



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

No. 43

Victoria, B. C., December , 1941.

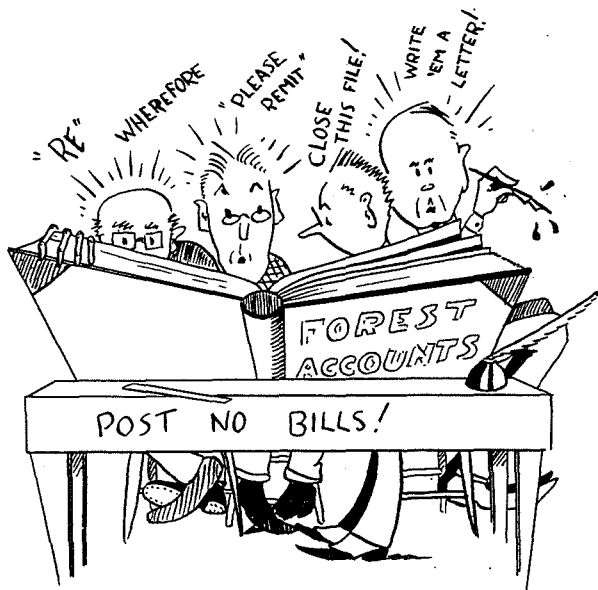
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-- SEASON'S GREETINGS --

Peace on earth and goodwill towards men! That is the spirit of Christmas, that is what makes Christmas a time for forgetting differences, that is what urges people to give Christmas gifts, to drop a coin in the Salvation Army pot, to send out greeting cards, to revive old friendships... It is the spirit of give-and-take that makes possible better understanding of each other's problems... It encourages tolerance and fosters security... For one week each year this spirit dominates all the Christian world and spreads a leaven of kindness over the following twelve months.

Now, with the whole Empire, and most of the rest of the world, involved in a life-and-death struggle, the Christmas spirit is even more significant... It is emblematic of democracy, the right of free peoples to live their own lives and think their own thoughts as they see fit. Remember then, when I wish all members of the Forest Branch, as I now do, a Merry Christmas, it means more than just two words; it means that we are free, that we can look forward with courage and assurance to a brighter, better world... that we are, as Mr. Churchill said, "Masters of our destiny."

A. WELLS GRAY,
Minister of Lands.



It was a beautiful day, even for the Coast, and Indian summer was at its height, and the only aircraft in the skies were friendly ones, and we were thinking how perfectly lovely it all was, and how much worse things could be, and all that sort of thing, and how splendidly the team spirit was working, with the young bloods coming along and sweeping up the leaves and saving the backs of the seniors, and--well, you know the sort of thing, unless you are terrifically new to the Service and its traditions, when a bomb exploded right under our very eyes.

Coming without warning, a bolt from the blue, from those friendly heavens we had been blissfully regarding, it was probably just as much a surprise to the perpetrator as to the victims. To think, after all these years, and in spite of the rich and hoary volumes of past compilations, and of the still untapped, unsuspected and otherwise latent talent, that Accounts Office should be asked, all on the spur of the moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and yet so gracefully that it were indeed ill to decline the honour, to undertake the preparation of the all-important News Letter.

"It was George who did it, it being the particular function of the Georges to get inextricably mixed up with deeds, this George in professional life being the Assistant Chief Forester. It was he who piled the whole works into our lap, so to speak, together with all the dope, and not much of that, and never so much as a word about fabricating bricks without humus, with Mike Gregg a consenting accomplice and Ed Bassett a witness thereunto.

So that we could not refuse, since the Accounts Office has traditions, never mind what they say about us; the trouble is that we are heard, or rather, read without being seen, for we have but one means of self-expression and in parliamentary terms withal, and we are never on exhibition over provincial circuits, and no one ever calls us "Bill" or "Alphonse" or "Fitz" or anything like that, whatever other terms they may see fit to employ, and probably do. As for the stricts, they visualize us as theoretically-minded old gents, if not old ladies of both sexes, with flowing whiskers, and butterfly collars, and spats, and white vests and expanded watch-chains, and notorious terminology, always so eager to begin letters with "Re:", and to complete files, and garner information, and ask for inventories of plum-and-apple jam during the height of the fire season, and to gather in the shekels that are always to be found at the foot of the rainbow, so you get there.

There you have both our introduction and our apologia, and in classic language, "nuf sed."

This number should be out for Christmas, although to do that most publications get busy and have the seasonal touches, the holly wreaths and the snow scenes and old Santa Claus, all ready by August 15th. But, believe you me, we are doing our best, even though this may only be in time for next fire season, which the prophets of evil are bound to declare is likely to be the worst yet. It always is! And that article that was promised, "The Relevance of Pay-days," has not yet arrived.

