

FOREST BRANCH

NEWS LETTER



No. 29.

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08581

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

The precedent of starting off the News Letter with an editorial of some sort seems to have become established so we cudgeled our brains for a suitable topic. At length one was written, but on returning to it a week later it did not read nearly so well. The net result is that in this issue you will not be inspired by any editorial comment, and in making this decision we are reminded of the words of "The Cheerful Cherub":

"Whenever a problem comes up in my life
I decide it and promptly forget it--
It isn't so much the decision that counts
As the will power not to regret it."

During May E. B. Prowd made the northern circle trip from Vancouver to Vancouver via Kamloops, Jasper, Prince George, Prince Rupert and Ocean Falls, visiting all Rangers in the Prince George and Prince Rupert districts. Conditions in the northern interior, from the angle of management work, are not so bright as elsewhere in the Province, due to greatly reduced tie contracts, absence of demand for cedar poles, and curtailed lumber production. All Rangers were nevertheless busy winding up field inspection of winter operations, getting forest protection organization plans under way and distributing tools and equipment in preparation for the coming fire season. Radio equipment was a point of new interest with some Rangers supplied for the first time.

The season was a month to six weeks behind schedule east of the Coast Range due to belated heavy snowfall in March, but at that a number of "flash" fires were experienced during the brief period of the early spring hazard.

Reduced output of the pulp and paper mills on the coast has a direct effect on log production on the mainland and Queen Charlottes.

Outstanding impressions were the evidence all along the line of efficient service on the part of the field staff and the recuperative powers of nature in reclothing burned areas, particularly in the Terrace region.

Due to increased Branch activities, the arrival of Jerry McKee in Victoria, and the appearance of Kenny McCannel over the horizon "Operation" premises have had to be extended.

Somewhere in the mists of antiquity "Operation" held forth in a corner of the Management Office. In 1920, the late Frank MacDonald was brought to Victoria from Thurston Bay, and a little later Tom Simmons joined the staff, making it necessary to get out of the corner, so room was found in the Draughting Office for them. There they resided (more or less amicably) until 1928. In that year, owing to a change around, the Chief Forester's old office became available, and there they stayed put, until recently.

Now a palatial office "just across the Street" is inhabited by Jerry McKee, Kenny McCannel (the two Macs), Jimmie Blake, Bill Spouse, Tommy Simmons and, last but not least, Miss Nancy Rorie (whom we welcome), their stenographer, George Melrose and Mike Gregg remain at the old stand "monarchs of all they survey."

Before taking over the new office it looked huge but now that everyone has moved in with their lares et penates, they are not quite so sure of its size, and we can see that before long they will be howling again about being cramped. So to all you long-suffering District Offices we say, don't think for a moment that you are the only ones who are unable to swing the proverbial cat.

The latest weekly fire report to hand indicates that the total number of fires and estimated costs are lower than at the corresponding date last year.

With the exception of early May, the season by and large has been favourable, but estimated damage is high and practically all accounted for by one fire which occurred in the Nelson District, where some seven railway bridges and a number of private buildings were burned, resulting in damage over \$100,000.00. Incidentally, one district estimates their damage to date as 50%. We hope their figures are accurate.

Summary to date is as follows:

<u>District</u>	No. of Fires to date <u>1939</u>	No. of Fires to date <u>1938</u>	No. of Fires to date <u>1937</u>
Vancouver	89	68	35
Prince Rupert	12	41	26
Prince George	18	105	40
Kamloops	119	127	43
Nelson	<u>116</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>67</u>
	<u>354</u>	<u>374</u>	<u>211</u>

Field Surveys

The field-survey section will have three cruising parties and one reconnaissance party in full swing by the time this edition of the News Letter is distributed. The party in the Okanagan, under G. R. Nixon, will complete the revision survey started last season. Vertical air photographs over the area were taken last summer and these have been plotted to provide accurate and detailed field maps. The economic phase of the situation is being handled by C. F. McBride.

