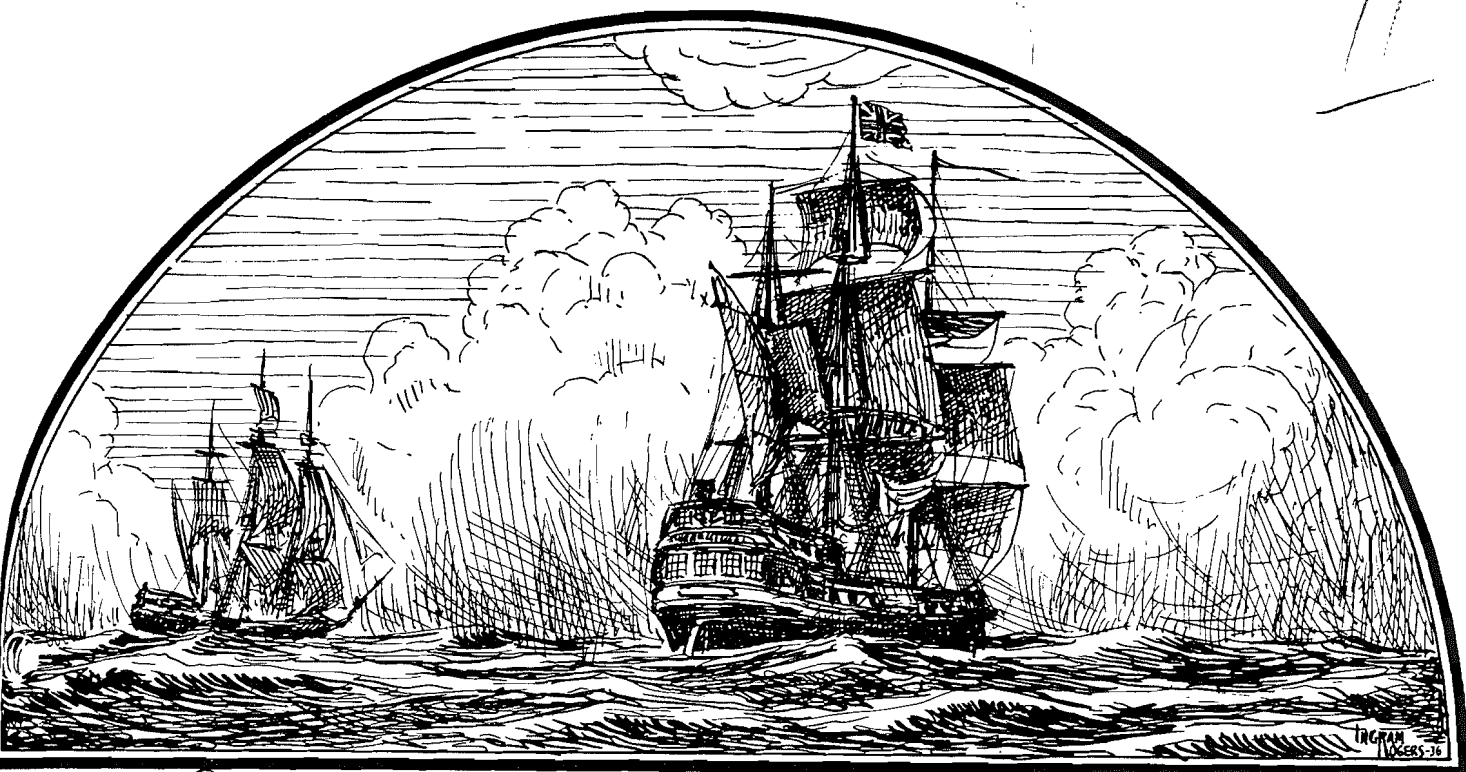




The "Wooden Walls of England"— 9th to 19th Centuries.

FOREST BRANCH NEWS LETTER

An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense, 'n' opinion, compiled from time to time by anybody who has the time, for the profit, amusement, and annoyance of the staff. Nobody to blame but the contributors.

