

FOREST BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

No. 40

Victoria, B.C., March 7, 1941.

08581



The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers was held in Victoria for the first time in history...February 6-7-8. Conference visitors at the Forest Branch office from outside B.C. included G.L. Miller, Chief Forester of New Brunswick; Col. H.I. Stevenson, Provincial Forester of Manitoba; E.H. Roberts, Director of Forests for Saskatchewan; Roderick Olzendam and W.H. Price of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company; J. Kuhns of the U.S. Forest Service, Portland; and E.W. Kelley, Regional Forester. There were more than 100 in attendance at the banquet. Full reports of the meeting will be published in the Forestry Chronicle.

The meetings of the Society were saddened in great measure by the untimely and tragic death of the Chief, E.C. Manning, reported in our last Letter.

Mr. Manning was born at Selwyn, Ontario, in 1890. He was graduated in forestry at the University of Toronto in 1912 and for the next six years worked in Western Canada for the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Dominion Forest Service. He came to the British Columbia Forest Service in 1918 and was sent almost at once to Prince Rupert as District Forester. In 1923 he came back to Victoria to take charge of the Management Office; was promoted to be Assistant Chief in 1927 and succeeded the late P.Z. Caverhill as Chief Forester on January 1, 1936.

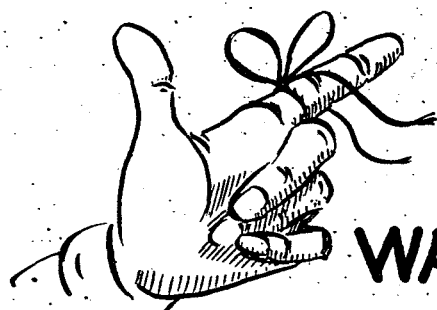
In July, 1940, the newly appointed Timber Controller for Canada chose him as his Assistant on the Pacific Coast and since that time he had been located continuously in Vancouver, occupied in his new and exacting duties.

On January 18th he flew back to Ottawa on business and it was on his return that the fatal accident occurred at Armstrong, Ontario. He took that particular plane in an effort to get back to Victoria to attend the Annual Meeting of the Society.

Mr. Manning, Ernie to so many of us, had in great measure those qualities that make for outstanding leadership and accomplishment, character, enthusiasm, courage, steadfastness of purpose, vision, and withal, friendliness. Nobody could live as intensely as Ernie Manning lived without making a few enemies; nobody could carry continent-wide his honesty, enthusiasm, friendliness and passion for public service without making hosts of loyal friends. Both stand as a monument to a very full life.

In the Forestry field his accomplishments will bear rich fruit for many years to come. His contribution to Timber Control work had a decided weight in Canada's war effort.

Ernie Manning died in the service of his country. Had he been able to formulate a parting message to the Service we can rest assured that it would have embodied yet another challenge to us as foresters. We may yet erect to him the monument he would have chosen in the intangible yet substantial form of a sound forest administration that plans beyond the immediate expediency of the day.



"This string should remind
you to buy your
WAR SAVINGS STAMPS!"

This time of the year finds us, as usual, in a scramble of preparation for the fire season, a new fiscal year, planting, surveys, and a dozen other Branch activities, not to mention Income Tax, War Savings, and the exigencies of training and enlistments which must be foreseen and prepared for.

Our enlistments at this date number 36 and will doubtless be considerably increased during the summer. As for other war effort, we must not fail to note that February was War Savings Pledge Month. We'll never be able to give you a checkup on the sum subscribed by the Service but we are satisfied that it will represent just about all that the staff is able to find. We believe implicitly that every one of us must stand prepared to give his utmost, whether it be in funds or personal service, if all those things we value are not to crumble to dust in our hands.

.

Speaking of the Tobacco Fund, an audited statement was forwarded in numbers to each District a short time ago. If you haven't had a copy you can get one for the asking. Contributions have been generous from every corner of the Province. About 150 individual parcels have gone forward in monthly shipments. These include more than 15,000 cigarettes, and pipe tobacco to a discriminating few who have expressed that preference. (No requests as yet for snoose or chewing tobacco.)

Christmas parcels went forward in December. These were not elaborate, but we did manage to include playing cards, handkerchief, smokes, chocolate and socks. In two or three cases where socks were specifically forbidden we substituted a small bottle of "cough" mixture as an antidote for cold feet. Considerable credit is due to the girls of the Victoria Office who shouldered the whole responsibility of knitting for, assembling, packing and shipping these parcels. (If they were writing this it is quite possible that they would want to add a word for Bill Tait and his usual ready and resourceful help.)

.

