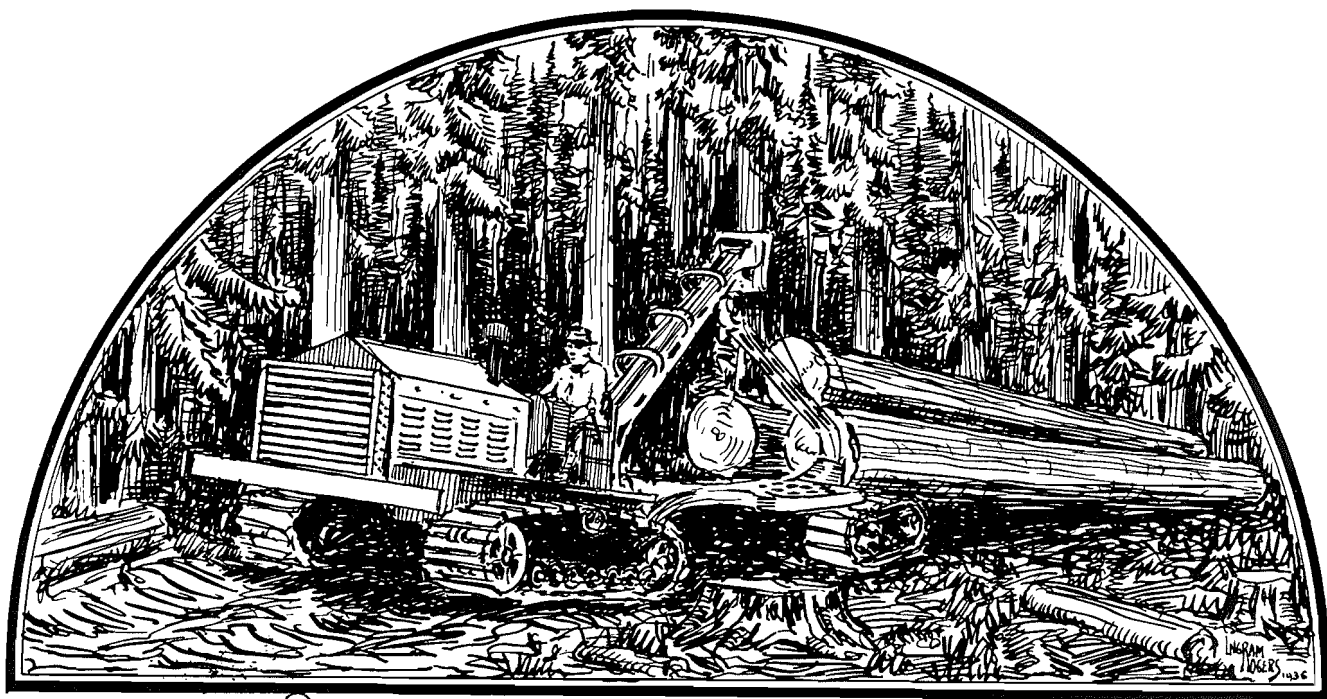




Modern Logging in British Columbia.

#### 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. 21

Victoria, B.C., December 17, 1937.

08581



Ever since our first News Letter we have had a secret ambition to grace each number with an appropriate editorial; nothing ambitious you know--maybe something in the class of Hubbard's "Message to Garcia."

But what do you write editorials about? Newspapers take governments to task editorially for what they have done, or extol the freedom of the press; magazines take governments to task for what they haven't done, or campaign against high taxes. None of these seemed to give us a lead. And now when we stumble on to an occurrence which we feel sure is editorial grist we find we haven't any idea about how an editorial should be written anyway. And so, having nourished editorial ambitions these many years and having failed so utterly to meet the acid test we are forced to resort to fable to make our point.

