



Nature undisturbed

FOREST BRANCH NEWS LETTER

An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense, 'n'opinion, compiled from time to time for the profit, amusement and annoyance of the staff.

No. 16

Victoria, B.C., April 1, 1937.

08581

The best April Fool joke we can think of is to get a News Letter out. We are not dead after all, though we have suffered from a period of coma which looked serious at times.

District Foresters

One of the important events since our last letter in January was the District Foresters' Conference, held at Victoria the week of February 22nd-27th. All the District Foresters were in attendance, together with the senior Victoria officers. A circular letter of enquiry prior to the meeting, asking for suggested subjects of sufficient importance for discussion at the meeting, brought up enough material to have occupied attention for a month. The programme selected included the following subjects:



R.E. Allen



E.E. Gregg



C.J. Haddon



A.E. Parlow



R.C. St. Clair

Interior Scaling
Wage Liens and Seizures
Handling of Small Accounts
Small District Timber Sales
Cutting Policy on Forest Reserves
Minimum Staff Requirements

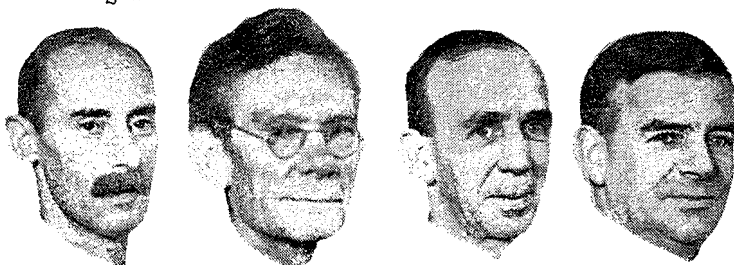
Personnel Training
Public Relations
Protection Policy
Improvements and Equipment
Young Men's Training Plan

Much of the discussion hinging on these would be of value throughout the Service but we haven't space to report in detail.

Following the general discussions certain definite recommendations were made by the conference. These dealt with personnel training, protection policy, accounting, interior scaling, and cutting policy on forest reserves.

The last open session, Friday morning, was reserved for visitors and proved to be of unusual interest. C.S. Cowan of the Washington Forest Fire Association, slated for this occasion, was unable to attend but did come over and give a valuable talk earlier in the week. Messrs. Ralph and George Hopping told us of the latest developments in the insect world. W.B. (Bush) Osborne, of the U.S. Forest Service at Portland, gave a report on latest developments in equipment. W.H. Kilby, C.N.R., Winnipeg, gave a very fine talk on protection from the standpoint of the railways. T.F. Biefgen, Chief Forester of Alberta, was invited but was unable to attend. This guest day was a new departure which proved of such interest and value that it should be made a regular feature of these District Foresters' meetings.

The final day of the week, March 27th, marked exactly the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passing of the "Forest Act", which established the Forest Branch in 1912. The event was celebrated at a dinner at the Empress Hotel on Friday evening, the 26th, presided over by the Honourable the Minister, at which between 90 and 100 were present. About two-thirds of those present were guests of the Branch. H.R. MacMillan, first Chief Forester, was guest speaker. M.A. Grainger, second Chief Forester, also was present. Other guests included cabinet ministers, a number of one-time officers of the Branch, representatives of other branches of the Department, and representatives of the various forest industries.



A.G. Mumford W.L. Thomas S.W. Barclay N.F. Pite

A feature of the evening was the presentation of miniature silver badges and illuminated plaques to six members of the Branch who will complete 25 years of continuous service in 1937. These were G.R. McKay, scaling staff, Vancouver; M.V. Allen, Supervisor of Scalers, Nelson; S.W. Barclay, Royalty Inspector; N.F. Pite, Chief Accountant; A.G. Mumford, Management; and W.L. Thomas, Chief Draughtsman, all of Victoria. We are sorry we failed to get pictures of Allen and McKay. The others are all here for your inspection. The parch-

ment plaques, each a work of art, were made by R.F. (Shely) Sheldon-Williams of Forest Surveys office. We hope that these silver badges for 25-year-men will be made a regular feature of the Service to be presented each year to men completing their quarter-century.

VANCOUVER STAFF DINNER

The staff of the District Forester's office, Vancouver, together with their wives and friends, met at a dinner held on Monday evening, February 1st, at the Georgia Hotel.

In all, seventy-five sat down to what proved to be a very enjoyable meal. Practically the entire office staff turned out and, due to the snow tying up logging operations, we were able to have a large number of the scaling staff with us. Head Office was represented by Mr. C.D. Orchard, whom we were pleased to have present.

