

ROOT AND BRANCH



MAY 1922

CONTRIBUTIONS,
PRO AND CON,
ARE WHAT THIS INFANT
THRIVES UPON.



NHC

No 1 - Vol. 1

INTRODUCTORY

For this, the initial bow of "Root and Branch" to members of the Forest Staff, a few words about the Service, its origin, aims and future will not be amiss.

The Service was conceived in the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Timber and Forestry, 1909, and born with the "Forest Act" of 1912. It was to take over the administration of the forest land previously carried on by several distinct organizations, and not only conduct the administration work but, in the words of the Commission, "One of its chief functions would be Investigation, the results of which would build up an exact knowledge of our forests that inevitably would mould and give real stability to the future development of policy." We realize still further today how much we depend on exact forest knowledge if we are to treat our forests as a crop and not as a mine, if we are to secure stable forest conditions and not see Forest Development as a passing phase of our National Development.

The organization laid down by the Commission called for a Chief Forester with staff, District Foresters, Rangers and Wardens. The Service has grown into one of the Chief branches of the Civil Service. It deals with the public's interest in our chief industry, manages our largest estate, and is one of our chief sources of revenue.

In its infancy the Branch was fortunate in having the guiding hand of men with such high ideals of public duty as O. W. Price, MacMillan, and Grainger. The ideals of these men have become a tradition of the Branch - a watchword for the future:- "A public service conducted as you would your own business, a service which gives the lie to 'Everybody's business is nobody's business,' or rather, converts it into 'A public business is my business.'" This tradition has had its effect. The B. C. Forest Service has been an organization one feels proud to belong to, and has gained the full sympathy and support of the public.

The Service can be likened to the trees with which it has to deal. The Head Office constitutes the Roots, bedded in departmental policy and procedure. You are the Branches. Both are essential to the growth of the tree - both are dependent on the other. Disconnected roots or severed branches can never make a tree: they require a connection - the Stem. In the Branch this connection is esprit de corps. The Stem develops

not directly, but through the joint action of Roots and Branches, and it is when all are working in harmony that we have the stately, upstanding, well-developed tree.

In trying to find a name for our paper this similarity was so strongly impressed upon us that we chose the name "Root and Branch," to represent all. The paper is to assist in drawing us into one harmonious whole, to facilitate the flow of sap through. If through this effort the esprit de corps is increased, the Service thereby made more efficient, more upstanding, more human, our efforts will not have been in vain.

-- P. Z. Caverhill --

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THAT'S PEP

Vigor, vitality, vim and punch -
The courage to act on a sudden hunch;
The nerve to tackle the hardest thing
With feet that climb and hands that cling,
And a heart that never forgets to sing -
THAT'S PEP.

Sand and grit in a concrete base -
A friendly smile on an honest face;
The spirit that helps when another's down,
That knows how to scatter the blackest frown;
That loves its neighbours and loves its town -
THAT'S PEP.

To say "I will," for you know you can;
To look for the best in every man;
To meet each blundering knock-out blow,
And come back with a laugh because you know
You'll get the best of the whole blame show -
THAT'S PEP.

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CRUISING

Last summer a 160-acre lot was surveyed by a B.C.L.S. and reported by him as "timber land." An application to purchase was received and the usual examination requested from the District Forester. It was reported on by an Acting Ranger as having 143 board feet per acre. In view of the wide difference between the land surveyor's report and our report, the Lands Branch asked for a check cruise. This was made by a Forest Assistant and a senior Ranger, who together made a 20% cruise, submitting a report that raised the Acting Ranger's cruise to 6,670 board feet per acre, or an increase of 4650%.

All the tally sheets and field notes were submitted with the report and checked over. An error in computing, amounting to 3,200 board feet per acre, was discovered, which reduced the final cruise to 3,470 board feet per acre. This is a reduction of 48% in the report, or, in other words, the cruise was 190% too high, due to an error in computing.

What is the use of accuracy in field methods if the erroneous computation of the sample acres tallied can give a result so divergent? Have we been over emphasizing field methods to the neglect of accurate tabulation and compilation of results? Would it not be well if closer supervision were given to such office methods as would eliminate as far as possible errors of this nature?