It's up to us all to support the News Letter--the only means of drawing and keeping together a widely-scattered and varied personnel.

Items of interest, the occasional and frequently unconscious bit of humour gleaned in contact with logging operators, ranchers, and even one's fellows in the Service, ideas with regard to equipment, news about the chaps on active service--all these things gain in value by being shared with others.

To balance contributions from the clerical members there must be those of the field staff carrying the touch of the dews, the scent of the bruised fern, the exhilaration of the higher altitudes, the heats of the day, and the hush of twilight; and along with it the pull of the tump-line, the fevered response of the steering wheel, the tonic of the driven spray--In brief, all those things that come to a man when on his lawful occasions and helping to make history in a modest way.

"Out go the stars in the dawning,
Up goes our dust to the sky."

We have a guaranteed and assured circulation, so that never has the Editor had occasion to look sadly out upon some passing cortege and murmur, "There goes our only paid-up subscriber." No, it's news that is wanted for the "Letter," and now. And how!



Martin Allerdale Grainger.

MARTIN ALLERDALE GRAINGER

There passed away in Vancouver on October 15, 1941, Martin Allerdale Grainger at the age of 67 years.

The late M. A. Grainger, born in England, was senior wrangler in King's College, Cambridge. Arriving in Canada in 1897, he took part in the Klondike rush where he was engaged in hydraulic mining. Upon the outbreak of the South African War he returned to England, enlisted as a private in Robert's Horse and was awarded the South African Medal with six bars.

After his military service in South Africa he returned to British Columbia where for some years mining and lumbering engaged his attention. During this time many articles were contributed to Old Country papers and a book written entitled "Woodsmen of the West," depicting life in the lumber camps and describing the vast forest wealth of this Province.

Then followed his appointment as Secretary of the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Timber and Forestry, 1909-1910. In February, 1911, he was retained in the organization of the Forest Branch, in which he took an important part. He then played a leading role in the drafting of the "Forest Act" of 1912 and was Chief of Records up to 1913, Assistant Forester to April 8, 1915, Acting Chief Forester in the absence of H. R. MacMillan as Trade Commissioner for the Dominion Government, and finally Chief Forester from January, 1917, to the date of his resignation from the Service on October 31, 1920.

Entering private life he organized and became Managing Director of the Timber Industries Council of British Columbia and in 1922 served as Managing Director of Timberland Investigation and Management Company of British Columbia, Limited. Latterly and until his demise he was head of M. A. Grainger & Company, Ltd., acting as timber agents.

The constructive thought and effort put into the organization of the British Columbia Forest Service by the late Mr. Grainger served to lay the firm foundation on which the Service has developed and which today is a lasting monument to his memory. To all who were privileged to be associated with him in his varied career and to the industry as a whole his loss will be keenly felt.

RALPH HOPPING

The passing at Vernon on October 29, 1941, of Ralph Hopping will be regretted by many, both in the Service and in the community generally.

Born in New York, he was with the United States Forest Service for some years before being brought from California by the Dominion Government, retiring two years ago from his post as Chief of the Vernon Forest Insect Laboratory. His collection of beetles was considered to be the finest in Canada and one of the best on the North American continent.

Mr. Hopping's work, especially in the control of bark beetles in British Columbia and in the establishment of the Forest Insect Survey, is evidence of invaluable contributions to science by a man who, without advanced academic training, carved out a notable scientific career.

CANADIAN FORESTRY CORPS

(From "Timber Topics")

There is this highly important difference between the present Canadian Forestry Corps and its predecessor of 25 years ago: Whereas the latter was formed solely to undertake logging and sawmilling work and was non-combatant, the Corps today is combatant, officers and men having received intensive military training before they left Canada. Every company has its qualified machine-gunners; all the men are trained and ready to fight. They have a definite operational role and are very proud of it.

In command of the Corps is Brigadier General J. B. White, D.S.O., E.D., who in civil life is vice-president of the Canadian International Paper Co. He has been president of the Quebec Forest Industries Association and president of the Canadian Pulp & Paper Association. In the last war he was first a Major in the 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars, then Colonel, 224th Battalion Canadian Forestry Corps in France, and in 1917 was appointed Deputy Director of Timber Operations in France for the British Armies in Command of the Canadian Forestry Corps there. Later he became Director-General of Forestry with the Imperial Forces with the rank of Brigadier General.

The operation of the Canadian Forestry Corps is spread over a large area. The area is divided into two districts in which three or four camps are grouped. Each company undertakes its own logging operation and conversion work in its own mill.

