

FOREST BRANCH
NEWS LETTER

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"The time has come, the Walrus said,
To talk of many things:
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing wax--
Of cabbages--and kings--
And why the sea is boiling hot--
And whether pigs have wings."

The problem of Spruce regeneration in the Prince George District is of very considerable importance to Forestry in British Columbia. When you cut a mature stand 85% spruce, it comes back a young stand 85% balsam. Barr and Griffith, after extensive studies at the Aleza Lake Experiment Station, tell us why, and that the balance cannot be restored except by a system of management involving prohibitive costs. Barnes is now engaged in a study which bids fair to show that the young growth coming in on cut-over lands will, at maturity, in spite of present occurrence by species, be much the same as our mature stands now being cut. In other words, a young stand 85% balsam, 15% spruce will, in the course of time, develop into a mature stand 85% spruce, 15% balsam. So what have we got to worry about? With our silviculturists telling us one thing and our mensurationists telling us the exact opposite we'll know exactly what to do. Perhaps pigs have got wings.

Lost the Research Division be annoyed, we might note in passing that we know forest-growth problems cannot be solved in a year or two, or by any one line of attack.

At Sidney on the Saanich Peninsula, Vancouver Island, there is an active band of Boy Scouts very much interested in forest protection. This year, on their own initiative, they have divided the north end of the Peninsula, about fifty square miles, into five patrol areas, each of which is being patrolled by a detail of four Scouts. Each detail is in charge of a Senior Scout. Fires are reported to the Scout Master and the boys are prepared to join forces to fight any outbreak they feel capable of handling. Ranger Murray (Victoria) is co-operating with them and has supplied them with a small cache of tools.

The Boy Scout patrol on the Saanich Peninsula is one indication of a growing public interest in forest protection and tendency to co-operate. The Young Ranger Bands of the Burns Lake country is another. They deserve a separate report which we will make some day. Active public co-operation will mean more for protection than doubling the patrol staff and the extent to which such co-operation is secured will depend on our own efforts. We have tried for years to get around to the schools with our forest protection story but have no record of how many were actually visited. This year we have branched out a little and appear to be meeting with an excellent reception.

We have, for the first time, a movie outfit - a fine portable projector, portable electric light plant (100 pounds) and some very good films. This outfit is now in the Prince Rupert District where they are trying to get at all the small country schools and any other organizations that are interested. The outfit will be offered to each District in turn.

In the Kamloops District they are using a projector and slides for illustrated lectures to schools, Boy Scouts, etc. Mr. Melrose, in a recent report, told of speaking to more than 1,100 in five meetings. This lantern outfit is available on request too.

A car accident report came through a while ago - a Ranger had been in collision with a wood truck, resulting in some damage to our car. According to the report the wood truck had no brakes. That made us pretty mad. We immediately called the Provincial Police and asked whether wood trucks were permitted to drive around the country without brakes, and were assured they were not. The Police took particulars and promised to investigate.

The Police enquiry disclosed the fact that the wood truck had brakes - not too good perhaps, but serviceable for all that. On the other hand the Ranger was driving without a licence and he was promptly prosecuted and fined \$5.00.

"And the moral of that is", as the Duchess said to Alice, that two and two make four. If you try to make it three or five you are liable to pick yourself a peck of trouble.

We are beginning to get some actual tests of trisodium phosphate as a cleaning agent. Reactions are varied. It is praised, criticised, extolled or condemned. One Supervisor claims it will take two men a day to clean a 25-man kit using this stuff. On the other hand, an Assistant Ranger says he alone cleaned 6 ten-man, 2 six-man, 1 twenty-five man, kits, and a lot of miscellaneous stuff in one day, and we vouch for the fact it was all clean. Then we have the Ranger who had his cartons of TSP on the shelf over a mess of dirty dishes and didn't know what it was all about; and the man who had dishes on his shelves that had been dirty as they came from a fire camp four years ago. They hardly qualify for a dishwashing contest anyway. On the whole, dishwashing promises to develop factions--something after the fashion of the Big-endians and Littlendians of Gulliver's Lilliputians (or was it the Brobdingnagians) of happy youthful memory. Perhaps we'll have a party of Sodium Shiners and one of Dirty Dicks.

Speaking seriously, dish-washing is a matter of some importance. We have a lot of dishes and some of them are consistently not in fit shape for use. The chief problems, as we see them, are a suitable cleaning agent and plenty of hot water. TSP seems to be the answer to the first. The hot water is another matter. We would like to see someone get hold of a small second-hand jacket water heater, such as is used in hotels, and hook it up to an oil-drum--the sort of arrangement you see in most logging-camp kitchens hooked up to the range. We might even find a few dollars to help out such a project here and there. That should give an ample supply of hot water. For wash tubs Ranger MacDonald (Croston) has split an oil drum in two lengthwise, giving him two fine big 20-gallon tubs. These have been mounted on legs. Don't ask us where you are going to put such an outfit or who is going to do the washing. We're not arguing. We are just suggesting.