Mr. R.C. St. Clair acted as Toastmaster, or rather, he would have acted if there had been any toasts, but in the absence of the necessary strong liquids he just presided and, in a short talk, welcomed the staff and visitors to what he hoped would be only the first of an annual gathering of the staff, which gave us an opportunity to get better acquainted and which he believed created a feeling of good fellowship.

Mr. St. Clair also announced that he thought the time was opportune to revive the Timber Industry Picnic, and with this in view he proposed calling a meeting of the staff in the near future.

Following the dinner Supervisor Harold Smith related to us his impressions and experiences in connection with the Vimy Pilgrimage last year, following which he showed two reels of pictures which he had taken on the trip, which were most descriptive.

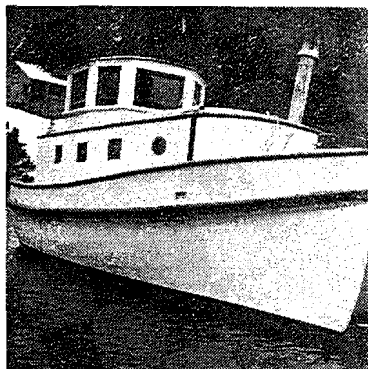
The evening concluded by fifty of the company sitting down to play bridge and the remainder Monopoly.

This event was noted by all a most happy and successful gathering, and the Committee in charge feels well repaid for its work of organizing same.



Charles Ewen Robertson, to give him his full name, is the subject of "Who's Who" of this issue. Charlie, as he is familiarly known to all and sundry of the Cariboo, anywhere between Ashcroft and the far North, holds down the Ranger job at Clinton. If he did not use a land examination report or a cruise report to cut his first teeth on he was chewing on them shortly after, as he is one of the older men, in terms of service, of the younger men in the Forest Branch. Charlie, while still in the not-very-late thirties, boasts of better than sixteen years service, of which the last ten have been in a permanent capacity. Clinton was honoured by being selected as his birthplace. He received his education there and has reciprocated by calling it home ever since. Clinton Ranger District runs heavy to grazing problems and Robertson is one of a very few Rangers qualified to handle such work. His pleasing personality gets him by many a tough job when dealing with stockmen and he says, "Believe me, they are tough".

Like Eddie Cantor he is married but has fallen short of Cantor's record, having but three charming lassies who call him Daddy, with nary a lad among 'em. Charlie is in his element when the ducks are flying high. Many and many a pot hole in his vast domain of the Clinton Ranger District knows no other gun than his. He says the ducks are where you find 'em, and he knows. In the winter his passion runs to hockey as a fan and supporter of the local team.



Hearing of a hand-built boat in Cowie's District (Lund), hand-built from stem to stern (none of your sissy sawmill or planing-mill products used) we asked for particulars which were forthcoming as follows:



Built by B. Saulter and F. Parker. All the lumber and timbers used in the construction, with the exception of the ribs, was taken from the woods and fabricated by the two men, all by hand. The boat has taken four years to build, as all lumber had to be seasoned.

Description: - Model - Washington "Sea Model". Plans - Q. Williams, Seattle, Wash. Length - 30 feet. Beam - 8'4". Draft - 3 feet. Ribs spaced 10", size of ribs 13/4 x 1 1/2. Keel - 4" x 10" hewn and planed by hand. Stringers - 4" x 4".

The men have made a good job and it would be an eye-opener to some professional boat builders.



Courtesy of "Timber"

Less Hale, foreman at Camp 15, was paying a visit to Hugh Ferguson, foreman at Camp 8. They were inspecting the work done and the length of time necessary to do it. Hugh, who is pretty proud of his men, was getting more and more peeved at Less, who insisted that his men could do a similar amount of work in half the time.

For instance, Hugh pointed out a road about 200 yards long, "We built that road in a single day, Less."

Less looked at the road for a moment and then remarked, "We could have done it by noon."

Next they came to the ramp under which the wood is stored. Again Hugh pointed with pride. "We have enough fir cut and piled for two months."

"We have enough for six months", replied the redoubtable Less.

Finally they came to the fire break, a clearing about a mile long by 400 feet wide. Formerly it was covered with thick underbrush and a great deal of first-growth timber. As they walked up to it Less asked, "How long did it take your gang to clear that?"

Hugh stared at the clearing for a full minute open-mouthed. "Well, I'll be darned, it wasn't there last night."

