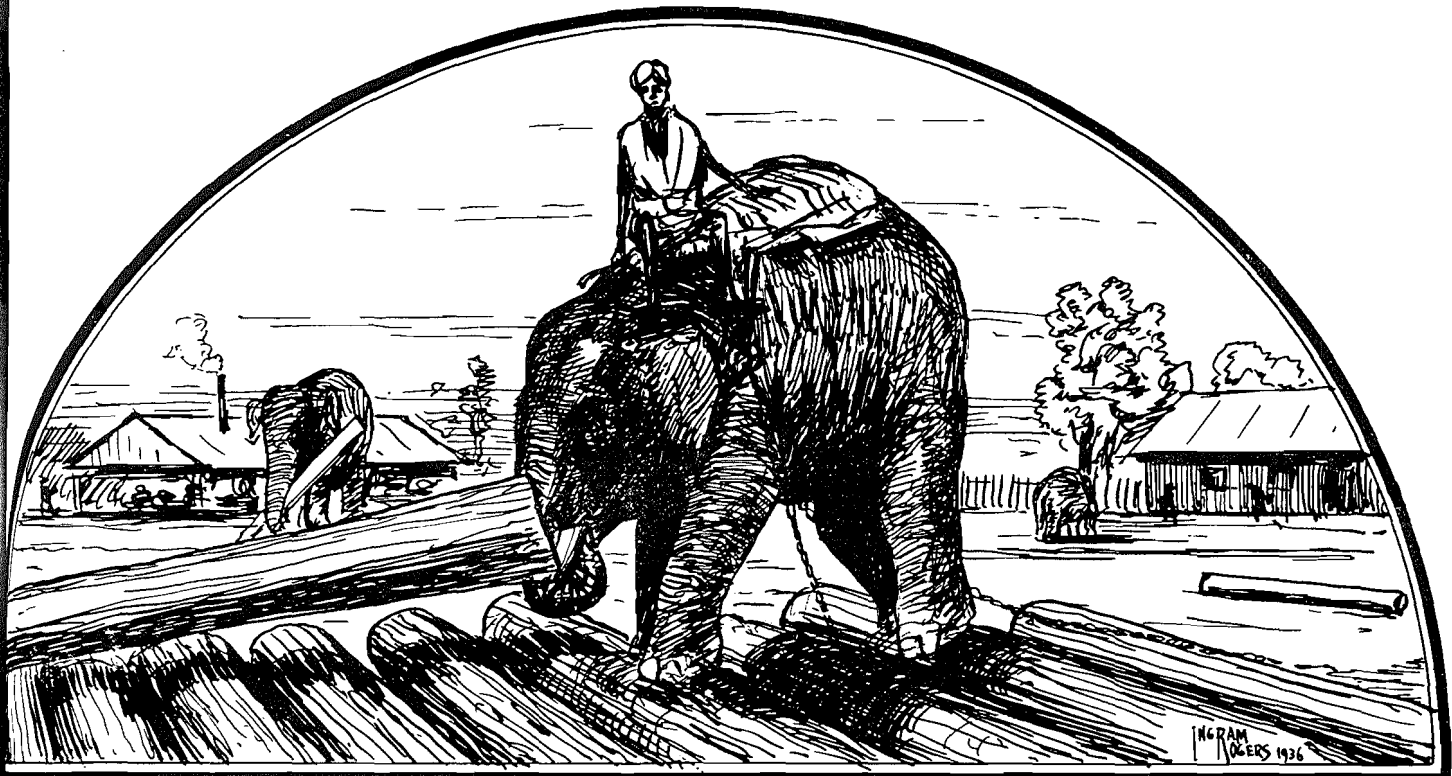




Elephant power at a Burmese lumber mill.

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. 17 Victoria, B.C., May 29, 1937. 08581

Each month seems to bring its crop of extra routine duties, many of which have to be attended to whether anything else gets done or not. For the past six weeks it has been Assistant Ranger and Ranger exams, Ranger meetings, and seasonal protection staff appointments.

Assistant Ranger exams were held at Kamloops, Clinton, Creston, Hazelton, Burns Lake, Fernie, Agassiz, and U.B.C. Seventy-two candidates were examined, 33 of whom qualified for appointments. An Assistant Ranger exam was held for the first time at the University of British Columbia, where nine forestry students were examined. Several Ranger Assistants wrote at the various examinations.