"Not twenty thousand years ago it chanced one fall day that two Forest Officers, having looked over a certain logging operation well, but hastily, forsooth, and without thought of de-tailed report to their Chief, did meet with Two Other Forest Officers at the office of the Operator of that Logging Operation. And it was good to meet two Brother Officers and to chin-wag with them, and the Brothers, all four, being left largely to their own devices for the period of one hour by the dial, did not unnaturally turn their thoughts and conversation to the detail and the workings of the Operation just reviewed. And in their earnestness and zest they did discuss the Operation at length, giving but little thought to the fact that there is a cussedness that maketh it nigh impossible for any man to Endorse without an "if" or "but" or "why". And lo, they did discuss not wisely but too well!

"And it chanced that the conversation was carried by a Henchman to the Operator of that Logging Operation, and he was wrath! He declaimed loudly, eloquently and at length at the door of the Chief Forester's sanctum and when his voice reached the ear of the Chief he likewise was wrath and he did have a flight of eloquence and all the Brethren of the Forests heard. And it was pointed out that the Four Brothers had forsooth shown but poor Courtesy and Diplomacy and, further, that they had indeed selected an Ill Chosen Place for a Brotherly Discussion. And the Four Brothers, having heard, did take counsel and agree unto themselves that they had for certain been Unwise and the least that they could do would be to pass along this story to Brother Officers that all the Brethren might take counsel unto themselves and prosper."

And there it is!



The Christmas tree riot which starts about the first of June with applicants for permits to cut, countered by resolutions from all quarters condemning the business and recommending a complete embargo (the two about balance in point of numbers), is drawing to a close for another year.

The Department steadfastly refuses to give any permits to cut Christmas trees on Crown lands except in a few isolated cases of reverted lands which are likely to be required for settlement before the young growth could attain a marketable size. Over privately-owned lands of course we have no control, but with excessive cutting concentrated on these for a few years the green Crown lands look even more inviting. The dealers urge that thinning is good silvicultural practice, overlooking the fact that the Christmas tree cutter looks for the best trees in five to fifteen-year-old stands, or the tops in older stands, while the silvicultural thinning seeks to take the poorest in fifteen to thirty-year-old stands, and there doesn't seem to be much possibility of reconciling these two objectives.

It is this writer's unofficial opinion (nothing in the News Letter is to be taken as official anyway), that the Christmas tree business is perfectly legitimate but that the solution of the dealers' existing and fast multiplying difficulties in securing a supply lies in Christmas tree cultivation rather than in sacrificing for a few cents' immediate profit public property on Crown lands which will be worth many dollars within the lifetime of our present-day boys and girls. Practically every ranch in B.C. has many acres too poor for agricultural use. Two weeks' work in the spring on these acres will produce without further attention an annual cash crop at Christmas without the worry of arguing with stubborn Forest Branch officials as to what may or may not be cut. Incidentally, we have a bulletin for free distribution (Planting Coniferous Trees in B.C.), which tells how to do it.

Someday perhaps everything will be so beautifully and perfectly organized that there will be no further occasion to alter the "Forest Act". In the meantime, however, accumulating knowledge of our problems and resources, and accumulating experience force us into amendments.

This year a number of amendments have been passed by the Legislature of which you will be informed in due course. Don't forget to insert them in your copy of the "Forest Act." Two of them are of such far-reaching importance that they may be looked upon as milestones in the progress of forestry work in this Province. We refer to the amendment laying down an effective penalty where any operator in the Vancouver Forest District has failed to dispose of his slash as instructed by the Branch, and to the other amendment authorizing the passing of regulations for the leaving of seed trees on operations on Crown-granted lands. Only those forest officers who have been experiencing difficulty in securing prompt and satisfactory disposal of slash will appreciate the assistance that this new amendment to Section 113 will give them. The amendment regarding seed trees suggests that some steps may now be taken to secure more regeneration on cut-over lands.

With this strengthening of the Act comes increased responsibility upon the Forest Service to administer the new powers given to it with a firmness that is always associated with good judgment and tact.

