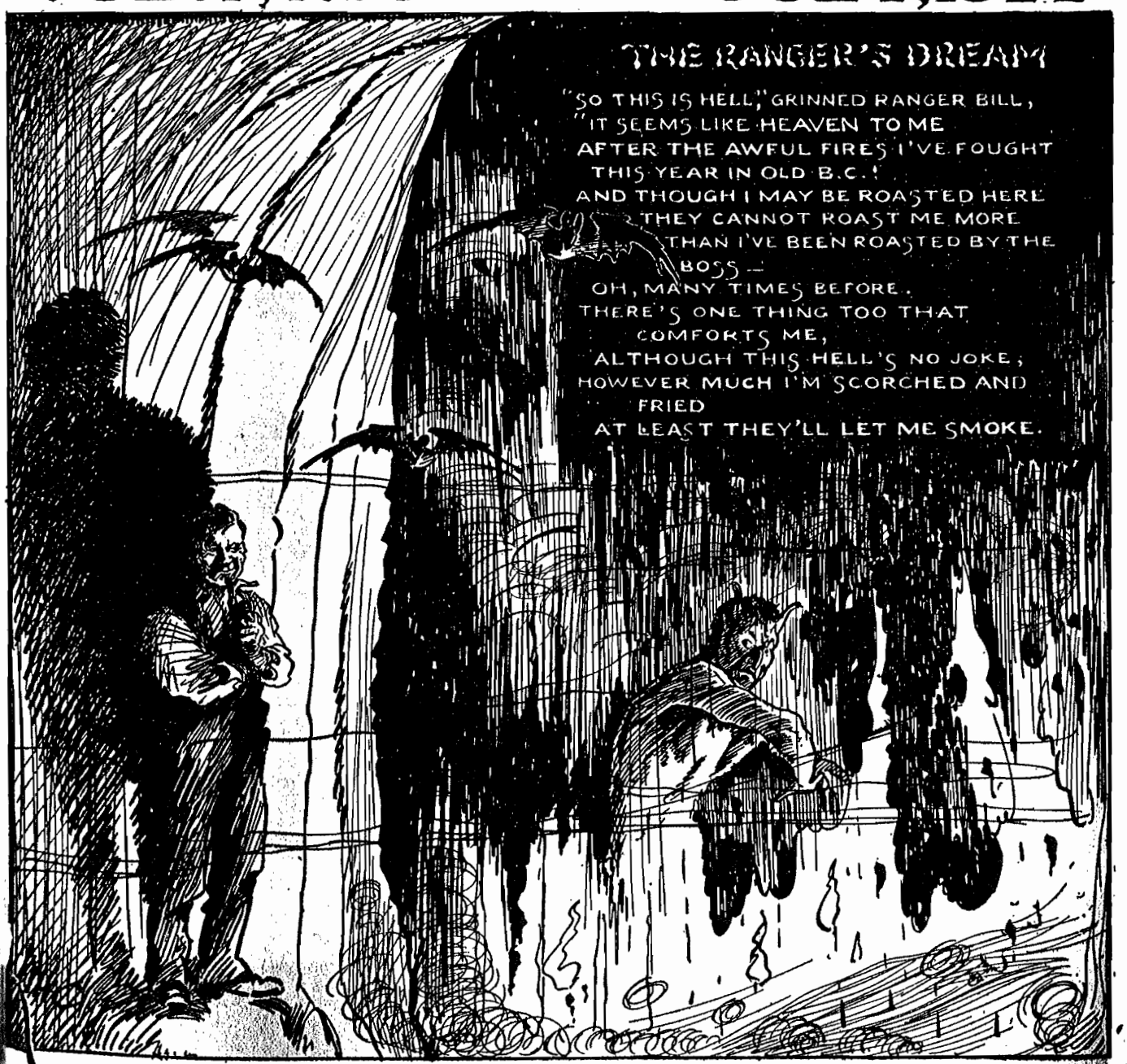
ROOT AND BRANCH

BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST SERVICE LANDS DEPARTMENT

VOL. 1, No 3 JULY, 1922



ON "KNOWING EACH OTHER".