No. 11 Victoria, B.C., July 30, 1936. 08581

It would hardly seem reasonable to start a Forest Branch News Letter in July with any subject other than the fire season. We started off in late April with hot, dry conditions in Prince Rupert and Prince George, cool and rainy elsewhere but peculiarly enough the occurrence of a total of 15 fires at the end of April had all been in the rainy sectors.

Throughout May cool, showery weather prevailed over the whole Province. Total fires at the end of May, 153, with number of fires and costs both well below last year's very excellent record.

Hot weather developed throughout the interior in early June with prospects of a critical situation developing. On June 6th we had had 318 fires, topping last year's figure by 43, and had spent \$8.00 more than we had on the same date last year. By the middle of the month conditions were generally safe again. The last weekly report, dated July 11th, shows the following record. Costs are now up 50% over last year at this date but still are very modest as fire seasons go.

	<u>1936</u>	<u>1935</u>
<u>District</u>	<u>No. Fires to date</u>	<u>No. Fires to date</u>
Vancouver	85	179
Prince Rupert	35	37
Prince George	67	27
Kamloops	153	86
Nelson	243	73
Total.....	<u>583</u>	<u>402</u>

1934 - Fires to date - 517.



• *To-day is a*
FIRE DAY

THE FORESTS ARE
EXCEEDINGLY DRY.

A single spark may cause
a disastrous fire.



PLEASE LOOK INSIDE.

FIRE DAYS

Public relations work has been called propaganda and publicity but it really includes many more angles than these two. It has been aptly termed "Opinion Management", and that is the object that is back of all public relations work.

In our case public relations work aims at developing in the public an opinion favourable to forest protection and management to the extent that individual members of the public are personally careful with fire, exercise their influence on others to the same end and lend support generally to our efforts to secure better forest management.

To impress the individual is a different proposition to spreading general publicity. The latter is good as far as it goes, but to get the persons who might be setting fires or who can use influence on the potential fire setters it is necessary to contact them individually or impressively. To do both is still better.

We are attempting to do this at present through special emphasis on "Fire Days." On fire days, indicated by hazard sticks, leaflets will be distributed at points where tourists, hikers and campers can be reached without inconvenience, such as at ferries and toll stations. On this page is reproduced in black and white the front page of the leaflet, but the design of the tree inside a circle is in color. The tree is bright red, the circle bright yellow and the field red. Inside the leaflet is further explanation of fire days and the extra need for care.

The organization to handle these is based on co-operation with the Junior Fire Wardens. These boys are organized to handle the leaflets in two shifts on fire days--morning and afternoon. When the hazard sticks or other indicators show the probability of a fire day they go on duty with a leaflet supply, handing them out to motorists and others contacted at the points selected. This might be extended to picnic or fishing areas where contact could be made without actually stopping cars.

At present the organization is ready to function at the North and West Vancouver ferries and the Second Narrows Bridge at Vancouver.

To further impress the idea of fire days on the public banners are planned with the same design to be hung across main roads, and board signs to be displayed at gas stations. Co-operation is being sought with the Public Works and Police Departments to clear the way for the banners and with the oil companies for the board signs.

Organization will have to be developed to decide on fire days and deal with the media. Ranger Assistants can put up banners in short order. Gas stations that are co-operating can be called very quickly to put up the board signs and Junior Wardens notified also by telephone. The success of this form of "opinion management" will depend on simple pre-organization, as does so much of our work.

If we can establish this idea and design in the public mind it can be used just like storm signals for seafaring people.

Hope is held that this objective can be reached over a few years, as we cannot expect to do more than start this year. Ideas for extension of the plans will be welcomed.

The relative merits of the superficial board foot and cubic content for scaling logs have been the subject of much debate for many years, the "iniquitous board foot" stubbornly holding its monopoly in practice in spite of the poor showing it makes in the argument. Now at last, of all the Provinces and States on the continent, Quebec leads the way to cubic measure scale in new scaling regulations effective May 1st last. We haven't space to report all the regulations but one or two features will be of interest in the light of B.C. scaling practice.