Such questions naturally come to mind in analysing this report, and it occurs to me that possibly better results could be obtained if tally sheets, and map sheets, showing strip lines run, were submitted with the cruise reports.

In "Instructions for Intensive Reconnaissance," loose leaf forms Nos. 109 and 110 are described. By using these forms in all cruising work where the usual strip or sample plot methods are followed, it is no hardship on anyone to attach the tally and map sheets to the report when it is submitted. This would give the Officer appraising the report not only an opportunity to check the computations, when he thought it desirable, but would also give him a great deal more detailed information regarding the timber and conditions affecting the logging of the area, than it is possible to show on Form 120 or 298.

-- R. C. St.Clair --

TALKING SHOP.

With the opening issue of Root and Branch, it is advisable that the contribution from Operation should not be shop. But as I write, the sky is clearing and there is more than a suspicion that the sun is on his way to work, making things pleasant for picnickers, fishermen and campers. How such terms fill our waking thoughts from May 1st to September 31st, and deny our nightly couches of the rest that should abide there. But shop is forbidden.

How then, can Operation hope to enter the field of literature when the ground is thus cut from under its feet? True, one may write airy vapourings which would serve as what are journalistically known as "pot-boilers", but this would defeat the objects for which the Root and Branch is issued, and its contributing staff organized. And while we are on the subject of organization, please let me take this opportunity of stating definitely, that the real hope of Forest Conservation and Forest Protection lies in the education of the Public so that they are organized as citizens of a Province that will not tolerate man-caused fires. So get busy, get your organization sheets filled in with men who are reliable and trustworthy and spread your Forest Protection propaganda far and wide. But shop is forbidden.

The Editor, in issuing his fiat, also stated that we would be expected to contribute a sensible and helpful article which would be of sufficient length to fill the space which we are allotted. Now, the word "allot" brings more grief to Operation than any other single cause.

So before you recommend the purchase of any new piece of equipment, the building of a new trail, or the establishment of a lookout station, carefully estimate its cost, balance that against what possible saving the project might result in, and then find out how much it cost to operate your district last year. What was the cost of patrol, car or launch operation, depreciation, overhead, etc.? Do you think you got value? Read your Annual Report and see how the Forest Protection Fund stands, and HAVE A HEART.

But shop is forbidden.

Why should it be? At the recent District Foresters' Meeting, it was brought out that Forestry, as an exact science, was barely known to the general Public, and this being so, the Forest Officer was one of the few professional men who could expound his cause, and not bore people.

Is there any subject in this Province that means more to its people than education along the lines of Forest Fire prevention; or any better means of its achievement than constant propaganda; any more vital subject than the present tax rate, in which expenditures, or requests for allotments, are so closely allied. We'll say not, so go to it, and "work, for the fire season is coming", (to paraphrase the well known ? hymn) and who knows, but the objects so dear to the heart of the Service may be achieved sooner than the more pessimistic of us now think.

It has been the custom among Forest Service men, whenever two or three are gathered together, to think and talk optimistically about the approaching fire season; how their costs are going to be cut down, especially as "we are due for a moist summer". Optimism is a fine thing, but it is most needed when the season is at its worst, so that the goal is always in sight and one depends on an organization that has been laboriously and painstakingly built up, and is standing the strain, rather than on the hope of rain.

A Forest officer must always prepare for the worst, and if the best happens, why --- he is that much to the good. But shop is taboo!!!

But is it? It seems to me that this article just proves the truth of the assertion that Foresters can always talk shop, even among themselves, without becoming bores.

So it would appear that Organization and Education can be really effected by "talking shop".

-- C. S. Cowan --

FOREST PROTECTION FUND.

April 1st 1922.

Deficit April 1st 1921

Loan	\$300,000.	
Overdraft	<u>60,690.</u>	\$360,690.

Collection of arrears to apply against Loan.....	\$24,721.
Government Contribution.....	24,721.
Balance due on Loan.....	250,558.
Balance due on Overdraft.....	60,690.