Believe it or not, John Rogers reckons the Rangers are all cluttered up with Romance. Witness the following. In deference to John's physical well-being we hesitate to print this but George Schupe is the only Ranger within reach of him and with the odds even perhaps he can defend himself.

#### ROMANCE



"The average Forest Ranger does not regard himself as a figure of Romance. To him Romance is something glamorous found in dime magazines and Hollywood--or perhaps even in the District Office, where there may be a pretty steno or two--certainly not in his own job, which he regards as a never-ending struggle to keep up with the stream of requests for this, that, and the other with which the District Office floods him.

"Nevertheless, a Ranger in the B.C. Forest Service holds one of the world's most romantic jobs. The trees of which he is the guardian constitute the biggest stand of commercial timber in the British Empire, and one of the last great reserves of softwood upon the earth. The lumber and other products manufactured from them serve countless useful purposes in every part of the world.

"The Ranger is of necessity a man of varied accomplishments and experience; for in what other line of endeavour does a man have to combine a knowledge of logging engineering and timber cruising, surveying and navigating, farming and soil analysis, botany and entomology, fire-fighting and organizing, mechanics and construction, law and diplomacy? In fact, he is expected to know something about almost everything, and he is an exception to the old saying 'Jack of all trades and master of none.'

"The active life of the Ranger, out of doors in heat and cold, rain and snow, toiling up mountains and forcing his way through dense brush, is undoubtedly healthful and keeps a man always in the pink of condition.

"His sense of beauty is continually being refreshed by the ever-changing scenery which unfolds before his eyes as he travels through his district--scenery which is unsurpassed elsewhere in the world.

"When he pits his brain and body against Fire, Nature's most terrible element, he calls into play every attribute that makes man supreme among living creatures. Dr. Alexis Carrel, one of the great medical scientists of our time, in his remarkable book, "Man the Unknown", says that a study of the human system shows unmistakably that it is designed for a life of stress and struggle, and only under those conditions will it reach its full development. The Ranger's life, then, should bring out all that is best in a man.

"Philosophers in all ages have extolled poverty and deplored wealth. Is it not possible that even the financial embarrassment so prevalent among members of the Branch may be a blessing in disguise?

"Romance? You're telling me!"



From Prince Rupert: "Satisfactory two-way communication was established during September between the Ranger Station at Burns Lake and the new Boer Mountain Lookout Station by Asst. Ranger Dick O'Hara. Two homemade sets, built by Mr. O'Hara were used, and all messages were received as clearly as on a city phone. This is a very creditable individual effort not assisted or subsidized in any way by the Forest Branch.

"Regarding the suggestion in the News Letter of October 18th last, that possibly we were showing too many pictures of "such subjects as the wool industry" and not getting forest protection across. None of us flatter ourselves that the announcement we are to speak on Forest Protection at 8 P.M. next Wednesday in the school house at Southbank is going to produce an audience. We do know from experience that a few notices posted announcing that Forest Branch Moving Pictures will be shown "admission free" will fill the hall

with everyone in the community, except the bedridden, and in addition to the moral conveyed by the fire-prevention films, they must, if they want to see the rest of the show, listen to our earnest, if awkward, talks on fire prevention. I am strong for local films, like that of the Siwash sweaters and the views of the Y.M.F.T.P. They excite more interest than 'machine-made' pictures that might be bought. A good 'comic' should be included to relieve the pressure for grown-ups as well as the kids. I heard many comments this season that our last show was the best we had ever put on. Certainly we drew audiences. In many cases people drove on to the next stand to see it again. Talking pictures would be the next logical development, but they would need to be better talkies than those circulated in this District commercially this summer.



