



Our finest game animals dwell in the forests.

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. 24

Victoria, B.C., July 5, 1938.

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Most of us have been fighting fires long enough to know just exactly how much good it does to wish for rain or to hope for a favourable season. About as much as we can be assured of is the fact that extremely hazardous seasons are sure to come and that every good one is just one closer to the next bad one. That can hardly be characterized as a Pollyanna attitude but ain't it the truth! And we haven't had a good tough season since '31, so what can you expect for July and August?

Starting with the earliest recorded fire of our history on February 14th (No. 1, Prince Rupert) we headed into an extreme dry spell starting late in May, relieved to some extent by light but fairly general rains late in June. Fires assumed dangerous proportions at various points. The tally stands today at 575 fires as compared with 402 a year ago with costs approximately double last year's figure. The larger fires, however, have been confined chiefly to old burns and we believe that damage to date has been remarkably light for the acreage burned. We'll withhold our guess about fire weather for July and August until some time in September.

The summer programme of the Forest Survey and Working Plans Division has been completed and by the time this News Letter is distributed the field parties will be in full swing. A check of the growing stock in the Okanagan Forests is being conducted this year with a view to establishing more detailed working plans for sustained-yield management. Two parties will be engaged on this project. One party, under C.F. McBride, will be chiefly concerned with the economic phase of the situation. G.S. Silburn will be assisting McBride in this work. The second party will be under the supervision of G.R. Nixon. It will be mainly concerned with the revision of estimates in selected portions of the Okanagan, particularly in the Inkanee and Aberdeen Forests and other areas which have been seriously depleted by fire, logging or insect infestations.

The stocktaking survey of the Queen Charlotte Islands will be completed this season by a party under W.C. Phillips. The work will be chiefly on Graham Island. The vertical air photographs which were taken over this area by the Division last summer have been completed to provide accurate and detailed field maps for the party. Less than two months' work will be required to complete this project, after which the party will transfer its activities to Quatsino Inlet, where a preliminary economic survey will be conducted over the area tributary to the Port Alice pulp mill. Vertical air photographs taken by the R.C.A.F. are available for the majority of this area and these have been plotted for use by the field party.

A re-survey of the Hardwicke, East and West Thurlow and Sonora Islands will be conducted by D.L. McMullan. A close check will be made of the growing stock, depletion, reforestation and general economic position of these Forests. Detailed working plans and recommendations for future administration of this unit on a sustained-yield basis will be made. Vertical air photographs will be taken of the islands prior to doing the ground work.

The Air Survey Section of the Division under G.S. Andrews, assisted by W. Hall, has an extensive programme this season. A progressive flying project will be commenced over the areas tributary to Prince Rupert in anticipation of future pulp developments there. This year the work will involve photography over 3,000 square miles in the Kitimat, Lakelse, and Kitsumgallum watersheds.

"John" Collins tells us that he will be seeing the boys in the Nelson District this year.

Doug Macdougall has left for the field to complete the lookout photography in the Nelson Forest District and will afterwards make a start on this work in the Kamloops Forest District.

Bob Wellwood, who has been attached to the Air Survey Section this past winter, has been transferred to the Research Division.

Shades of Charles Haddon's early days on the Columbia now look on with envy as the present-day forest officers buzz up the Bend from Revelstoke at 35 miles per hour on an excellent highway, as they take to a high-powered river boat and make Priest Rapids on the run, and while they calmly go ashore with a small box and talk to headquarters with no effort whatever.

Well might they turn a ghostly green, for shortly after testing these delights of modern high-powered protection your correspondent tasted again (after too many years, may it be said) the delights of slogging over a tough old trail with a pack much too heavy (for him).

According to Don Calder, the only pleasure in back-packing is the quitting--like the chap who pounded himself on the head with a hammer in order to experience the wonderful relief when he stopped.

However, the Dominion Department of Mines and Resources is building a fine road from Revelstoke to Golden with only about twenty miles left to connect. It will undoubtedly bring an increase in travel to that beautiful timbered country and, unfortunately, an increase in fire occurrence. However, the opening of the road will allow development of better protection facilities.

The river-type boat, originally developed on the Northern rivers around Prince George and brought to Nelson by Ternan, is proving itself highly satisfactory for load-carrying and speed in heavy water like the Columbia as well as on smaller rivers and on large and small lakes. Powered with the larger sized outboards, it develops speeds up to 20 miles per hour. There will be four of these boats on the Columbia between Golden and Revelstoke.