\$360,690.	\$360,690.
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Collections current.....	\$168,077.
Government Contribution.....	300,000.
Expenditure Current Year.	\$471,453.
Deficit on Year 1921-22.....	3,376.

\$471,453.	\$471,453.
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Total Liabilities as at
April 1st 1922.

Loan as above.....	\$250,558.
Overdraft 1920-21.....	60,690.
Overdraft 1921-22.....	<u>3,376.</u>
	<u>\$314,624.</u>

FOREST TYPES

At the base of all practice of Forestry must be the conception of the Forest Type or Association. As defined by the Society of American Foresters, a Forest Type is "a descriptive term used to group stands of similar character as regards composition and development due to given physical and biological factors, by which they may be differentiated from other groups of stands. The term suggests repetition of the same character under similar conditions."

One of the fundamental ideas of a forest is that of a timbered area made up of numerous stands or aggregations of trees, standing on limited areas, of more or less uniformity of composition, condition or age. The number of separate stands in a forest is infinite, but they may be grouped under a smaller number of forest types. As our above definition stated, types are the result of natural factors, such as heat and moisture. These influences act over large areas and when similar in certain localities tend to favor the development of one, or a group of species. The species thus favored dominate the composition of the stand and give it a distinct character. They become the indicators and designators of the type.

Forest types are fundamental to any system of management and to any organized series of experiments. All measurements, observations and trials of the results of any one silvicultural system must be made in the same Forest Type if the results are to be compared and true deductions made. The laws of development and growth, when once established for any one Forest Type, will hold good for that type wherever found, and thus give to the deductions arrived at a universal application as scientific truths.

Our first step then, in studying the forests of B. C., should be to reduce the large number of stands to a few broad types, each having definite characteristics of its own, each based on differing natural factors and each requiring a distinct treatment. Certain such broad types have always been recognized, but different names and divisions have been used in different places and by different foresters.

The object of the present short paper is to start a discussion on the subject that will enable us to designate certain standard types so that a forester in the Cranbrook district, speaking of the Lodgepole Pine type, will mean

exactly the same thing as a forester in Prince Rupert using the same term.

Our only discussion of types that has been given careful study and wide publication, is that contained in the Commission of Conservation's report, "Forests of British Columbia." Here the forests are divided into twenty-two types under two regions - Coast and Interior. The basis of classification is climate, which is reflected in the predominant species, or in the association of species.

It is not the purpose of the present article to discuss each of these types in detail, as our space is limited; that will be left to a later date. The purpose here is to get across an idea of Forest Types and the basis on which they should be classified, with the hope that an immediate and full discussion will immediately enrich the pages of our monthly paper. Our need is for forest studies and these must be primarily tied into Forest Types. Our types must be uniform throughout the Province and no one knows their distribution and character so well as the men in the field.

Let us have your opinions for our next number. Look up the "Forests of British Columbia" and see if you agree with the classification therein and give us a few hundred words on the subject. The basis of classification, as outlined here, also needs discussion and should receive the benefit of your opinions. In the course of a few months we should be able to make a definite line-up of types for the Province, based on the proper foundation.

-- Geo. F. Melrose --

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We quote below an extract from a letter which has just been received from one of our field men whose heart, it seems to us, is properly located. We assure him that it is very gratifying to know that our efforts along this line have been appreciated.

"In sending in this lesson, which is the last one of the courses I have been taking, I wish to take the opportunity to thank you, gentlemen, for instituting these lessons, for the trouble you have taken in correcting them and for giving me a chance to participate. I have been very much interested in them and I hope you will see your way to continue them next winter, and that I will have the chance then to take the courses I could not take this winter."

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FIELD NOTES

We have a letter from Prince George which states a note of cheery optimism. Active co-operation of the Provincial Police has been definitely secured through the District Inspector, who has circularised all his constables, giving them definite instructions along lines suggested by the District Forester.

Elsewhere we print an extract which would indicate that they are hardy lads up "North of Fifty-three."

We hear it said that the salaries being paid this year, to both permanent and temporary Forest Branch employees, compare favourably with those offered by the industry.

