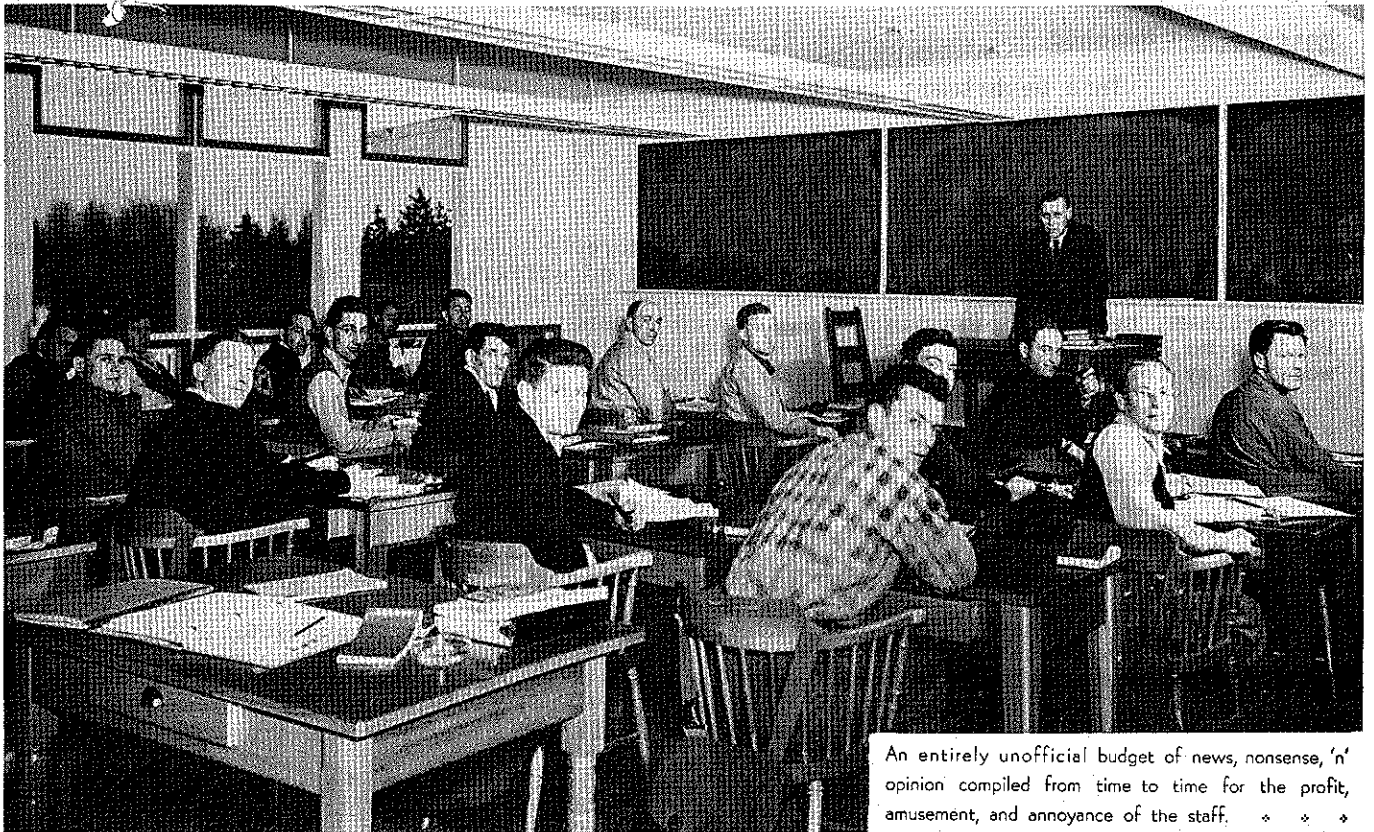


FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER



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

No. 94

VICTORIA, B.C.

May, 1951.

PRINCE RUPERT DISTRICT

Ranger Meeting

The Prince Rupert Forest District commenced the Fiscal Year with a bang. The 1951 Ranger Meeting was held from April 11 - 13 inclusive and from all reports it was the best yet. This year a new approach was made in the procedure and conduct of the meeting in that no prepared speeches were made which resulted in the Rangers and their assistants voicing their problems and "beefs" in a much healthier way. The Brass from the Buildings were on hand to shed a few rays of light on touchy problems and, in general, assisted greatly in the successful outcome of our meeting. The break for coffee during the morning and afternoon sessions was enjoyed by all and many a compliment was passed to the instigation of this scheme.

Thursday evening the Navy played host to the boys by allowing the use of their Mess. Mr. F.S. McKinnon supplied the entertainment with a running commentary, supported by his numerous and most interesting coloured slides, of his trip to the Scandinavian countries.