A stocktaking survey of the Quatsino area at the northern end of Vancouver Island is to be carried out under M. Pogue. This information will be of particular value in examining the possibilities of establishing a working circle for the Port Alice pulp mill. Vertical air photographs over most of the area have been taken by the R.C.A.F. and these have been plotted for use by the party. A considerable amount of confidential cruise data have also been made available. A new departure in connection with this survey is that the silvicultural phase will be handled by A. P. MacBean of the Research section. Very little investigative work has been done in hemlock so advantage is being taken of the accommodation offered by the party to send out a silviculturist who will report on that phase of the survey as well as suggest problems which should be studied in some detail.

The survey of the Douglas Forest, in the Harrison Lake region, is in charge of D. L. McMullan. Vertical air photographs of this area have also been taken by the R.C.A.F. so that detailed field maps are available.

A reconnaissance of the proposed Dome Forest in the Prince George District is being made by G. Silburn. Preliminary boundaries will be delineated and a decision made as to the necessity for aerial photographs over the area.

Air Surveys

The Air Survey section under G. S. Andrews, assisted by W. Hall, has an extensive programme lined up. The Slokan drainage is being photographed with the aid of a Fairchild flying boat chartered from Canadian Airways.

D. Macdougall left about June 1st for the Prince George District to continue his programme of lookout photography. After covering the lookouts in that area Doug will journey west to photograph those in the Prince Rupert District.

Reforestation

The new reforestation programme calling for the planting of ten million seedlings per year, commencing with the spring of 1942, has caused this phase of our work to go on a mass-production basis which scarcely seemed possible a few short years ago. The Green Timbers Nursery, in charge of T. Wells with its 18 acres of cultivated land, is now on a six million production basis and will attain that sustained-yield output in 1941. A new nursery has been started near Campbell River and present activities are being directed to getting the land ready for sowing to seedbeds next spring. Jack Long, formerly of Burns Lake and way points, will be in charge, and it is planned to produce four million trees per year, the first planting stock being available in the spring of 1942.

It is so easy to speak about young trees by the million that unless one happens to be familiar with nursery work one does not realize what a task it is to produce that number. Cone collection alone is a big job and it kept Harold MacWilliams busy for several weeks last fall contacting parties here and there in the Lower Fraser Valley and on the east coast of Vancouver Island. Collections are made on a contract basis and close supervision is necessary so that the cones are properly picked and air-dried before shipment. Upon being received at Green Timbers each sack is checked for quantity and then stored until sent over to C. MacFayden, formerly Dominion Forest Service, at Lulu Island for extraction of the seed. Nearly one ton of seed was collected last fall at considerable saving to

the Branch--our cost \$3.75 per pound as compared with an average commercial price of \$4.50. The details of the collections are as follows:

	<u>No. bu.</u>	<u>No. of cones per bu.</u>	<u>Yield seed per bushel of cones</u>	<u>Quantity of Clean seed</u>
Douglas fir	4,207	900-1600	0.45 pounds	1,893 lbs.
Hemlock	10		1.00 "	10 "
Red cedar		61,800	-	15 "
Lowland fir	48		1.00	48 "
	<u>4,265</u>			<u>1,966 lbs.</u>

We were at Green Timbers recently and as Tom Wells was showing us around the statistics quoted were so interesting that we jotted them down and pass them along for your information.

650 seedbeds, 4' x 50', sown this year

Production	6,000,000 trees
Amount of seed	550 pounds
Total length of beds	6.1 miles
Lumber used	93,544 lineal feet or 78,120 f.b.m. (sufficient to sheet 19 average (5-room houses.)
Shade frames	6.1 miles using 25 miles of #12 wire and 520,000 lineal feet of 1 1/2" lath.
Average sprinkling	for the summer will require the pumping of 270,000 gallons.

Almost as much field planting was done this past spring as had been accomplished during our entire previous experience of eight years. 955,900 trees were planted on a total of 1,053 acres--763,000 trees on 900 acres in the Sayward Forest; 20,000 trees on 25 acres at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Saanich; 70,500 trees on 25 acres at Green Timbers plantations; 99,400 trees on 100 acres at Great Central Lake as a co-operative project with Blodel, Stewart and Welch, Ltd.; and 3,000 trees on 3 acres at the Langford Ranger Station.

