Railway ties, telegraph poles, and rolling stock — all made of wood.

FOREST BRANCH NEWS LETTER

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

No. 14 Victoria, B.C., December 10, 1936. 08581

Amendments to the Forest Act, passed at the recent session of the Legislature, relative to the Forest Protection Fund and refunds, are of more general interest to the field staff than amendments commonly are.

Sections 113 and 114 are amended so that the responsibility for fire fighting on the part of private interests now rests on occupation of the land. The old principle of ownership has been entirely withdrawn. This simplifies the field man's problem materially. If an outfit is conducting an operation on the area on which a fire is burning, or are otherwise occupying the area, they have the usual responsibility to fight the fire. If they are not on the land they have no obligation. Most of our fights and unpleasantness in the past have arisen out of our efforts to make the "absentee" owner discharge his responsibilities as defined in the Act. The field man's road should be considerably smoother following this change.

The new sections (113 and 114) further extend the refund provisions to fire fighting on unoccupied lands on which the protection tax is paid. These two sections as amended merit a careful reading.

The protection tax is increased from 2½ to 3-1/3 cents per acre, and the Government contribution to the fund from three hundred thousand to four hundred thousand dollars.

Existing royalty rates are extended for a further period of one year to the end of 1938.

Recent resignations from the staff have made necessary a number of promotions and moves. These, as reported below, are officially effective as from November 1st but are only now being completed.

C.C. Ternan - is transferred from Assistant District Forester at Kamloops, to be Assistant District Forester at Vancouver, ex F.A. MacDonald on extended sick leave.

T.A. Clarke - from Assistant District Forester, Nelson, to be Assistant District Forester, Kamloops, ex C.C. Ternan.

S.E. Marling - from Assistant District Forester, Prince George, to be Assistant District Forester, Nelson, ex T.A. Clarke.

L.S. Hope - from Assistant Forester, Vancouver, to be Assistant District Forester, Prince Rupert, ex R.D. Greggor.

R.D. Greggor - from Assistant District Forester, Prince Rupert, to be Assistant Forester, Vancouver, ex L.S. Hope.

It was intended that K.C. McCannel should fill the vacancy at Prince George created by Marling's move, but a new coast work programme for the winter months undertaken in co-opera-

tion with the Department of Labour made it necessary to postpone this move.

The Forest Branch has undertaken a forest improvement programme in the south coast region for the winter in co-operation with the Department of Labour. Enrollees are confined to the single unemployed. This venture therefore has little or no connection with the Y.M.F.T.P. even though the class of work and organization will be almost identical.

This programme is in charge of K.C. McCannel, who has handled the Y.M.F.T.P. for the past two summers. Crews are employed at the coast experiment stations and on various improvement projects which it is expected will take several hundred men. Administrative staff is being drawn almost exclusively from Forest Branch personnel, including a number of experienced Assistant Rangers.

We have so many MacDonalds in the Service we reckon we might be doing the Service a service if we made these pages serve to distinguish a few of them. This one is J.P. of Creston, not to be confused with F.A., dean of the tribe, or J.G., who hangs out in Vancouver, or Jean Mildred in Victoria, or R.S., the Scaler.

This one, "Creston Jim", was born at Fernie in 1901, the first of our subjects young enough for us to dare to publish a birth date. Went to school at Fernie, Hosmer and Corbin. Started to work at Corbin 24 years ago so has had lots of practice. They say practice makes perfect and we understand he is a good example. Worked around Corbin in the mines and later on the survey staff until 1921, when he took on the job of patrolman in the Flathead. Appointed Ranger at Creston in the fall of 1928. Aside from his regular work Jim dabbles in farming. He is married and has two children. His two fine dogs accompanying him are evidently camera shy, and eyeing askance the building in the background which was originally an old jail but is now the Ranger office.

C.L. Armstrong who has been checking up the scaling situation in the Nelson District, assisted by E.A. Charlesworth of the official scaling staff, has completed his investigations there and is now turning his attention towards direction of activities in connection with single men relief projects fathered by the Forest Branch. Mr. Charlesworth is carrying on the check of scaling conditions in the Kamloops district.

Colonel M.V. Allen recently held scalers' examinations in the northern districts.

Comparative record of timber sales - second quarter

Years 1936, 1935, 1934.

Estimated Total Amounts	1936	1935	1934
M.B.F.	135,469	100,762	97,314
Lineal feet	1,892,450	1,552,537	740,115
Ties	84,936	154,956	69,541
Cords	34,396	27,819	17,954
Posts	63,550	22,800	48,300
No. sales	398	370	333
Estimated Total Value	$365,445.47	$267,010.24	$249,536.37

This record reflects the steady increase in management activity. See Issue No. 10 for figures for the first quarter.

