

1456-190

NEWS LETTER

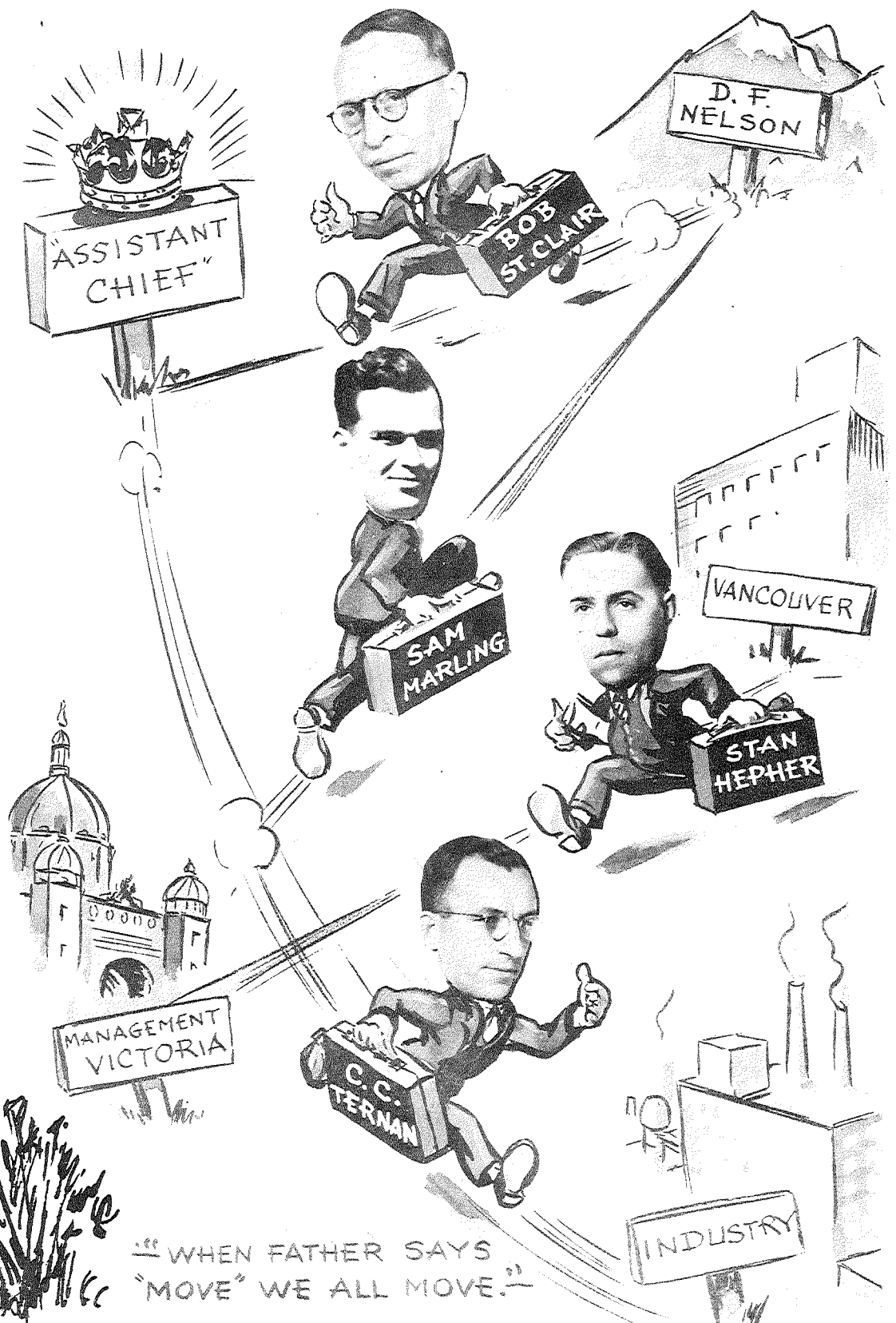


An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense, 'n' opinion compiled from time to time for the profit, amusement, and annoyance of the staff. * * *

No. 60

VICTORIA, B. C., NOVEMBER 1, 1946.

