

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. 41

Victoria, B. C., July 15, 1941.

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The interval since our last News Letter (March 7th) has been longer than usual and many things have happened to keep us (editorially speaking) overly busy. But one advantage is that there has been ample time to build up a fund of "news, nonsense 'n' opinion". Many staff changes have been made and enlistments have taken more men. The intensification of the war effort throughout the nation has brought more work to many of us and will continue to do so to a greater degree, but that is a small contribution compared to others. As some compensation the fire season has been generally favourable. May it continue to be so, although we have our fingers crossed because of the low snowfall during the winter--less than 50 per cent of normal in some places.

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We were told the other day that in the famous city of Montreal they have a rather quaint and decidedly inconvenient custom with respect to "Moving Day". We understand that if you plan to change your abode during the year--come what may--no matter who you may be--you ABSOLUTELY MUST move on May 1st! If you are going to want a house six months hence it doesn't matter. You engage somebody to move you on May 1st and your furniture, more likely than not, arrives at your new home before the other tenants have managed to move out. Their furniture is on its way out--yours is on its way in. There is great excitement and a good deal of short temper. What a place to live in! If we ever go to Montreal we shall try to find out why and when this custom was instituted.

It seems though that Montreal isn't the only place where there is an official "Moving Day". To us a new fiscal year spells April 1st...April 1st spells new appointments, promotions and transfers...therefore it is "Moving Day" for the Forest Branch.

To begin at the top of the list we have C.D. Orchard, our new Chief Forester, appointed to this position following the death of our late Chief, E. C. Manning. Next comes Geo. P. Melrose, new Assistant Chief Forester, replacing Mr. Orchard in this position. E.E. (Mike) Gregg follows, being promoted to Chief of Operation (Forest Protection), replacing Geo. P. Melrose. Then we have E.W. (Ed) Bassett transferred from the Assistant District Forester's position at Nelson to be Assistant in Operation (Forest Protection). (Confidentially. the housing problem is so acute in Victoria that we were requested to refrain from asking him how he was getting along. However, after nearly two months he was all smiles, having found a house into which he could move in another couple of months.) K.C. McCannel, formerly of the "Parks" Division, Victoria, was transferred to Nelson to be Assistant District Forester.

The new organization sheet for the Vancouver District shows: R. Murray, Supervisor at Nanaimo transferred to Vancouver. J. A. Pedley, Supervisor at Campbell River transferred to Nanaimo. J.P. Greenhouse appointed Ranger at Sechelt vice E. Hill. K.M. Bell, Acting Ranger at Pender Harbour. C.M. Yingling appointed Acting Ranger at Lund. J.A.C. Denny. Acting Ranger at Alert Bay, vice D. Calder absent on sick leave. G.M. Abernethy. Acting Ranger with Ranger Langstroth at Campbell River. T.J. Underwood transferred to Alberni vice H. Stevenson, enlisted. J.W. Ker, new Acting Ranger on the West Coast with headquarters at Zeballos.

In the Prince George District we regret to advise that A. Hunter, Ranger at Prince George, is absent on sick leave. Otherwise the staff in this district remains the same.

For the Kamloops District, H.A. Ferguson is the new Ranger at Chase vice J.W. Hayhurst, transferred to Vernon. W. A. Perry, Acting Ranger at Sicamous, vice R.B. Eden, moved to the new District created with headquarters at Kelowna. C.D. Haddon at Revelstoke as Ranger, vice J. Boydell, enlisted. L.A. Chase, Acting Ranger at Alexis Creek, vice W. Adamson, resigned.

In the Nelson District, new appointments show D.H. Ross as Acting Ranger at Invermere, vice F.J.G. Johnson, enlisted. G.C. Robinson, Acting Ranger at Kaslo, vice H.J. Coles, transferred to Golden, the new Ranger District.

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Our Chief Draughtsman, W. L. Thomas, who was one of the original members of the Service, joining the staff in 1912, has retired. Mr. Thomas is well-known throughout the Service and his many friends outside Victoria will be pleased to learn that on May 31st Mr. Orchard, on behalf of the staff, presented him with a trillite, an electric clock and a war savings certificate in remembrance of his many years' association with the Branch.

Mr. A.E. Thompson has been promoted to the position formerly held by Mr. Thomas.