Friday afternoon the fellows were treated to an outing on our new yacht, "Salt Mist", with a trip to visit the new Cellulose Plant on Watson Island. After a two-hour visit in which they toured the Plant they again had the pleasure of returning to Prince Rupert via our flag ship and from the comments heard, it was a well-planned and much-enjoyed affair.

The meeting was rounded off with a banquet on Friday evening with liquid and solid refreshments aplenty. From the looks of the boys on Saturday morning I would repeat "aplenty".

The highlight of the banquet was the presentation of the 25-year service pin to Mr. J.P. MacDonald. Mr. McKinnon, on the Chief's behalf, reviewed "J.P.'s" career in the Service, kissed him on both cheeks, and pinned the silver tree to his lapel. Our J.P. responded most suitably but neglected to tell a shady story. The very best to you, J.P. and we all wish you the best of luck during your next 25 years with the Service.

It should certainly be noted that the weather-man was most co-operative in furthering the success of our Meeting by having Old Sol shine forth in all his glory, which, I must say, is seldom experienced in this neck of the woods.

In summing up, we felt the meeting was a real success and look forward to a bigger and better one in '52.

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Welcome!

Due to pressure of work and lack of a Publicity Officer in this District, we seldom make the Newsletter in time to keep abreast of office changes. However, late as it may be, to these new members of our staff we wish success and a pleasant and lengthy stay with the Service - Miss Dorothy Edgar, stenographer; Nicholas Pavlikis, Asst. Billing Clerk; Paul Letourneau, Asst. Management Clerk; Gerald Dodd, File and Mail Clerk; Al Grant, Official Scaler; Miss Marilyn Mockfurd, Billing Clerk; Edward Stacey, Cook-Deckhand "Salt Mist".

NEWSLETTER

2.

Prince Rupert District (Continued)

Matched and Hatched

This Department has been sadly neglected but just wait, time will tell -- maybe our next issue.

*** **

A Plea for News

Eric Druce's last words to me before he "flew the Coop" were - "Try and send something for the Newsletter, good or bad makes no difference". Well, I tried, as you can see, and now I'm extending Mr. Druce's kind invitation to you, our Field Staff. Come on, fellows, help out poor old Eric and send something good or bad to the office. Believe me, I'll forward it to Headquarters only too willingly, as I get darn tired overworking my feeble brain to keep Rupert in the Newsletter!

*** **

Situation Well Handled

The ever-increasing staff of the Prince Rupert Forest District Office has been a constant source of misery to our Chief Clerk, Carl Smith.

"Where can we put another desk?" cried Smith in dismay.

"Suspend it from the ceiling", answered Jack Eastwood with a chuckle.

Smith growled.

"Now maybe if I push these two up farther and this one down a bit, I can get one in here", asserts Smith with a confident smile on his face, happy over a would-be solution to his problem.

"Then how would you get behind it?" queries Eastwood. Smith's face fell.

"Why not put someone out in the hall?" pipes up someone from the corner.

Smith glared in their direction.

"Why not build a mezzanine?" asked Eastwood.

"Yeh, and hit our heads every time we get up? That would be great", said Smith growing older-looking by the minute. Poor fellow.

Finally, after despairing conversations along these lines for a few days, Smith decided that part of the counter would have to go. He phoned the Public Works Department and down they came and commenced to minimize our counter. By cutting off approximately half of the counter and moving it from the General Office into the already crowded Draughting Room, we gave ourselves room for a few more desks. (Ed.-What about the Draughtsmen?)

We arrived at work a few mornings later and lo and behold, a neat, orderly arrangement of desks befell us, with plenty of room for all. This, the result of Smith and Eastwood juggling desks around far into the previous night. (Just imagine it!)

Well anyway, fellas, you can breathe now without blowing everything off the next desk!

*** **

NELSON DISTRICT

It has been a couple of months since we have "reported in" and these have been eventful months. They have brought weddings, engagements, resignations, and a Ranger Meeting.

Dealing with the Ranger Meeting first, we can report that it was considered by all who were there to have been one of this District's most successful meetings. In Nelson for the Meeting were: Fred Stillings and George Christensen from the U.S. Forest Service; Bill Mathers from the Dominion Entomological Service, Vernon; F.S. McKinnon, Jerry McKee, Dai MacLeod, from Victoria; Ralph Johnston, Stan Noakes, and Bruce Neighbor from Kamloops.

What with interesting meetings all day and "bull sessions" lasting half the night, by the time the final evening with its banquet rolled around, all the boys were showing signs of fatigue. Nonetheless, we all managed to make it to the banquet.