G. S. Allen of the Silvicultural Research section, who has been attending the University of California and studying plant physiology at that institution, returned to Victoria June 1st. George was successful in passing the comprehensive oral examination leading to the Ph.D. degree and will be busy with a thesis for the next year or two.

The Rangers of the Fort George District held a very successful three-day meeting, April 18th to 20th. As is usual with such occasions, it was a great success, both from the point of discussions and socially. Various operation and protection matters were discussed and on the final day the meeting had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Hopping of Vernon, who gave a very interesting talk on the Forest Insect Survey.

It was the first Ranger meeting in the district since pre-depression days and the renewal of acquaintances was welcomed. The one regret was that Lowry of the Peace wasn't there--the empire over which he rules, however, is too far away to call him in.

Perhaps the best remembered part of the social side was Ray Sansom's penchant for such weird games as baseball and seven-toed Pete with the one-eyed Jacks wild. One grumbler (or gambler) remarked: "None of the rest of us can dope out the hands, so Ray always rakes in the pot."

One of the discussions at the meeting was about First Aid Kits. Some dissatisfaction was expressed about these. Suggestions for improvement were:

(a) Use of tin boxes, rather than the present cardboard ones, which have the disadvantage of getting wet and soggy; of having to be emptied entirely in order to get any one article; and of favouring the ruin of all the contents when an iodine or liniment bottle, insecurely corked, is replaced.

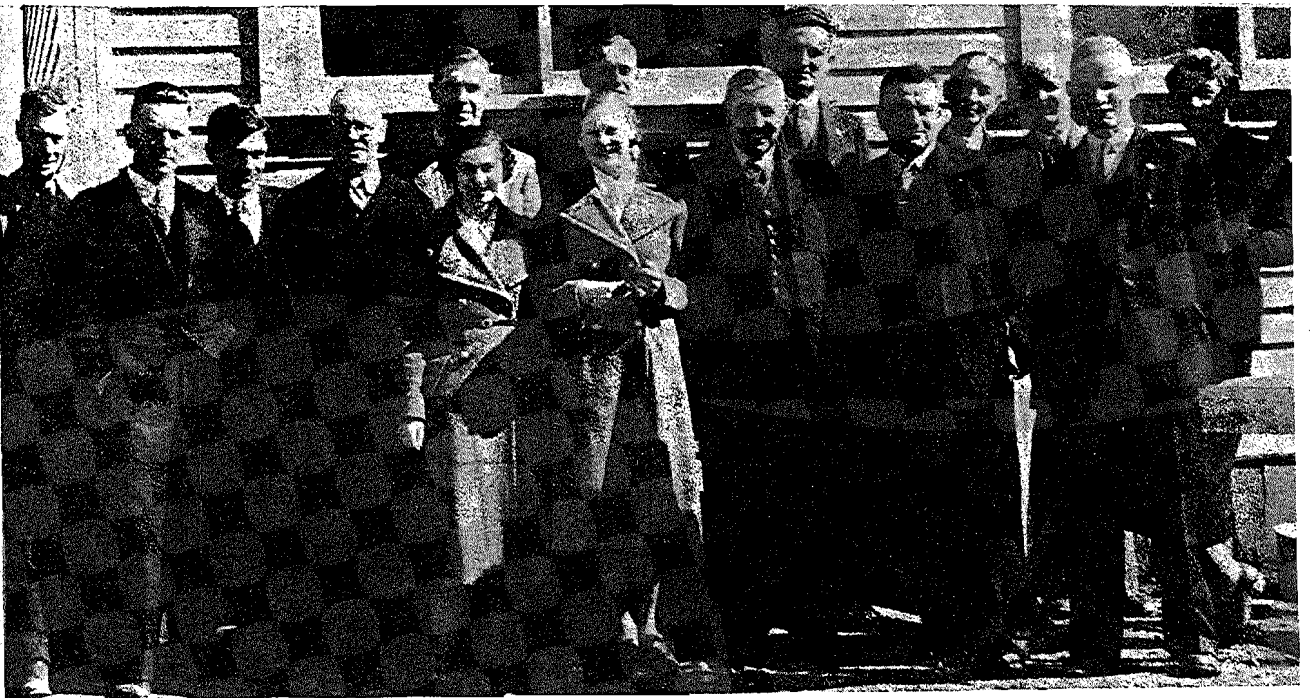
(b) No bandages less than 2" wide should be included in the kit.