Upon his retirement at the same time another Draughtsman, R.F. Sheldon-Williams of the Economics Division, was presented with a purse by Mr. Orchard.

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We regret to advise that F.S. (Fin) McKinnon of the Economics Division is laid up and will be out of the running for a while. We understand his condition is not serious but requires some time to correct. He has your best wishes and ours for a rapid and complete recovery.

Things have previously been said about there being a "NUNN" a "MONK" and a "BISHOP" on the Victoria staff. New faces are to be seen in almost every office these days. Among those in the Accounts Office are S. Watson, A. Rhodes and R. Little (the last two stand 6'-3"). Answering our buzzer these days is W.J. Long of the Management Office, who prefers to be known as BUZZ and hopes to see the day when everybody on the staff will call him that and nothing else.

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C.A.F. NEWS

The Victoria Office recently had a visit from Norman Wharf, proudly dusting imaginary specks off his three stripes. Believe it or not (we could hardly believe it ourselves) Norman is now a Drill Instructor! Congratulations, Norman.

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SIDNEY BENWELL, a member of the Victoria staff since 1923, (latterly of the Royalty Inspector's Office) and with the Prince Rupert staff from 1934-1938, has enlisted in the Navy since our last Letter and is now P/Pay Sub-Lieutenant.

V. HICKS is taking Sidney's place temporarily and D.I. McLEOD of the Management Office (formerly of Vancouver Office) is now in the Accounts Office taking Hicks' place.

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"Economics" reports the transfer of G.S. Andrews, Lieut in the R.C.E., to "I" Branch, Canadian Corps Headquarters, as Technical Adviser on Air Surveys to Corps Commander Lieut-Gen. MacNaughton. Congratulations, Gerry.

We also hear "things" occasionally about the other two "Musketeers" from the same Division--"Bill" Hall and Lorne Swannell (latterly of Prince George). We understand that Bill is now a Captain with the Royal Engineers "Somewhere in Egypt" and that Lorne has also been promoted to Captain in a regiment "Somewhere in England." Our Congratulations to you both.

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For the benefit of the Boys "OVER THERE" we wish to advise that you have now been joined by the following since our last letter: C.L. Armstrong, C.F.C., (Kamloops); A. Gordon, C.F.C., (Victoria); W.E. Jansen, C.F.C., (Vancouver); A.C. Kinnear, R.C.A., (Victoria); A.J. Kirk, R.C.A., (Prince George); G.A. Playfair, R.C.A.F., (Victoria); A.B. Ritchie, C.F.C., (Kamloops); J.H. Wilcox, C.F.C. (Kamloops); L.A. Willington, C.F.C., (Prince George); C.J. Wright, C.F.C., (Kamloops).

It's a small world and we know you'll be running into each other sometimes, but the News Letter has been responsible for get-togethers before now, and we hope it will again. (We hear that already Axel Kinnear and Gerry Andrews have had a little get-together in London.)

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All the latest enlistments we know of are from the "Economics" Division. J. H. Benton of Aerial Surveys has joined the R.C.A.F., as have also J.D. LeMare, C.E. Bennett and H.E. Elsey; also I.C. MacQueen.

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C.R. LEE (Kamloops)

"I feel I must apologise for not acknowledging, 'ere this, the cigarettes received about 10 days ago...and I should be glad if you would convey to the Honourable the Minister, and the members of the Forest Branch, my appreciation of their continued thoughtfulness.

"Whilst I am writing I should like to take the opportunity to congratulate, en masse, those members of the Branch who have recently received promotions. Congratulations are due, also, to those members who have been promoted on Active Service, and these latter are so numerous that it is hard to keep track of them!

Which brings me to thank the Branch, also, for forwarding the 'F.B. News Letter', the Active Service edition being particularly interesting. I note 'Ye Ed' had to delve into the rather distant past for something resembling myself, and I am enclosing a more up-to-date likeness - if not a more modern one! At least it is a good one of the dog!...

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C.R. SANDEY (Vancouver)

"May I just drop a line to let you know that I am receiving a regular supply of cigarettes as a result of the kindly efforts of the staff. In expressing my gratitude for the cigarettes themselves, the thought behind the gift is more appreciated...I understand you have had a wonderful spring. Do save some for us when we get back. It's something 'orrible here."