Logs up to 10 feet in length are to be measured at one end only, all at the same end of the deck as chosen by the scaler. It will be a smart logger who can get all the small ends at one end of the deck and then persuade the scaler to measure that end.

Logs 11 feet and over are to be measured at both ends and half the length of the log is recorded.

Log piles over 8 feet high must be provided with a scaffold and the scaler may require repiling at his discretion.

"The splendid work of the Forest Branch goes on from year to year. Modestly presented in the report is the briefest and barest account of how the smallest and certainly not the best paid force in the world in proportion to the vast dimensions of its charge, labours on, loyally and efficiently, in the maintenance and protection of our timber lands. With all sincerity we wish the Chief Forester and his men the best of luck, more recognition for their labors and--a favorable fire season." (From the British Columbia Lumberman, Volume 20, No. 6, June, 1936 - Page 16, "The Chief Forester's Report.")

Report on the Ranger Meeting at Nelson May 1st and 2nd came to hand too late to get into our last number but we offer you now, by way of substitute, a picture of the gathering. Remarking on the subject of the picture our Nelson correspondent says:

"The announcement by the District Forester on the second day that we were to be photographed caused a mild thrill, and, on the way downstairs much smoothing of hair, straightening of ties, and plucking of eyebrows could be observed. It was even rumoured that one gentleman retired hastily to the washroom to practise a few pleasant smiles before the mirror. The photo came out very well in spite of the fact that it was raining. Such a galaxy of manly beauty, however, seems incomplete without the well-known and popular figure of Colonel Allen." (The picture is overleaf.)

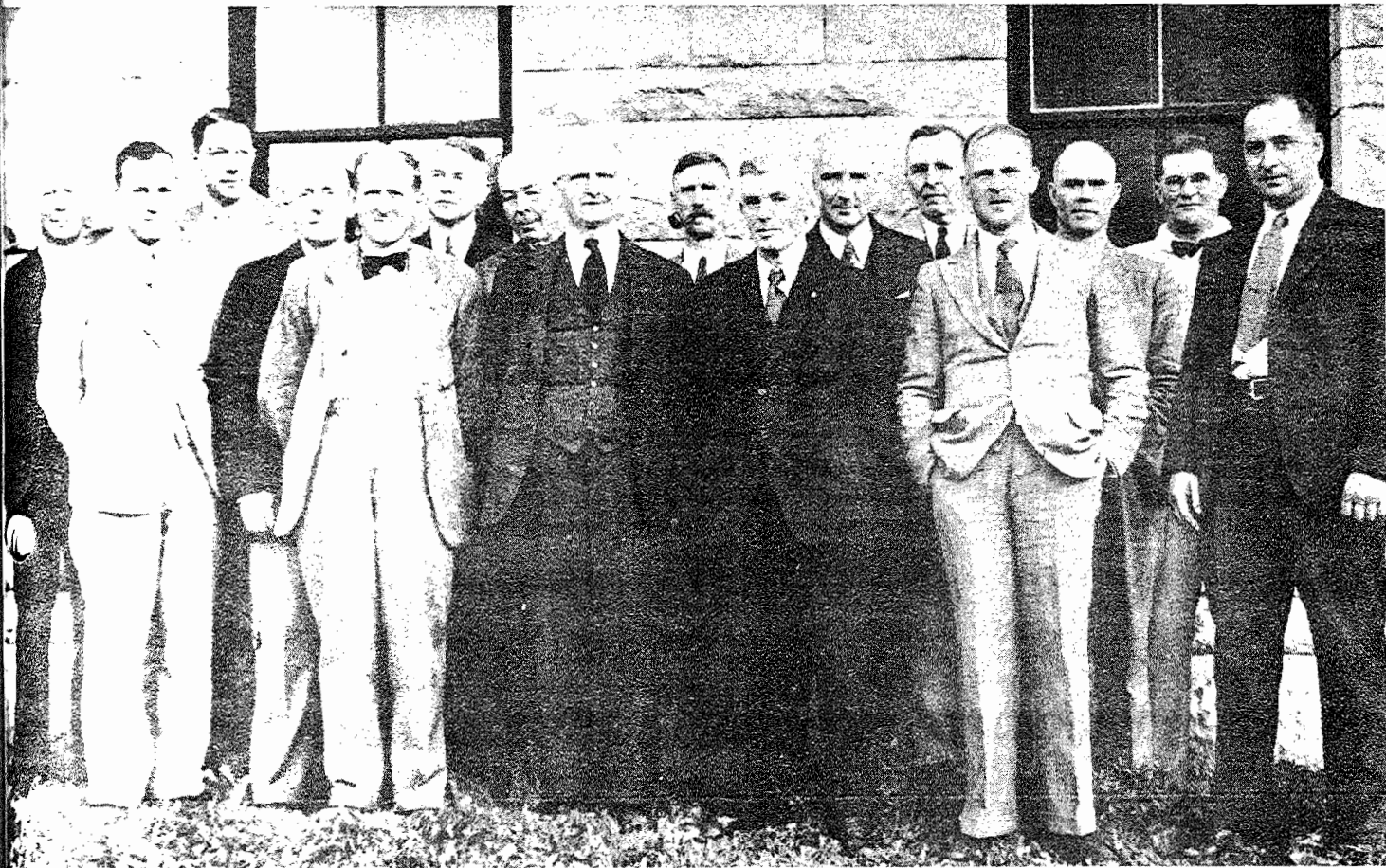
Append the following to the contributions in our last number. It sounds to us as if our poet had been converted by his critic's "pint o' bitter" and was suffering from the hangover:

