new viewpoint—that of having made new adjustments, necessary to the preservation of the colony in such dangerous proximity to the haunts of man.

The site of the colony's habitat is 30 miles or thereabouts from Portland, on the Oregon side of the Columbia River. It was found within the past few weeks, when its location was called to the attention of Colonel L. L. Hawkins, the well-known local naturalist, whose research and collections from nature's storehouse has proved of immense value to Portland. Since learning of the colony Colonel Hawkins has spent several days at the beaver habitation, and has collected much valuable data from his observations. Incidentally he has secured several excellent

specimens of the beaver's work as a forester, and these will be added to his famed City Hall Museum.

Among the specimens is the stump of a tree 21 inches in diameter, which had been gnawed down quite recently by the energetic colony. This establishes a precedent, for, so far as record shows, the beaver seldom tackles a tree of more than 8 or 10 inches diameter, and his work is usually confined to trees and willows from one to three inches thick.

The newly discovered colony appears to have been in its present location about two years. The animals have selected a secluded and quiet place in the heart of a dense forest and on the banks of a quiet little trout stream. Three hundred fallen trees, black cottonwood, hazel, Pacific red cedar and Oregon alder are the kinds of trees they have worked among. They have not molested any fir trees, which do not seem suitable for their needs.

Protecting Themselves From Enemies

The colony has built no dam, evidently concluding that such a structure would only serve to attract the eyes of their daily biped enemy and extirpator. As a substitute for a dam they have felled big trees into the stream where many pieces of float wood, bearing toothsome

(Continued on Page 33)