08581



CHILLIWACK RANGER STATION

Foremost among the many thoughts continually on the move through the heads of Forest Service Officials, is the desire to provide adequate and comfortable office accommodation for the Field Staff. The accommodation of the actual personnel, however, is only part of the story. One must consider the large space necessary for the storage of vehicles, fire-fighting equipment, and those thousand and one other things that go to make up a properly stocked Ranger Station. All this must be ready at a moment's notice to cope with every imaginable type of Forest problem. Bearing this in mind, the majority of Forest Service Officials have always been keen on the construction of a Ranger Station which fits the picture completely, and yet is reasonably economical, as all such projects must be kept within the limits of available funds.

Let us go back to the days when a Ranger Station was very badly needed at Chilliwack, and follow through all the various and complicated steps which must be fitted in, arranged, agreed upon, etc., before a station is brought to its ultimate completion.

To begin with, this Station will not only need office space and sleeping accommodations for the Ranger and his assistants, but also, storage for fire-fighting equipment, a garage building large enough to house several vehicles, some of which will be in use all year 'round, and others which will be used only during the Fire Season. On top of this, one must consider the installation of a trans-receiver radio, a light unit, and water, power and sewage facilities. Each one of these items takes hours of thought, planning, and debate, before even the vaguest idea of the finished article appears.

Having decided beyond any doubt that the Station is really needed in this specific locality, we then proceed as follows. The site itself is acquired only after it has been duly determined that the taxes are paid up to date, the Certificate of Encumbrance is clear, the Conveyance is in order, and the property duly registered in the Crown. Having overcome all these important details, the property is purchased and the real work can commence.

The basic work consists of having a survey made, levels run, contour plans drafted, and lengthy discussions carried on as to the layout of the buildings, the roads, and the grounds in the immediate vicinity.

When all these things have been decided upon, then, and then only, can the plans and specifications be drawn up. This is tough and intricate work, as everything must be correct to the most minute detail in order to ascertain the exact costs entailed.

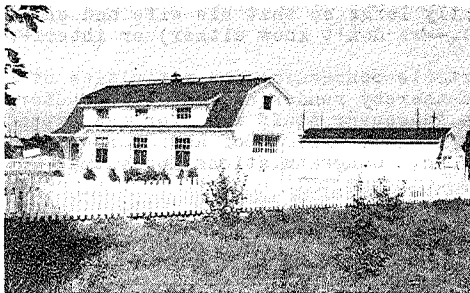
Now, tenders may be called for. It is always borne in mind that the Service wants the best possible figure, and therefore great consideration and deliberation is brought to bear on each and every tender submitted, with a view to determining the contractor's ability, financial, and community rating.

The great day arrives when all the "tender problems" have been satisfactorily ironed out and the actual construction is begun. The building, as it progresses, is periodically and carefully inspected "by the Chief Forester, or his duly authorized representative;" and finally accepted and paid for, "in consideration of the premises and subject to the performance on the part of the Contractor, of all the covenants and conditions in this contract contained."

All the above takes up a lot of time, the vast majority of which is unavoidable. Nonetheless, the time, no matter how long, is well spent when the result is a Station such as we have at Chilliwack, which has undoubtedly added to both increased efficiency and prestige in the work of the B. C. Forest Service.



" --- the time ---"



"---no matter how long---"



"---is well spent."

The Chilliwack Ranger Station was conceived November 10, 1937, born on March 28, 1944, and grew so rapidly that it was full-grown and occupied on June 16, 1944. The contractor, who, as fits the times, experienced some delays in delivery of material, fortunately did not have to make any substitutions, and completed the contract within the specified time.

The buildings themselves consist of an office and stores building, 40' x 24', and a garage building capable of housing four cars or other vehicles. The office building has a large general office, a private office and radio room, and a wash room. The stores section measures 24' x 24', on the ground floor, and 40' x 14' clear upstairs, with 29' x 5' added floor space on both sides under the eaves.

The Station is situated on the Yale Road, one quarter of a mile south of the boundary of Chilliwack Township. The "hip" roof design of the buildings, the attractive colour scheme, and the sway-back fencing of the neatly tailored grounds, rarely fail to catch the eye of the passing traveller. As an example of the standard Ranger Station buildings now being built throughout the province, it is a project of which the B. C. Forest Service is naturally proud. Its location and appearance have elicited much favourable comment, such as the following letter from an American tourist who writes from Palo Alto, California:-

"One of the features noted in our trip from Vancouver, B. C. to Kamloops, B. C., was the Forestry Station at Chilliwack, which we visited this summer. Your officials were very kind in explaining the reasons for its being and the work carried on there. It certainly is a great job they have to do and they should be able to carry on very efficiently from headquarters so well placed in the Fraser Valley, and so well laid out that every convenience seems to have been thought of. We will long remember our visit, and have some memories as well as snapshots to prove to our friends what the B. C. Forest Service is doing in Canada."