(c) The adhesive tape supplied should be 1" wide and supplied in big rolls such as doctors use. The present small sizes last no time at all and are much more expensive.

It is hoped to have further and more complete suggestions later. Possibly other districts have similar suggestions.

Another suggestion which, though not new, bears repetition, is that if and when the Operation Manual is revised, it be in loose-leaf form. A further suggestion was that the sheets be the same size as pre-organization sheets (Form F.B. 187 and 187a). All Operation material would then be together.

The following picture was taken during the meeting but we hasten to assure our readers that the attractive members in the front row are not Rangers:



Left to right: Asst. Ranger Geo. Smith, Supervisor Walter Henning, Asst. Dist. Forester L.F. Swannell, Ranger J.K. Frost, Dist. Forester R.D. Greggor, Miss Clara Wieland, Miss Sadie Belina, Irving Moss (Clerk), Ranger Geo. Forbes, R.B. Carter (Clerk), Ranger H.R. Sansom, Ranger Alex. Hunter, Ranger W.N. (Rusty) Campbell, John Jardine (Chief Clerk), Miss Alma Grundall (Clerk).

Service Awards

In the last issue mention was made of the fact that Jack Asson, G.P. Melrose and J.G. MacDonald had been presented with 25-year-service buttons. At this time we wish to present photos and biographies of these men and to congratulate them on the completion of twenty-five years of public service.



JOHN ASSON (Clerk, Vancouver Office)

Born in West Bromwich, Staffordshire, England, but emigrated to Canada at an early age. First entered the ranks of the Civil Service in June, 1914 as clerk in the Scales' Office, Vancouver. Joined the army in October, 1915. Originally with the 72nd Battalion but served in France with the 12th Brigade and 78th Battalion. Received discharge in 1919.

Resumed work with the Forest Branch July, 1919, as clerk in the Nelson Office. After being there for a few months transferred to the Vancouver Office and has been a member of that staff ever since.

GEORGE MELROSE (Forester in charge of Operation & Grazing)

Native of New Brunswick. Graduated May, 1914, from School of Forestry, University of New Brunswick, and immediately migrated westward. First work with the Branch was on A.G. Mumford's land examination party in the Klamath River Valley, Vancouver Island. In the fall of the same year appointed Forest Assistant on the District Staff at Vernon under L.R. Andrews. Promoted to District Forester, Vernon, in 1918 and as time rolled on has been in charge at Kamloops, Assistant Forester in Management at Victoria, Assistant District Forester, Vancouver, and District Forester at Nelson and Kamloops.

We have not been able to ferret out George's lurid past, if any, so cannot regale our readers with any swashbuckling stories. As is doubtless well known, his relaxation is taken in gardening or on the golf course, but his real passion has become cameras and movies. As regards the latter, we must admit that George does take good pictures, or maybe it is that he hasn't shown us the poor ones, such as we usually produce.

JIM MacDONALD (Fire Inspector, Vancouver)

Hails from Inverness, Scotland. Before emigrating to Canada worked for two years in the Forestry Department of Dixon and Company's Nursery at Edinburgh. Perhaps this is where Jim's weakness for horticulture had its origin. Arrived in Canada in 1907 and was soon out with the Grand Trunk Pacific Survey as rodman and assistant topographer. Later worked for that well-known firm of Swannell and Noakes in the capacity of levelman, transitman, and draughtsman.

Joined the Forest Branch in April, 1914, and went to South Fort George as Ranger under H.G. Marvin, District Forester. Transportation was mainly by horse but on occasion a motorcycle and Model T Ford (brass-bound edition) were used. Promoted to District Forester in 1918. Transferred to Nanaimo in 1920 as Supervisor, where he remained until 1927, when promoted to Fire Inspector, Vancouver District. Spent from 1932-1935 as Supervisor and Fire Inspector at Kamloops. Returned to Vancouver again in 1936.