You're right--

To hell with the forest cool an' green,
More especially when its rainin'
Stump cruising in the slash is tough,
An' Adam's ale ain't sustainin'.

The devils club is picturesque,
So sings the poet vernal;
But he hasn't passed it with ragged pants,
Or he'd find it sempiternal.

Still you can have your office job,
An' the dry shirt round your hurdies,
But beware of the line of the little blond,
And mind you don't tangle your gurdies.



Counting noses, left to right--J.E. Mathieson, New Denver; P. Young, Nakusp; G. Palethorpe, Kaslo; R. Cameron, Cranbrook; G. Schupe, Nelson; E.C. Manning, Victoria; G. McParlon, Grand Forks; R.E. Allen, Nelson; F. Pym, Cranbrook; H.J. Coles, Fernie; T.A. Clarke, Nelson; W. Holmgren, Nelson; H.C. Nichols, Robson; T.W. Brewer, Nelson; R. Little, Invermere, J.P. MacDonald, Creston.

HISTORY OF RADIO EXPERIMENTS IN FORT GEORGE FOREST DISTRICT

Starting out two years ago with no previous knowledge or experience in radio, we are now operating two stations equipped with transmitters and receivers. These stations are the District Office at Prince George and Pilot Mountain Lookout. What we have been able to do it should, therefore, be possible to duplicate elsewhere. This is the second summer we have relied almost altogether on radio phone for communication with Pilot Mountain Lookout.

Three years ago we were faced with the necessity of completely renewing over twelve miles of telephone line without any visible means of securing the money to cover the cost or else of finding some other as satisfactory, but less costly, means of communication. Back in 1928 Bill Lowry invented a radio telephone of his own which he operated between the office and his home. Believe it or not, he had nothing to make it of except speeder parts and alarm clocks. Even at that time telephone lines to Lowry were obsolete.

