



A region of wild natural beauty, out of the reach of tourist-touchers and scenic highbinders

The New Olympic National Park

CONGRESS has set aside the heart of one of the great mountain ranges of the Pacific Northwest for the enjoyment of the people for all time. It is a region of wild natural beauty, out of the reach of tourist-touchers and scenic highbinders. It has just been made a Government reservation, where the stage drivers, the guides, and the innkeepers must live up to Government regulations or get off the reservation.

This new national park comprises the enormous area of 460,000 acres—10,000 good-sized farms. And yet in all of it there is not room for a single homestead that could grow enough grain or even raise enough eggs to supply a small family. It is, almost literally, "a place where the world stands edgewise."

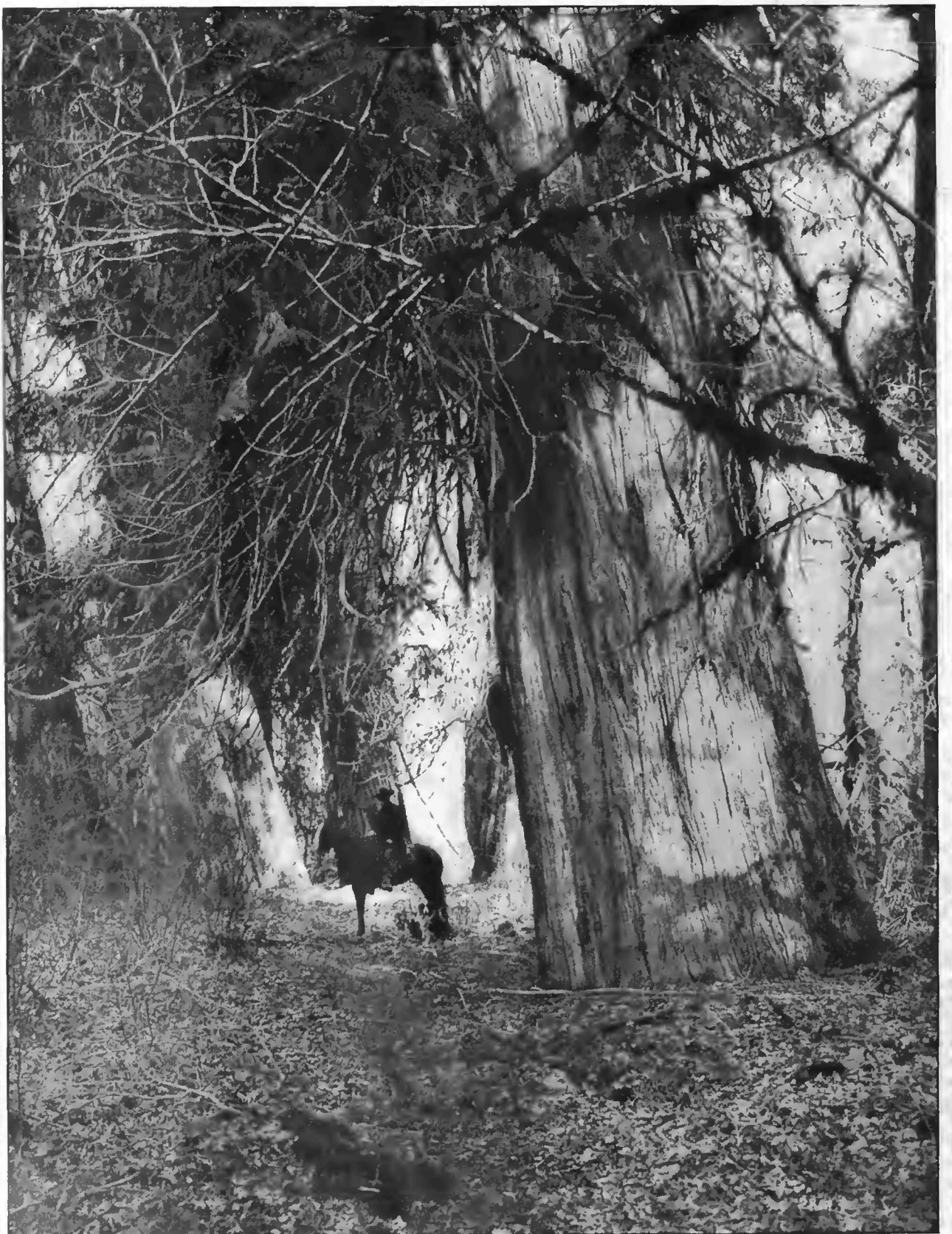
Seattle is unique as being the only city in the country which has a national park within sight of its front yard. In this instance, the Olympic Park is the first thing which practically every resident of Seattle sees when he arises in the morning, when its peaks catch the first light of the sun upon their eastern slopes of snow, and the last thing he sees in the evening when even the snow peaks stand out dark and jagged against the crimson of the sinking sun.

There is a great mass of these peaks, clustered about Mount Olympus—practically in the center of the great park—but all of them are nearly of the same height—from 7,000 to 8,300 feet. It is as though the master mason who built them had laid a rule along the top and his subordinate workmen had done their best to fill in the line to a carefully saw-toothed level.

It has only been within the last twenty years that the Olympics have been explored and mapped, and the necessity for setting the space aside as a reserve for the protection of its undefiled natural beauties and the protection of its game realized. As far as game is concerned, it is one of the earthly paradises. It is estimated that there are at present within the borders of the great park at least five thousand elk, browsing in great herds upon the snow slopes of the mountains. There are about an equal number of deer, and roaming over the peaks are thousands of bears, cougars, wildcats, and other varmints so numerous that the Government officials are already considering a hunting expedition for their extinction.

At the present time, strangely enough, the park contains no mountain goats or sheep, although they do exist in the Cascade Range, only a few miles away. It is planned to import goats into the park and afford them there a refuge from the hunters, who are rapidly killing them off.

The park is readily accessible both from the north and south. On the north, one enters from Port Angeles, a little town on the Strait of San Juan de Fuca, and from the south from Hood Canal, an arm of Puget Sound, which penetrates the great peninsula in which the park is located. Its ease of access was one of the reasons which led the Government to the step of preserving it from the inroads of the pioneer fortune-hunter and leaving it free for the enjoyment and benefit of all.



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