Perhaps we are not always so smart as we think we are. Perhaps sometimes we can't see the forest for trees. Maybe we are so busy putting out fires that we fail to realize that there are other equally destructive agencies at work in the bush. Specifically, there is good reason to believe that insects do as much damage as fire and it is hard to tell what toll disease is taking. Insects aren't spectacular; they don't make our days dreary with smoke; we don't know as much about them as we know about fires. These, however, don't stack up as good excuses for turning a blind eye to that particular protection problem.

We have a few hard-working entomologists in B.C. who are trying to help us and we feel a little bit ashamed of the record one of their number, Mr. Hopping, has to recite in the following note submitted for the News Letter, "if we think it advisable to place it there." On first thought we didn't think it a bit advisable; on second thought we have the strength of character to publish it as a penance.

Fire season or no fire season, we really think we should be able to get more than 34% of collection boxes in and hope that next year we can print Mr. Hopping's report with loud cheers for a 90% or 100% performance.

.

FOREST INSECT SURVEY, 1940

"Although most of the Forest Service personnel will see the results of this year's forest insect survey, briefly summed up in the annual report, it may be well to make a few observations in the News Letter.

"The number of collections received this year was 36% less than in 1939 and only 34% of the boxes sent out were returned, as against 50% in 1939. This drop is attributed to three main causes, as follows:

"(1) Reduced finances in the Forest Insects Unit which prevented the personal contacts with Forest Service officers to the same degree as in previous years.

"(2) The severe fire season in some sections which caused a falling off in collection work. In this connection, however, it is interesting to note that the best returns were from the Kamloops District, where the fire season was anything but a picnic.

"(3) Reduced personnel in the Forest Service due to war activities. Many of the young men attached to Ranger Districts have entered the forces and these contributed many collections in the past.

"In view of the above, it was to be expected that some reduction in the number of survey collections would result but it was not expected that the drop would be as great as 36%. Well, there is another season coming.

"To many co-operators, the forest insect survey may seem to be only a collection of injurious forest insects which are sorted out, reared, and identified, but the ultimate purpose of it is far more important than that. This survey is providing data on the inter-relationships of injurious forest insects to the parasites and other factors which help to control them and the relationship of the destructive species to the composition of stands. British Columbia is at the very beginning of a reforestation era, and certainly here is a great opportunity to plan the composition of those stands so that they will be as resistant as possible to the attacks of injurious forest insects. From experience in other sections as well as our own we already know that pure stands of any species are undesirable as well as certain mixtures. The forest insect survey, together with a study of outbreaks as they occur, will tell us more about desirable and undesirable stand compositions. The rest is up to the silviculturist." - Geo. R. Hopping.

.

Planting operations are getting under way at five points on Vancouver Island and one on the Mainland. More than 300 men will be employed for about 6 weeks putting out some 6 million trees on about 6,000 acres. The programme calls for:

1. 700,000 trees planted in the vicinity of Elk Falls, Campbell River.
2. 50,000 at Camp 8, Elk River Timber Company, in co-operation with the Company.
3. 1,250,000 at Deep Bay on the old Canadian Robert Dollar operations.
4. 1,250,000 near Skutz Falls, Cowichan Valley.
5. 1,250,000 at Metsatchie Lake, near the Cowichan Lake Experiment Station.
6. 1,250,000 at Powell River near Nanton Lake.

Economics Division is in charge and McKinnon, McWilliams and Tom Wells at Green Timbers will be plenty busy until the job is finished.

.....

Ian MacQueen got himself married so quietly on December 14th that we didn't get around to presenting the customary clock until January 10th.

.....

Visitors at Victoria around the holiday season included Bob St. Clair (Prince Rupert), D.J. MacKay, O.V. Maude-Roxby, L.A. Willington, Si Oldham, Sawyer Hope, Ross Douglas.

.....

We seem to have overlooked, for some unaccountable reason, reporting C.C. Ternan's appointment as District Forester at Kamloops November 1st last. R.G. McKee is his assistant. T.A. Clarke replaces Ternan as Assistant District Forester at Vancouver.

.....

Jos Wood has been appointed Fire Inspector at Kamloops.

W.W. Stevens has been moved to Kamloops Management Office following the enlistment of R.R. Douglas.

Col. M.V. Allen (Nelson) retired from the service at the end of December. Col. Allen antedates the Branch itself, and was one of the five men to receive the first 25-year silver service badges presented in 1937.

J. Mavor, Chief Clerk in the Management office at Victoria, retires at the end of February. His position is being filled by Harold Henshall.

Widely known throughout the ranks of the staff, Col. Allen and Mr. Mavor take with them our best wishes for long years of well-earned leisure.

.....