The species logged are larch, Scots pine, Norway spruce, and some beech. Some of the pine is 120 years old, but most of the trees scheduled for cutting are of 60 to 70 years growth. Medium-sized tractors with rubber-tired arches are used in getting out the logs. Where the mill is situated within a mile of the timber, the logs are bucked at the mill. When the timber must be carried greater distances the logs are bucked at the loading platform and trucked to the mill.

The mills of the Corps are of the semi-portable type, well suited to small-log production. Dimensions of the mills are about 82 x 30 feet, the outside walls being constructed of slab which would otherwise be waste. A diesel 100 horsepower engine turns the machinery, which is almost all of Canadian manufacture. Average daily capacity for the mills is 12,000 to 14,000 feet each.

The Canadian boys pride themselves on "no waste." Small stuff is resawn into box material, and the waste from this is sold locally as firewood. Sawdust and slabs are being used to form protective walls breast-high around their huts. Slab wall is built three and a half feet from the exterior of the hut, and the space between is filled with sawdust and sand. The efficacy of this protection has been proved.

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British Afforestation:

In spite of blitzes, past, present and future, they are carrying on with the national afforestation project in Britain and supplies of seed from British Columbia continue to go forward for this purpose, even in this year of grace, 1941. In one of the illustrated weeklies recently there was shown a bevy of girls earnestly at work with sickles and hoes clearing a young plantation of the fern and other growth calculated to hinder development.

As we go to press it is learned that this year 1,000 bushels of cones were collected from Coast areas to fill orders from Great Britain.

Around the Branch

The Forest Economics Division have just completed their fall planting. One million trees were planted near Lang Bay and 500,000 in the vicinity of Campbell River. Preparation of planting sites for the spring programme is still being carried on, and snag-falling crews are working on Hill 60 in Cowichan Valley and on another area near Lower Campbell Lake. Already this year 10,000 acres have been cleared of snags and approximately 20 miles of old railroad grades converted into truck roads.

The new Fraser River Station is now operating in full swing and Foreman Bob Swan and his staff have recently completed the overhaul of the launches "A.L. Bryant", "Oliver Clarke" and "Nesika." The move to the Fraser River appears to be fully justified, as better work is being turned out with far more expediency than at Thurston Bay.

At the present time an addition is being made to the Fraser River Station. A second floor is being built for the purpose of accommodating a pump and outboard motor repair shop and it is expected that this will be in operation in a few weeks.

Provision is being made for the testing and painting of all pump units and outboard motors sent in for repair from all B.C. Forest Districts, in addition to a thorough reconditioning job. The set-up for testing comprises a separate room with sound-proofed walls, floor and ceiling, and will accommodate three pumps at a time. An outboard-motor testing tank will be housed in this room also, and will take care of one or two motors at a time. Provision will be made by a system of baffles and a free flow of water to the propeller to simulate the action of an outboard motor mounted on a boat, and will impose a load on the motor similar to normal operating conditions.

A large tank of approximately 2,000 gallons capacity is being buried in the ground outside the building, and through a system of pipes will provide a supply of water for testing from that tank. Raising or lowering the water-level in these pipes will provide a direct suction lift of from zero to 15 feet. Greater suction lifts up to the capacity of the pumps can be tested by vacuum gauges.

The paint room will accommodate two units at a time.

Numerous drawers and benches are being provided for tools, parts and working space, while dollies for ease in repair work on the various units and stands for equipment and tools will also be used.

The area involved will be 36 feet by 50 feet, or 1,800 square feet of floor space, reached from the machine shop by an easy stair, and from the storage space over the offices and stores, on the level.

The original contractors for the main building are putting in the floor, benches, drawers, stairs, paint and test rooms, while the main piping and tank work will be done by the Forest Branch.

The whole layout will conform with the original building, and lighting and plumbing facilities will be provided, together with means for hoisting and lowering the units from and to the main floor, or from the truck road outside the building.

Co-operation with the Army in extending a telephone line required the use of one of our larger tractors and hauling units. Unexpected repairs were necessary due to rolling the "cat" over. If you play with a domestic cat too roughly you get hurt, but if you play with a mechanical cat, it gets hurt, and so does the "profit and loss" account. This is one of Bill Spouse's babies, and the other one at the moment is making a good truck out of two others, one of which was wrecked and the other badly burned.

The Forest Branch Film Library is being well patronized these days, now that the season for regular meetings of clubs and associations has again arrived, and this activity no doubt will be extended throughout the winter. The calls of projectors also are numerous, and it has been necessary twice in the past week to take advantage of the kindness of other departments in lending their machines for our use.