Under the jurisdiction of the Vancouver District Forester, Mr. C. J. Haddon, Forest Ranger J. A. Mahood administers the Chilliwack Ranger District from this station with his immediate staff of Assistant Rangers Lennox, Calder and Barker. E. A. Mahood is dispatcher and R. J. Barrett, Student Assistant. In the field are Patrolman Voight and Lookoutman Pettitt and Cameron. In case of Forest fires, immediate action can be taken by augmenting this staff with local residents, who, provided with equipment housed in the Station and proceeding to the scene of the fire along roads radiating from the station, are quite capable of handling almost any eventuality that may arise. The Chilliwack Ranger Station therefore, takes its place as concrete evidence of the ever increasing determination of the Forest Service to reach its final goal--perfection in forest management and protection.

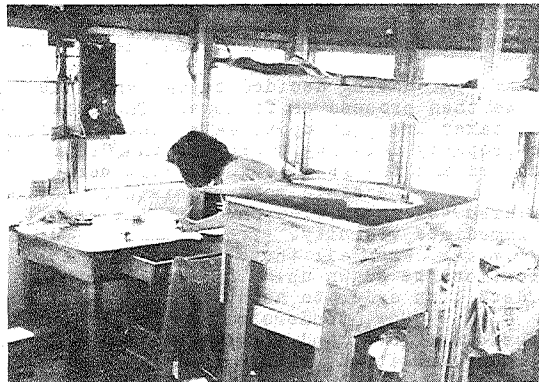
::: ::: ::: :::

NEWSLETTER

BOUQUETS TO BOWSER BUILDER

The effort expended in the construction of the Bowser Lookout in the Vancouver Forest District during 1946, is most worthy of notice not only from a rehabilitation standpoint but also from the standpoint of craftsmanship.

This point was developed as a Lookout during the 1946 season. A tractor road was bulldozed to the site, lumber was obtained from the remains of an old A.S.W. Camp, windows from the Property Clerk, Victoria, and the district provided hardware and shingles to complete the job. The building was constructed almost entirely by the lookoutman himself, and about twenty man days of labour were required to make the place habitable. This effort is certainly noteworthy, due to the fact that Lookoutman Charles A. Egg, a recently discharged veteran, is handicapped by the effects of illness contracted during his service. Despite this handicap, an outstanding effort of enthusiasm and craftsmanship was displayed. A well constructed building resulted in which are comfortably located the Lookoutman and his family.



Mr. and Mrs. Egg and L/O

--Utilization a key-note--

The building is approximately 14 feet square, and, built along the four sides of the room underneath the windows are bunks, tables, cupboards and a stove. The fire finder is located in the centre of the room and an unobstructed view is maintained in all directions. Despite the fact that development of this point did not commence until June, the building was occupied in early July and presented a neat and smart appearance. Further improvements are continuing, such as the addition of plywood lining to render it more habitable during adverse weather conditions.

With this type of construction the lookoutman can maintain a constant watch whilst carrying on other duties. It is sufficiently large so that his wife and child can occupy the same building without developing claustrophobia (Ed.--we don't know either) or interfering with the normal work programme.

This is the second article concerning the activities of high calibre lookoutmen, who are improving their living conditions and thereby rendering more satisfactory service. It is also a noteworthy achievement on the part of the Vancouver staff who, for the expenditure of about \$100, constructed a temporary lookout of excellent design which will be of assistance in attracting a higher calibre man for this increasingly important position. Congratulations Lookoutman Charles A. Egg.

::: ::: ::: :::

GOIN' AND COMIN' AT VICTORIA

Our New Assistant Chief

Upon the date of Mr. C. C. Terman's leaving the Service, October 31, the position of Assistant Chief Forester will fall upon the capable shoulders of R. C. "Bob" St. Clair who will leave the District Forestership of Nelson to assume his new duties.

"Bob" St. Clair is no stranger to the Forest Service! He is probably one of the best known officials in our Service, both in the field and behind a desk. He was educated in the U.S.A. and distinguished himself at the University of Idaho, where he obtained his B.Sc. in Engineering degree and also at the University of Michigan where he tossed in a Master of Forestry for good measure.