When the Editor of "Root and Branch" asked me to contribute an article to his magazine, I felt all "puffed up". I think it is one of the very few times an editor has thought enough of my literary ability to honour me with such a request. After promising to write something, the next question was - What to write about?

You see, I am not a specialist in anything. As Deputy Minister of Lands I am only a quarter of a Forester; the other three quarters have to be divided among the Lands, Survey and Water Branches.

First of all, let me say that I do not want to write this as Deputy Minister, but just as one of you who happened, fortunately or unfortunately, to be more or less pitch-forked into a responsible position.

Secondly, this is not written for the Chief Forester or the Foresters, but for every member of the Branch, be he or she a patrolman or a stenographer, a ranger or assistant ranger.

More than that, anything I have to say will apply just as well to any of the branches of the Service as to the Forest Branch.

You can just imagine that I am sitting and having a talk with you by your own fireside, and that we are chatting with one another and enjoying a pipe together. (As a matter of fact, I am smoking while writing this, and so you will know that it is not being written during office hours, as we do not smoke at Head Office between 9 and 5.)

By-the-by, I do not know of anything I should like so much as to really spend an evening with every one of you and get acquainted, not only with you but with your wives and babies - particularly the babies. I should like to get away from Head Office for a full year, and go all over the Province and meet every member of the Service, of both sexes; not just meet you, but spend a day or two with you right in the woods, whether as patrolman or assistant ranger or Ranger or District Forester, and every night go to your homes and see your wives and babies. If you hadn't any wife or baby, I might perhaps induce you to try and get a wife with the prospect of a baby afterwards.

Take it from me, a man or woman who lives alone only lives half a life, and does not know what really living means! They are apt to get selfish and think only of their own comfort; and the real joy of living consists in forgetting yourself and thinking of what you can do for somebody else.

I wonder if there is any chance of the Minister's seeing this and, taking the hint, appointing an Acting Deputy for a year or so, so that your Deputy can get really acquainted with all the members of the Department. You know it makes such a difference when you get a letter or a report from a man, if you have met him and know him pretty well.

Bonney from Prince George may send a letter or a report, and I may not agree with anything he says, but all the same I shall read it in a very different spirit because I spent nearly a week with him in the woods in the middle of November last.

Caverhill and Cowan and St.Clair and Melrose are not merely members of the staff, after I have played Badminton with them three or four nights a week, and have perhaps been to their houses and played Bridge with them and their wives. They are not merely Civil Servants and Forest Officials, but <u>friends</u>.

This does not mean that we always see eye to eye with each other, or refrain from criticism. A man will often speak far more bluntly to a friend than to an acquaintance; and friends can disagree with one another and fight to a finish without breaking the friendly relations.

When I go to Vancouver on official business, I look forward with pleasure to meeting Andrews and Stuart and Mackay and Bryant. I have only mentioned names in the Forest Branch, but the same thing applies to members of the other Branches. If it ever happens that I should leave the Service, the greatest wrench will be the break in the personal relations. I should hate to have to quit working with Cleveland and Pope, with Cathcart and Taylor, with Umbach and Aitken, and all those I cannot find space to mention. I spent part of this afternoon with Peterson and his wife and babies, and those I know well in the Lands Department have become part and parcel of my life.

Now, I wonder if I have said enough to show you why I should like to know all of you? If I found so many friends among those I know, why shouldn't I find just as many among those I don't know yet?

And now I am coming to what I have been trying to get at from the start. I do not pretend to be an efficiency expert (although we are trying to make the Lands Department the most efficient organization of its kind on the continent) for, to my mind, most efficiency experts forget the human equation, and treat men and women as mere machines and, on that account, fail lamentably. Really efficient service is a personal service - personal service to the employer and to the public.

My space is all used up, and there is no time to elaborate, so will leave it for another time.