Present at the banquet were several of our retired members - Bill Holmgren, ex-Fire Inspector; George Schupe, ex-Scaling Supervisor; and last but not least, Bob Allen, former District Forester.

After the eating part, we had a Sing-Song led by Jack Coles, descriptive poems by John Applewhaite, and amusing chalk talks from Harry Forse and guest, George Christensen. F.S. McKinnon presented 25-year pins to Ranger Jack Coles and to John Rogers, our Supervising Draughtsman. The meeting ended with a Sing-Song to the music of the Forestry Fil-ha-ha-monic, featuring Joe Killough and his fiddle, Stan Noakes on his violin, Fred (candle-power) Hesketh on the guitar, Albert Hesketh (the one with the hair) and his banjo, Emerson Reid on his sax, and Fred Webber at the piano conducted by Jack Coles and, off and on, by Art Boyce of the Operations Office.

The formal part of the banquet wound up around 11 o'clock but we have an idea from the haggard expressions on the faces of certain persons of the District staff that things carried on far into the night.

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Vital Stats.

Weddings -- We lost Dorothy Terry from the Operations office. Engagements-- Once again it's the Operations Office with Peggy MacLeod sporting a ring and typing out her resignation.

Nelson District (Continued)

This may happen still in the Management Office, girls.

Resignations -- Here is the Management Office with George Minns, Assistant Forester in charge of Management, going out into the cold, cruel world as a consultant. We were sorry to see George go, but since this gave us the opportunity of welcoming Ted Young, an escapee from the Vancouver office, it turned out okay.

... ..

TO OUR ROUGH 'RITING, ROUTINE RIDDEN RANGERS

(Written by John Applewhaite for Ranger Meeting, Nelson 1951)

Here's a salute to the bravest of men,
Intrepid with figures and skilful with pen,
Who stick by the office, through clerical
dangers,
Those swashbuckling experts, our office-
bound rangers.

First thing in the morning they sweep out
the joint
And see that all pencils are sharp at the
point.
They fill all the inkwells and open the
mails
And grapple with octaves of head-office
walls.

A salesman comes in and he talks and he
talks,
While the Ranger is reading some
lumberman's squawks.
A logger will pay his account shortly --
maybe.
(That married dispatcher is having a baby).

"Your record of tardy reports is amazing".
"We expect you to concentrate more on your
grazing."
"Your cruises are making us out to be
liars".
"Don't let other work interfere with your
fires".

"Prepare a report on the production of
honey".
"Advise Mr. Millman we must have more
money".
And so it drags on till the long day is
ended,
"Allotment for Project Work -- Over-
expended."

These are the men who prepare the reports.
Which the Foresters challenge with snorts
and retorts.
Trained to do fire-fighting, scaling and
cruising,
Can you blame them when they don't report
on their boozing?

... ..

The Hazards of Logging

One of the major hazards of logging in the Big Bend region of B.C. seems to be the threat of disruption of communications and supply by the big game which abounds in the district (out of season, of course).

The Golden Pole Co. operates a camp about sixty miles north of Golden on the highway. As the usual snow conditions set in and the road was closed by the Public Works, the company bought a snow-cat, a gas-powered vehicle with tracks on the rear end and guided by skis in front, enabling it to travel over the surface of the snow with almost the same speed and comfort as a passenger automobile.

On a recent trip to Golden the snow-cat was stopped on the road by a large bull-moose, which, unaccustomed to seeing any such object in the neighbourhood, decided to assert its authority and charged at the machine. The operator tried to dissuade the animal from such a course but to no avail. After repeated charges which did considerable damage to the front of the machine, the operator shot the moose.

On a later trip the snow-cat was again held up by two of the same lordly denizens of the forest, but these were persuaded by roaring of the motor and blowing of the horn that the best course was to let well enough alone, and they gave up the right-of-way.

The sad part of the story is that the operator had no knife with him and could not dress the dead moose at the time. After explaining matters to the local Game Warden in Golden and returning that way next day, the carcass of the moose was found to be "high", and unfit for human use.

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KAMLOOPS DISTRICTTHE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT

Rewritten by R.C. Hewlett
(with apologies to J.G. Saxe)

Two score of Rangers, more or less,
To learning much inclined,
Once to a Ranger Meeting went,
With each a different mind;
An elephant there to explore
With experts of their kind.

This elephant was not the one
The fabled blind men viewed;
For much more intricately made
It called for judgment shrewd
To keep perspective well in hand,
And logic keep subdued.