(Copied from "Timber")

From Kamloops - As contributors to the News Letter the Kamloops Forest District must rate very low in the minus column, as we have burst into print on one occasion only. However, as readers, we do not take second place to anyone. Each issue is eagerly looked forward to and its contents consumed from stem to gudgeon. Among our combined New Year's resolutions was one that we at least make an effort to associate ourselves with Number One issue of 1937, hence this contribution. Provided the Editor's blue pencil has worn down to a stub and the Property Room refuses his requisition for a replacement, we may make good on at least one of our resolutions for 1937.

The following is an extract from a memorandum report in respect to a projected timber sale cruise:

"At 2 a.m. on that date I took the down train. It was a dark and stormy night. Arrived at around 5 a.m. I steps off the rattler into the storm to be greeted with these words, "Bane you the Forest Ranger? Wal, I tank we had better go back on the train." (Which of course we had to do quickly.) It was much better inside looking out. It appears Mr. _____ had landed there at 1 a.m. on the up train and by the time he had waited for my train to get in he was more than ready to go back to Vancouver for the winter. There was no fire or fuel in the station and the outside world was nobody's business. He had been misinformed as to snow conditions, which then amounted to about two feet and still snowing. His equipment consisted of cork boots, a small lunch, snuff box and the usual life-saver of Hudson's Bay sleeping powders in liquid form. _____ I went on down to _____ catching the next train back Saturday which arrived home at 4 a.m. on Sunday morning. Mr. _____ regretted putting me to so much trouble. He was a real old-time tie hacker from the Prince Rupert and George Districts. Says he, "I ban know Mr. Manning when he was in Prince Rupert very well in the old days--Supervisor Brewer, Rusty Campbell, George Forbes--and in fact he enquired of very nearly all of the Forest Service who had ever been on the Canadian National or somewhere in B.C. By the time our journey was over we were old timers together and the snow was still piling up in the Pass."

For the mountain-minded we may say that immediately after our last letter went out we found a detailed account of the Mt. Waddington expedition, together with a number of fine photographs, in the "Beaver", Hudson's Bay Company publication, issue of December 1936. (Outfit 267 No. 3).

Another excellent account of a previous attempt upon this peak is to be found in Sir Norman Watson's book, "Round Mystery Mountain" published in 1935. This is an account of the expedition he himself led.

The following comes from Ray Sansom (McBride) following a rumour of increases for some of the ranger staff this year:

WHEN I GET MY RAISE

"I'll build a house and buy a car,
I'll visit lands both near and far,
I'll discard my pipe and smoke cigars.
I'll hire a man to do my work,
And a dizzy blonde for an office clerk.
I'll wear plus fours and drink proof rum.
On stormy days I'll stay at "hum"
And let the heat soak in my bones.
I'll eat caviar instead of hash.
Why shouldn't I? with all this cash.
I'll buy the wife a coat of fur,
And this I'll do on one hundred per/--haps."

In the "Woodlands Review", issue of January, 1937, is a fine article "How to file a Cross-cut Saw", with 12 illustrations, which should be of interest to many field men. The magazine can be borrowed from the library or if we detect enough interest we might manage to reproduce the article.

The following case against snow will be of particular interest to the Forest Development Project camps. Confined to the coast to escape snow conditions, they have battled nothing else but for more than two months.

THE CASE AGAINST SNOW

"From every point of view snow is beneath contempt. We can't build with snow, or grow any crops in it, or dig it up and burn it for fuel. We can't ferment it, or explode it, or stretch it or compress it, or bake it. We can't clean windows or shave with it, or use it for knitting or ballast or blotting paper or fishing bait. It won't grow hair, or reduce obesity, or improve the complexion, or relieve toothache. It has no magnetic attraction for anything, it can't find its own level, and it doesn't contain a single valuable mineral or useful gas. It is just plain, senseless, common, worthless snow.

"The most that anyone can hope to do with snow is to pick up a handful and throw it at somebody. And, goodness knows, it isn't worth making it just for that."

- Maurice Lane-Norcott in
The Bystander, London.

And speaking of the Camps, they suggest their own News Letter under the title of "Timber" and go so far as to send us the first issue, complete with cartoons, ready for the press. If it hadn't arrived so late in the season we would have been greatly tempted to comply with the suggestion. Much of it is too good to pass up but we can get only a few samples in here.

Writing back for a doctor's certificate to accompany an application for sick leave recently the District Forester advised:

"He says he drank lots of rum and brought plenty of hot water bottles. Perhaps a certificate from the Government Liquor store would do instead."

Sorry we neglected to make a note of the man's name.