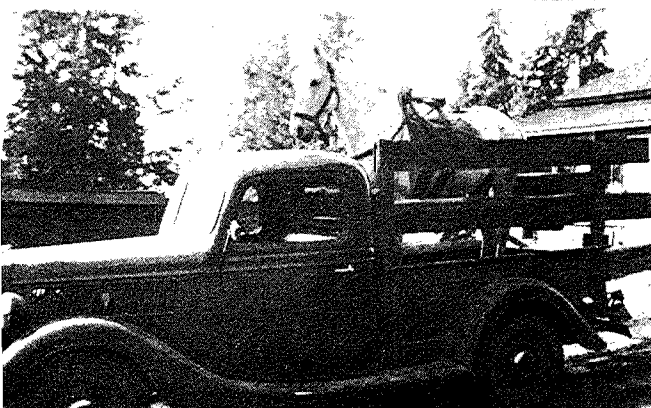
Introducing RAY SANSOM, Ranger and kiddies' friend of the McBride country, born in Stanley, N.B., in 1894. He claims one of his ancestors piloted the Mayflower over and that later the family moved to N.B. with the Loyalists. The first twenty years of his life were divided between school and his father's mills. He went overseas with the First Contingent and often said that he was sorry that he hadn't waited for the last one! We gather from the account of his exploits that the C.E.F. was largely composed of his brothers, cousins, and other immediate relatives.

He came to B.C. in 1919, working in the woods and mills and joined the Forest Service in 1924, since which time he has held various districts as Ranger.



WELL, THERE'S SANSOM AND THE MAYFLOWER.

During his twelve years of married life he has fallen heir to two children, and gained forty pounds in weight (in spite of home cooking and a mountainous district to care for). Has poetic tendencies and imagines he is a champion cribbage player. His chief hobby is a 1928 Ford. Is locally called "Paul Bunyan" by all the kids. Smokes a pipe (usually over-strength) and chaws terbaccer too. His chief dislike is speeder travel when its 20 below. Has a fine sense of humour and on occasion an astonishing flow of "picturesque" language which he has a happy knack of using without offence. As a teller of tall stories he has Jimmie Blake stopped. Doesn't think very highly of Alex Chisholm--the leanest of Pharoah's lean cattle--not as a bedfellow at any rate. After bunking up with him on one very cold field trip he pronounced Alex "not even good chinkin'".



The accompanying photo does not imply that an extra horsepower has to be put into the bus, nor that the cayuse is carried along for the purpose of pulling the car out of eventual mudholes. It is just Jim MacDonald's (Creston) method of transporting the horse in his light delivery truck when he has a packing job some distance away from his headquarters. The animal is well anchored down, and there is little or no danger of his being injured. He likes riding in the car, Jim says.

Recent Improvement Report: "This cabin has been 100% completed, this was rather awkward as the wind and dust was so bad that the paint actually blew away. However the painting was completed."

Ranger's recommendation on trespass report: "Charge single stumpage and censure the Ranger for not running the line." (We think perhaps there is editorial timber here too if we knew how to use it.)

Extract from fire history: "Men scarce locally - two, plus one boy (Junior Fire Warden) rarin' to go, obtained three more men brought over by Honorary Fire Warden (all over 60 years)."

# SCOOP!

APPLICANT FOR TIMBER SALE FILES SUIT FOR DIVORCE IN ORDER TO TAKE OUT SALE.

Believe it or not, in order to qualify to purchase Crown timber the applicant must be complying with the laws of the land, including the Vital Statistics Act.

Just lately, as a result of the foregoing, there came to our attention another eternal triangle affair; a timber sale applicant, his wife, and a timber sale. The wife would not consent to go through a marriage ceremony and register the marriage according to Provincial law and the applicant is now seeking a divorce, it is said, with the wife not contesting the case.

That makes the Timber Sale the Co-respondent, or does it?