(continued)

Kamloops District (Continued)

The Blind Men and The Elephant (cont'd)



"What was it then?" did someone ask
In accents of surprise,
The simile is surely apt,
Since one must realize
Our Forestry has grown of late
To elephantine size.

In discourse long Grazing explained
G.R.Is. big and small;
How improvements done in summer
Are inspected in the fall.
The elephant to hear him speak
Was Grazing nearly all.

The Records man then took the stand;
His theme Permits and Bills.
The elephant he pictured was,
Devoid of any frills
Just Revenue, so cold and blunt
It gave one's heart the chills.

The Parks man with fine eloquence
Went right out on a limb,
And told of cleaning Roadside Camps
To please the Public's whim;
Reserves and Parks, aesthetic things;
These were the beast to him.

Then Management brought into view
Resales and Equities;
Too few Reports, how to appraise,
And how to mark the trees;
Till one would think the elephant
Consisted just of these.

But when Protection's spokesman told
With silver-tongued oration,
Of plans designed to meet with speed
The gravest situation;
The elephant to him of course
Was simply Operation.

So we could drive a car or truck
Like experts of the wheel;
Some pictures thrown upon a screen
Did all our faults reveal.
Is this our elephant perhaps,
Or just a fine appeal?

The Bug and Fungi men were there,
Their story to present.
They told us how that we could help
Calamities prevent,
By keeping on the lookout for
Their brand of elephant.

Into discussions one by one,
Was drawn the timid Ranger,
As each described as best he could
With disregard for danger
The elephant to which he felt
He surely was no stranger.

Like the Blind Men of Indostan
Who argued loud and long;
Did Rangers all turn home again
With feelings firm and strong,
Convinced if some were in the right
The most were in the wrong.

For surely all these Specialists
Who loud their logic thunder,
Might overload our elephant,
Or tear the beast asunder;
We hope the future's bright and clear,
With no such fatal blunder.

... ..

During the course of the Wild Horse Roundup here, one of the Stock Association riders was arrested for horse theft on the evidence of a man who claimed to have seen the horse caught on private property, loaded on to a truck, and driven off. The trial was set for one week later and the culprit allowed out on \$500.00 bail (put up by the horse owner's wife, incidentally). Due to bad storms, the case was postponed for a couple of weeks and when finally brought up, the witness for the Crown stated, much to the dismay of the police, that he could not truthfully say whether it was a horse, a cow or a woman who had been caught and loaded into the truck. The charge was dismissed.

... ..

Hatched

To Mr. and Mrs. D.P. Fraser of Barriere, a SON, Donald Joseph.

... ..

25-Year Pin

On March 31, Mr. F.S. McKinnon of the Victoria Office presented Miss E.C. MacKay with a 25-year Service Pin and Scroll. Miss MacKay is the 98th person to receive this pin. To give a more feminine touch, a corsage of pink carnations was also presented.

Miss MacKay joined the Forest Service at Prince Rupert in December, 1925, and transferred to the Kamloops Office in 1931 as Clerk-Stenographer. Her comments were "The first twenty-five years are the hardest!"

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After this year's Rangers' banquet, we were able to hold a dance and give the District staff a grand opportunity to meet and mix with the Ranger staff. A very

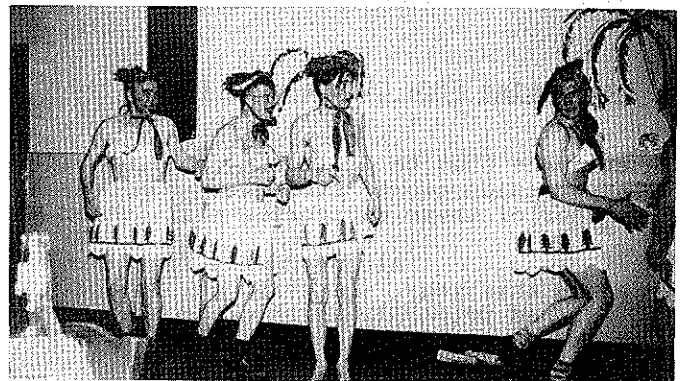
(cont'd)

Kamloops District (Continued)

gay time was had by all and we even discovered that some of the old reliables can last through a dance as well as a banquet. These pictures show just a little of the happy goings-on at the affair.



A bevy of beautiful chorus girls consisting of the "Misses" Mel Kerr, Art Waldie, Hubert Janning, John Bruce, Bob Broadland and Rod Pringle, made their appearance at the Rangers' Banquet.



The chorus put on another performance during the Supper intermission at the dance following the banquet. However, they broke training a little (see left foreground) and could not remember their routine.



Above left -- Colonel Parlow, amongst a portion of the happy throng.