Be this as it may, Lowry's enthusiasm for radio in 1928 gave us an idea in 1934 how it might be possible to circumvent our communication problems with Pilot Lookout. We were able to secure the approval of Operation Office for the purchase of necessary parts and with the co-operation of a local radio ham and operator of amateur station VE5FG, we were soon on the air. We carried out numerous tests during the winter of 1934-35. By this time Ranger Lowry had become a full fledged amateur and owner and operator of Station VE5DG. A schedule was kept tri-weekly with VE5DG for the rest of the winter. At the opening of the fire season of 1935 the equipment was moved to their respective headquarters and radio communication to Pilot Lookout became a fact. This year communication by this means has worked so consistently that we are of the opinion that we no longer need consider a telephone line to Pilot Mountain Lookout necessary.

This briefly is a word picture of our experience with radio telephone communication which started as an experiment and developed into a practical idea.

Even our limited experience has taught us some facts about radio which are worth noting here. As most of the operators of radio stations in the Forest Service are at first likely to have little experience, simplicity in design of any radio circuit is a desirable advantage. Simplicity in radio means less to go wrong or likely to go wrong and less to fix if anything goes wrong.

Our experience has been with low power only. This, we are satisfied, is dependable for short distances provided a good receiving set is used. The power output of our transmitter at Prince George is two watts and only a fraction of a watt at Pilot Mountain Lookout. The air-line distance is approximately ten miles; the power seems to be dependable for that range under every condition.

Like everything else, radio-telephone communication has its advantages and drawbacks which I will outline below as we see them. However, the advantages seem to outweigh the disadvantages.

Advantages

- (1) The costs compare very favorably with telephone line construction. For a low-power station the cost will not exceed the cost of a mile of telephone line.
- (2) Upkeep costs practically nil except for occasional tube and battery renewals.
- (3) Dependable service. Very little to go wrong.
- (4) Flexible communication, a radio receiver and, if desirable, a transmitter outfitted on field officers' cars keeps them in touch with all transmitting stations.

Disadvantages

- (1) Communication limited to schedules (excepting those stations operating A.C. receivers from power lines which can be kept tuned in all the time if necessary for incoming radio calls.)
- (2) Communication cut off after office hours unless an operator is assigned specially. (One-way communication is possible for those who have a combination short-wave and broadcast or short-wave receiver in their homes.)

There is undoubtedly a big field for radio communication in Forest Service work and it is suggested that where and whenever an opportunity presents itself that Forest Officers make the acquaintance of these ham operators and find out the things these amateurs are accomplishing in the radio world. Nowadays you are almost sure to locate at least one amateur in nearly every community. You will find their hobby most interesting and the operators glad to pass along all the "dope" on their "rig" and will probably offer to send a message for you to your sweetheart and guarantee its delivery.

To anybody who is interested and upon receipt of a request we will gladly send further information in regard to our equipment.

One District called a while ago for tenders for repairs to a ranger station. Amongst other items the tenderer was to contract to "replace a leak in the roof." And speaking of contracts, here is a reason for making a timber sale: "Unless it (this stand of timber, birch fuelwood) is in someone's hands who can look after it there will be a large quantity stolen. Mr. ----- has protected it in the past (under former sale contract) and is in a good position to continue to do so."

Report on testing the first "Wonder" pumps built for the Branch. (Taken from Victoria files, 1920).

"This pump (although incomplete in a few details, owing to the fact that some parts, such as magnetos, aluminum bases, etc., have not arrived from the foundry) gave very satisfactory results and so far as concerns this Department, the pump appears to come up to all the specifications and requirements laid down for it and is an improvement over that used last year."

We suggest that last year's pump consisted of one flywheel and one spark plug.

We go to work, to earn the dough, to buy the bread, to gain the strength, to go to work.

A couple of years ago we conceived the brilliant idea of writing a bulletin on forestry for popular distribution. John Rogers (Nelson) became interested and undertook to make some original drawings for it. John completed his end of the bargain (someday we may complete ours) and his work is too good to hide away in the files here. We propose, therefore, to publish one as a headpiece for each letter. This explains the origin of the fine drawing at the top of Page 1. We do not think that this use in the News Letter for private distribution within the Service will detract from their value for their original purpose at a later date.