Our Mr. T.A. (Tommy) Simmons is O/C Film Library. His two slogans are "All reasonable requests carefully attended to" and "We aim to please."

It is indeed unfortunate that the same personnel, equipment, and films cannot be in more than one place at any one time, so do not ask for the impossible, but, if putting on a show, make all your arrangements well in advance of the date and a reservation will be made for you if at all possible.

During the past year several films have been completed by the Branch and added to the film library. The first, most important from the standpoint of instructional films, is "Fire Fighting with Hand Tools." It concerns itself chiefly with fighting small fires and using only such tools as one might reasonably expect to find almost anywhere, and mainly in every decent tool cache. The picture is in black and white and intended, as we said before, for instruction, amusement.

The second picture deals with the logging of aeroplane spruce and is called "Spruce for British Planes." When the logging sequences in this picture were shot a hot controversy raged as to whether actual battle planes were made of spruce or all metal. Since that time numerous statements have emanated from the War Office and other authoritative sources making plain the fact that spruce is used extensively in the manufacture of fighting and bombing planes, and that laminated spruce propellers are the best in the world.

The third film, while it does not belong to us, is still available for our use. It presents a brief picture of logging throughout the Province and was made as an accident-prevention picture for the Department of Labour, Safety Branch, but is just as interesting from the forestry standpoint.

When making requests for shows keep these new films in mind.

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CANADIAN SOCIETY OF FOREST ENGINEERS

Vancouver Section

A dinner meeting in the Brock Memorial Building, University of British Columbia, on Tuesday evening, November 4th, inaugurated the winter season of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, Vancouver Section.

Mr. Thomas Wright of the University Forestry Department staff addressed the meeting on the subject, "A Regeneration Survey of the Franklin Creek Logging Operation." He discussed the conclusions reached as a result of his survey of natural reforestation following logging by the usual high-lead methods in one of British Columbia's larger logging operations. Mr. Wright covered the silvicultural and economic aspects of the subject in a realistic manner and concludes that complete regeneration is possible and practical, particularly if adequate technical supervision is available on the operation from start to finish.

A general and active discussion ensued.

Professor F. M. Knapp, Chairman, presided during the evening.

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Victoria Section

The Victoria Section of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers held its annual dinner meeting in Spencer's dining room on the evening of December 2nd and elected officers for 1942. A. P. MacBean will replace Eric Garman as chairman; C. F. McBride will act as Vice-chairman; Eric Garman will represent the local Society on the National Executive, and George S. Allen on the National Editorial Board. Secretary and House Warden will be appointed by the new council in due time.

Committees of the Victoria Section reported to committees of the Society on the subject of Forest Policy for Canada and the part that forestry could play in the post-war rehabilitation of men in the armed forces.

The local membership has grown to 32 full members and 6 auxiliary members. Eight more members joined the armed forces during the past year, bringing the total number up to 12.

R. C. (Bob) St. Clair, District Forester at Prince Rupert and a member of the Vancouver section, attended as guest of the Section.

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FOREST BRANCH NOTES

The second marine accident of the year occurred on October 6th when the launch "Nesika" in charge of Ranger A. H. Dixon of Port Hardy caught fire while at sea. The Foamite fire extinguisher was turned on and the fire extinguished, with the exception of under the floor boards in the forecabin where the "Foamite" would not reach. Consequently it was necessary to open the sea cocks and flood that part of the vessel. The flames also caught the gas arising from the batteries, which exploded, rendering some of them useless.

The boat was taken into Dumaesq's camp, where, after examination, it was found she could proceed under her own power to Port Hardy, and later she came on down to the Fraser River Plant for repairs.

On arrival at the plant it was found that the damage was comparatively slight; but for the prompt action of Ranger Dixon and Engineer H. G. M. Colbeck in opening the sea cocks, the vessel might have been a total loss.

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What is a swivel stenographer? We recently received a request from a District office for: "One swivel stenographer's chair." Although our knowledge is broad and our wisdom deep, this is the first time we have heard of a swivel stenographer.

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Fifteen years can do a lot of things to a District staff. Of about 21 who were on the permanent list in the Prince Rupert District that long ago, only one is left, A. M. Davies the Chief Clerk. Syd Cooper, Ranger at Terrace, almost makes it two.

Six are in the Vancouver District, two in Prince George, two in Nelson and one in Kamloops. Seven resigned, three of whom have disappeared entirely, while two are dead. Guess that is typical of nearly all the Districts, or is it?

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Under "Remarks" on a "No Operation" Report, F.B. 247, of October, 1940 on a hand-logger's timber sale:

"No operation since last report. Operators have been working on a gold mine they discovered on the area."