Above -- Mr. and Mrs. Cym Williams. Art Stringer of Victoria sang the song which he sang at their wedding - "Oh, so many years ago."



Left -- Mr. and Mrs. DeBeck, before the dance started. Keary's happy look is probably due to too much to eat at the banquet.

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VANCOUVER DISTRICT

A Record and a Precedent

April 1951 set a record in the Vancouver Forest District for hours of sunshine and, at the end of the month, the tally read approximately 125 fires. A precedent was established when the Fire Season was opened on April 18 instead of waiting until May 1. Rains on the 27th, 28th, and 29th lowered the pressure considerably.

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Cupid Active

Entries for the "Marriage Sweepstakes" are indicated by no less than five rings in the office. Earliest to announce a date (May 26) is Miss Margaret Johns -- lucky man being Melville George Wensink. We shall miss Margaret in Operations, especially when the radio is loaded with messages this summer. Best Wishes to all the girls.

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"Come In"

We are happy to welcome Miss Kay Smithers who has returned as typist in Operations after a couple of months in a relief capacity with the Motor Vehicles Branch.

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Vancouver District (Continued)Resignations

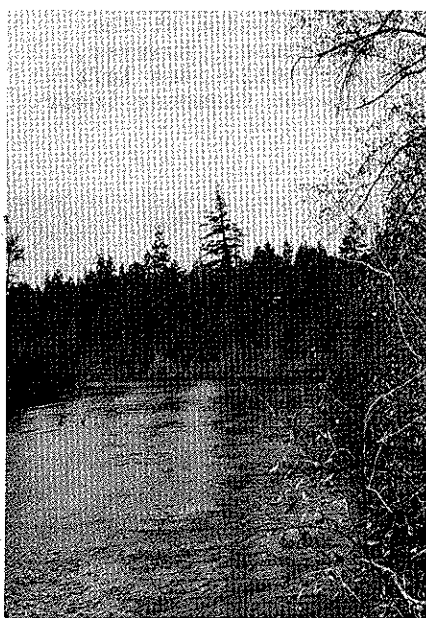
During the month we lost Mr. D.A. (Doug) Sims, cashier-^{led}ger-keeper, who has been with the Department 15 years and resigned to take a position with the Industry. Others to pull out were R.S. (Sam) Taylor and J.F. (John) Widsten, scalers. Our usually reliable correspondent couldn't tell us what these boys plan to do. "Good luck - been nice to know you, fellows".

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Concerning Fire Suppression Crews

That strained look in Bert Gayle's eyes is nothing more serious than evidence that he is looking for the odd foreman or a couple of cooks to round out his suppression crews' strength. Anybody knowing the whereabouts of first class material in either of these categories will render a distinct service by letting the District know.

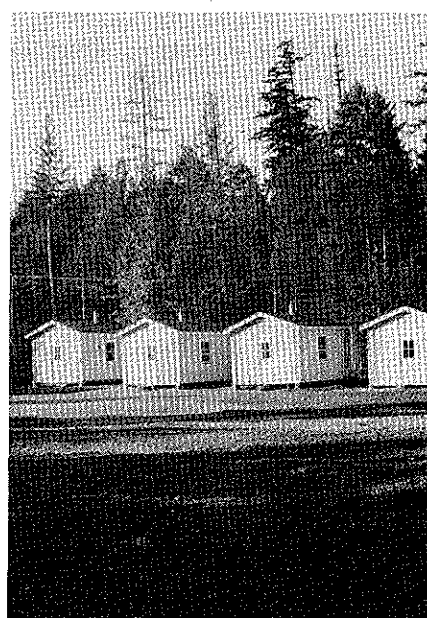
Although only five of our ranger districts will have suppression crews again this year, the personnel is drawn from the whole Vancouver Forest District. Designed primarily as shock troops, whose purpose in life for the time being is to take speedy initial-action on fires, these neophytes in the Service receive careful general training in forestry work and, as opportunity offers, do valuable work on maintenance and construction projects.



Nanaimo River. View upstream from a point 75 feet from Nanaimo Suppression Camp.



Nanaimo Suppression Camp. L. to r. Cookhouse and diningroom - Foreman's dwelling and office - Wash-house.



Nanaimo Suppression Camp. Typical 4-man dwellings, or toolhouse, or visitors accommodation.