Ranger examinations were held at Burns Lake, Victoria, Kamloops, and Vancouver, at which 74 candidates presented themselves, and 38 qualified for some 5 vacancies. Four of these vacancies have already been filled, as reported in our last letter. The fifth, at Francois Lake, goes to D.R. Smith, for some years Assistant Ranger, and successful candidate at the recent examination held at Burns Lake.



"Pop"

Three three-day Ranger meetings were held at Kamloops, Cranbrook, and Nelson. The Kamloops meeting was attended by the full Ranger staff of the District. We have pictures of them which you may be able to recognize in spite of their miniature proportions. Many of the Assistant Rangers were in too, and some of the men who had been working for the winter in charge of camps on the coast got back before the meeting was through. Amongst these, Adamson expressed the opinion that the coast climate is not much worse than at Merritt, and Ritchie of Salmon Arm came back with the sobriquet of "Pop", given to him by his charges on the coast.



A notable feature of these meetings was the inclusion in each case of a visitors' session. At Kamloops Inspector Shirras of the Provincial Police, and Messrs. Ralph and George Hopping were present. Inspector Shirras gave a fine address which covered a lot of ground of interest to Forest Officers. One interesting point brought out was the fact that, while the "Forest Act" makes no provision for imprisonment in the case of convictions for infractions, imprisonment can nevertheless be imposed under provisions of Section 52 of the "Summary Convictions Act"; but if a fine only, without qualification, be imposed, and the accused gets out of court without paying the fine, then your case is finished right there without any penalty being suffered in actual fact. Forest officers are empowered, under certain circumstances, to arrest without warrant (Section 118). We cannot recall any instance where this power has been used but we always wondered just how we would go about arresting a man--poke a gun in his ribs and declaim, "You are a prisoner of the King"? We may not have to use it very often but Inspector Shirras told how it should be done, so--Tell the man you are an officer and show your badge. Tell him why you are arresting him. Do not fail to add something like this formula--"You are charged with so and so.



You are not obliged to say anything unless you wish to do so, but anything you do say may be used as evidence at your trial." Not as we once heard it expressed, "Anything you say will be used against you"!

George Hopping gave an instructive address on the activities of the Branch of Entomology and outlined what was desired from the Forest Branch in connection with the Dominion-wide insect survey being undertaken.

The Assistant Chief Forester was present throughout this and the two Nelson meetings, and the Chief was able to be present the last day at Kamloops.

At Cranbrook the meeting was held at one of the Cranbrook Sash and Door Company's camps a few miles out of town and attended by the staff of the Cranbrook Supervisor District. Mr. Cunningham and Inspector Kearns of the Game administration were in attendance at one session. Another feature of the meeting was a lunch at another of the Cranbrook Sash and Door Company's camps in the vicinity. We doubt if any of the Forest Branch staff ever saw more, or more appetizing food served up on one table before, and Mr. Attridge, joint host with Mr. McCowan for the Company, remarked that he had never seen a finer bunch of loggers in that cookhouse. Other guests included a large delegation from the Cranbrook Board of Trade.

The Nelson Supervisor District Staff met at Nelson. Four U.S. Forest Service officers attended from Republic, Rolland Huff, Supervisor; L.L. Hougland, Associate Forester; Chester Bennett, Assistant Forester; and E.L. Peltier, Junior Forester. These men were especially welcome and added much of value to the various discussions.

Each of these meetings terminated with a modest "banquet" which, if not the most serious, certainly were not the least valuable features of the sessions. Forest Branch talent blossomed out from every angle. Worthy of special mention are "The Venerable Order of the White Horse", conceived and instituted by the Kamloops District; Ternan's speech (after 45 minutes he apologized for his inability to talk and for the fact that he hadn't "got wound up"); Jack Coles' non-stop solo performance--if any object to the description "soloist" we might substitute "vocalamity" (not original); John Rogers sketches of Forest Branch celebrities; the Nelson quartet; and pre-eminently, Stringer's solos.

The accompanying group was taken at Nelson. We think after this one that Nichols is entitled to a front rank position in the next.



Left to right: J. Hird, Mathieson, Killough, Slade, Young, Colegrave, Brewer, Laughton, Marling, Hougland (U.S.F.S), Hale, Orchard, Huff (U.S.F.S), Ott, Allen, Peltier (U.S.F.S.), Jeffery, Holmgren, Bennett, (U.S.F.S), Palethorpe, Nichols, Holmberg, Schupe McParlon.