In spite of lightning, which is heavy on the Columbia, there have not been many large fires above Downie Creek. That isn't to say there haven't been strikes and that we won't get large fires. We can take some considerable credit for the fact that our forest officers in the past have done excellent work in controlling incipient fires and, with the added convenience of good roads on one side of the valley and suitable boats to cross the river, we should be able to maintain the present green cover.

On the east leg of the Bend the road has been extended beyond the crossing, where a fine steel bridge replaces the old cable and carrier we used to ride. A patrol cabin at Bush River was built last year, largely with Ranger Assistant labour, and is a credit to their carpentry, while another station is planned near the Bend itself. River boats for crossing will be maintained above and below Surprise Rapids.

Lookouts are non-existent but at the apex of the Bend there appears to be a site for an excellent station. The form of the country is such that a shoulder of Mica Mountain should cover the Canoe and Wood River valleys and considerable stretches of the Columbia both ways. The use of the portable S.P.F. radios will now enable us to develop this important district.

And, as a further result of this trip, you may some day see some colour movies of wild life in the form of grizzly and black bears, to say nothing of forest officers riding the high water in Priest Rapids.

Fire Prevention Officers and Honorary Fire Wardens of the Mission Ranger District were the guests of the Forest Service at luncheon on Wednesday, May 11th, at Mission. There were about twenty forest officers and others all told under the chairmanship of District Forester C. J. Haddon. Also present were Assistant District Forester C. C. Ternan, Ranger E. T. Calvert and Assistant Ranger George Menzies of Mission, and G. P. Melrose, Operation Office, Victoria.

After the luncheon a few brief words (and may it be said to everyone's credit they were brief) were spoken by the various men present. Forest officers welcomed the guests, explained the start and development of the F. P. O. and H. F. W. organization, paid tribute to the fine co-operation between them and the Forest Service, and discussed a few points about the work.

In return the guests expressed their appreciation of the co-operative spirit of the Service and particularly the local officers, told of local problems, and asked for specific information.

As a wind-up Melrose showed some of his moving pictures to acquaint the field men and guests with what was being done along lines of visual education.

This was the first meeting of its kind to be held in the Service. Its dual purpose was to show our appreciation of the voluntary co-operative field force and to develop better organization through mutual understanding and discussion of pertinent subjects. As the idea of Ranger Calvert, propounded by him at the Ranger Meeting in Vancouver this spring, the initial meeting was held in his district, and all forest officers present felt it had accomplished a useful purpose.

Returning from a quick trip to the Prince George District, where he went in connection with the large fire that recently threatened Giscome, E. E. Gregg made an inspection trip in the Kamloops Forest District and had made a start on the same work in the Nelson District when he was recalled to Headquarters on account of the intense activity on the Coast which looked as though it were going to demand all available attention. No one could hope to visit a dozen of our Rangers and a greater number of Assistant Rangers and Patrolmen without coming across many an idea, commonplace where it was originated and used but which would be altogether new and interesting to fellow members of the staff in other parts of the Province. We therefore make an attempt to note a few of these and in doing so we are doing our best to place the credit, or otherwise, where it is deserved. If we err in this your corrections and criticisms will be accepted and given due attention if and when we have another issue of the News Letter.

Rat-proofing

In the large F. B. cache at 150 Mile House is a mouse-proof room. Flashings of tin cover all cracks and join the baseboard to the floor. The door is also neatly trimmed with tin so that not even a Ranger in his most violent mood could hope to chew the corner off it. If you are having trouble with the rodents chewing up your iron rations, etc., Alec Chisholm will be glad to describe his rat-proof dugout in full.

Unit Racks

Jim Pedley has been successful in selling unit racks to the Kamloops staff. A neat chiffonier has been designed to accommodate ev-

everything for a six-man fire-fighting outfit from the shovel to the kitchen ware, first-aid kit and timekeeper's kit. A similar piece of furniture has been built for a ten-man and a twenty-five-man outfit. Another, something similar to the dollies used on the Coast, holds a pump, hose and small tools for a pump unit. Kamloops has been asked to send Victoria the tracings so that other districts may benefit by this idea. They make for a smart-looking tool cache and a quick and efficient get-away to a fire.