This could only happen in the Zeballos District! An interesting sidelight on this operation is that, in falling, these hand-loggers did not use the conventional axe and saw. As miners, all they knew how to use was stumping powder, so they took it at its word and blew the trees off their stumps! It goes to prove that there was something in the contention of the critic who accused the lumbering industry of mining, instead of farming, the forest resources.

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Alexander Hunter

On July 12, 1941, Alexander Hunter, one of our old-time Rangers in the Prince George District, took Superannuation at his own request. It is rumoured that Alex chose this date because of his association with King William of Orange. Like so many of the outstanding members of the B. C. Forest Service, Alex chose Ontario as his place of birth. He first saw light of day in Lobo, Middlesex County, on November 24, 1877. Immediately following this date, Alex had a roving commission in Lobo. Eventually this brought him to British Columbia in May, 1910, shortly after which he set himself up in business in that bustling frontier community, Fort George. One of Alex's strokes of wisdom before coming west was to provide himself with a wife who looked after him through the days when south Fort George was famous for the longest bar in America and men were rated according to the liquor they could drink. Mrs. Hunter did a good job during those days and, we are glad to say, is still doing it.

The call of the Forest Service finally tore Alex away from his business enterprise. In the summer of 1917, Jim MacDonald, then District Forester at Fort George, included Alex in his organization as Acting Assistant Forest Ranger in the Nechako Ranger District. On December 1, 1920, Alex obtained his first permanent appointment with the Forest Service as Ranger.

The Hunter family has been blessed with two sons, both of whom have now grown to manhood and fend for themselves. As his family was one of those in the Service who did not move around a great deal, they grew up with the familiarity of the early days of Fort George on which Alex dearly loves to reminisce and on which subject he can provide you with considerable entertainment when the spirit moves him.

Forest protection has been his hobby and Alex Hunter has experienced some very difficult and trying fire seasons. In fact, in one very bad season, Alex all but ruined his health when he worked himself to a state of physical collapse. Being of tough stock, he was never down for long, and after that came back to render the Forest Branch many more years of useful service. Finally, just a year or so before Superannuation age, with much regret, Alex found it necessary to ask the Superannuation Commissioner to consider his case.

With Alex goes another link between the Forest Service of today and that of the early days. Those of us who came along later will do well to look back to the old-timers because we can learn from them. As yet nothing has been found to take the place of experience.

The Chief Forester and his entire staff wish Alex and Mrs. Hunter the very best of health and happiness in their years of retirement. We shall always look forward to our visits to the northern districts to see these people, shake their hands and, from time to time, listen again to what took place in those parts before most of us saw them. Cheerio and best of luck, Alex.

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Assistant Ranger Douglas McBeath, Golden, composed and recited the following poem to his old comrades-in-arms at this year's Armistice Day dinner in his home town. His characteristic modesty was overcome with difficulty when he tried to get it on paper for the News Letter, and we can tell you that to hear Doug recite it is something else again.

Companions of my toils, arise!
See how the Nazi banner flies.
Stand ere your bleeding country dies
And show your latent bravery.

Let him retire by fear betrayed
Whose heart with cowardice is swayed;
His country will not ask his aid
Who fears to join undauntedly.

"On freemen, on!" Renew your deeds
And show the world that Canada leads
To crush the Nazi, Fascist creeds
Of chains and slavery.

Behold our tottering freedom fall.
'Tis Churchill's, 'tis your country's call.
See how the Nazi hordes appal
The European peasantry.

Who fears not he to fight forthwith
Nor Hitler's numbers, Germany's might,
Whose heart re-echoes without fright:
"To death or victory--

--D. McBeath

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War Savings Certificates

These are being subscribed for at the rate of \$5,580.00 per annum insofar as is shown by payroll deductions. But many members of the Forest Service are doubtless purchasing these certificates and war savings stamps through other channels, in addition to, or as an alternative, taking up Victory Loan bonds.

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Just a reminder that the following 10 reading courses are still available. Apply to your District Forester: Arithmetic, Forest Act, Forest Protection, Grazing, Management, Scaling, Stumpage Appraisal, Surveying, Typewriting, Telephone-line construction.

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Albert Bell Porter

We have written of the retirement of Alexander Hunter. It is fitting that at the same time we should write of the young man who has risen to take his place. This is especially the case because it was under the guidance of Alex Hunter that Albert Bell Porter was first associated with the Forest Service. Bell was one of those young chaps around Prince George who were enrolled as Ranger Assistants in 1935 under Y.M.F.T.P. Bell liked the work and the work liked him, with the result that he continued with us as opportunity offered until 1938 found him filling the position of Assistant Ranger at Aleza Lake. His next step was that of Acting Ranger on the retirement of Alex Hunter.