His experience in the Forest Service has been lengthy (since 1918) as well as being very thorough, as Bob started as a Forest Guard. It is needless to say, therefore, that he really knows the business from root to foliage. His keen and energetic mind has always been a most potent factor in the guiding of Forest policies and so the undoubted advantage of having him in such a position of importance is most certainly, province-wide.

At the Victoria Head Office, there has been a great reshuffling taking place since the last edition of your Newsletter. All in all, however, it will work out about even with three losses and two gains.

C. C. "Geh" Terman, our Assistant Chief since May 1, 1945 when he took over from George P. Melrose, has taken the bull by the horns and lit out for the Alaska Pine Company, where he will be Chief Forester. "Geh" came to the Forest Service on May 1, 1924, from U.B.C. where he had distinguished himself not only in his studies but also in sport. He has served in all the districts and became District Forester Kamloops in 1940. From there he went to the Vancouver office as Assistant District Forester and then on to Victoria as Assistant Chief. "Geh" is well known throughout the entire service and it is unquestionably our loss and industry's gain as we wish him bon voyage and good luck.

Sam Marling, as everyone surely knows by this time, is off to the Nelson District to replace Bob St. Clair as District Forester. Sam's place in E. B. Prowd's Management Office has been taken by Stan Hepher from Vancouver. Our congrats to Sam and a big welcome to Stan.

The Service has lost another very capable member of the staff of foresters in Ian MacQueen who has left us to associate himself with C. D. Schultz and Company in Vancouver. Ian had been our Fire Control Officer since his return from the R.C.A.F. Ralph Johnston, also an ex R.C.A.F. has replaced Ian in the above capacity.

The Newsletter has received the following note from Tom Simmons:--

"Upon my retirement from the Service may I take the opportunity through the medium of the 'Newsletter' to say goodbye. Many of you I have met personally, some I have not, but to you all may I simply and sincerely say thank you for the many courtesies received. I shall look back with a great deal of pleasure upon the years spent in the Service and remember everyone with kindly feelings and deep appreciation of having had the pleasure of working for over a quarter of a century with the B.C. Forest Service. To you individually, and to the Service itself, I wish the best of luck."

NEWSLETTER

Retirement and 25-Year Button Presentations

At a brief ceremony held in the Chief Forester's Office on the 29 of September, two of our retiring members, John Colbert and Reginald Freeman, both of Forest Accounts, were honoured. John Colbert was one of the few remaining "originals" of the Forest Service having amassed a total of 28 years service. Mr. Orchard, in making the presentation spoke of those "good old days" and thanked Mr. Colbert for his very efficient work through all these years.

Mr. Freeman, who joined the Forest Service just after the first Great War, was, unfortunately, unable to attend the presentations at the last moment.

The Chief also presented Jim Blake, our Structural Engineer, A. B. Williams, of Forest Accounts and John Davey, ex of the latter office and now of the Water Branch, with their 25-Year Buttons and Certificates.

Albert E. Thompson, retiring Chief Draughtsman, was unable to attend the above ceremony due to a bout in the hospital. It was therefore arranged that his presentation be postponed until a more suitable time, which, subsequently was October 4, when Mr. Orchard presented him with an engraved cigarette case on behalf of the Forest Service.

::: ::: ::: :::

B. C. FOREST SERVICE MEMORIAL FUND

The Annual Party for the boys and girls at the Queen Alexandria Solarium was held on August 14th and your Committee was invited to attend, both to participate in the festivities and to discuss, with the Chairman of the Solarium Building Committee, the question of a site for the chapel which is to constitute our Memorial to our fellow employees and our contribution to a great and heart-warming cause.

The Committee closed up their desks at noon, and, after lunch, sallied forth along the Malahat, arriving at the Solarium about 2:30 P.M. They found the youngsters in festive mood, despite having to listen to a number of speeches, and having a lot of fun with unlimited chocolate bars, ice cream, and pop. A Navy band played for the patients and guests, and the Victoria Girls' Drill Team went through a series of complicated manoeuvres in the restricted space available on the lawn in front of the buildings. We feel that a hard-boiled R.S.M. of the old school might have had something to say about "too many left feet", but they looked so cute and everyone was having such a good time, that the occasional "left turn" which should have been "right ditto" didn't seem to matter.