The Forest Surveys Division has plans underway to carry out three major projects this season.

A survey of the Queen Charlotte Islands is to be undertaken by a party under W. Hall. This party will also conduct a cottonwood cruise on the Skeena River west of Terrace. It will be of interest to note that in connection with the Queen Charlotte survey an air survey will be made under the direction of Gerry Andrews. This makes the second entry into the realm of air photography by the Forest Surveys Division.

The survey of the E. & N. Railway Belt commenced last season will be completed by a party under D.L. McMullan. A special phase of this survey will concern intensive restocking studies on selected logged areas for the purpose of isolating the factors responsible for the condition of the logged areas under consideration.

The survey of the area tributary to Lower Arrow Lake will be continued under the direction of H.G. McWilliams.



"The stenographers of the Kamloops District feel that they would like to be represented on their notebooks by a young lady with more regular features and a more up-to-date coiffure than the above. Those heart-shaped lockets also went out of style many years ago. We are therefore appealing to you to give this matter a little publicity in the hopes that a more modern design may be evolved."



ARTHUR HILBERT WADDINGTON, Fire Inspector, Prince Rupert Forest District, was born at Nanaimo in 1889. He tried farming, prospecting and logging, and worked on a Geological Survey party and on the E. & N. Survey. In 1914 he was a Forest Guard. Resigned this job to go as a private with the First Contingent, rose to C.S.M. with a decoration and several wounds, was demobilized in 1919.

The story goes that Sergt. Waddington once demolished three full jars of ration rum with the butt of a rifle. Our line was broken and Fritz was being aggressive and Waddington found himself the senior present. Everything was wet and cold so in a lull he broke out one jar and issued a rum ration. Ranging along the line, or what was left of it, he found on his return that the men had apparently decided to use up the rest of the rum to keep it from falling into Fritz's hands, and several were already very merry. You can't put up a good scrap with men who are rolling drunk, or have gone to sleep, so Waddington smashed the jars--and the line held.

He was Assistant Ranger, Nanaimo, in 1919, and Ranger in 1920, was transferred to the Rupert District as Fire Inspector in 1929, where, in addition to his protection duties, he manages to be a competent Supervisor. Married. Hobbies--gardening and photography.

For the benefit of those members of the Service who are not in Victoria, it may be of interest to mention the recent activities of the Victoria Section of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, which grew out of the Forestry Discussion Club a year ago.

Eight times during the winter meetings have been held to hear speakers on professional subjects and to get together socially. These have enabled members near enough to attend to hear about matters ordinarily outside their sphere of contact. To one of the meetings C.D. Orchard and R.C. St. Clair brought reports of annual meetings at Portland, Oregon, of the Society of American Foresters and the Western Forestry and Conservation Association. Recently Mr. R.V. Stuart of the B.C. Loggers' Association discussed the proposals of the Forest Service to improve forest practices. He gave the Society the views of the operators on conservation of our forest resources by measures designed to modify cutting, and slash-disposal methods with increased fire protection in co-operation with the Forest Branch. At another meeting, Victor Grenning, Director of Forests for Queensland, Australia, shortly after his arrival in this country, informed his hearers on phases of the forestry situation in Queensland and, on his return from a tour of this continent, delighted us with his discoveries and impressions of forest agencies and practices in America.

The big event of the season was the dinner meeting on April 19th in the Pacific Club, Victoria. Forty members and friends enjoyed an entirely successful evening. Speakers included the Hon. A. Wells Gray, F.D. Mulholland, and Captain Leary, M.L.A., but the main feature of the programme was the speech of Dean J.N. Finlayson of the Faculty of Applied Science, University of British Columbia. In giving a most eloquent, timely and interesting address on his association with forestry in B.C., he referred to his tour of the industry in 1936. The feeling prevailed that the Forestry Department at the University did not provide potential leaders for the industry and that there was a need for a strong forestry school. Dean Finlayson is hoping to have revised five-year courses in Forestry in operation this fall leading through the faculties of Engineering, Biology, Economics, or Commerce, to the degree of B.A.Sc. or B.S.F.