Installing officers of the Young Ranger Band

Reading from left to right: Gordon Rush (Inner Guard), Leonard Bradley (Outer Guard), W.C. Saunders (Adviser and father of the movement), David E. Roumieu (Chief Ranger), Willis Trousdell (Assistant Chief Ranger).

Mr. Manning has just returned from a trip to the Prince George and Prince Rupert districts and reports as follows:

"Probably the chief matter of interest in my trip was my contact with the Young Ranger Bands of Burns Lake and Palling. The whole Forest Service is familiar with this movement which was described in our Forest Branch News Letter of last September 20th. Originated about 1928 by Mr. W.C. Saunders of Palling, it gradually spread in the vicinity of Burns Lake and Palling until a number of bands were established and its activities were well known in the communities involved.

"I had the honour of being initiated as an Honorary Member of the Palling Band on July 4th, and I must admit I was impressed with the ceremony and the serious way in which it was carried out. They put me through the whole works and I am inclined to think added something extra for trimmings. Probably twenty-five or thirty Young Rangers were present, together with nearly an equal number of adults. I must admit that it was with a good deal of curiosity I entered the meeting, as for years I had been wondering how this movement had secured such a hold on the young people. I think that, in addition to the commonsense appeal of conservation, probably its strongest drawing card is that element of secrecy, involving a ritual, a pass-word, etc. Be that as it may, I was deeply impressed with the seriousness with which the ceremony was carried on. The presence of several of the first members of Mr. Saunders' band now grown up and still taking a serious interest in the work, carried a conviction of the worth-whileness of the movement.

"During the following week Mr. Saunders, heading four officers chosen from the Burns Lake Band, visited Fort Fraser, Vanderhoof, Giscome and McBride, starting new bands in these four places. I managed to be present at the Vanderhoof and Giscome ceremonies, at each of which places twelve to eighteen boys gathered. Arrangements for these meetings had previously been made by the local Forest Officers.

"Our assistance in extending eastward this movement may at present be regarded as somewhat of an experiment. Even were it to fail, I am inclined to think that the education in forest protection that we will have fostered will repay us for the small investment involved. The success of the movement will largely depend, first, on the new bands receiving a little adult advice and backing in their individual communities and, second, on the initiative of the boys themselves. The older bands have stood very much on their own feet and the training in self-reliance has been one of the fine features of this movement. On the side local forest officers will undoubtedly be able to

render valuable encouragement and help. Mr. Saunders is to be congratulated on his vision, and on his interest in young people and conservation, which were his dual incentives in starting this movement.

"Probably the next item which impressed me most on my trip was the spic-and-spanness of the tool caches into which I had a peek. I did not investigate things carefully enough to be able to assure Operation Office that every hose-gasket was in place, etc., but the orderliness of our equipment and property was pleasing to me and considerable credit goes to the local field officers, including the Ranger Assistants.

"I had the pleasure of a visit with both District Forester Gregg and District Forester Parlow, and they did not seem to have anything worrying them very much, which is really a good sign when you personally know that things are being attended to.

"Paid a visit to Aleza Lake Experiment Station, where I found the boys doing much useful work under the competent supervision of Superintendent Kinghorn. I learned that most of them were wanting to get out on trail crews, so apparently the life they lead at Aleza Lake is not quite wild enough."

A few months ago H.M. Birch-Jones, Commissioner for British Columbia of the Canadian Red Cross Society, called at this office soliciting our assistance in organizing some of their Red Cross work in the outlying parts of the Province. We are all familiar in a hazy sort of way with the wonderful work of the Red Cross in cases of catastrophe and emergency. Governments local and national throughout the continent have been glad to fall back on them on occasion.

Their present purpose is to organize in British Columbia for emergency purposes and for current relief of outstanding need. One of their problems is to get in touch with interested and reliable parties in each community and they are turning to the Forest Branch with our widely scattered personnel as one source of guidance.

We have never attempted to enumerate or tabulate the aims, objects, and purposes of the News Letter, but if it has any such one must surely be to keep us in a little better touch with one another and to foster better acquaintance. We are a sizable family (215 permanent employees today), scattered throughout the Province and the personal contacts of most of us are strictly limited.