Jim's chief dissipation is browsing around florist shops looking for some new plant to add to his garden or greenhouse.

Appointments and Transfers

The following new appointments and transfers were made effective May 1st:

W.G. Henning, ex Ranger Quesnel to Supervisor, Prince George.
W.N. Campbell, " " Dome Creek to Ranger, Quesnel,
R.T. Blackwood, Acting Ranger, Dome Creek.
F.J.G. Johnson, ex Ranger Thurston Bay, to Ranger Invermere.
R. Little, ex Ranger Invermere, to Ranger, Agassiz.
H. Stevenson, ex Ranger Port Hardy, to Ranger, Port Alberni.
W.A. Johnston, ex Ranger, Ocean Falls, to Ranger, Port Hardy.
D.M. Calder, Acting Ranger, Thurston Bay.
R.C. Telford, Acting Ranger, West Coast, Vancouver Island.

W.C. Phillips, ex Economics Division, to Acting Ranger, Ocean Falls.
K.C. McCannel, ex Asst. District Forester, Nelson to Asst. Forester i/c Parks and Recreation, Victoria.
E.W. Bassett, ex Asst. Forester i/c Management, Vancouver, to Asst. District Forester, Nelson.
M.W. Gormely, ex Asst. Forester, Vancouver, to Asst. Forester i/c Management, Vancouver.
W.S. Hopher, ex Acting Ranger, Port Neville, to Asst. Forester, Vancouver.
G.W. Minns, Acting Ranger, Port Neville.

On June 1st G.A. Playfair, Supervisor's Clerk at Campbell River, was promoted to the position of Radio Engineer, Victoria, and his place at Campbell River taken by D.I. MacLeod of Nelson.

A recent hazard report makes this suggestion for the quick disposal of forest officers: "This slash could be burned under supervision or a forest officer."

MAIN OFFICE



The March, 1939, Lumber Trade Report by the Timber Commissioner in Australia contains the following interesting comments:

"One of the worst forest fires in the history of Australia took place in Victoria during the second week of January. In this fire over 70 people lost their lives and 90-95% of all the mountain ash forests of Victoria were burnt or destroyed, mountain ash being the leading commercial species of this state. Forty-three sawmills located in these forests were entirely destroyed, and at the time of writing the whole industry is badly disorganized. Drought conditions, which had existed for months, combined with temperatures ranging up to 121 degrees in the shade, relative humidity of only 7%, together with a high wind, produced a fire that has actually wiped out a large part of the milling industry of this state."

"Since commencing this report, a more comprehensive survey has been completed of the destruction of the mountain ash forests of Victoria. The Victorian Hardwood Millers' Association and the Victorian Forestry Commission have jointly issued a report and the revised figures of the extent of the damage show that commercial losses have exceeded £6,000,000 value, and 2,200,000,000 feet of timber have been burnt or destroyed. In the joint report they now estimate that they will only be able to salvage about 100,000,000 feet, and unless State aid is forthcoming to finance the salvage, it is doubtful whether private enterprise will be able to undertake the salvaging of that amount."

Three employment schemes have been placed under the supervision of the Branch this summer and it is anticipated that when the enrollments are complete 1,500 to 2,000 men will be in camps scattered throughout the Province. Five hundred young men will be included in the National Forestry Programme and 300 in the Forestry Training Plan. In addition to these men there will probably be about 1,000 of the single unemployed working on a summer programme of the Forest Development Projects. An extensive programme of park development and improvement, forest protection, reforestation, and fish and game work has been drawn up. The men are moving into camp rapidly and by the time this issue is off the press most of the crew personnel will be in camp. Looks like a busy season for McCannel, Forse, and Oldham.

The following poem was submitted by one of our correspondents in reply to last issue's editorial:

In Future

Life holds no brief for those who mourn
The passing years with efforts lost; and yet,
No man grows old by flight of years,
But by his lack of growth and vain regret.

'Tis vain to wish your days of youth
Should be renewed. Waste not your tears.
Think back, and ask if you would live again
Through all those years of doubts and fears.

Better that the thoughts of future days preclude
The memories of those bewildering years now passed.
Then will sweep over you, a glow of gratitude;
That all those waverings and gropings are outcast.