Inventions - General

Ranger Geo. Mayson, Barriere, with Assistant Ranger F.E. Johnson, Patrolman Campbell, and Ranger Assistants of other years, have such a display of inventions at Barriere that it is worth anyone's time to spend half a day investigating them. The following is a list of some that caught the Inspector's eye, and if you want to know more about them, ask Geo. Mayson:

Lantern cages make it possible to take lanterns to a fire without breakage or excessive care in transportation.

An axe box with compartments and leaves protects the axes, does away with rattle and is worthwhile.

Worn out water bags with the tops cut off make excellent protection for timekeepers' kit envelopes.

A hose-coupling wire bender for uniform and rapid loop-making. This instrument is made out of an axe handle.

Cage for foot valve. This is a rat-trap-looking arrangement made out of heavy wire about Gauge 4 that keeps the foot valve off the bottom, avoiding clogging and which will also keep it vertical retaining priming.

Hose Brusher. This consists of two dandy brushes held in a case through which the hose is pulled.

Hose Dating. A dab of paint, a different colour for each year, is put on the end of each piece of hose when received.

Home-made desk. This makes some of us look foolish when we spend so much of our time hollering for a desk. It has a compartment that holds a bottle. (This completes the Barriere ideas for the present.)

Boathouse accommodation. When you need more floor space in your boathouse during the summer, do as Patrolman Walters has done at Quesnel Lake. He built a false floor that fits into the space provided for the boat.

Pump unit quickly loaded. When Ranger H. C. Nichols at Robson wants to load a pump in a hurry he can do it. The pump is on a swinging shelf under which he backs his car and on to which the complete outfit is loaded, and he is on the fire before the unorganized individual has found a suction hose.

Hazard Sticks. Lack of confidence or inattention to the results obtainable from hazard sticks has rendered them largely useless. We discussed this point so thoroughly at various places that we are now afraid to say more than that unless readings are taken and studied neither hazard stick nor any other indicating instrument can be of value.

Signs. As a stranger in a strange country some difficulty was found at times in locating the headquarters of the forest officer. Take a look around for the signs directing a stranger to your office and if you think he might have any trouble there is your chance to display a freshly-painted and attractive sign.

Suction hose gaskets. Probably you too have experienced difficulty in making your suction hose tight, especially for centrifugal pumps. Sometimes the gasket gets chewed up. Messrs. Boydell and Calder at Revelstoke have found that a gasket cut out of heavy sole leather does a better job than the rubber variety.

Dish washer. If you are interested in installing up-to-date washing facilities in your tool cache, ask Fire Inspector Pedley how to do it. He put one in at Revelstoke and I am sure Jack Boydell, the present incumbent, would also be glad to give you the dope on it.

Railroad mileages on reference maps. Ranger McParlon, Grand Forks, has plotted the railroad mileages on his reference map. This is particularly handy in case of railroad fires.

Sedan deliveries. Rangers McParlon and Schupe have fitted up their sedan deliveries in fine style in accordance with plans already circulated.

Axe Holder and Suction Hose Rack. Assistant Ranger Holmberg, Grand Forks, adapted from Sweden an apparatus made with a ring, some linen hose and the piece of an axe handle for holding an axe in place on a grindstone. It looks like a good rig if you have a lot of grinding to do. He also has a spreader to accommodate all the suction hose. The spreader is hung from a block in the roof, making it quick and easy to pull up the suction hose out of the way and out of danger of damage.

H. C. Nichols puts a stick inside his suction hose and stands it up in a corner.

Improvement to Gravity Funnels. Assistant Ranger Laughton, Robson, found leaves clogging up the screen in the new gravity funnel. He put in a stovepipe type of screen about 5" high and got away from this trouble.

Hose repairs. Ranger Schupe carries a roll of electricians' tape in the pump box. This is handy for temporary repairs for many things, especially for small holes in the hose, and it serves as well for a marker for permanent repairs at a later date. He also keeps his discharge hose classified, using up old hose first.

One-man pump loading. Assistant Ranger Robinson at Nelson has contrived an arrangement whereby one man can easily load a heavy pump. The pump is on a platform equipped with castors which run up a ramp at the back of the truck.



Not me - I no sell

Returns and accounts! If we could kiss them all goodbye what a sigh of heartfelt relief would well up from a couple of hundred long-suffering members of the Forest Service staff! We have vivid recollections of a Chief Accountant telling a District Foresters' meeting how easy it all was; and of the scathing sarcasm of at least one District Forester's reply. The problem is especially difficult with some of our more recently arrived neighbours who are addicted to small cordwood operations. Ranger Nichols reports a typical inspection interview, as follows:

Ranger: Hullo.
Operator: Hullo.
How are you?
How you do, Mr. Forester?
Pretty good.
Pretty good. (Pause)
Well, how is the timber sale business?