The Chairman of our Committee tried to promote an affair with a cute, blue-eyed blonde, but, with the assistance of Mrs. Orchard (who accompanied the expedition), was reminded of the responsibility and dignity of his office. The Committee then toured the Solarium grounds and approved the two sites submitted for our consideration, leaving the final choice to the Solarium authorities when their plans for additional hospital space become more definite.

(P.S. The blonde was three months old and had come direct to the Solarium from the hospital nursery for treatment of a club foot. She will be going home, completely cured, in about three months time. In the meantime, the picture of health, she lay placidly watching the procession of visitors pass by her door. The realization that, through the Solarium, she would be enabled to take her place in the world without the burden of deformity, was just about the best "sales talk" we have ever encountered.)



No worthier cause



---than this.

::: ::: ::: :::

FORT GEORGE DISTRICT

Well, this district hasn't had very many changes of permanent personnel since the last Newsletter. In the "steno" class however, we can chalk up one lost and one gained, which works out just about even. The temporary staff however, is a different situation. New channels were worn in the Crooked River by the taking out of quitting Patrolmen and the bringing in of replacements. Elsewhere as well, we had sudden vacancies, as Assistant Rangers and Patrolmen sought other, and greener fields.

We of the district Office were all sorry to see Lila Anderson leave to become Mrs. Hewlett. We, however, are selfish I guess. Lila in the office was so darn happy herself, that in sheer self-defence the rest of us had to be at least moderately contented. The staff gave her a surprise party and shower (yes, the men were there too) prior to her marriage. With the valuable assistance of Len Peckham's piano-playing, the party was a most enjoyable affair.

Miss Doreen Tobiason took Lila Anderson's place in the office, and we consider ourselves fortunate.

One member of our staff, Doug Chorlton, not previously mentioned, joined us in April from the Air Force. He is our very keen and efficient radio operator, whose voice is known to all those who listen on the Prince George frequency, and probably to a good many on the Victoria, Prince Rupert and Kamloops "skeds" as well.

::: ::: ::: :::

The district counts itself fortunate in having a considerable air survey programme successfully completed by Gerry Andrews and his henchmen, during the summer. Other visitors were Axel Kinneer who was busy doing lookout photographs when he wasn't cursing the rain, the clouds or the smoke. John Collins also honoured us by a visit and satisfied himself that the Peace River Block isn't what it used to be.

::: ::: ::: :::

We think it about time some tribute was paid to Albert Biederman, who is, we firmly believe, one of the best Lookoutmen in the Service. For the benefit of posterity, you may peruse the snaps of Albert and his Lookout. Albert Biederman, first went up Pilot Mt. Lookout when it was established in 1934. He had been in and around Prince George since 1909. Originally, Albert came from Switzerland, and after working on C.N.R. construction, took up a pre-emption near Reid Lake. Albert has spotted, and accurately located smoke as far away as 70 miles, and, on the area he commands, no smoke has ever gone unspotted. His knowledge of the country is really uncanny. Just so that there will be little



or no doubt, he generally reports a smoke as "bearing 291° 30'". Probably northwest of Lot 2216." The amazing thing is that he is generally right!

Albert has quite a pre-emption up on Pilot Mountain. In the course of his twelve seasons up there, he has toppled over about 12 acres of trees which were unfortunate enough to block his view. Not satisfied with "tree toppling", Albert grows some vegetables as well. This gentleman farming is carried out wherever he can find any soil, and, as it occurs in patches, he may show you a dozen potato plants in one spot and then a few lettuce about 100 feet away. In all, there are about a dozen of these pint-sized vegetable gardens.

Albert's radio station is very useful for relay work and call "VX2Y standing by" is well known to all the Forest Service nets.

Probably he is fond of animals, but

his friendship for them was strained to the limit by reason of a bear insisting on using Albert's water supply for a bath. For about a week Albert would industriously clean out his rock hole water supply in the morning, and then the bear would take a bath in it during the evening!

Albert had trouble with D.D.T. also. Finding the mosquitoes pretty bad this year, he sprayed his cabin thoroughly, found he couldn't stand the D.D.T. and so slept outside.

Albert demonstrates the keenness of his eye and brain when he comments, upon occasions, "Well, I saw Prince George in 1911 and, as far as I can see" (probably 70 miles) "it's not improved much." Ouch!



:: :: ::

Our Modern Firefighter!

The following is an excerpt taken from the W.C.B. report.

Q.--What were you doing at the time of the accident?

A.--Leaning on a fence.