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A DISCOURSE ON FIRE-DANGER INDEXES

By James A. Pedley

PART I

Several questions have frequently occurred to me (as they must to many others) in respect to fire danger indexes that have, just as frequently, remained unanswered. These are

- (1) How would the various methods used in hazard-rating compare, when applied to the same set of reported conditions?
- (2) Are hazard ratings based upon instrument readings taken up on lookouts reliable for general conditions within the area covered by the lookouts?
- (3) If not reliable in themselves, can they be used as a reasonably accurate form of interpolation for the lower levels?
- (4) Can we reliably interpret readings taken at 8 A.M. on a lookout to expected conditions for that same afternoon or evening?
- (5) In line with (4) (with respect to 8 A.M. readings of relative humidity and hazard sticks) is there a workable relationship in the difference between the rise or fall as shown by readings taken later in the day?

Possibly this has all been taken care of by Research Divisions of various Forest Services but, if so, I have not as yet seen any published results. The thought has struck me therefore that, in connection with (2), (3), (4), and (5), we have perhaps taken too much for granted. Has it been proven? So, with an afternoon to spare and a mind that should have known better, I decided to try and find some indication as to what the answers may be, particularly to (1).

I figured upon using say, 50 sets of readings taken during the season and for this purpose borrowed the appropriate files from the Vancouver Forest District Office.

A Discourse on Fire-Danger Indexes (Continued)

I really wanted 50 but they sent "the works". Luckily it was the Christmas recess, for very soon I was up to my ears in figures and curiosity and, instead of being satisfied with some idea as to how (1) would work out, I got snarled up on all five questions. Instead of a pleasant afternoon of amateur research, it turned out to be many afternoons, weekends, and evenings. My 50 sample readings increased to 952. As for satisfying my curiosity - well, read on.

Eventually, I dropped the subject - temporarily - because I came to the obvious conclusion that to get reasonable answers to the questions involved, all dealing with fire hazard indexes, we must have fires. A succession of easy seasons, with little or no valuable data as to fire occurrences, would still leave much in doubt. I am reviving it now because we have all the earmarks, at time of writing, of a "humdinger" of a fire season. Anybody interested enough to make practical experiments may have their chance this season.

The need for some simple method of measuring and recording the fire hazard for each day has exercised the minds of some of the foremost protection foresters for the past 25 years or more; Mr. H.T. Gisborne, Messrs. A.A. Brown and W. Davis of the U.S.F.S; Messrs. H.W. Beall and J.G. Wright of the Dominion Forest Service, to mention but a few of the many.

In spite of the many experienced investigators on the subject, or perhaps because of them, we find there are a number of different methods in use from Coast to Coast and from Canada to Florida. British Columbia appears to be one of the few Services that has not, up to the present time, worked up its own standard system - if such a thing as a standard system can be applied in this Province.

At first glance it would appear that, fire being fire and the fundamental conditions governing fire-behaviour being the same wherever fire occurs, any system indexing fire-danger would necessarily apply wherever fire is found. This is, of course, not true. The index must be based upon certain conditions and, as we all know, fire conditions vary as considerably as does the weather, the fuel, and the topography itself.

The Value of Hazard Index Charts

Before going any further, perhaps the use and value of hazard indexes may be briefly discussed.

Most Forest Protection Services are convinced that, for efficient fire protection, there should be a duly recorded index showing the degree of hazard existing at any particular time. Some are content with a daily index; some want an index for several parts of the day; some are satisfied with the knowledge that a hazard exists; some go further and organize their forces for each day's work, according to the degree of hazard shown.

It is my personal opinion that for practical purposes few, if any, experienced fire-fighting rangers need any charts or correlated instrument readings to tell them when their forests are in danger from fire, nor any sets of tables telling them how to line up the day's work according to the type of fire day. It is also my opinion that no matter what a chart or index meter may indicate, if the ranger feels it is going to be a bad fire day he will organize his work accordingly and take no undue chances.

But that is not the whole picture. We have now a number of younger rangers and assistant rangers who have not as yet had beaten into them by hard experience, the instinctive "feel" of fire weather.

For such men in particular, the hazard index is a great help and should be used. The index shows them to some extent the situation according to instrument readings and is, or should be, a deciding factor upon which to make a decision where fire danger is involved. It goes still further, of course. Somebody else besides the ranger must make even more important decisions resting upon the degree of fire danger existing. The hazard indexes in due course become records of past seasons and as such should be invaluable to Research. The "Old Timer" may be able to tell you what kind of a fire day it is today, but he will not be able to tell you what it was today some four months later.

All this being so, the hazard chart is necessary but - and it is a big "but" - if it is to have any value, it must be reasonably accurate. If it is to be used with confidence, the people who use it must have faith in its reliability.

Methods of Measuring Hazards

It is now well over 20 years since I first started to try and figure out fire weather and I have used everything but the kitchen clock for instrument readings. Some of my original charts were drawn on the back of the old calendar sheets. These charts were fearsome and wonderful affairs - temperature, relative humidity, wind, (both direction and velocity) barometric pressure, rainfall, and possibly a few other items. At the bottom of each day's recording was the fire occurrence for the day and fire behaviour for existing fires. Every colour in the book had to be used.