The Big Bend of the Columbia appears to be opening up with the advent of the new highway. A timber sale in excess of 20 million feet including all products is now being advertized.

From a final inspection report on a timber sale under the heading of waste-- "No needless waste". This is the acme of utilization.

George Melrose, during his recent trip south, had the opportunity of observing the destruction caused by the big fire at Bandon, Oregon, and his account follows:

"The devastating effect of forest fire was seen in stark reality at Bandon, Oregon, Here an entire town of about 2,000 people was reduced to black ruin in the run of a night. Where once had been a busy commercial section there was nothing left but twisted pipes, broken glass and scorched pavements, while the residential section showed only bare, standing chimneys, foundations and ruined plumbing.

"This fire was the result, apparently, of escaped slash fires. These burned for some time in the vicinity of the town without much alarm being felt. The remarkable part of the affair was that the blow-up came in the middle of the night and the spread of the fire was so rapid that people had barely time to escape in their night clothes.

"An important contributing factor was the gorse that covered the country round about and grew profusely on vacant lots in the town. It had been introduced from the old sod years ago by the Irishman after whom the town is named. In its new environment it luxuriated and spread like a weed. Being highly inflammable and full of dry leaves and twigs it made an extremely fast and hot fire.

"When I passed through on October 6th the Red Cross and U.S. Army were getting things organized, tents and shacks were being built and some order established, but fire still flickered in the ruins and through the country for miles. The Forest Service had hundreds of CCC boys and other labor at work which continued right up to November.

"Some moving pictures were taken and will be used in reels being assembled on fire destruction."

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And talking of movies, we will soon have ready a full reel, our first "super-colossal." It is the story of a picnic party that almost lit their fire in the wrong place. The Forest Ranger arrives in the nick of time and shows them how to do it properly, taking the opportunity of telling about the destructive effects of fire and the benefits and beauties of green forests. His story is shown in pictures.

A whole programme of pictures will be available by the first of the year, with projector and portable generator, This can be sent to any district where a series of meetings can be arranged.

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The Forest Surveys Division reports all field parties in for the winter after an exceptionally heavy seasonal programme. Surveys were made of the E. & N. Railway Belt, the Lower Arrow Forest, and the Seymour Forest.

The Victoria Section of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers held its first meeting this season on November 18th. Officers for the current year were elected as follows:

Honorary President - The Honourable A. Wells Gray
President - H. J. Hodgins
Vice-President - M. W. Gormely
Secretary-Treasurer- E. H. Garman

The Forest Surveys Division has just completed an aerial project in conjunction with the survey of the E. & N. Railway Belt. This marks the inauguration of aerial forest surveys in the B. C. Forest Service and represents one of the most important advances in the Division since its inception.

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Ranger regrading examinations are forecast for early in the new year.

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To District Forester; "Under separate cover I am returning the microphone recently received. I have tested out this microphone several times but station R. C. cannot hear a sound. Please ship 12 lengths 6" galvanized stove pipe."

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We regret to announce the death of Norman Moore at Cranbrook on November 12th. Mr. Moore joined the Forest Branch June 24, 1918 as Forest Assistant and Check Scaler at Cranbrook. He was made District Forester in the one-time Cranbrook District on April 1, 1919, in which position he continued until he resigned on November 30, 1924, to become Logging Superintendent for the B. C. Spruce Mills at Lumberton, where he continued until his death. He was well

known to most of the older men in the Branch who will learn of his death with regret.

Charlie (Butch) Schultz, a former member of the Forest Surveys Division who has been associated with the Y.M.F.T.P. programme during the past two years, has resigned to accept a position with Seaboard Sales, Ltd., of Vancouver.

J. B. Conway (Campbell River) reported at Victoria on November 27th to work on the unemployment relief programme.

Selection of Publications Received in the Forest Branch Library, to November 23, 1936.

.05	Monthly Weather Review - July, 1936.
.97714	U.S. Forest Service Recreation Handbook - Improvement Handbook.
.4712	Lumber Production 1869-1934 - A.H. Pierson, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service - 1936.
.97715	The Utilization of Aerial Photographs in Mapping and Studying Land Features - T. P. Ahrens.
.062	New Zealand State Forest Service - Annual Report, year ended March 31/36.
.01	Bibliography - Thinning - 1936.
.062	Report on Forest Protection, Quebec, years 1929 and 1931.
.062	Western Australia Forest Service Report, 1935-36.
.062	Report of the Director of Forestry (Canada) 1935-36.
.05	U.S. Dept. of Agric., Monthly list of Publications, Sept., 1936.
.9441	Oregon's Forest Problems - State Planning Board, 1936.
.44	An Index of the Minor Forest Products of the British Empire.
.43	International Review on Timber Utilization, No. 9 - Vienna, Oct. 1936.
.02	The Forestry Primer - C. L. Pack - Second edition, 1936.