Louis Beale, of His Majesty's Consulate-General at Shanghai, was recently made a Knight-Commander of St. Michael and St. George (K.C.M.G.). As Sir Louis was formerly of this Department the news will be of interest to former associates here.

We deeply regret the deaths on March 10th, of F.A. MacDonald and Miss Irene Aird.

Frank MacDonald, one of the most capable officers the Forest Branch has had, came to B.C. from his native province of New Brunswick in 1898. He joined the Service as Ranger at Thurston Bay in May, 1917 (he held Ranger Certificate No. 1), and thereafter served successively as Supervisor; Assistant Forester at Victoria; District Forester, Nelson; Assistant Forester, Victoria; Forester in Operation, Victoria; and Assistant District Forester at Vancouver. He had been away from the office on sick leave since last September.

Frank, or "Mac", saw the Service grow from rowboats to Diesel launches, from horse and saddle to motor trucks, from canvas buckets to four-cylinder pumps; he grew with it and had no small hand in its development. One of the best known and best loved men in the Branch his memory will be green with us for many years to come.

Miss Aird, the Chief's secretary, joined the Branch in 1925, and left the office on sick leave last November. Capable, and invariably cheerful and helpful, she set an example by which many of us might do well to profit.

Recent staff changes and promotions are reported below:

Norman Pearson, Ranger, North Vancouver, resigned March 31st. E.W. (Ed) Bassett, Junior Forester, Management, Victoria, promoted to Assistant Forester. H.J. Hodgins, Junior Forester Surveys, Victoria, promoted to Assistant Forester. W. Hall and D.L. McMullen appointed Junior Foresters, Surveys, Victoria. R.G. McKee, Junior Forester, Kamloops promoted to Assistant Forester. L.F. Swannell, Acting Ranger, Kamloops, promoted to Junior Forester. M.W. Gormely, Surveys, Victoria, to Junior Forester, Vancouver. J.A. Pedley, Ranger, Revelstoke, promoted to Fire Inspector, Kamloops. W.A. Johnston, Surveys, Victoria, promoted to Ranger, Prince Rupert. R.G. Gilchrist appointed draughtsman, Mrs. Baker stenographer and R.H. Kearns scaler, at Vancouver. G. Godwin is appointed Junior Forester, Victoria, all effective April 1st.

In addition to the foregoing the following moves of field staff are being made:

Kamloops District

<u>Ranger</u>	<u>Transferred from</u>	<u>To</u>
Chisholm	Francois Lake	Williams Lake
Templeman	Williams Lake	Chase
Boydell	Chase	Revelstoke

Vancouver District

<u>Ranger</u>		
Waller	Port Hardy	Squamish
Silke	Squamish	Alert Bay
Armstrong	Alert Bay	North Vancouver
Cowie	Lund	Nanaimo
Holmes	Nanaimo	Victoria
Hill	Thurston Bay	Sechelt
Glassford	Sechelt	Lund

A.C.C. Langstroth, F.J.G. Johnson and R.R. Douglas, successful candidates in the recent ranger examinations, have been appointed Rangers at Port Hardy, Thurston Bay, and Port Neville, respectively.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THE FOREST BRANCH LIBRARY

January 18th to March 15th, 1937.

- .05 Forestry - Current Literature - Forest Service, U.S. Dept. Agriculture.
 - .061 National Parks of Canada - Annual Reports, 1934, 1935-6, and 1936.
 - .4 The St. Maurice Forest Protection Ass'n Ltd., Annual Report, 1936.
 - .05 International Review on Timber Utilization, No. 10, Vienna, Dec. 1936.
 - .05 Monthly Weather Review - Oct. 1936.
 - .05 U.S. Dept. of Agric. - Monthly list of Publications - Dec. 1936.
 - .05 The Library of the Dominion Forester, Ottawa, List of Accessions.
Jan. 1937.
 - .33 Directions for collecting and preserving insects - J.H. McDunnough -
Canada - Circular 110, 1936.
 - .05 Fire Control Notes - Jan. 1937.
 - .33 Insects - Doane, Van Dyke, Chamberlin & Burke - McGraw-Hill Book Co.,
New York - American Forestry Series.
 - .7321 Instructions for field work of the 2nd National Survey of the Forests
of Finland - Yujo Ilvessalo - Helsinki, 1936.
 - .447 Wood and Charcoal as Motor Fuel - Forest Service Circular 47 - 1936.
 - .05 Monthly List of Publications - U.S. Dept. Agriculture - Jan. 1937.
 - .05 List of Accessions in the Library of the Dominion Forest Service for
the month of February, 1937.
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