A number of "Forest Development" projects, employing single unemployed, are under way again in the south coast region, organized about the first of November. One project is being attempted at Williams Lake in the interior. About 1,900 men are employed at the time of writing. Supervisory personnel has been drawn almost exclusively from the staff of the Service. K.C. McCannel is in charge with Forse and Oldham in support. Gordon and MacKenzie are functioning as "walking bosses" on the Island and Mainland respectively. Amongst the project foremen are:

|                      |                |                       |                |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Alsdorf hailing from | Cobble Hill    | Holmberg hailing from | Grand Forks    |
| Applewhaite          | Nelson         | Hurry                 | Creston        |
| Baldwin              | Vancouver      | Huscroft              | Creston        |
| Bears                | Hope           | Irwin                 | Agassiz        |
| Bodman               | Kettle Valley  | Jansen                | Ganges         |
| Calder               | Revelstoke     | Johnson               | Vancouver      |
| Calder               | Yale           | Killough              | Castlegar      |
| Conway, Jr.          | Campbell River | Lennox                | Vedders Xing   |
| Corbett              | Vernon         | McFarland             | Nelson         |
| Couling              | Creston        | Martell               | Aleza Lake     |
| Dearing              | Tappen         | Maude-Roxby           | Kelowna        |
| Frampton             | Victoria       | Miller                | Salmo          |
| Ferguson             | Penticton      | Miller                | Marysville     |
| Frost                | Bowen Island   | Milligan              | Victoria       |
| Gilmour              | Chase          | Moriez                | Northfield     |
| Greenhouse           | Kleecoot       | Morrison              | Coombs         |
| Haddon, Jr.          | Kamloops       | Porteous              | Victoria       |
| Haggart              | Westbridge     | Ritchie               | Salmon Arm     |
| Hale                 | Snowshoe       | Southworth            | Hope           |
| Hale                 | Robson         | Thomas                | Sinclair Mills |
| Hird                 | Slocan City    | Underwood             | Vancouver      |
| Hepher               | Boswell        | Webber                | Kaslo          |
|                      |                | Willington            | Fort Fraser    |
|                      |                | Whiting               | Kettle Valley  |

The latest addition to the Forest Branch fleet of launches has recently been placed in commission and was delivered to the Vancouver District in the early part of November. The "Forest Ranger", as the new launch is called, was designed by Mr. T. Halliday, M.I.N.A., of Vancouver, in co-operation with B.C. Forest Service officers and has incorporated a great many ideas gained from questionnaires sent out to over fifty members of the office and field staffs.

Among the various improvements to be noted is the Ranger's or Supervisor's office situated at the after end of the boat and which contains the wireless sending and receiving set, a comfortable writing desk with leg space and side drawers, a filing cabinet, various lockers and clothes cupboards, wash basin and a settee berth. The mess room has a berth for the engineer and an emergency cot.

The galley, though small, is conveniently located amidship between the mess room and the engine room.

The pilothouse contains one berth, a large settee, combined chart table and drawer for charts, steering wheel and engine and headlight controls.

Considerable care has been taken in respect to ventilation and each compartment has its own ventilating system.

This launch, which represents the average feeling in the Service of

how a Ranger launch should be laid out and equipped, is 49 feet over all, 11 feet beam, 8 feet deep with a draft of 3 feet forward and 5 feet after and has a speed of 10 knots per hour.

The "Forest Ranger" is now operating out of Campbell River with Supervisor Conway and Engineer & Wireless Operator Carroll in charge.

A new light-weight, four-cycle, two-cylinder-engined pump unit is being considered which should weigh 100 lbs. or less. This is designed to take the place of our smaller units but will give higher pressures and greater volume of water.

The new foot valve that has been hinted at of late has been developed and tested out with very satisfactory results. This valve, which has a built-in screen, is most efficient and can be used at any angle over 1° from a horizontal position. It uses a rubber ball instead of a weighted leather flap for a valve and the main body is aluminum with a bronze seat.