From Cranbrook comes word that the appointment of Honorary Patrolmen has been taken up with the Lumber Companies and with public-spirited citizens in the smaller communities, with gratifying results. Most of the Lumber Companies wish to have their camp foremen put on as Honorary Wardens, while some are putting on special Patrolmen who are also Honorary Patrolmen, and who will devote all their time to fire prevention within the Companies' limits.

The Department of Agriculture is co-operating with the Grazing Division of the Forest Branch in an endeavour to ascertain what profitable methods may be used to so reduce the grasshoppers infesting the range of the Nicola division of the Vernon District, that the damage they do in the future will be negligible. Mr. E. R. Buckell, who for two years was in charge of the work on the Riske Creek range of the Cariboo District, has been assigned to the work and with an assistant will be stationed at Nicola, and will be constantly on the ground until about November.

Forest Officers should not fail to call the attention of the Stockmen to the fact that the Government has a Range Improvement Fund, and that they have everything to gain and nothing to lose by assisting the Government to decide which are the most important projects to undertake in each District.

Twenty-six cattle and nine horses had been lost in a bad mud-hole which was located and fenced last season.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

It is reported from the Cariboo District that Ranger W.W. Boyd is seriously ill. We feel sure that we speak for all when we wish him a speedy recovery.

The permanent force extends the hand of fellowship to Assistant Scalers E.S. Antle, R.B. Boyle, J.T. Fullerton, V.M. Galbraith, A.C. Heard, R.F. Sharpe and J. Younie, whose appointments are the result of the examination for Assistant Scalers held recently in Vancouver.

And to Ranger E.T. Calvert, of the Prince Rupert District, lately recruited from the Assistant Rangers. Ranger Calvert has been assigned to Burns Lake.

On the clerical side, we welcome Mr. J. Diggle and Mr. S.C. Gaines of the Vancouver staff - War has taken heavy toll of both of them, and we are glad to have them with us - also Mr. H.G. Shepherd, who comes to us from the Public Works Department, and has been assigned to the Prince Rupert Office; Miss Irene E. Forsyth, late of the Government Agent's staff at ATLIN and now in the office of the District Forester at Kamloops; and Miss B. Abramson, who made her debut in the Service when she was appointed to the office of the District Forester at Vernon in February last.

Mr. and Mrs. F.D. Mulholland (Prince Rupert) called on us last week, while on their honeymoon, and received the warm congratulations of the staff. We wish them every joy and happiness.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

The Chief Forester has just arrived as we go to press, from Nelson and Cranbrook. He reports operations rather dull, although some lumber is moving. Spring is late, with plenty of snow on highlands. On Thursday five inches fell at Brookmere. There was also a fresh fall on Okanagan Summit; so for a few days at least fire danger is small.

From Prince George, Mr. Bonney writes -

"During the latter part of March Supervisor Brewer and myself made a sixteen-day reconnaissance trip into the South Fork of the McGregor river. Due to fresh snow and the absence of crust on old snowfall, travelling conditions were particularly difficult most of the time. We covered a distance of about 150 miles with dog team, and tied-in by pacing traverse considerable new country which had not previously been mapped. We went in over the Clearwater divide and returned via McGregor river..... An unusual number of moose were seen on the trip. Bands of bulls numbering as many as sixteen were photographed on the river. The wolves are slaughtering moose freely this winter at an unusually high rate, due to the absence of crust on deep snow which makes the chase and killing easy."

That there would be a scarcity of news items in this, the initial number, was only to be expected. We trust we shall have greater demands upon our space in future issues.

Get the idea - this is YOUR paper. If anyone of us is sick, if his wife is sick, if his child is sick, if his family has been augmented or depleted, we want to know. We are ONE, in joy or sorrow.

We are a little later than we anticipated in presenting "ROOT AND BRANCH." We did not have the usual timely warning of the coming of the little stranger, and so didn't have his little things all ready for him to step into.

However, here he is, and in inviting your Contributions we invite also your Comments and Criticisms. Quite a number of kindly hands have been extended already to guide his first wavering steps, but we expect everybody to come forward and be godfathers to little "R.A.B."

W.H.C.