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C.W. MIZON (Kamloops)



"I wish to thank you for the parcel I received, and also the cigarettes and News Letter which come every month. It sure is nice to get the news and see what everyone is doing."

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VICTOR C. SMITH (Victoria)

"On my last trip into port I had a very eventful two days, June 2nd and 3rd. On the second I had the experience of becoming a father of a baby boy, 7 lbs. 13 oz. Then on the third I was called to the naval office and told I had been promoted to Chief Petty Officer, for which I was very pleased. Everything at once."

(On behalf of the Branch the Editor extends congratulations.)

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H.J. OWEN (Vancouver)



"Please convey to the Honourable Minister and the staff of the Forest Service my sincere thanks for the parcels of chocolate bars just received. Also the splendid Xmas parcel mailed to me last December just reached me a few days ago. It had been all over the country looking for me then took a side trip to England. I will admit I was somewhat nonplussed by the label 'Do not open until Xmas', but temptation finally overcame my scruples. Everything in it was in excellent condition after six months and thousands of miles of travelling. The socks were just splendid and a fine fit. The first aid boxes in which the Xmas parcels were packed make fine boxes to keep letters and writing materials in."

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L.A. WILLINGTON (Prince George)

Writing from "Somewhere in Scotland", says: "At last after an uneventful trip across the pond we have finally settled down in a small valley and are now busy getting our camp in shape and cleaning up a mill site...Received the last News Letter and package of cigarettes just before we embarked and I enjoyed them very much."

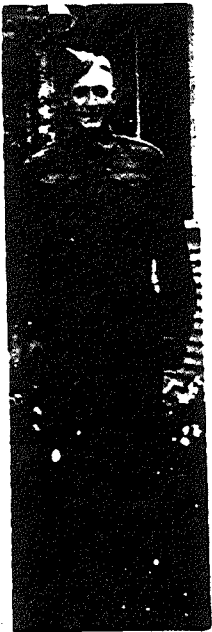
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W.D. HAY (Prince George)

"Just a note to convey my sincere appreciation for the smokes which arrived yesterday. As I hadn't heard from you in over two months I was beginning to wonder if my last letter had gone astray. I would appreciate any spare copies of the News Letter to learn how the Gang are getting along. We are now in the new Armoured Division and all feel it quite an honour."

(Editor's note: You will see by the first paragraph on Page 1 why you haven't received the News Letter lately.)

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H.G. MAYSON,
Kamloops



C.L. ARMSTRONG, Kamloops



R.R. DOUGLAS, Kamloops

J.C. WRIGHT (Kamloops)

"Received the cigarettes in good order for which I wish to thank you very much. We are safe in Scotland now and are getting down to the business of logging. It isn't quite like B.C. logging but we'll make out."

J.H. WILCOX (Kamloops)

"As you'll notice we are over here on the other side of the pond after a rather cold trip with one dandy of a storm and, much to my own surprise I never got seasick, although quite a number of the boys rode the rail for two or three days. We are rather busy at present putting up a new camp and all the boys including myself like it fine. The Scotch people sure treat you as if you were one of them..."

A.E. (Pop) Ritchie (Kamloops)

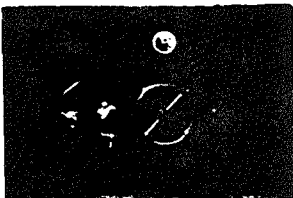
Also writes from Scotland. He says: "Alex Gordon and Chris Armstrong are across the Firth from us. I have not seen them since getting off the train...Thanks so much for the cigarettes which arrived O.K..."

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Following years of pioneering by Ranger Charlie Holmes of Langford (Vancouver District) who used to carry a tank, hand pump and garden hose on his light delivery three "reel-tankers" were built in 1940.

Two Edwards Fire Pump attachments were purchased, one fitted to the Langford truck which had an 80-gallon tank and the other installed on the light delivery at our Green Timbers Nursery. This second machine was fitted with a 100-gallon tank..



The third unit was a 500-gallon tank mounted on skids equipped with a 1 H.P. air-cooled engine driving a small capacity fire pump. This unit was self-contained and could be placed on any 2 1/2 ton truck.