Some years ago we built a breakwater at Stuart Lake. The estimated cost was \$200 and the actual cost something like \$199.23. That stood a record for close estimating until the Vancouver District built a cabin at Alta Lake a month ago for which they had to ship in one four-foot board by mail to complete the job. The report follows. Too bad the story couldn't have gone down in F.B. history without the final explanatory paragraph:

"A cabin is being built at Alta Lake for the convenience of the patrol staff. In order to get this cabin approved we had to estimate down to the last shingle. The lumber and other things finally arrived and the building of the cabin was proceeded with. Local gossip at Alta Lake has it well spread around that this Department has the economic situation down to such a fine art that they had to ship up a four-foot board by mail to complete the cabin.

"This story was told in all seriousness, and it was only some time after that it was discovered that the four-foot board was a painted sign, - B.C. Forest Service."

From Prince Rupert:

"Considerable difficulty was experienced in finding Ranger Assistants under the Y.M.F.T.P. Most young men of the type required had jobs--ties, small mills, the land, surveys, prospecting, etc. Apparently in most of the centres in this District the unemployment problem for men of this type is not a pressing problem during the summer months. One Ranger reports, unofficially, "The two boys at present are more of a nuisance than a help, but we all have to learn. The plans I have laid out will be a great help later on, and more than make up the difference."

"The Forest Branch movies, which camouflaged a short forest protection talk, have been going over big. In the large places we had standing room only, and even at Usk there was an audience of 120 persons, old and young. To look at the place you wouldn't imagine there were that many living within a 10-mile radius. The films are especially popular in outlying settlements, where many have never seen moving pictures."

"The following is a true copy of a typewritten notice posted at Topley and Fulton Landing by Paddy Leon, Indian, who rates as a sub-chief of the Babines. He has an old typewriter and is very proud of it. Whether his conversion is genuine or not I can't say but his present attitude is much more to be desired than his past":

N O T I C E

YOUR VOCATION TRIP IS GOOD THIS SUMMER?
WE ALWAYS LOOK FOR YOUR DATE WHERE YOU GOING?
PLEASE KINDLY CALL WHOSES DRIVE FIFTEEN YEARS THE BEST KNOW?
YOU WILL TRAVELER SAFE & QUICKEST & BETTER & CHEAPEST?
WE CAN TELL YOU THE PRICE FOR YOUR TRIP DEPEND ON YOU.?
WE HELP LITTLE IF YOU GOT NO MONEY WE DRIVE FOR SECURITY?
WE DRIVE DAY & NIGHT WE CARRY LBS 500 TO 1000 LBS WITH THE TRIP.?
WILL YOU PLEASE PUT YOUR CAMP FIRE OUT NOT TO START.?
IF THE FIRE START THAT MEANS EVERYBODY BROKE NO MONEY BURN
LOTS OF GOOD TIE TRABER & THE FURS FIFTH THE ANNUAL
FIGHT FIRE FOR MY DUTY TO WINN?

MOST OF THE TIME WE GOOD TOO WHITE PEOPLE?
IF ANY THING YOU WANT PLEASE CALL WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

PADDY LEON.

CHIEF DRIVER BOAT

JITNEY TO ALL POINT LAKE BABINE.

Reminiscences:

Back in the early days of the Branch, C.J. Haddon, then Assistant District Forester at Kamloops, prosecuted one "William White", a backwoods stump rancher, for burning brush without a permit. The case was heard by "Bob Brown", J.P. Court was held, according to custom, in Bob's kitchen, and proceeded about as reported below:

- J.P. - "Now look here Charlie, Bill is a good honest old man.
I don't think he meant any harm or knew he should have
had a permit. Bill, did you light that fire?"
- Bill - "Yes, I started the fire."
- J.P. - "There you are Charlie, honest and didn't think he was
doing wrong."
- Haddon - "Yes, but Bob, he started it right on the corner of your
timber limit."
- J.P. - "Did you! You crazy old fool! Guilty! \$25.00 and costs."

Note: We want interesting stories of early Forest Branch experiences. Send yours in to the "News Letter." For obvious reasons, names in many such items will have to be fictitious for publication purposes. True names should be given in items as submitted to Victoria office.

Mr. Caverhill returned a week ago to Victoria from a visit to the Prince Rupert and Prince George Districts.

Jack (G.F.) Frost, transferred from Vernon to Ootsa Lake last fall, is now skipper on the "Alpine Fir" operating out of Rupert and is finding the difference between navigating fresh waters and the "chuck." Claims he likes the Coast.

Jim (J.G.) MacDonald has recently taken over Fire Inspector duties in the Kamloops District.

We regret to announce the sudden death of Mrs. Melrose at Kamloops on June 22nd, and the death by accidental drowning of the older son of Ranger Holmes at Nanaimo on June 3rd.