ATTITUDE: "Does yo' still refuse, sah, to pay me dem two dollahs I done loaned yo' de Lawd on'y knows when?"

"Nussah!" dignifiedly replied Brother Bogus, "I doesn't refuse. I jess refrains."

From the District Forester at Nelson -

"I am quoting some correspondence between one of our Honorary Fire Wardens for last year and the Ranger of the District in which he acted:

"Forestry Branch,
Nelson, B. C.

'Dear Sir -

Here is my report as Honorary Fire Warden for Riondel District for this year, and I am rendering this bill for twenty-five dollars for services rendered. Any dampfool can put out a fire, but it takes a good man to prevent them.

Yours truly,
(sgd) C.F.S.

"C.F.S., Esq.,
Riondel, B. C.

'Dear Sir -

Your letter of the 5th instant, addressed to the Forest Branch has been handed to me for a reply.

Your report as Honorary Fire Warden for the Riondel District has been noted and filed.

I wish to convey to you the compliments of this office in the brief concise manner in which it has been prepared.

I note that you have perfected a system of fire prevention which has undoubtedly contributed to the brevity of your report. This has been the cause of considerable speculation here, and I trust that your public-spiritedness will induce you to offer this discovery to the Forest Branch rather than use it for pecuniary benefit.

The sum of Twenty-five dollars, less superannuation tax, medical aid, etc., etc., has been placed to your credit pending the day of final settlement, when all servants of the public are assured of a just recompense for services rendered.

Assuring you of our appreciation of your services during the past season, and trusting we may count on the support of yourself and system for the coming year,

I remain, yours very truly.'

"The sequel to the exchange of these letters occurred one day at the end of the year. The Ranger was travelling on the steamer and, when making a call at the point where the Honorary Fire Warden lived, the Honorary Fire Warden came down to the landing with his hat in his hand and called out to the Ranger - 'When I got your letter I swore I'd take off my hat to you the first time I saw you. That's the best damn letter I ever read.'"

THE FOREST.

See yonder peak so grim and proud,
So silent and so lone;
Draped superb in wintry shroud,
Towering 'midst the fleecy cloud,
Tis the eagle's stately throne.

On mossy knolls the flowers wild
In the woodland shady bower,
Gaze at one with looks so mild,
That speak to the heart of nature's child
 of an unseen wondrous power.

The rippling stream so clear and bright,
Breaks in snowy foam;
As dashing o'er the rocky height,
A silv'ry shower 'tis lost to sight,
With its faint and distant moan.

The charming bird that flies o'er head,
And rests on limbs so frail;
The timid deer in its mossy bed,
Tremble oft in fear and dread,
 as they watch beside the trail.

The greenwood bough that waves above
 sways in gentle time,
With the cooing song of Forest dove,
Breathing tales of the Creator's love
Awakening thoughts sublime.

THE MUSTARD POT.

An Embarrassed Young Man. He had been invited to dinner and was fearfully embarrassed and shy. When the meal commenced, his agitation began. Sitting opposite to a mirror he discovered, to his horror, that he had forgotten to comb his hair. Lifting his hand to arrange his hair he knocked his neighbour's elbow and spilt the spoonful of soup, which she was just carrying to her mouth, all over her dress. As he arose to help her, he upset his glass of water into his other neighbour's lap and tipped over his own plate of soup all over himself! Finally, matters were straightened out, but a few moments afterwards, on putting his hand under the table to feel whether the soup had dried on his trousers, he felt - yes, it was! How it could have happened he could not tell, but all during the rest of the meal he surreptitiously but firmly worked hard and fast with his hands under the table. His embarrassment was painful to behold! When the dinner was over, as he arose, the whole tablecloth and everything on it came crashing to the floor, while the young man dragged foot after foot of that tablecloth out from between his waistcoat and his trousers. Then he fled.

Tommy came home from school very morose. "Well, my son," observed his father, cheerfully, "how did you get on at school today?" Tommy said he had been whipped and kept in. "It was because you told me the wrong answer," he added. "Last night, when I asked you how much was a million dollars, you said 'it was a hell of a lot.' That isn't the right answer."