Rangers Holmes and Cowie and Foreman Wells rate them high in the list of useful fire-control equipment.

Following the 1940 experience two units have been built, one each for Kamloops and Nelson Districts (see photographs). These are more of a streamlined job, with the pump driven from the gear-box power-take-off rather than the fan belt.

The valving has been simplified on the new tankers, a single valve with three plainly marked positions replacing three original control valves.

It was found that the 100-gallon installation was a rather heavy load for a 1/2-ton truck and the new units have therefore been installed on a 3/4-ton and a 1-ton unit.

All the tankers, with the exception of the 500-gallon unit, carry between 150 and 180 feet of 3/4" garden hose on a live reel, 500 feet of 1 1/2" linen discharge hose, one or two 10-foot suction hoses and a complement of the regular fire-fighting tools. It is felt that they will be

highly useful on roadside fires and many not so close to the road. They should be valuable in holding backfires, cooling the main fire and snags and, upon occasion, doing a real pumping job where portable pumps are not available. Reports on their use will be awaited with interest.

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An innovation this year that will bear watching is the institution of stand-by crews. These are designed to have available at all times trained and efficient men capable of controlling fires in their incipency. Even one such fire controlled which, through inefficient work or loss of time getting organized might get away, would be well worth the cost of the crew. In the meantime, they are usefully employed on improvement work.

These crews are as much a part of the organization as are the rest of us and they are heartily welcomed. It is hoped they will feel free at any time to offer suggestions on the work of forest protection and their own work in particular. The protection of our forest resources, be they timber, scenery, water or wild life, is important in our war and peace economy. The work these crews accomplish will help materially.

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The new boat repair plant on the Fraser River is just about completed. It is a fine, well-built and well-planned piece of construction that rivals anything on the coast. A full description will be given in a later issue. In the meantime the Editor would appreciate any items of interest regarding the old Thurston Bay station. It has now been reduced to a ranger station and The Bay will no longer echo to the sound of hammers, planers and rip-saws. But there are many spirits and memories of old times still floating around, some gay; some serious. Let us have your historical bits, anecdotes and pictures of Thurston Bay.

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"An engineer is said to be a man who knows a great deal about a very little, and who goes along knowing more and more about less and less until finally he knows practically everything about nothing; whereas a salesman, on the other hand, is a man who knows very little about a great deal, and keeps on knowing less and less about more and more until finally he knows practically nothing about everything."

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On Friday, March 7th, while proceeding from Vancouver to Howe Sound the Vancouver District headquarters launch, "P.Z. Caverhill" was struck by the C.P.R. coast steamship "Princess Charlotte". Aboard were Ranger E. Hill, Engineer H. Alexander and Cook Fred Emond. The latter was in the engine room at the time and escaped the sharp prow of the "Charlotte" by a narrow margin. All three men climbed on to the guard rail of the larger boat, but seeing the "Caverhill" still afloat, got back aboard, launched a dinghy and were taken on the "Charlotte". The "Caverhill", pilot-house awash, was later picked up and towed to Vancouver. The damage was so extensive that it was decided not to repair the launch. The machinery and equipment were salvaged and the hull sold.

The old "B.C. Forester", once headquarters launch and latterly floating camp for "Surveys" is replacing the "Caverhill", temporarily at least.

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If any of you heard the broadcast of July 3rd over CER Vancouver at 10.00 p.m. in which George Malrose answered questions by the announcer we'd be glad to hear from you. Was it heard by others? Any comments by the public would be interesting.

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Ed Bassett has just completed a month's trip in the Kamloops District on annual tool cache and equipment inspection work, arriving back in Victoria just as this issue goes to press. Time does not allow for preparation of a detailed write-up on the trip but a few general observations follow.

A start was made from Kamloops and the North Thompson country was first covered. George Mayson at Barriere once again lived up to his record for invention, and among various new gadgets produced, brought forth for inspection an arrangement which he calls a "foot-valve protector". This is a form of heavy telephone wire cage, roughly a foot in diameter by a foot and a half in length, with hinged opening at one end to allow entry of foot valve and suction which, when in place, rests and is clamped on a seating in the centre of the cage. The purpose of the arrangement is that suction and valve may be thrown in the creek without any fear of damage and, what is perhaps more important, the valve is at all times kept some three or four inches clear of muddy bottom or weeds. We think the "protector" has definite possibilities and suggest that if any of the other Ranger Districts are interested they contact George direct for a rough sketch of the device--so far as we know, as yet unpatented.