With the foregoing in mind it occurs to us that a "Who's Who" section would be of interest. Then we were stumped as to who should be honoured by first mention--and second and subsequent mention for that matter. We solved the problem by drawing lots. Believe it or not, we numbered the whole 215, got from the Property Room 215 fire fighters' identification tags, jumbled the tags, and drew one. Whatever else we accomplish in this brain wave we have found a practical use for fire fighters' tags. The first draw turned out to be No. 59, none other than:



TOMMY (T.A.) SIMMONS, Chief Clerk and general factotum, Forest Protection office (Operation) Victoria.

He joined the Service in 1920 and was originally in Timber Licences, being transferred to Operation early in 1921 under Cowan, and has sat in the same chair ever since. During this time he has seen a great many changes in the personnel of that office, and has worked under such a galaxy of stars as Charlie Cowan, Frank MacDonald (twice), Crompton-Brown, Tom Wilkinson, R.V. Stuart, Miles Gibson, "Dick" Orchard, Charlie Haddon, and now George Melrose and Doug Taylor, and he sometimes says, "Who in H--- will be the next one?"

Although not well-known to the field men personally, his signature is well-known in the district offices, and to some he is known as "the follow-up hound."

If he were asked what were his duties he would probably reply, "Bull-cook", or "guide, philosopher and friend to the Brass Hats." Anyway his duties are multifarious, for he handles all routine work, inward correspondence, all personal files of the temporary field staff, keeps organization records, all fire reports go through his hands, and he watches over the equipment, and many, many other jobs far too numerous to mention. He is always prepared to answer any dam-phool question and if we had a load of straw handy he could probably make a few bricks.

He was born in England (he thinks now several years too soon) in that little place that produced so many fine cricketers and incidentally is the home of the famous English lavender--Mitcham. He went to school--at least he says he did--had measles, cut his wisdom teeth (also doubtful), exhibited the usual symptoms of calf love, and apparently showed no early signs of ever reaching the heights to which he has climbed.

He poses as an authority on London, writes an occasional article for the papers, is a great reader, a member of two literary societies, and has probably kissed the Blarney Stone.

He is married and has two strapping sons who keep him in his place.

Recreations: Occasional golf, getting around in about 75 (for nine holes), smoking, reading in bed, and dancing.

He has a few virtues and the usual vices. And (lest we give any wrong impressions) is a good scout and a pillar of strength to the Protection Office.

Note:- Another drawing before our next Letter.

A handy article was found at the Langford (Vancouver Island) tool shed that may be of interest. A discarded connecting rod from one of the small pump engines was used as a holder for a cold chisel, the large end-bearing being clamped around the upper part of the chisel, leaving it free to slide up and down or around. This looked like an excellent scheme for saving one's knuckles and fingers when using the chisel.

We regret to announce the death of H.A. Youdall on June 12th. "Digger", more often just plain "Dig" was the friend and mentor of many a young cub of the Surveys Division since before the days when it attained the dignity of a "Division." His death is a source of deep regret with his more intimate associates in the Service.

Verna Wilson of the Research Office, Victoria, resigned in June to take on a new job in partnership with Richard Benwell. She was the recipient of a chest of flat silver from the staff.

Elliott Henderson of the office staff of the Vancouver District, has been chosen by the Mountaineering Club, as one of three from British Columbia who, in company with one man from Alberta and three from various parts of California, will form the 1936 climbing party in an attempt to scale Mt. Waddington at the head of Knight Inlet, recognized as "the last big adventure in the West" and, as yet, an unconquered peak.

What is believed to be an all-time record in the Vancouver District was established by the Accounts Office of the District during the past month of June. During the month the office issued 1525 Scale & Royalty Accounts, an average of 61 accounts for each working day, with the largest number issued in any one day being 116 accounts. In addition to the above, 274 stumpage accounts were issued during the month.