Henceforward you'll be certain, where once you doubted,
And where you wavered, there you will begin
To justify your faith and build on strong foundation;
Act and succeed where once you vaguely hoped to win.

"The Forest Log," published monthly by the Oregon State Board of Forestry, Salem, Oregon, ceased publication with its March-April issue. From time to time we have quoted items from its columns and it is with much regret that we now give "The Forest Log" a farewell salute.

OFF THE RECORD

"About these new trucks, three of them, two of which are now in our possession, and the third is to be available within the next few days: what a circus! What glorious abandon of individuality the makers managed to express in their work!

"Take the first: a flaming red; none of your betwixt and between shades, but a positive right-between-the-eyes muscovite red. Viewed from the front the vehicle screams that it was sired in the same stable as a logging truck; examined from another angle it is not unlike a battleship, roomy and capacious in the box, but passing stingy in the driver accommodation. However, it is partly redeemed by having shock absorbers front and rear, and when the initial shock has worn off, its driver will probably come to love it for its rugged qualities.

"Turn now to the second. Pause to appreciate the delicate cerulean blue, the exquisite reserve, the coyness of the cerise piping, the faultlessness of tone in the whole color scheme. Notice the trigger emergency brake and the trick knob inside the dash by which and, be it noted, by which alone the hood may be raised. As the dealer pointed out, if the driver of the truck is careful to lock the cab door every time he leaves he need never worry about anybody stealing the spark plugs or tampering with the engine. These people apparently have not gone in for light delivery trucks much, which is rather superfluous to say, after sizing up the box on this model. It is built over the rear wheels so that the housing of the wheels occupies part of the inside of the box. The general result is a loose, sprawling, over-sized box, which gives one the impression that it might start to flap its wings and to fall to pieces prematurely. The Assistant Ranger has this unit. He is inordinately proud of it so far, and I hope for his sake, and all our sakes, that it stands up.

"We have yet to receive the third. I expect it to be more conventional as to box but am prepared to find it in any color.

"All of which boiled down means, 'Shouldn't it be possible to standardize a colour and size of box for our use?'"

"Submitted without prejudice or reflection on anybody, and with a lively appreciation of whoso is to be thanked for getting me some new equipment, please."

Ranger.

A short but very interesting and instructive visit was made to Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Wash., U.S.A.. between May 18th and 23rd by our Mechanical Superintendent.

Friday, May 19th, after checking in at the Regional Office, was spent in the U. S. Forest Service warehouse in company with Mr. Ted Flynn, Senior Equipment Engineer, going over in detail the component parts and drawings of "Kitten" tractors, properly known as Trail Tractors.

Ten of these machines, with an over-all length of seven feet and a width of three feet, are being built by the U. S. Forest Service. Eight of these are for use in various U. S. Forests, and two are for the B. C. Forest Service.

The weight of the bare tractor is 2,800 pounds, and with the bull-dozer, 3,600 pounds. The power unit is a "Waukesha" 36 h.p. gasoline engine. The speed is from 1 to 10 miles per hour, either forward or backward, an independent clutch with reverse gear interposed between the engine and the gear box permitting of this action. Four speeds in either direction are available.

These small tractors have been developed by the U.S. Forest Service for use in building pack trails, and are very fast on this work. The bull-dozer blade can be quickly converted to the "bush-buster" type with a separate nosepiece.

Two-wheeled carts for the conveyance of supplies over these pack trails are also a feature of the set-up. Two of these carts accompany each tractor as a rule, with a load of 1,500 pounds per cart.

Trials show that these carts, using second gear, can be hauled up 15% grades at a speed of three to four miles per hour by the small tractor, with a pay load of 2,500 pounds.

Saturday, May 20th, was taken up with observing tests on portable snag-falling power saws, and a visit to the U. S. Forest Service Radio Laboratory. The Radio Laboratory was originally a broadcasting station and is now enlarged and equipped for research work and investigation of all possible means of radio communication in Forest Service and other work, overhaul work on sets in service, and testing of these. A staff of some ten men are employed on this work.