Q.--Was this part of your regular duties?

A.--Yes.

:: :: ::

Or This:-

Settler being questioned as to why he did not respond to a call to assist in quelling a Forest Fire nearby. "I sure would have helped, Ranger, because I don't like Forest Fires, but you see, just at that time my own house was a-fire and I wanted to stick around."

:: :: ::

Changing Conditions:-

A well known northern packer, commiserating with one of our Patrolmen, who, en route to a fire, had been unfortunate enough to be in a car accident, sighed for the good old days. He pointed out that he had never heard of two pack-strings getting involved in a collision.

:: :: :: ::

NELSON DISTRICT

Holmgren-Cameron Luncheon

"A luncheon was held at the Golden Gate Cafe on Wednesday, October 9, in honor of two members of the B. C. Forest Service, R. C. (Bob) Cameron of Fernie, B. C., Forest Ranger with 34 years service, and William (Bill) Holmgren, Assistant Forester, Nelson, with over 25 years service, on the occasion of their recent retirement on superannuation.

Twenty-five fellow employees participated, including R. C. St. Clair, District Forester, who, following the luncheon, presented each of them with a gift of a purse of gold from their many friends within the service, not only from the Nelson District but from other parts of the Province.

S. E. Marling, Forester, Management Division, Victoria, presented them with letters from the Honorable E. T. Kenney, Minister of Lands and Forests and C. D. Orchard, Chief Forester.

Following this, other appropriate remarks for the occasion were made by former District Forester R. E. (Bob) Allen and various members of the Service long associated with them, including Supervisor T. W. Brewer, S. S. Simpson, Chief Clerk, Nelson Office, Assistant Foresters Sawyer L. Hope and Percy Young and Supervisor of Scalpers George Schupe.

Both Holmgren and Cameron replied, expressing their appreciation and both advised that it was their intention to continue to reside in their respective cities.

Then on the following Saturday, October 12, the Nelson District office held a brief farewell party for our former D. F. and new Assistant Chief Forester, Bob St. Clair. Assistant District Forester Marc Gormley presented Bob with a well-filled humidor on behalf of the staff, in the hope that we would thereby relieve our Victoria colleagues from the trials of tracing wandering tobacco pouches when Bob hits town.

Bob expressed his appreciation and warned that since he hit Nelson in twenty year intervals, beware 1965 or 1966.

All hands were then invited to adjourn for the "pause that refreshes" (but somehow it didn't taste like "pop") and Bob was, we believe, given a noble send off.

:: :: :: ::

Req'n. X157632

1 GUN HARPOON ASS'T. RANGERS FOR THE USE OF--

The above requisition may, upon first glance, appear to be rather out of line with ordinary Forest Service routine, however, we recently witnessed a combined operation scheme, wherein the Assistant Ranger in question, would have given his month's salary (more or less) to have had such a weapon mounted on the bow of his boat.

It appears that a Canso aircraft took off from Vancouver bound for a fire at Alert Bay and stopped en route, at Campbell River, for a load of pumps, hose and fire tools. One Assistant Ranger was detailed to put off in a small boat and contact the plane on arrival, and then transfer the equipment on board. A Flying Boat landed at about the agreed time, whereupon the Assistant Ranger, his keenness never to be questioned, started the motor in his boat and headed straight out towards the aircraft.

Unfortunately, however, unknown to the zealous Assistant Ranger, this plane wasn't the one he was supposed to meet at all, and the pilot, having had considerable experience with inquisitive fishermen and their ilk, had no desire to make contact with the approaching-motor boat. Consequently,

as the boat came nearer, he, the pilot, gunned the motor and edged a little further ahead. This rather hair-raising procedure was repeated several times much to the exasperation of the Assistant Ranger concerned.



In the meantime, the Canso Aircraft landed off Campbell River and in order to speed up the operations, another boat was requisitioned and the supplies transferred. The pilot of the Canso and the successful Assistant Ranger, having completed their loading operations, were sitting in the cabin examining maps and charts and discussing landing arrangements, etc.

By this time, Assistant Ranger No. 1, having tired of his game of "try and get me" had given up and returned to the rendezvous. He immediately spotted the Canso and headed for it at top speed. At last!

About this time, Assistant Ranger No. 2 had graduated to the taxiing lesson stage and was just taking his first run as Ranger No. 1, complete with boat, headed towards them. So, whenever Assistant Ranger No. 1 approached within rock-throwing distance of the Canso, Assistant Ranger No. 2 would get lesson "A" and said Canso would begin to scuttle away again.