The members of this Service welcome Bell Porter to the circle of foresters. Those of us who know him well are pleased to recommend him highly. We wish him the best of good fortune for long years of service with the Forest Branch and offer our congratulations on his marriage on October 17th to Miss Elsie Miller, formerly agent for the North-West Telephone Company at Prince George.

VANCOUVER DISTRICT NEWS

Owing to the vast increase in scaling during the past three years, and in order to relieve the Supervisor of a considerable amount of routine work, Albert Heard has been appointed Assistant Supervisor of Scalers.

George McKay, Senior Scaler, will spend the major part of his time coaching the Official Scaling Staff; the remainder of his time being taken up with the odd rescale and Scalers' Examinations. He is a member of the Board of Examiners for Licensed Scalers and, incidentally, holds the record for length of service on the Official Scaling Staff.

Earl McNary, Barney Townley and Frank Paterson have been appointed Senior Scalers to take care of the rescaling and when not thus employed will spend their time coaching members of the Official Scaling Staff. Norman Terry has taken charge of the launch "A.L. Bryant" in place of Frank Paterson promoted to Senior Scaler. Jack Fetherstonhaugh, Official Scaler, spends most of his time in checking the Acting Official Scalers appointed to the various mills throughout the District.

It is expected that this reorganization will greatly increase the efficiency of the Scaling Staff.

Jack Fairburn resigned from the clerical staff on October 15th in order to join the staff of the Alberta Lumber Co. Ltd. where he has an opportunity of learning the lumber business from top to bottom. Jack has started at the bottom, but he has enthusiasm and initiative, and we have every confidence that he will make the grade and one day reach the top. He left the Service with our very best wishes for his future success.

Don Gillies has been promoted to Clerk, and has taken over Jack Fairburn's work in the Management Office.

Arthur McLeod has also been promoted and is now in charge of filing, the position formerly held by Don Gillies.

With girls replacing boys in nearly all spheres of activity these days it occurred to us why not a girl Junior Filing Clerk. So in due course the appointment was approved and we welcome to our staff Miss Edith E. Lindsey. We want to tell the juniors both past and future, that they had better look to their laurels.

A. G. McNeil of the Scaling Recording staff has recently taken unto himself a wife, having been persuaded that two can live as cheaply as one. The staff presented to Archie on the eve of his marriage an electric cake mixer and all accessories thereto, together with their best wishes for his future happiness.

Here and There with the Staff

We had a series of pleasant surprises just recently, all through the visit of Grazing Assistant W. H. Ozard (Kamloops). First was to hear that he had passed tops in his air force training and was having a few days well-earned leave. Then to hear that he was one of three chosen from his class for a commission. He is now Pilot Officer. Third that he has been appointed a navigation instructor "Somewhere in Canada," and last, but emphatically not least, he has been, since August 2nd, the chesty father of Maureen Garrard Ozard.

All of which sounds like a lot of accomplishment since he quit roaming the Kamloops hills in search of water and bunch-grass.

Wilf (W.C.) Pendray was married in Vancouver on August 23 to Miss Margaret Deas, of Vancouver. Margaret is a graduate of U.B.C. (Arts '39), and our correspondent adds the note, "She's a genuine Scotch lass, and quite capable of looking after Wilf." The News Letter extends the Branch's congratulations.

Pilot Officer Ian C. MacQueen, Economics Division, Victoria, has completed his preliminary training at the armament school at Mountain View, Ontario, and has been transferred to Montreal. Mrs. MacQueen, the former Joan Brickmay, has gone East to join her husband.

Pilot Officer W. S. (Stan) Hephner, R.C.A.F., has been transferred to Edmonton from Brandon. Rumour has it that Stan has had to purchase a new belt as a result of his training. His old one now makes exactly one and a half laps round his middle.

Everybody will be glad to know that "Mac" McKinnon is getting along famously and expects to be able to go home shortly.

Gordon Godwin, formerly with the Economics Division, Victoria, and now in Montreal, announces the arrival of a daughter, Laurel Patricia.

From Overseas

We have heard briefly from Alex Gordon (Victoria - Overseas), Eric Bennett (Economics, Victoria); H. Barbour (Nelson); A. B. (Andy) Anderson (Economics, Victoria); Don MacMurchie (Peace Arch Park); Axel Kinnear (Economics, Victoria - Overseas); Arthur Kirk (Prince George - Overseas); F. W. Crouch (Economics, Victoria) and G. J. Ballard (Kamloops).