Business not much good--too low price, I lose money, some people no pay.
How much wood did you move last month?
Last month? How much? No move, I make road, cut log but no move--no, no sell 'em.

Didn't you sell some wood last month to the K.S. Laundry?
Last month? What month you mean? I sell in summer time, June, August.

Well, we have a return from the Laundry for wood sold by you last month.
Not me, I no sell, you say last month, what month?
Last month, November; this is December.
I no sell, I no move, I make road. Well, maybe boy sell, I no can tell--you see him maybe.
What boy?

My boy, John, maybe he sell--you see--boy buy truck, lose job, no can pay truck, he ask me cut wood, I say all right cut, maybe he sell wood, maybe sell laundry, I no know. I tell him make paper, District Forester--what you call him? Nelson.
Well, how much did you let him cut? Where is this boy?
Boy go home--no tell how much cut, I tell him make paper you, maybe no make paper, I no know.
When did the boy start to cut wood?
I think October, maybe August, you see boy, he tell you, I no know.

Well, you are the Timber Sale Licensee. You are responsible for all wood cut and removed from the sale area.
I know, when I cut wood, I make paper when I move wood, maybe boy no make--I no know.

Did you sell 10 cords of wood last month to Mr. Black?
Who, Mr. Black? I no sell. Ten cords?
He says he had 10 cords from you.
Ten cords? He tell ten cords. I think maybe he make mistake--I no sell--I trade him for sleigh runners.
Well, the charges have to be paid, sell or trade, there is no difference.
He no pay? He no pay you? I tell him "you pay for District Forester"--he no pay? I go see him sure. Well, he no pay eh? He make paper?

How much wood ALTOGETHER did you sell last month--November--from your Timber Sale? And how much have you moved this month to date?
No can tell, you see, maybe boy move some--I no know.
Well, how much did you move YOURSELF?
Maybe twenty cords, maybe thirty, I forget, boy he--You no get paper from District Forester, what you call him, Nelson?

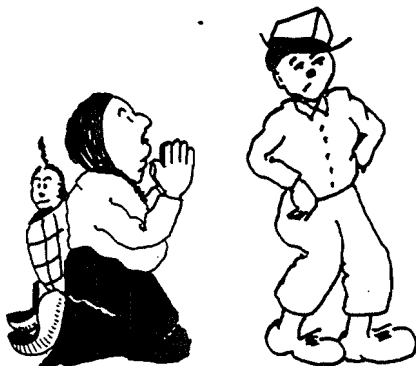
No.
He send me paper, I think maybe twenty cords--you no get paper from him, Nelson? I send him paper--he send me paper, I--
Where is this paper? The paper you got from Nelson.
Well, no here, you see. Next time you come I show, I think I leave paper home, I get wet, change pants, you see, I no got--next time you come--when you come again? I think maybe next time I have paper--show you. Well, Nelson no send you paper, eh? You see District Forester--what you call him--Nelson--he tell I tell you right.
Well, you have paper next time I come--ALL papers. And your boy's papers.
Sure, I bring him. I tell boy, I think maybe boy he put 'em down. Well. You say Mr. Black no make paper for District Forester--what you call him? --and no pay--I tell him "You make paper for Forester, you pay Forester", I tell him--I go see him, he pay, I think--Why? You go, you go now?
Yes, I think so. Don't forget to have your returns in shape for this month and last month next time I come.

I no forget, I no forget, when I sell I make paper like you say but for ten cords you see Mr. Black--he no pay you, eh?--I think maybe pay District Forester--what you call him--Nelson--you see him. I think fix for you maybe all right.

Well, GOODBYE.

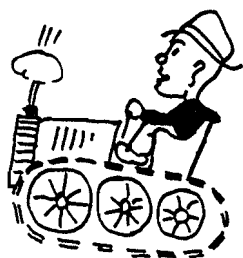
Well, you go? well, goodbye--you come again, I think maybe have paper--when you come again?
Well, never mind I fix for you paper. Well, goodbye. I fix him, Goodbye-goodbye!

We have two gross errors in our last letter to correct. Sims, who is comfortably established in Vancouver, was reported to be in Rupert--and we married Rusty Campbell to a squaw.