Walter Wilson, Burns Lake, suffered a broken arm in an accident while cruising. The accident was sufficiently serious to require him to go to Vancouver to consult a specialist.

.....

C.A.S.F. NEWS -

Looking back over our Tobacco file we find a number of letters from "The Boys" since publication of the C.A.S.F. number. (Please refer to that edition for further details with regard to writers.)

H.G. MAYSON (Kamloops)

"I wish to thank you very sincerely for your Christmas parcel that arrived here a few days ago in first class condition and is greatly appreciated..."

W.D. HAY (Prince George)

"Many thanks for the swell parcel that arrived as a very pleasant surprise. May I take this opportunity to wish the Branch every success in the future."

A. SMITH (Prince George)

"I wish to thank the Honourable the Minister and members of the Forest Service for the lovely Christmas box you sent me. I assure you it was much appreciated..."

AXEL KINNEAR (Victoria)

"The Christmas parcel sent to me from the Forest Branch arrived safely and I wish to thank the members of the Service for being so thoughtful in the presents sent. It was quite a pleasant surprise and needless to say, I appreciate it very much. My Regiment left for overseas a few weeks ago but I was left behind as I have been in the Hospital for about a month. However, I hope to be able to join them shortly..."

E.G. (Si) OLDHAM (Victoria)

....."The smokes are certainly gratefully received and the Christmas present was not opened until December 25th. I appreciate very much the thought (I also enjoy the smokes) which makes me feel as if I am still a member of a real department..."

D.J. MacKAY (Victoria)

We are able to publish Don's picture this time. He has been home on furlough since the last number and was in to see us. Since returning to camp he writes as follows:

"I arrived back here safely...The trip down here was wonderful---the Rocky Mountains were certainly a sight for sore eyes, and I think they were about the nicest thing on the trip. I received my parcel of cigarettes and you certainly don't know how much I appreciate it. They certainly come in handy around this time of the month...I am in the best of health and it certainly is enjoyable down here. I play on the R.C.A.S.C. basketball team and also I am doing a little hockey playing..."

.....

J.C. WRIGHT (Kamloops)

"I received the copy of the C.A.S.F. edition of the News Letter, for which I wish to thank you very much. It is a bit of all right to get a peep at some of the old Forest Branch news and makes one a bit homesick for the old surroundings, even if he hasn't been with the Service for long...I am enclosing a photo of myself just to let you know what the average private in the Forestry Corps looks like...and I don't think I'm bragging as I really believe as a regiment it is tops."

"Another letter to say I received your letter and cigarettes, for which I thank you very much. I mailed my other letter amid some excitement and forgot to put in the photo you requested..."

J.H. WILCOX (Kamloops)

"I'm writing to thank the Honourable the Minister and the Forest Service for the cigarettes and I can really say I enjoyed them...At present I'm in the same Company, under Captain Armstrong; as Pte. Jansen, another ex-Forest Branch man. You were asking whether I needed any woolen articles, so will say a sweater would come in very handy. My size is 40."

(We can understand from the snapshot why Pte. Wilcox asks for a sweater. It was knitted to order and sent off immediately so we hope he has received it before now.)

R.R. DOUGLAS (Kamloops)

"The parcel of cigarettes sent to me arrived the other day and I wish to thank the Honourable the Minister and the Branch for them. It did not occur to me as I dropped the odd change into our "Smokes for Fighting Foresters" box at Kamloops that it would be returning to me in such literal biblical fashion, 'after many days' and I didn't realize then either how much such a parcel would be appreciated. The other five fellows in my room are now convinced that the Forest Branch is very worthwhile...I hope all is well with the Branch and the work, and thank you again for the welcome parcel."

C.R. SANDEY (Vancouver)

"Yours of the 6th to hand and many apologies for not having acknowledged receipt of the C.A.S.F. Edition of the News Letter...It was a most noble effort and you are to be congratulated on the work entailed. Yes, I can take a joke on myself, and the account of the "eggs" is surely a howler. But I must say in self defence that the frying pan was a really large one and further Jack Greenhouse knows damn well that I would not have tolerated a horde of savages throwing egg shells around my clean cabin...Now, though the honest sweat may be pouring from the brow of Ye Ed, let him know that his work is far more than the means to enable us to have some reading matter of mutual interest. For it was due to the last News Letter that I was first acquainted of the fact that Geoff Playfair was in the 16th, and furthermore I knew that the 16th were quite close to hand. Hence I was able to contact him right away with the result that he has spent two days with us in "An Eastern Canadian Port." We certainly gave each other an earful--like a couple of old women meeting in a corner pub--though there are no pubs of course. He has, for your information, just received his transfer and commission to the R.C.A.F. I understand. He certainly looked the lad in the new rig..."