Bill Noble and his men from Birch Island to Blue River were contacted next. At the latter point, Assistant Ranger Ballard has an inclined writing shelf for Form F.B. 56 near the door of his cache, as is usual, but has improved the idea by tacking two small strips at either side of the shelf at correct distance so that the pad of forms slips beneath the strips and is held steady in place for writing.

Returning to Kamloops, a swing through Merritt, Princeton and the Okanagan was commenced. A puncture, followed by a blow-out, and the discovery that the tube repair kit tire cement had wasted away since last season, made it a 5 1/2 hour trip from Kamloops to Merritt with Assistant Ranger Campbell. However, this train of misfortune probably served its purpose in demonstrating our point that a complete tube repair kit should be part of standard equipment on all cars.

Jim Fraser was visited at Princeton. This headquarters is playing an important part in Kamloops' radio set-up, contacting lookout weather reporting stations direct twice daily, relaying the summary to T.C.A., and in turn receiving daily forecasts.

Charlie Perrin at Penticton boasts a remodeled enlarged tool cache, cement-floored and fitted up by his own men this spring.

At Kelowna, Roy Eden is just getting settled in a new office situated in a building on the main street. The tool cache here is at the P.W.D. yard where, with the very much appreciated co-operation of the local P.W.D. staff, space was made available and excellent accommodation provided.

McCluskey and Hayhurst in the Vernon District are also sporting a new cache at Lumby. This is a completely new building equipped with small office and living quarters and well constructed. A guarded axe rack protecting hands and arms from the sharpened blades is a feature of this cache.

Outstanding in the Sicamous District under Ranger Perry is the assistant ranger headquarters and cache at Cinnemousun Narrows up the lake. This is a beautiful natural site and improvements such as rock retaining walls and a garden along the lakeshore in front of the buildings have added much to the appearance. Assistant Ranger Dearing is largely responsible and deserving of credit for this work.

At Revelstoke, Chuck Haddon is fast getting settled as Ranger in a district where his father started many years ago. With the Big Bend Highway in steady use this may become an increasingly important district.

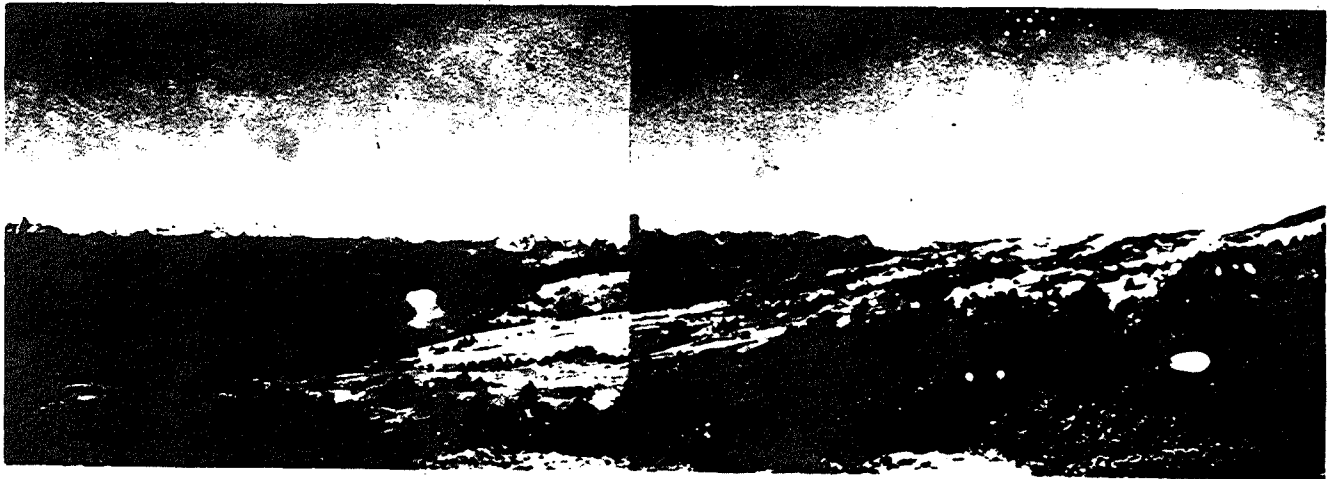
Jack Templeman at Salmon Arm is another fortunate with a new tool cache building. He is doubly fortunate in having Gilmour as Assistant Ranger who, with his past trade as cabinet maker, has been making desks, lockers, etc., and doing much to improve the facilities.