The Boys "Over There" must have heeded the warning of the Postal Service to "Mail Early," because December 1st brought us a number of Christmas cards and letters from them, as well as postcard acknowledgments of cigarettes recently received. These included: Capt. G.S. Andrews, Economics, Victoria; Sgt. H.G. Mayson, Kamloops; Lieut. A. Gordon, Victoria; Cpl. D.J. Mackay, Victoria; Gnr. A.C. Kinnear, Victoria; Pte. C.J. Wright, Kamloops; Lieut. L. Swannell, Prince George; Lieut-Col. A.E. Parlow, Kamloops; Pte. J.H. Wilcox, Kamloops; and Major O.V. Maude-Roxby.

For the benefit of those in Canada who wish to correspond with former colleagues there follows a list of Overseas addresses, as up-to-date as we have them:

OVERSEAS ADDRESSES

VICTORIA

Capt. G.S. Andrews, R.C.E.,
Survey Directorate,
Canadian Corps H.Q.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Gnr. A.C. Kinnear,
K25802,
1st Survey Regiment,
Royal Canadian Artillery,

Lieut. Alex Gordon,
No. 6 Company,
Canadian Forestry Corps, A.F.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Cpl. D.J. McKay,
#K-78978,
Canadian Section General H.Q.,
2nd Echelon,

Capt. Wm. Hall,
512 Army Field Survey Co.,
Middle East Forces, Egypt.

F/O G.A. Playfair,
C-4297,
R.C.A.F., Attached R.A.F.,
c/o s7(b) Adastral House,



VANCOUVER

Pte. W.E. Jansen,
#K98602,
No. 6 Company,
Canadian Forestry Corps, A.F.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

KAMLOOPS

Major C.L. Armstrong,
No. 6 Company
Canadian Forestry Corps, A.F.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Lieut. Col. A.E. Parlow,
#1 District H.Q.
Canadian Forestry Corps, A.F.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Pte. J.H. Wilcox,
#K-98673,
No. 6 Company,
Canadian Forestry Corps, A.F.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

PRINCE GEORGE

L/Cpl. W.D. Hay,
#K-31007,
Canadian Army Tank Ordnance,
Field Park Company, R.C.O.C.,
Third Echelon,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Lieut. L.F. Swannell,
1st Survey Battery,
Survey Regiment, R.C.A.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Spr. C.R. Lee,
#K-92215,
1st Canadian Corps Field Survey Co.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Sgt. H.G. Mayson,
#K-99153,
No. 9 Company,
Canadian Forestry Corps, A.F.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Pte. C.J. Wright,
#K-99144,
No. 7 Company, Canadian Forestry Corps,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Major O.V. Maude-Roxby,
#19 Company,
Canadian Forestry Corps, A.F.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Lieut. A.B. Ritchie,
No. 7 Company,
Canadian Forestry Corps, A.F.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Pte. L.A. Willington,
#K-73769,
#18 Company, Canadian Forestry Corps, A.F.,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Gnr. A.J. Kirk,
#K-92471,
13th Bty., 6th Field Regt.,
Royal Canadian Artillery,
Canadian Army Overseas.

That's How!

Bill Tait dropped a line some time back to Major O.V. Maude-Roxby, whose unit was then in Canada. Doubtless having in mind the usage in Britain of utilizing envelopes a second time, the recipient when replying scored out his own name and address and superimposed that of our Mr. Tait. Alas! Some zealous person in the orderly room must have suspected fifth-column tactics in this seeming diversion of an officer's mail. At any rate, Bill as addressee was scored out, the original address was restored, with the ultimate result that Bill got "total war" from the Major, enquiring why the letter had been returned--by that time his unit was somewhere in Britain, and was Bill dead or sumpin'?

And so there were two letters, and full of rare meat at that, and the first opened with the charge that Bill was a blighter!

Writing on October 11th O.V. Maude-Roxby recounts a dinner meeting with A.E. Parlow and Chris Armstrong, the former leading in "A Wee Deoch and Doris" at 2 a.m.! and of a week's leave given every three months.

STAN HEPHER, who is going to Edmonton for the Initial Training School, offers the following bit of advice: "I wish you would tell any of the boys interested in joining the R.C.A.F. there is a great need for navigation instructors and that if they make application to the local recruiting officer to make sure that navigation is specified or else they might get sidetracked into some other branch."

IAN MacQUEEN

"I have to set (in my spare time!) all the final Armament examinations for the Command. We are following much the same ideas as used for the last Rangers' exam that we set--steering away from the parrot type of question on to those requiring original thought... Gave a little talk one night to the Toronto section of the C.S.F.E. and was very pleased to find that they don't send all their good men West on Conventions.