Before bidding you Good-night, though, let me say that during the past nearly six years - which is all I can speak for - I think the Forest Branch has been particularly fortunate in having had Grainger and Caverhill as Chief Foresters, and in having had the Hon. T. D. Pattullo as Minister. Both Chief Foresters have striven with all their might for an efficient and loyal service, and the Minister has backed them to the limit.

Geo. R. Naden.

IF I KNEW YOU.

If I knew you and you knew me,
  and each of us could clearly see
And, with an inner light, divine
  the meaning of your heart and mine;
I'm sure that we would differ less
  and clasp our hands in friendliness;
If I knew you and you knew me.

-by Nixon Waterman.

OUR CASUALTY LIST: Two casualties have been reported to date, both serious. While hurrying to a fire in the neighbourhood of Grassy Bay in the Vancouver Forest District, at 3.30 a.m. on June 29th, Ranger O'Grady was thrown from his speeder by the breaking of a wheel, and sustained a broken leg and numerous minor injuries. Latest reports are to the effect that his condition, while still critical, has slightly improved. We are glad indeed to know it.

The other occurred in the Prince George District, when Patrolman J.B. Edwards was caught by a rock slide while fighting fires in Mt. Robson Park on June 26th. He was thrown down a steep hillside a distance of one hundred and fifty feet into the Fraser River, breaking his left leg in two places and fracturing his right ankle. We have not heard how he is progressing - favourably, we hope.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PLACE IN THE SUN.

"There is a Destiny that shapes our ends,
Rough hew them as we may."

The doctrine of Predestination in the light of recent scientific thought cannot be accepted without reservations. There are, however, so many instances where it would appear nature had and was following a definite plan for our development, that, while admitting the effect of local environment and the interference of man, either as an aid or hindrance to nature's plan, we cannot disregard Destiny.

Nature was wonderfully kind to British Columbia in her allotment of mountains; equally remarkable for their scenic beauty, their mineral filled rocks, and forest clad sides; streams and inlets filled with finny food, and a climate where man and forest may flourish and develop in most congenial surroundings together. Only in the question of agricultural areas (less than 7%), were the gifts in any way stinted. The achievement of our destiny largely depends on the use or abuse of the gifts of nature so lavishly bestowed, and forests are the most susceptible to such treatment.

It is in the development of her forest wealth that the destiny of the Province is most clearly indicated. The real forest wealth, however, is not in the standing timber, valuable as it is, but in the growing capacity of soil and climate, which will replenish again and again through all future years our timber supply, if we only recognize the principles governing tree growth and give our forests a chance. Originally, British Columbia had forests covering one hundred million acres, estimated to contain one thousand billion board feet. Two-thirds of this area has been fire swept and the stand reduced to three hundred and fifty billion feet. Heretofore we have been reaping without thought of the future, and our instruments of harvest have been crude and frightfully destructive.

That British Columbia is capable of supporting a vast forest industry in perpetuity, and a large and prosperous population engaged therein, cannot be doubted by anyone who had studied forest possibilities. Sweden, for example, is comparable to the Interior of British Columbia. Situated 10^{0} farther north, reaching the 70th parallel, the climate is moderated by the influence of the Gulf Stream, which sweeps the coast of Norway only after moderated ocean breezes cross the Kiolen Mountains. The Winter temperature reaches 55^{0} below and lakes remain frozen from four to six months. The forest area is fifty-five million acres and annual growth thirteen hundred and twelve million cubic feet, roughly equivalent to 9-10 billion board feet, and after supplying the needs of a

population of six million people, leaves two billion feet for export. British Columbia, with her larger area and her fast growing coast species, can exceed even this with proper handling.

The limit of soil production is the limit on population. The growing of world population, and the demand for more and more products from the soil, will sooner or later compel the putting of every acre of land to the highest possible productive use. Nothing can stay this process - it is as sure as time. If we do not recognize this, the future generations will, and will be called upon to pay for the abuses we have permitted, in the same way that France was called upon to pay millions to prevent floods caused by wanton forest destruction in the Alps, and as the United States are now realizing they must spend millions to build up forest capital, depreciated through over zealous forest exploitation.