Ferguson, another newcomer to the Ranger ranks, has taken over at Chase and has his hands full, especially with management duties, which are very heavy in the district.

Clinton Ranger District under Charlie Robertson had just completed setting up their new power-grinding unit at the cache there, and we have it on good authority that no time will be lost in shipping the old bicycle outfit out to one of the smaller caches within the district.

At Williams Lake we found Alex Chisholm wallowing around on muddy roads after some two days of steady rain. This district now has a new assistant ranger cabin and small cache at Black Creek from where, incidentally, the combination of clay and rain almost precluded return by car. Assistant Ranger Scott at Likely has the Launch "Mountain Ash" there looking like a new ship with fresh paint and all brass shining. We'd have liked nothing better than to spend a week or so cruising the lake with him.

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Panoramic view of part of "Ernest C. Manning" Park. At this time of year the open areas are a mass of brilliant bloom and buck deer jump from behind almost every bush.

ERNEST C. MANNING PARK

At the annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers last February a motion was passed suggesting that a Provincial Park be named for the late Chief Forester, Mr. E.C. Manning. It was pointed out that Mr. Manning's outstanding contribution to forestry, and especially to the establishment of a parks policy under the Forest Service, deserved recognition and commemoration.

As a result the Honourable the Minister of Lands has recommended and the Government has approved the necessary order-in-council constituting the "Ernest C. Manning Park". The park chosen lies between Princeton and Hope, taking in an area of magnificent scenery of open alpine meadows, rugged peaks, lovely fishing streams and still lakes. Lying on the headwaters of the Similkameen and Skagit rivers and running twenty miles North from the International Boundary, it is easily reached from Princeton or Hope. It provides some of the most beautiful country for riding and hiking in the Province. Those of you who have seen the coloured movie "British Columbia Sketches"

will remember the last part showing the pack-horse trip to this Park. The movies tell only a small part of the beauty of flowers, mountains and wild life to be seen.

At a later date there will be a ceremony of dedication of the Park at which an entrance structure will be unveiled.

We feel that the constitution and naming of this Park is a fitting and lasting tribute to our late Chief.

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Courtesy of Don Munday

Slopes that challenge both imagination and skis with their immensity. A favourite ski area on Seymour Mountain.

MOUNT SEYMOUR PARK

Across Burrard Inlet from the City of Vancouver lies one of the finest recreational areas adjoining any city on the continent. The North Shore mountains provide an outdoor paradise for hikers, campers, picnickers and fishermen in the summer and skiers and skaters in the winter. Here, just an hour away from the heart of the city, one may enter the wilderness for half a day, a week, or a month. Just two hours from the City Hall and one may don his skis on one of the best stretches of ski country available, where all the varieties of sliding on boards may be enjoyed.

As a start towards placing this area in a park, the Mount Seymour area has been so constituted. This was made necessary by the growing demand for cabin sites and the need to regulate this use before the best ski areas were spoiled. Plans for ski runs, cabin sites and other improvements have been prepared. A highway is surveyed and will ultimately give access by car right to the ski slopes and hiking areas. This park should ultimately become outstanding on the continent.

Earlier in this issue we reprinted some excerpts from letters received from staff members who have enlisted. These show how much they appreciate being remembered by us who have stayed behind.

The gift of cigarettes or chocolate is not large but the remembrance to one with whom we have worked and yarned is important. We think that we'd like to be remembered that way if we were stuck in any overseas camp, Canadian training centre or fortification with no one but strangers around.

Consequently we hope the fund can be maintained. At present it requires less than 20 cents per month per head of the staff. And it would save the committee a lot of worry if someone in each district could take in hand a periodic monthly list and forward the result to G.P. Melrose, Asst. Chief Forester, Victoria.

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