Again and again this same old routine was followed until the Canso finally took off for Alert Bay, leaving an Assistant Ranger, a boat and a colossal amount of mental confusion at Campbell River.

... ..

PROTECTION IN ACTION

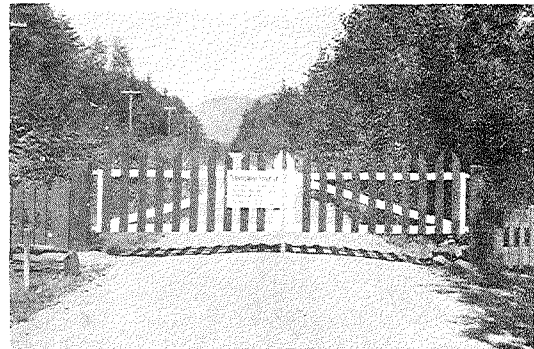
By way of showing that active forest protection is being carried out in an efficient and admirable manner, we think we should bring to light the "goings on" at Sayward Forest last June 30.

"On June 30th," writes Charles Haddon of Vancouver, "the Sayward Forest was closed to travel except under permit. This action was taken in order to provide some control of human hazard in this highly productive territory, which includes some of our plantations."

Two control points were established on roads, each being manned by a special patrolman. Permits were issued in non-hazardous weather, and their issue was restricted or even stopped entirely as humidity dropped and the fire risk rose.



Permits---in non hazardous weather



Stopped entirely---as risk rose

A short pamphlet was drawn up describing the resources of the forest and the reasons for the restrictions, and copies were distributed to those passing through the gates.

... ..

THE "CONTRIVANCE"

We are indebted to Supt. Tommy Wells of Green Timbers for the following dope on what most certainly must be something very super-doooper.

"News certainly spreads fast," writes Tommy. "However, I suppose that after once seeing the 'contrivance', it is hard to forget."

It was primarily built for spreading a half inch layer of soil on the seedbeds, which, if laid end to end, would stretch six and one half miles and require 200 cubic yards of soil. Although we have not as yet been able to operate the machine on an actual production basis, all tests lead one to believe it will be a tremendous labour-saver next spring. The machine actually spreads the 26 units of wood shavings, for the winter cover on this year's seedlings, with a saving of 25 man days. When a better method for loading the hopper is worked out, the saving should be considerably increased.

It, (the 'contrivance') is not much to look at. It consists of a hopper, (1½ cu. yds.) erected on a chassis of angle-iron, which is mounted on old rubber-tired wheels. The soil from the hopper is allowed to fall on an oscillating riddle which ensures a very even spread of soil or shavings over the beds, the riddle being the same width as the beds, (4 ft.). It covers the area in one operation. The tractor which draws the machine, also supplies the power to operate the riddle by means of a Model A Ford Transmission (giving 4 speeds), thence through a grass mower pitman rod (considerably shortened). The riddle can be operated at a speed of from 60 to 120 strokes per minute, and is controlled from the tractor seat.

At first, difficulty was experienced in getting the soil to flow freely from the hopper. This, however, was overcome by running wires 4" apart, from the top, down through the hopper, where they were attached to the riddle so that when the riddle is in motion and the wires are agitated to the full depth of the soil, it keeps the soil moving towards the mouth of the hopper. The spreading of the 200 cubic yards of soil by hand takes 80 man days, but the 'contrivance' can handle the same job in 20 hours!"

To our way of thinking, that is a whole lot of "contrivance!"

... ..

CO-OPERATION, "PAR EXCELLENCE."

Assistant Ranger Crowther submits the following true story by way of illustrating just how co-operative people will be sometimes.

"To get to this fire," (the Las Fire), writes Ranger Crowther, "it was necessary for the Assistant Ranger to hire a row-boat to cross the lake. The owner was a lady schoolteacher from Saskatchewan. Later on, another Assistant Ranger came and asked the same lady for the loan of her boat. She replied--'The other fellow has my boat, but if you need it badly, I WILL SWIM OVER AND GET IT FOR YOU.'

The lake is over a quarter of a mile wide at this point."

We might say at this time, that the offer of such assistance, though radical, is nonetheless most commendable. With such co-operation it must be hard for our Assistant Rangers to go very wrong!

