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FOREST BRANCH NEWS LETTER

An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense, 'n'opinion, compiled from time to time by anybody who has the time, for the profit, amusement, and annoyance of the staff. Nobody to blame but the contributors.

No. 9

Victoria, B. C., April 18, 1936.

08581

From Kamloops

The matter of securing scale returns promptly is probably as much as problem in other Districts as it is in Kamloops. Undoubtedly each District has its own method of effectively dealing with this, but as an exchange of ideas, it occurred to us that an explanation of the method adopted in the Kamloops District might be of interest. The most frequently delayed returns are those from the smaller mills where no office staff is maintained.

Heretofore, in the event of failure to make a return, we had no regular routine system of securing information as to whether a mill operated or not, other than writing directly to the mill owner or operator. Such enquiries are often left unanswered by the millmen until the spirit moves them. We now have a system in effect which has reduced what should be unnecessary correspondence to a minimum, and are passing it along with the hope that it might be of some use in other Districts where similar difficulties are experienced.

A form or chart is prepared for each Ranger District, on which is listed all mills within the Ranger District of which the District Office has knowledge. The form is divided into twelve columns (the Management Work Chart form is admirably adapted for this purpose) one for each month. The Ranger corrects this form from time to time, adding any new mills and deleting dismantled mills, and at the end of each month returns the form to the District Forester's office with a notation against each mill as to whether it operated during the month or not. We use N. O. for no operation and an X for an operation. This information is transferred to a similar chart in the District Office by the clerk in charge of Royalty Accounts and as accounts are issued the number of such account is noted. At the end of the month a check is made of the chart and any mills noted as having operated but for which no returns have come to hand are immediately requested to submit them. This system enables us to maintain a complete and up-to-date list of all mills within the District and obviates the necessity of writing for returns or requiring the millman to submit nil returns when the mill is closed down. The Ranger keeps this chart in front of his desk and notes the information on it from time to time as it is secured. After the information is transferred at the District Forester's office the chart is immediately returned to the Ranger. It has been our experience that this system saves considerable letter writing on our part and field work on the part of the Ranger, as the lack of a return after two requests resulted in instructions to the Ranger to secure the return, which in many cases would be nil. A letter and, in many cases, a field trip is saved in every instance where it has heretofore been necessary to write for a return.

Since our last letter the matter of sleeping bags has been looked into, with rather promising results. Samples of kapok, wool, and down bags were submitted and we find that we can secure any of these for a price within a few cents of the cost of a bed roll of blankets and ground sheet. These bags consist of a "liner" or "quilt" filled as above, a slip cover after the fashion of a pillow case, and a waterproof cover in which the whole thing is rolled. One of these bags should be equal to a ground sheet and three or four single blankets.

For cleaning the slip-cover will be sent to the laundry at a cost of perhaps 5 or 10¢ and the "liner" will be sterilized (de-loused, if you are not too pernickety), for about 5¢.

It should be possible to keep rather better tabs on them than we can in the case of blankets, and so reduce losses.

A sufficient number are being supplied to the Nelson and Kamloops Districts for test use. If they prove to be as good as they appear to be, more will be purchased as additional fire camp bedding is required.

A dozen samples of sun goggles for use on lookouts ranging in price from 50¢ to \$15.00 have been received for examination. These are being tested for us in the Physics Laboratory at the University of British Columbia. Nothing much more can be said about these until we have their report. If we can find a suitable goggle, one that will do us some good without endangering the eyesight of the user, we will be supplying at least half of the lookouts this year.

Some dozen or fifteen samples of hand-tank pumps were submitted for examination and these have now been ordered. There is a distinct preference expressed in requisitions for the built-in-type of pump, which are difficult to find these days. Practically all the makers are turning out only the trombone type.

Power pumps proposed for purchase have now been selected. The Austin units have proved their worth and are in distinct favour but some serious disadvantages have developed in their use. There being no heavy units on the market we have had to make up our own assemblies, which, after a considerable amount of investigation and testing, appear to be better than anything heretofore in use. Tests on one of the new heavy assemblies gave capacities up to 175 gallons per minute and pressures up to 200 lbs. In a couple of months from date we hope to have several new units in the field, both of the heavy type comparable with the Austin and of the light type comparable with the D.D.V. and Fairbanks-Morse pump units. The heavy type will have our four-stage centrifugal pump, while the lighter type will have a Viking pump, as on our present units. The new units will be powered with two-cylinder opposed four-cycle engines.

A bright suggestion for utilizing some of our old hose came to us the other day. Cut to proper length and split down one side it makes a fine guard for cross-cut saws.

To the Editor,
F.B. News Letter, Victoria.