Saturday afternoon and evening were spent with members of the Radio Specialty Company, Ltd. (makers of B. C. Forest Service S. P. F. sets), in their plant and offices and in witnessing tests and demonstrations of new types of transreceivers being developed.

Two outstanding sets have been recently developed. One of these is a small "Lunch Kit" set, weighing 6 1/4 pounds, with a normal operating range limited by visual observation, i.e., as long as you can see the point where the other unit is set up, up to twenty-five miles, you can send and receive earphone messages. The other transreceiver is a dual-duty machine, also portable, in which you have the choice of two frequencies. In many cases in which you have poor transmission or reception on one frequency, a switch over to another frequency will give good results.

Another piece of equipment observed was a "note" generator, in which could be generated, or sent out, any musical or electrical note on any frequency desired, and distance, power or other variables could be simulated as required.

The U.S. Forest Service and the Radio Specialty Company officials were surprised to hear that we tested our S.P.F. sets between Victoria and Campbell River, a distance of over 170 miles. These sets were developed for a distance of twenty-five miles only by the makers, so it would appear that we are getting good value for our money.

Sunday, May 21st, was taken up in going over tests and experiments with oil filters for cars and trucks. The U.S. Forest Service has a very complete set-up for this work and the tests have covered all makes of filters and refiners generally in use. Filters are tested on various makes of oil, oil with varying percentages of sludge and solids, reclaimed oil, etc., for reliability, capacity, and breakdown.

Monday, May 22nd, was devoted to a discussion on forest fire-fighting pumps with various officials and field men of the U.S. Forest Service, and a lot of information gained on both sides (I hope).

This was in the morning. In the afternoon a visit was made to the Edwards Manufacturing Company, Longview, Washington, where a new type of forest fire-fighting pump unit has been developed. This pump has renewable liners and rotors, cannot get out of line and is the only pump to stand up to 100% U.S. Forest Service specifications over 100-hour tests. The unit has ball-bearing main bearings, and roller bearing connecting-rod bearings.

The H.P. is 12, the weight, 84 pounds, the capacity 64 U.S. gallons per minute at 100 pounds pressure, and 36 gallons at 250 pounds. Speed, 2,500 to 4,500 R.P.M.

The replaceable and/or adjustable liners together with the rotors can be changed in 15 minutes.

Another development from the above pump, which is now being marketed, is a hydraulic pump for pump trucks, tractors with bull-dozers, etc.

Tuesday, May 23rd, (morning) was spent in Seattle, when the Pacific Marine Supply Company was visited and their new pumps, in course of development, inspected. A visit to Major C. S. Cowan's office unfortunately found him out of town, so the continuance of an argument started in Victoria in 1920 was not possible.

In the Fort George district, during last year and this, much thought was put on the design of a combined river and lake boat. Previous boats were measured and builders consulted. The results, in the form of a tracing are now on file at Victoria.

They are for a 28-foot boat with a maximum bottom width of approximately 38 inches. This boat weighs approximately 430 lbs., and it is estimated, if loaded to capacity, could safely carry nearly two tons (live and dead weight).

The boats are in three sections; the bow, the middle and the stern. In building them the dimensions of the ribs at the end of the middle section, those of the stern board, and of the stem, are all that are required. These portions of the boat are constructed and placed in proper relation to one another. A strip of one-inch board is then nailed on one side of the top of them and dimension of all other ribs obtained from this strip. This gives the natural curve of the wood, and also determines the flare of the bottom of bow and stern portions. The other ribs are then constructed and side and bottom boards completed. The side boards must meet exactly at the middle of the boat, otherwise the join will bulge.

Floor boards should not be laid closer to the stern than four or five feet, the balance of the bottom being filled with removable grills, which fit between the ribs. The reason for this is twofold: their removal aids a pole-man if poling is necessary, by giving him the ribs to brace his feet against; also, these removable grills facilitate pitching and caulking at a place where these are necessary most frequently.

The boat was designed for use with a long-shaft outboard as it was thought that the extra height was very useful in lake work, when a following sea is encountered. As the weakest part of the boat is at the stern this was strengthened by closer rib spacing, and by use of a steel tie-rod.

This number edited
by F. S. McKinnon,
Victoria.