In those earlier days it was customary for the ranger to be out for a week or more on fires while his wife acted as dispatcher. During these lapses, where the wife took over, the system went haywire (or so I thought). In any case, no world-startling result came from the "system". Since then I have evolved my own rule-of-thumb system which has simplicity, if nothing else, to recommend it.

Over the years, a number of systems have been invented and claims are made that they work very well when applied to the country for which they were intended. This I must believe is so, as very considerable research has been put into various systems by exceptionally able men and their systems adopted by the Services concerned.

A Discourse on Fire-Danger Indexes (Continued)

The point I wish to emphasize is, that it is a fallacy to expect satisfactory results from systems not intended to be applied to our conditions; also, that it is poor policy to continue to use any system not investigated and proven to apply to our conditions. I have strong doubts that "anything is always better than nothing".

A study of the various systems used will show that there is still no general agreement as to a standard set of factors to be used in any index. Most systems are based upon a "burning index" with further refinements to indicate action to be taken according to the meter reading. Fuel-moisture content and wind velocity are apparently favoured as factors for the "burning index" by some Regions in the U.S.F.S, but there are others who prefer additional factors including relative humidity. Gisborne's original meter has been developed for various Regions across the "Line" and included fuel-moisture, relative humidity, wind velocity, temperature, precipitation, precipitation intervals, and vegetative stages. In some cases at least, these factors are used in conjunction with others forming fire risk.

The factors used in the Wright system include relative humidity, temperature, and wind velocity, with corrections for precipitation intervals and amount. He goes much further, however, with tables made up to apply to various fuel conditions. Thus, he has Fast-Drying-Forest tables, Slash-Fire tables, Heath-Fire tables, and Grass-Fire tables. He has an Eastern-Fire-Danger table, a Midwest-Fire-Danger table, an East-Slope-Fire-Danger table, and so on; the full material to be found in Forest Fire Research Note No. 12, Dept. of Mines and Resources, Lands, Parks & Forest Branch, Ottawa.

The Rocky Mountain system uses much the same in the way of index factors and there are varied adaptations of the same thing in use by the Industry on their logging shows.

Actually, there appears to be few systems using exactly the same set of factors, but more interesting still, there are few, if any, that give each factor the same value in their systems. This in itself is illuminating. Researchers on this subject still cannot agree on a standard set of factors that will give the best general results, nor can they agree, when they mix their factors, on the value that each should obtain.

Insofar as the factors to be used in a fire-danger index are concerned, they should have sound value and be easy to measure in the field. Duff moisture and the rate of evaporation, for example, can probably be rated as among the top factors for a burning index, but for the fieldman, the measurement of these factors is something else again. Simplicity is necessary as well as reliability. The only criticism that may be offered the Wright system, for example, is that - while being very thorough - it is apparently quite complicated.

In this writer's opinion, a good practical system of hazard index can be made up from relative humidity, temperature, and wind velocity, with a value allowed for hazard build-up. Some may wish to omit temperature, some actually do omit wind velocity. I would not argue about the omission of temperature if the other person decided against its use, but certainly I cannot see any useful index that will omit wind. One may include moisture-content instead of temperature as an indication of fire inception, but we want also to know something of possible rate-of-spread. Wind fills that bill, and has other values besides.

A value for build-up should certainly be included.

The point raised is that the above factors are easy to measure almost any place in the field; they are understandable by the newest of forest officers; and some form of standard value for each factor can be arrived at. The results can then be shown as a single line on a chart in reference to an arbitrary line denoting the hazard mark.

We are in no doubt in respect to the few simple factors that may be safely used for a reliable index. Where we need more information is with regard to the values that each factor should be given. Here is where we want more work done, more research along practical lines of comparison with fire occurrence.

PART II will follow in the June Newsletter.

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"WHAT EVERY FOREST OFFICER SHOULD KNOW"II. HOW YOU LOOK TO OTHERS

"O wad some power the giftie gie us,
To see oursel's as ithers see us!"