Dear Sir:

I note, on page 3 of the Feb. 21st issue of your justly-celebrated and no-doubt-widely-read publication, a contribution from a "Miss (or is it "Mrs.? kindly advise) Hazel Hoe", of the U.S.A. Curiously enough, this contributor bears the same name as the writer. We may--who knows?--be related. Do you happen to know whether the lady's ancestors crossed on the "Mayflower"?

I am very anxious to pass on this lady's definition of "category" to my friends, including those of the unfair--I mean fair-sex--do you think Miss --or Mrs. Hoe will object, if, in doing so, I substitute, for "b----Tom Cat", "Covered or stained-with-gore Tom Cat"?

I would like also--humbly, modestly, and apologetically--to offer, on behalf of the British branch of the Hoe family, a few definitions of my own, which may be of interest--or, of course, may not. (In the latter case, kindly return here--per stamped, prepaid envelope herewith--if received). These definitions will, at some time, be published, with others I am now working on, in my spare time, i.e., between the hours of 12 midnight and 4 a.m., and on Xmas days--under the title of:

"THE RANGERS' DICTIONARY", by "GRUB-HOE", Nelson.

Abnormal: Irregular. Example: A fire-fighter who complains of being OVERPAID.

Action: Activity AFTER, but not BEFORE reaching, a fire.

Aeon: A period of immense duration. In other words, the time, for example, in which a Ranger may catch up with his work.

Approximate: More or less. Note: Jolly good word this, specially designed for the use of Field men in compiling reports dealing with unknown, or impossible, quantities, for instance, approximate sizes and amounts, approximate areas, costs, humidities, hazards, heat, hardness, drought, temperatures generally, weights, heights, etc., etc. Use permissible on all reports except Expense Accounts.

Axe, D.B.: A tool of steel and iron used by fire-fighters for quarrying and removing rocks from the fire-guard.

(To be continued.)

Yours truly,

"GRUB-HOE",
Nelson.

A qualifying examination for Official Scalers was held at Vancouver early in March at which twenty candidates sat. To bring up to a strength sufficient to carry the increased loading of scaling on the coast, selections from the pass list will be made for appointment to the scaling staff. This is a rigorous Civil Service examination and candidates must not only possess a scaler's license but have had a liberal period of practical experience to stand a chance of making the grade. The pass mark is 75%.

The month of February this year set an all-time record for the number of timber sales awarded in any one month. The previous high was in November of last year.

Assistant Ranger examinations are over and the examiners have returned after looking over 135 aspirants. Of these 55 passed, which is 40.7 per cent, if the slide-rule can be believed. St. Clair and J. G. MacDonald were examiners on the Coast and Melrose, with Ternan, R. E. Allen and Gregg in the Interior.

Noticeable this year was the large number of very young men trying the exam. and of these quite a few were graduates of the Y.M.F.T.P. By and large the examination showed that the latter had profited by their training.

In the Interior spring seems to be lagging, Melrose reporting considerable snow at Quesnel and Prince George on the 26th of March, he and Gregg having been hauled out of a snowbank by a passing team. On the way from Prince George to Prince Rupert the thermometer is reported to have reached 20° below. We don't know if it reached the Coast.

The Nelson District is starting a comprehensive public relations programme with the assistance of the movie projector in charge of Col. Allen. His well-known ability should go far in selling forestry to the natives and visitors.

This brings up the question of movies as a public-relations factor. The field of interesting subjects is very wide and "Operation" is starting out to build up some reels of good local stuff. They would like all the suggestions possible of what might make up a local or general-interest reel.

Melrose, ordering steak at New Denver--"Very rare please. Just carry it through the kitchen."

Mine Host (to Bob Allen), looking at the result--"I've known critters to get well after a worse scorching than that."

An extensive overhaul of the Launch "Amabilis" at Kaslo has just been completed under the supervision of J. H. Blake and a new "Ailsa Craig" Diesel engine of 40 H.P. installed. The work required amounted to practically rebuilding the hull and was made necessary by the ravages of *Fomes roseus* or *Trametes carnea* (rot to you).

The rot was identified for us by the Forest Products Lab. at Vancouver. It is of a type often found in standing trees, tops, etc., but has not, in their experience, been found attacking lumber. The inference is that defective lumber, already containing the destructive organism, was built into the boat when it was constructed in 1929.

The operation of the first Diesel engine in use by the Forest Branch on Interior waters will be followed with interest.

The Forest Discussion Club had the pleasure of hearing an hour and a half talk by Dr. C. A. Schenck on the evening of April 6th. Dr. Schenck was visiting the coast on a brief business trip.

The Club has recently applied to the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers for recognition as a Victoria section of the Society.

Forest Surveys, in a land classification report made last fall on a sublot of L. 3637, S.D.Y.D., gives the location of the area "Main Kettle River about 18 inches north of Westbridge." Our contributor suggests they are getting altogether too accurate in their field work. Perhaps they are setting up a mark for the Ranger staff to shoot at.