Records are about complete on one of the most favourable fire seasons we have encountered for many years. Extracts from "Chart A" totals for the Province (still subject to minor adjustment) are given below:

|                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Number of fires                           | 1,192     |
| Cost fires                                | 550       |
| No-cost fires                             | 642       |
| Cost to Forest Branch                     | \$28,133  |
| Cost to Other Parties                     | \$23,754  |
| Total area burned (acres)                 | 54,877    |
| Total damage                              | \$159,937 |
| Merchantable timber killed (M.B.F.)       | 12,955    |
| Acres                                     | 3,031     |
| Fully-stocked young growth killed (acres) | 4,643     |
| Other forest land burned (acres)          | 42,934    |
| Pasture land (acres)                      | 4,629     |
| Forest Products burned                    | \$59,003  |
| Buildings                                 | \$30,211  |
| Equipment                                 | \$30,260  |
| Miscellaneous                             | \$4,127   |

| <u>Causes:</u>                       | <u>No.</u>   | <u>%</u>   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Lightning                            | 263          | 22.1       |
| Campers and Travellers               | 269          | 22.6       |
| Railways Operating                   | 79           | 6.6        |
| Smokers                              | 241          | 20.2       |
| Brush Burning                        | 129          | 10.8       |
| Road, Power & Telephone Construction | 9            | .7         |
| Industrial Operations                | 50           | 4.2        |
| Incendiarism                         | 20           | 1.7        |
| Miscellaneous Known Cases            | 106          | 8.9        |
| Unknown Causes                       | 26           | 2.2        |
|                                      | <u>1,192</u> | <u>100</u> |

"Rusty" Campbell was transferred temporarily on November 1st from Dome Creek to Pouce Coupe, where he will relieve Lowry during his absence. R.T. Blackwood is acting for Campbell at Dome Creek.

W. Adamson is appointed to the Ranger vacancy in the Chilcotin with headquarters at Riske Creek.

D.R. Fraser is appointed Foreman at Thurston Bay, filling the vacancy created when Batchelor resigned; and now we learn that H. MacLean, for many years ships' carpenter at Thurston Bay, is resigning at the end of this month.

Extract from List of Publication Received in the Forest Branch Library  
October 4 to December 7, 1937.

- .01 International Bibliography for Forestry, U.S.A. 1935 & 1936.  
.05 Monthly Weather Review - June, 1937.  
.05 Forestry Current Literature - U.S.A., July-Aug., 1937.  
.0 Soil Drifting Control in the Prairie Provinces.  
.41223 The Motor Truck in Woods Operation - C.R. Townsend.  
.0 West Coast Lumber Facts - W.C. Lumberman's Assn., Jan. 1, 1937.  
.02 Forest Bibliography to Dec. 31, 1933. Forestry & Silviculture.  
.05 Monthly Weather Report, July, 1937.  
.342 The Red Squirrel: Its Life History & Habits.  
.05 Dendrological Notes: 7 - Oct. 1937.  
.216 Pruning in Young Plantations.
- Canadian Forest Insects - Special Circulars.  
The Hemlock Looper - J.M. Swaine.  
The Spruce Budworm - J.M. Swaine.  
Sawyer Beetles - M.B. Dunn.  
The Eastern Spruce Bark-beetle - J.M. Swaine.  
The Larch Sawfly - E.B. Watson.  
The Jack Pine Sawfly - M.B. Dunn.  
The Black-headed Budworm - R.E. Balch.  
The European Pine Shoot Moth - J.J. de Gryse.  
The European Spruce Sawfly - R.E. Balch.  
The Balsam Woolly Aphid - R.E. Balch.
- .7216 Stumpage and Log Prices for the Calendar Year 1936.  
.0 Forest Practice Handbook - Presenting the Rules of Forest Practice  
for the Douglas Fir Region - Pacific Northwest Loggers' Assn.  
.03 Forestry - Tree Planting, Wood, and Lumber Industries. Price List 43.  
.2 The Practice of Silviculture - R.C. Hawley - 4th edition.  
.2 Foundations of Silviculture upon an Ecological Basis - by the late  
J.W. Tourney & C.F. Korstian - 2nd edition.  
.3 Forest Protection - R.C. Hawley.