In Rusty's case we might try to hide behind the fact that later in the write-up he is unquestionably reported to be single but our sense of justice and fair play can't get past the blunder in the middle of the thing. There he is married--in pretty poor English perhaps--but indubitably married to a squaw. Mike Gregg suggested that the logical amends would be for the typist to marry Rusty. At first thought that was a brilliant solution but it met with so little enthusiasm on the part of the party of the first part here that we concluded it wasn't even worth while broaching the subject to Rusty. All we can do, therefore, is to offer Rusty our abject apology for a typographical error and to assure you that our report was grossly exaggerated.

We are so hot and bothered over this case that we haven't the nerve to print another sketch this issue. We might do something still worse. Besides, it is worth noting that we can't print these things unless someone in the know will write them up and submit them.



Re De luxe coupe transportation as now being supplied to "cheechakos" of the Ranger staff, we are glad to note that even in the Vancouver District we still have with us one of the old-fashioned men upholstered with bunions. The latest appointment notice to reach the Operation Office reads in part as follows: Arrangement re transportation.... TRACTOR.

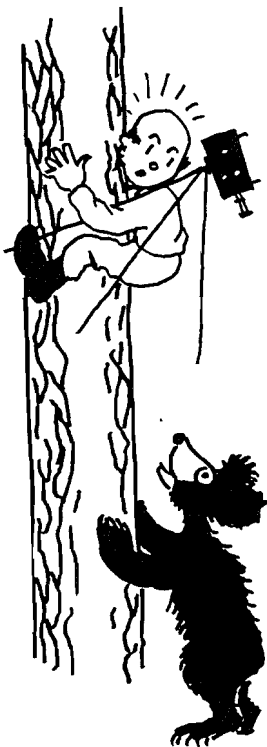
(From the "Arrow Lakes News", May 5, 1938.)

THE ANGER OF ROBERT BURNS

"Alas!" quoth I,..."what ruefu' chance
Has twin'd ye o' your stately trees?
Has laid your rocky bosom bare--
Has stripped the chedding aff your braes?
Was it the bitter eastern blast,
That scatters blight in early spring?
Or was't the wil'fire scorched their boughs,
Or canker-worm wi' secret sting?"

"Nae eastlin blast," the sprite replied;
"It blows na here sae fierce and fell,
And on my dry and halesome banks
Nae canker-worms get leave to dwell;
Man! cruel man!" the genius sighed--
"The worm that gnaw'd my bonny trees,
That reptile wears a Ducal crown."

Tempestuously tranquil, the penetrating verse of Robert Burns is one of the most outstanding contributions to the world of poems. These lines, on the waste of woods near Drumlanrig, carry a particularly striking significance today.



G.P.M. gets his promised pictures of a grizzly bear.

FIRE NOTICE 1938 FIRE NOTICE 1938 FIRE NOTICE

DONKEYS

In case of fire all engineers and firemen remain with machines, with steam up until released by Foreman.

RIGGING MEN

All rigging men report immediately to heads of their sides, hook-tenders and riggers use their best judgment in getting to fire. Contact Foreman immediately.

FALLERS AND BUCKERS

Immediately on hearing fire whistle, bring one axe per man, and one falling and bucking saw per set and report to the scaler, the scaler to report to Bull bucker, and Bull bucker to contact Foreman immediately.

LOCOMOTIVES

Contact dispatcher immediately.

SPEEDERS

Contact dispatcher immediately.

T. HAWKSFORD

Follows Portable pump with equipment from warehouse.

D. RICHMOND

Go to V. 8 water tank car, there is 1,500 feet of 1 1/2 inch cotton hose, pails, axes, mattocks, spare nozzles on tank car. Extra equipment, hose, at watchmen shack in woods, and in warehouse in camp.

ALL MEN IN CHARGE OF CREWS

That is, Gang Foremen, hookers and riggers, talk with Foreman for instructions in case of fire in any area. Then all key men will be familiar with the location of fire equipment and in case of fire the crew will be organized for quick efficient action.

GRADE AND SECTION FOREMEN

Get in touch immediately with dispatcher or Foreman and bring shovels.

FIRE WHISTLE

Long blasts of Long and Shorts, or in case of a watchman being along, tie the whistle down.

MINUTES COUNT!!!

Get the fire out when it's just a spark.

LAKE LOGGING COMPANY LTD.
"L. A. MOLONEY"
Superintendent