C. S. Cowan (Seattle) reports a short but enjoyable trip to Scotland and England, returning last month. In London he met Bob Leighton (formerly Supervisor, Prince Rupert), prosperous, a little heavier, a little greyer, and expressing some regrets for the B. C. woods.

Ed and Mrs. Bassett failed to take advantage of the offer expressed in our last letter. The baby is named Marilyn Jyll Elliott.

We regret to announce the sudden death of Walter Lang Muir at Prince George on February 16th. Walter joined the Branch in 1912 continuing his services as Ranger, Supervisor and Supervisor of Scalpers, until superannuation in March, 1932.

C. Langstroth has taken over the Victoria district as Acting Ranger.

C. Williams is Acting Inspector at Kamloops during J. G. Macdonald's absence in Vancouver and L. F. Swannell (Surveys, Victoria) is temporarily taking over Williams district with headquarters at Kamloops.

Publications Received in the Forest Branch Library

February 6th - March 31st, 1936.

- .05 Canada Lumberman - Feb. 1/36.
- .05 The Forestry News Digest - Feb. 1936.
- .05 Journal of Forestry - Feb. 1936.
- .05 Forest & Outdoors - January, 1936.
- .05 B. C. Lumberman - Feb. 1936.
- .061 South Australia - Woods & Forests Dept. Annual Report for the Year Ended June 30, 1935.
- .05 Pulp & Paper Magazine of Canada - Jan. 1936.
- .05 American Forests, February, 1936.
- .062 Canada - Report of the Director of Forestry, 1934-5.
- .25 Artificial Reforestation in the Southern Pine Region.
- .061 The Laurentian Forest Protective Ass. Ltd., 19th Annual Report, 1935.
- .05 Forestry - Current Literature.
- .08 Forest Research in India, 1934-35.
- .061 The Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Assn. Ltd., Annual Report, 1935.
- .05 Forest Research Activities - Dec. 1935.
- A Naval Stores Handbook.
- .2537 Possibilities of Shelterbelt Planting in the Plains Region.
- .05 News Bulletin - Canadian Society of Forest Engineers - Feb., 1936.
- .062 Report of the Chief of the U. S. Forest Service, 1935.
- .05 Nature Magazine - March, 1936.
- .512 The Moisture Content of Timbers in New Buildings - R.A.G. Knight.
- .062 Annual Report on Working Plans, Silviculture and Entomology in Burma for the Years 1934-35.
- .05 Pulp & Paper Magazine of Canada - Convention Issue, 1936.
- .05 The Canada Lumberman - Feb. 15/35.
- The Imperial Forestry Institute, University of Oxford - Eleventh Annual Report, 1934-35, and Prospectus.
- .05 The Timberman - Feb. 1936.
- .05 Soil Science, Feb. 1936.
- .05 Monthly Weather Review - Nov. 1935.
- .719 A Simple Accurate Method of Computing Basal Area of Forest Stands.
- .05 Canada Lumberman - March 1, 1936.
- .061 Washington Forest Fire Assn. Annual Report, 1935.
- .05 B. C. Lumberman - March, 1936.
- .05 Forest & Outdoors - Feb., 1936.
- .05 Pulp & Paper Magazine - Feb. 1936.
- .94 Main Features of Finnish Forestry.
- .4711 Preliminary Report on the Lumber Industry in Canada, 1934.
- .05 American Forests - March, 1936.
- .05 Forest Research Activities - Jan. 1926.
- .7191 The Construction of Normal-Yield and Stand Tables for Even-aged Timber Stands - J. G. Osborne & F. X. Schumacher.
- .2537 Vine-mesquite for Erosion Control on Southwestern Ranges.

- .05 Movie Makers - Jan., Feb., & March, 1936.
- .05 Canada Lumberman, March 15, 1935.
- .05 Soil Science - March, 1936.
- .05 Pulp & Paper Magazine of Canada - March, 1936.
- .05 The Forestry News Digest - March, 1936.
- .061 The Southern St. Lawrence Forest Protective Ass'n Annual Report, 1935.
- .05 The Timberman - March, 1936.
- .431 Newsprint Outlook, 1936-1937.
- .05 Journal of Forestry - March, 1936.
- .062 British Honduras - Report of the Forest Trust, 1934.
- .05 Nature Magazine - April, 1936.
- .05 Forest Research Notes - 1936.
- .7163 Outlines for Permanent Sample Plot Investigations.
- .05 Current Monthly Record of Incoming Literature, 1st March, 1936. Imperial Forestry Institute, University of Oxford.
- .05 Movie Makers - April, 1936.
- .01 A Union Check List of Forestry Serials.