We have a lot of sidelights on the Ranger meetings--George Hopping's accomplished performance of Italian songs in the original (at least our informant guesses they were Italian); Bill Holmgren's sleeping through the Management session; Pete Campbell's bill hooks or machetes (report not very clear), home-made from old cross-cut-saw blades and discarded handles, very fine tools on which Campbell will be glad to give details; and an interesting poser propounded in relation to responsibility for fire fighting. A mill is located on Lot "A" immediately adjacent to the east boundary. The burner throws sparks and starts a fire across the line on Lot "B", which adjoins Lot "A" on the east and which is unoccupied. Under the new Sections 113 and 114 responsibility rests solely on occupation. Is there anything in the Act that will make the mill owner in any way responsible for the fire so long as it does not burn over on to Lot "A"? What do you think?

A couple of "Recipes for a Ranger" put in here on account of we are so fed up with thumbing them over on the file we think we had better print them and get rid of them.

Recipe for a Forest Ranger

Take a pound of ambition and mix it with tact,
Add initiative, sand, and of courage no lack.
Mix well with frankness, and season with grit,
Add a large pinch of pep, but pepper omit.

Put in energy, honesty, steadfastness of goal,
With a sense of humour, then garnish the whole;
Now place in the kiln of experience hard won,
Don't leave him half-baked, but be sure he's well done,
And out comes your Forest Ranger!

-- M.K. Schoder.

Recipe for a Ranger

First get a big kettle and a fire that's hot
And when everything's ready, throw in the pot,
A doctor, a miner, of lawyers a few;
Add one sheep herder and a cowboy or two,
Next add a surveyor, and right after that
A man with good sense and a good diplomat;
At least one stonemason, then give it a stir,
And add to the mess one good carpenter;
A man that knows trees, and don't leave from the list
A telephone man, and a fair botanist.
The next one that's added must be there, that's a cinch,
It's the man that will stay when it comes to a pinch,
Add a man that will work and not stand and roar,
Who can do ten thousand things and then just a few more,
Now boil it up well and skim off the scum,
And the Ranger you'll find is the residuum.

Management activity, as you are all doubtless aware, shows no signs of abatement. Mr. Orchard on the Southern circuit and Mr. Prowd on the Northern circle, in the course of holding Assistant Ranger examinations, both report timber business on the increase and a general feeling of optimism as to future prospects.

A late spring everywhere was in evidence. Highlights of the Northern districts are an anticipated heavy cut on the Queen Charlottes, considerable cottonwood log export business and spruce boomstick shipments to the Great Lakes from the Lower Skeena, (incidentally this Sitka spruce goes East on flats, 6 logs to the car, peeled, and upon delivery is centre-bored and strung on cable end to end, like the children's spools on a string), revival of the cedar pole industry, noticeably increased rail shipments of spruce lumber from interior mills, and preparations for summer logging to replenish depleted stocks. Truck hauling on plank roads with a certain amount of tractor logging is the tendency in the Northern interior spruce stands.

Mining activity in the Quesnel and Omineca regions is pronounced and demand for mining timber is increasing, particularly with the advent of the deep-lead method of gold mining.

Export demand for fir ties has extended up the P.G.E.

A new district file designation in Management was noted which also indicates the return of optimism. It was headed "M. Matrimony and Presentations."

D.B. Taylor and I.A. Macqueen from the Operation Office have spent the past month on an intensive study of the slash problem on the Island. Following a meeting with representatives of the logging industry, when the problems of slash disposal, protection from fire, and reproduction were discussed, each operation is being covered. The areas of slash are being mapped and definite plans made for disposal in the fall by broadcast burning.

This brings up problems of organization on the operation so that machinery, felled timber and seed-tree groups can be protected while a good clean burn is secured at the same time. A comprehensive study of fall weather conditions will be made later in the season and the co-operation of the Weather Bureau secured to forecast the proper time to burn. Granted a good plan and a fair chance with the weather, the whole area to be burned should be cleaned up in a very short period. All efforts are being made toward this objective because delayed burns are poor ones and frequently dangerous as well.

Macqueen spent last summer on a study of the E. & N. Belt on the Island and, as a result, there is some doubt cast on our former ideas that re-production was always better where no burns occurred. He finds that in a great many cases salal comes in thickly where heavy slash is not burned, while the burned areas adjoining reproduce satisfactorily. This is a problem of first magnitude because of the effect it may have on slash-disposal policy. So far we have considered disposal as a necessary evil to get rid of a fire hazard and so have not considered it advisable to burn on isolated operations. If Macqueen's conclusions are supported it may be necessary to burn all slash areas on the coast, even to the pockets and patches logged by small outfits all along the shore line.