"Would like to hear Ferguson's comments sometime on the ultra high-frequency sets that we were going to try out last summer. I've been asked several times about them. Also Jim MacDonald's pumps--did they have a show this year?"



John Stokes.

JOHN STOKES, the natty P.O. in the accompanying snap, writes that both he and Stan Hepher are being enrolled in No. 4 Initial Training School at Edmonton. Even though rushed, John continues, they still find time to discuss forestry in B. C.

CLIFF WRIGHT (Pte. J.C. Wright) in a recent letter from overseas, where he is serving with the C.F.C., thanks us for the cigarettes and bemoans the Saturday afternoon parades, which he says are the curse of the Army. (Editorial Note: There used to be a rumour abroad to the effect that P.T. at 6 a.m. was the most unpleasant thing connected with the business of soldiering.)



Ian MacQueen.

G. H. FEWTRELL, Assistant Ranger, Penticton, who is in the R.C.A.F., encloses this snap with the remark that it is cold in Edmonton, and winter is evidently there to stay.



C. H. Fewtrell.

JACK BENTON, who is attending a machine gun and bombing school at Mossbank, Sask., forwarded the accompanying picture, said thanks for smokes, signed his name, and rushed off panting to learn more about bombing and machine-gunnery. Jack assures us he will drop in when he gets his leave, if he ever gets any.



Jack Benton.

D. J. MacKAY.

Just as we were about to go to press a two-page foolscap size typewritten letter arrived from Don, the first we have received since his arrival Overseas. It is so long and interesting that it is hard to take an extract from it. However, one of the main items is that he has been billeted in a house where a kind landlady does all Don's washing and brings him a cup of tea every morning!

HAROLD IVARSON, Clerical Staff, Prince Rupert, who is stationed at Prince Rupert with the Artillery, sent along this snap:



Geoff & Denis Simmons.

Just as we were going to press word reached us that Geoff Simmons, former Ranger Assistant, and son of Tom (T.A.) Simmons has graduated as 2nd Lieutenant from the Gordon Head Camp, (O.T.C.)

Geoff entered the Forest Service as First Aid man at the Lumby Y.M.F.T.P. camp in 1937. He was First Aid man and Timekeeper at Cowichan Lake during the winter of 1937-38, and continued as Ranger Assistant with Chris. Armstrong on the "Tamarack" during the summer of 1938.

Four months after the declaration of war, he joined the Active Service Force with the 5th Brigade Coast Artillery. He retained his N.P.A.M. rank of sergeant and was soon sent overseas, where he spent four months watching things happen over the Straits of Dover.

Tom's other son, Denis, is serving as P. O. Motor Mechanic, R.C.N.V.R. He, too, is an ex-member of the Forest Service. He worked with Ranger Teleford on the "Tamarack," as Ranger Assistant, and later with Lex Johnston at Port Hardy..... He joined the Navy in August, loves his work, and takes every opportunity to inform his officer brother that, after all, the Navy is the Senior Service.



Harold Ivarson.

We congratulate Tom on his sons, and wish the boys all the good luck in the world.

By the time this Christmas News Letter reaches you the 1942 calendars will be in your hands, and we hope, distributed

The planting theme was selected after considerable discussion and argument, both pro and con. It was decided at last that planting was uppermost in the public's mind right at the moment, and that this was the opportune time to drive our message home..... Most of you will recognize Tom Wells in the nursery pictures, which places the locale at Green Timbers while nearly all of the planting shots were made near Cowichan Lake.....

We plan to stick to one individual phase of forestry each year on the calendars, and suggestions for next year will be welcomed..... So far, the choice seems to lie between Forest Protection and Forest Management, but nothing definite has been decided and we would be glad of your ideas....

While we are on the subject of calendars, how do you like the new style, as compared with the old? There has been a great deal of argument on this score all along the line, with everyone voicing his or her opinion. What do you think?

ON CRITICISM.....

There is a vast difference between fault-finding and criticism. In the former no attempt is made to better the product under observation, but only to tear it down; in the latter, criticism, a sincere effort is made at appreciation and improvement, and if that is not possible, then no changes are undertaken.

The next time one of your subordinates presents something for your examination, think a minute before you make any changes; think whether you are about to criticize, or just indulge in some resentment-arousing fault-finding.

This is getting to be a habit:

In a fire report received this year from one of our Coast Rangers, after outlining his preparations to proceed to the fire tersely says:- "Fired upon by York Island Fort, and delayed about 20 minutes." Apparently they put a shot across his bows.