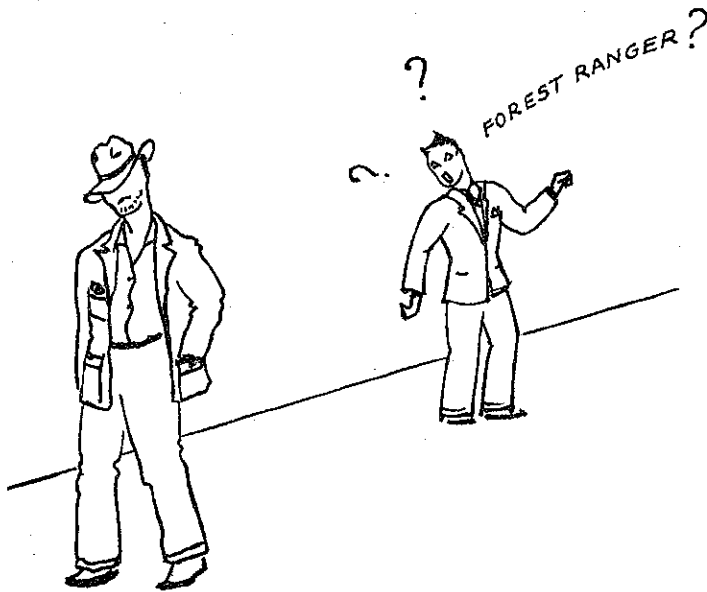
Ranger Bill once said: "Your friends look at your face, but the crowd sees only the back of your neck." There's a lot of truth in that, but it is not all the story. The crowd also notices your clothes, your collar and shoes and even your hands. If you are a Forest Officer they will notice all these things that much quicker, for you represent the Government of British Columbia and wear a uniform.

But this is not a discussion of the uniform. Our concern is with neatness of garb and not the garb itself. What we have to say applies to the everyday life of a Forest Officer.

Many years ago, Father Ricard, the "Padre of the Rains," claimed that he could predict changes in the weather from spots on the sun. A Forest Officer can likewise predict a change in temperature in his boss from the number and duration of spots on

"What Every Forest Officer Should Know" (Continued)

his own shirt, pants and hat. If they are too numerous it may mean a hot spell followed by coolness, sometimes accompanied by thunder and lightning.



Our crowning glory, the "Brill" fedora, is usually the worst offender. We all know how the sweat of one's brow rises thru the hatband and takes on a fine smear of dust, especially on a hot August afternoon. That is the sweat of honest toil, which must not be discouraged, so all that one can ask is that you keep your "lid" decently respectable.

Among our other troubles is the fact that shirts and trousers cease to look alike after the first few weeks of a strenuous field season. In the bloom of spring, both shirt and trousers are the regular khaki. Late in the summer, however, either shirt or trousers will be lighter or darker than the other. But do not worry. This "two-tone" phenomenon is looked upon with keen approval because it shows that the wearer has washed them occasionally.

The jacket is usually the accessory to formal occasions. But the minute you put on a uniform jacket you are a marked man, so it is just as well to have it clean and neat instead of looking as if you had slept in it.

A necktie marks the serious dresser among Forest Officers. On some jobs a necktie is out of place, but personally we prefer a buttoned up shirt and tie to a Tarzan chest.

Finally, it should be made clear that the Forest Service does not expect its officers to be decked out like sartorial sunbursts. Neatness can cease to be a virtue if you are like the Forest Assistant who couldn't decide which necktie to wear to a fire. Never get so dolled up that your scenery will make you hesitate to tackle any job that comes in the line of duty.

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FLASH

Just been advised by radio that Mr. and Mrs. Frank Goertzen of Prince Rupert became proud parents of a 6 lb. 13 oz. baby DAUGHTER, Patricia May, on April 25, 1951.

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A POEM

(Dedicated to souls dwelling in far-off places who are known to us only by the wiggle of their signatures).

"If I knew you and you knew me,
'This seldom we would disagree
But never having yet clasped hand
Both often fail to understand
That each intends to do what's right
And treat each other 'honor bright'.
How little to complain there'd be
If I knew you and you knew me.
When memos don't seem to come in time
And Rangers send nary line
We'd wait without anxiety,
If I knew you and you knew me.

"If we could only come your way,
We'd gladly do so and we'd stay
To chat of many cosmic things,
Of shoes and sealing wax and kings.
Then you'd know us and we'd know you
And stand as two good men and true,
To find a way that's straight and fair
To solve our problems then and there;

"Then let no doubting thoughts abide
Of firm good faith on either side;
Confidence to each other give;
Living ourselves, let others live.
But any time you come this way
That you will call we hope and pray,
Then face to face we each shall see
And I'll know you and you'll know me.

"BUT SINCE YOU'RE THERE AND WE ARE HERE,
We cannot meet we sadly fear,
Our heartfelt wishes are never lacking
So please to hurry and get things
cracking!"

... ..

OUR MASTHEAD STORY

With the Fire Season once again upon us, boys, remember what you learned from Jim Pedley in the Ranger School Class of '49 which is shown on this issue's Masthead.

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