An opportunity to pick up a real bargain occurred and the Scotch in us came to the top, so we bought the 48-foot Diesel yacht "Nesica". This is one of the best-built private boats we have seen and has been placed in the northern ranger district under Vancouver. Ranger Langstroth at Port Hardy will now serve his apprenticeship in sail, for the "Nesica" is rigged with a stay-sail that is reported to give her 4½ knots' speed in a good wind. All old salts of the coast staff will now have to take a turn at Port Hardy to qualify in sail if they want to put in their oars around the steam pipes and cracker barrels. Langstroth will now be able to qualify with the Ancient Mariner of the Gulf who knew all the rocks and ledges, for the description we have on file of the "Nesica" has this: "Owing to the iron keel this ship can be beached or put on the rocks without springing her." Don't bounce her too high, Charlie.

The use of radio has developed in the States to the point where we have felt we could use their knowledge, plus what we have learned ourselves, and get somewhere. Consequently, G.A. Playfair, Supervisor's Clerk and Radio Operator at Campbell River, is being assigned to special duty this summer on this problem. Ten SPF portable sets have been ordered and are planned for use on various lookouts and testing on fires. Playfair will travel through the Interior and Coast districts to develop their best use.

J. H. Blake, Mechanical Superintendent, has been kept tied closely to the Coast by several large jobs. The launch "B.C. Forester", mother ship of the Surveys office, has been re-engined; five District boats, the "Cottonwood", "Oliver Clark", "Yusella", "Madrona", and "Chestnut" have also had new power plants; while several water developments have required expert attention.

These jobs are now about cleaned up and Blake will get away for the Interior right after the 24th. The late and well-lamented depression put a crimp in our mechanical inspections but we hope to get on a regular basis again.

Operation Office would like to have comments on "Fire Control Notes." How do you like them? Is there useful information in them? Let us have similar ideas of your own; they'd be glad to publish them.

Since our last letter, R.G. McKee has been transferred from Assistant Forester at Kamloops to the position of Assistant District Forester at Prince George, and C.W. Walker, from Surveys at Victoria has gone to Kamloops as Assistant Forester. A.P. MacBean arrived in Victoria from Ontario to work with the Research Division. F.S. McKinnon is back with the Research Division from the University of California, where he completed his residence requirements for a Doctor's degree this year. Geo. Allen from U.B.C. reported early in May to the Research Office, where he is now permanently established. Prof. Knapp, from U.B.C., is in Victoria, where he will be assisting K.C. McCannel with his family of boys during the summer.

Extract from List of Publications Received in the Forest Branch Library
March 24 to May 17, 1937.

- .05 Monthly list of Publications, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Feb. 1937.
- .03 List of Publications of the U.S. Dept. of Agric. from Jan. 1931 to Dec. 1935, inclusive.
- .05 Forestry Current Literature - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Jan.-Feb., 1937.
- .43 Wood-using Industries in Canada - 1935 - Dominion Bureau of Statistics.
- .354 The Influence of Certain Accessory Factors on Frost Injury to Forest Trees - W.R. Day & T.R. Peace.
- .7216 Stumpage and Log Prices for the Calendar Year 1935. U.S. Dept. of Agric.
- .31 Fire Control Notes - April 12, 1937.

- .31 Variations of Some Fire Danger Factors with Altitude, Aspect, and Time of Day - G.L. Hayes.
- .31 Some Notes on the Preparation of "Fire Hazard Sticks" - F.W. Guernsey - Vancouver Laboratory - April, 1937.
- Monthly List of Publications, March 1937, U.S. Dept. of Agric.
- Growth of Douglas Fir Trees of Known Seed Source. U.S. Forest Service. Volume, Yield, and Stand Tables for B.C. B.C. Forest Service, Research Division.
- Report of the Chief of the Forest Service, 1936 - U.S. Dept. of Agric.
- List of Accessions in the Library of the Dominion Forest Service for the month of April, 1937.
- Estimate of Forest Production - Operations in the Woods in Canada, 1935.
- Conservation and Lumber Distribution - A.G.T. Moore - Yale University.