GEOFF PLAYFAIR (Victoria) seems to be always one jump ahead of the News Letter. In the previous issue we could find nothing but a very small snapshot of him in civilian clothes...now we have one of him in Scottish uniform, only to learn that he is now attired in Air Force blue...Strictly speaking, we should have given him our congratulations upon the obtaining of his commission, which we make haste to do now.

O.V. MAUDE-ROKBY (Kamloops)

"Just a line to express my appreciation for the packages and News Letters that come regularly, and to give you a change of address. My address for the next few months will be as above, and the rank Major...(Our congratulations)...As regards the parcels of cigarettes, etc., which have come along regularly, it's not the value of the gift which we all appreciate so much, but the feeling that the men in the Service to which we are so proud to belong have not by any means forgotten us. And the News Letter is an excellent medium for keeping up to date with the various changes and moves in the Branch."

C.L. ARMSTRONG (Kamloops)

"Please convey to the Honourable the Minister and your staff my sincere thanks for the Christmas parcel and also for the cigarettes which arrived today. Both parcels were very nice indeed and very much appreciated. I trust that you will continue to send the News Letter."

L.F. SWANNELL (Prince George) from Overseas

"Would you please accept, on behalf of the Forest Branch, my sincere thanks for the parcels and for the cigarettes sent me at Christmas. That's the formal way of putting it, but it sure is good to have the reminders that the Forest Service remembers those of us who are at present 'on leave' from it, so as to speak. I know both Gerry Andrews and self look forward to the time when we'll be back in harness. Another very welcome bit of mail is the News Letter--all of us are probably small town boys at heart--we all like to hear the odd bit of gossip by and about people we know and have worked with..."

W.J. OWEN (Vancouver District) Born in Vernon, B.C. His first work with the Branch was as foreman of a Y.F.T.P. camp in 1938, followed by an assistant ranger appointment at Alberni in 1939, and a transfer to Cowichan Lake in 1940, where he continued until October 2nd. He writes as follows:

"Kindly convey to the Honourable the Minister and the Forest Service my sincere thanks for the parcel of smokes just received. Parcels like these are very acceptable and make a break in army life and are duly appreciated."

A.B. RITCHIE (Kamloops)

"For the past two months I have been going to write and thank you for the cigarettes and the nice Christmas parcel which I have enjoyed very much. The gang here are all on the jump as we are under orders to move. Will most likely be on the water by the time you receive this. I don't think they are fooling this time. Alex Gordon has transferred to the Company with Chris Armstrong. Both are in good health, in fact Chris is quite a step dancer and would give a good show if he had a grass skirt. Alex also leads in any song they might care to sing but excels himself about Columbus. I do my stuff but it's rough compared with them. Wright and Harry Mayson who were with the Service in the Chase District are in No. 7...Tell the young lady who knitted the socks she did a grand job...Don't forget the News Letter please."

L.A. WILLINGTON (Prince George) Born in Sheffield, England, and came to the Branch in 1931 as Assistant Ranger at Fort Fraser, where he was employed until the end of the 1940 season, after which he enlisted. He writes as follows:

"Received your welcome letter of Jan. 21st...I also received the package of cigarettes and the News Letters, which I have enjoyed very much...It is not so much the gift as the thought and cheer behind it and it is hard to express the feeling one gets upon receiving a gift or letter... Well at last we are on the move and expect to leave for the East...so we should be able to know what it is all about soon. In regards to knitted articles, socks seem to be the bane of one's existence. One never seems to be able to find a pair when needed that is not darned or full of holes. In fact, it is a race whether the holes or the darns win out. Have had a week in the kitchen and have discovered the makeup of the mystery stew. I have often wondered how so little of it could go so far and now I know. I think I will have to feed it to a fire gang some day. Kindly give my best regards and thanks to the Honourable the Minister and the Forest Branch for their thoughtfulness and kindness..."

C.W. MIZON (Kamloops) not reported on in the last issue. Born in London, England. First employed by the Branch as Lookoutman on Mara Mt. in 1938 and as Assistant Ranger at Columbia Crossing, 1939 and 1940. Resigned Sept. 9th to enlist with the Rocky Mountain Rangers.

H. STEVENSON (Vancouver) First saw service with the Branch as Lookout on Goat Mt. in the Nelson District in 1929 and 1930, Patrolman, and Assistant Ranger at Oliver in 1931. In 1936 was appointed Assistant Ranger at Westview in the Vancouver District, followed by a permanent appointment as Ranger in 1937 at the same place. Was transferred to Port Hardy in 1938, and Alberni in 1939, which position he held until January 31, 1941, when he left the Service to enlist.