Scale for the month also constitutes a record for all time, totalling 216,589,614 f.b.m., 6,608.02 cords and 59,215 lin. feet.

Jim MacDonald (Vancouver) and Mrs. Jim are being congratulated on the birth of a son, Roy Peter, who arrived on June 27th at the Vancouver General Hospital. Jim appears to be bearing up fairly well and Mrs. J. and Roy are both doing fine.

Assistant Ranger Barney Johnson of North Vancouver is Acting Ranger at Duncan, relieving Ranger Sweatman who is making the Vimy Pilgrimage. Underwood, patrolman at North Vancouver, will fill the Assistant Ranger's position in that district while Johnson is away.

On July 3rd, Jimmy Blake, at an informal gathering in the Vancouver District Office, was on the "receiving end" of a presentation ceremony in anticipation of his marriage on July 4th. The gift from the Vancouver District Staff took the form of an electric cake mixer and at the same time Mr. St. Clair presented a silver coffee urn, tray and cream and sugar bowl, on behalf of the Victoria Office and other district staffs.

After looking over the electric mixer and all the gadget accessories it was the general consensus of opinion that it is just as well Jim is of a mechanical turn of mind, for it will surely take at least 3rd-class papers to operate.

Vancouver District received its newly completed headquarters launch, the "P.Z. Caverhill" during the past month. The boat is a fine appearing V-bottom square stern type of hull, 72 feet in length and with 12 foot 6 inch beam. She is twin screw, powered with two 80 H.P. Atlas Imperial Diesel engines and is capable of a speed of twelve knots, which may be stepped up somewhat when engines and propellers are correctly adjusted. Accommodation includes two double staterooms and bathroom aft, flush deck galley and pilot house amidships and crew's quarters forward. The Forest Service insignia, in green and white of similar design to our regulation Ranger badges, will appear on her funnel.

A. Waddington (Rupert), Walter Wilson (Burns Lake), S.S. Brown (Victoria), P. Sweatman (Duncan), H. Smith, J. Thompson, J. Younie and J. Asson, (Vancouver), are all making the trip to Vimy.

Publications Received in the Forest Branch Library, May 26th-July 15th

- .05 Soil Science - May, 1936.
- Oregon - Annual Report of the State Forester - 1935.
- .05 The Timberman - May, 1936.
- .05 The Scottish Forestry Journal - March, 1936.
- .05 Nature Magazine - June, 1936.
- .05 Wood - May, 1936.
- .05 Monthly Weather Review - Feb. 1936.
- .05 Pulp & Paper Magazine - May, 1936.
- .24 Slash Disposal in Ponderosa Pine Forests.
- .2535 Growth and Survival of Deciduous Trees in Shelter-belt Experiments.
- .05 Forest & Outdoors - May & June, 1936.
- .1421 Annual Systematic Observations on Seed Production of Forest Tree Species.
- The School of Forestry, Bulletin of Yale University.
- .05 American Forests - June & July, 1936.
- .05 Log of The Lab. - June 1, 1936.
- .05 Forestry - Current Literature - U.S. Forest Service.
- .05 Canada Lumberman - June 1st, June 15th & July 1st, 1936.
- .2516 Seed Extraction, Storage and Testing in Central Europe.
- .05 B.C. Lumberman, June, 1936.
- .05 Monthly List of Publications - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.
- .358 Soil Erosion Control by Engineering Methods.

- .08 Forest Research in India, 1934-35.
- .03 The World Almanac and Book of Facts - 1936.
Instructions for the Scaling & Measurement of National Forest
Timber - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.
- .05 The Forestry Chronicle - June, 1936.
- .33 What, Where, When and Why are Termites?
- .05 Journal of Forestry - June, 1936.
- .05 The Timberman - June, 1936.
- .472 Lumber Distribution and Consumption in Canada and the United
States 1934, Canada Census of Industry, Forestry Branch.
- .431 The Chemical Utilization of Wood - Trade Circular No. 30,
Australia, 1936.
- .05 Geographical Review, July, 1936.