There is no doubting the fact that this Province was intended as the natural complement of the vast Prairie section of Canada; that each needs the other - each is incomplete in itself; that British Columbia in developing the resources Nature has supplied, is capable of, and will support millions of people in the best possible condition for human development. This is our destiny. This is the end intended. Our actions will act for, or retard, the progress according to whether they are in harmony or discord with Nature's laws. We cannot stop the progress, but we do through careless use of nature's gifts, cause future generations to pay the penalties for our omissions or vandalism.

- P.Z. Caverhill.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

CAN THIS BE THE PROMISED LAND? "Following an extremely wet Summer, the unsettled weather conditions continued late into the Fall, so that no patrolling was done until the 9th of November. The first fire was reported on November 10th, and by the first week of December the fire season was over. There were only twelve fires reported, and the area burned over amounted to 504 acres - a low water mark in the records of fire protection in Maryland." (Report of the Maryland State Board of Forestry for 1920 and 1921.)

INVESTIGATIONS

Last year good work was done by Mr. Alexander in the Kitimat Valley, Mr. Hope in the Prince George District, and Mr. Armstrong in Vancouver.

The Kitimat work included the preparation of local volume tables for use in computing the estimate from the cruise being made concurrently by Mr. Clarke. It also included a study of Growth and Yield of the species and types found there. The results have been published in the 1921 Annual Report of the Branch.

Mr. Hope's work in the Prince George District, combined a cruise of the large areas of pulp timber there, a compilation of available data on volumes into a combined board foot-cubic foot table for Spruce, a straight cubic foot table for the same species, and the laying out and preliminary study of a number of permanent sample plots.

On the Southern Coast, Mr. Armstrong established a large number of permanent sample plots, as well as several temporary plots for the preparation of yield tables.

This year we hope to accomplish even more than in 1921. Especially we are expecting to have very comprehensive data on the conditions of reproduction and growth in Western Yellow Pine. This species is one of very great importance in the Vernon, Nelson, and Cranbrook Districts. It is being rapidly cut off and further depleted by insect attacks. Hence, we want to secure the data necessary to determine what measures are necessary to preserve the species and secure its reproduction after logging, as well as what yield we may expect on the various sites.

Mr. Alexander with three assistants has been assigned to this work and already has established and made the preliminary measurements on several permanent plots, measured and recorded the data on numerous temporary plots for yield studies, and collected much valuable data on reproduction conditions. We hope, by concentrating on one species or type at a time in this manner to secure definite applicable results, rather than spread our activities over a large number of species and types, securing nothing final for several years.

On the Coast, the Vancouver District has an intensive investigation of the Capilano Watershed in hand, with which will be combined a study of reproduction, growth and yield. Upon completion of this project, Mr. Armstrong and an Assistant will return to the sample plot study of Southern Coastal types.

No other special investigation officers are being employed, but we are hoping that the Districts will follow a definite programme of investigative work and supply us with considerable valuable results.

-G.P.M.

"IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT".

'Gettin' out of' dirtiness, gettin' out o' mess,
'Gettin' out o' doin' things, rather more or less.'

The above quotation from Kipling came to me when I was looking back in my mind at the changes that have been quietly going on in the Service since the days -- so very many years ago -- before the War.

The years 1914-1918 saw a period which was bound to be more or less stagnant, from causes which are obvious. 1920 and 1921 saw a tightening up from the Head Office to the Patrolmen; equipment was secured and added to; personnel requirements were made stricter; and reports came in which began to reflect the state of things as they really were in the field.

But with the increase in equipment came a marked increase in costs, while the fire risk also grew out of all proportion to our then staff - due, partly, to increased use of logging machinery, the increased number of motorists on the road and the consequent greater accessibility of streams and lakes to fishermen, as well as a recent cause solemnly attached to a final fire report, giving "Bootleggers" (or "Bootlimbers" as we say in prim Victoria) as the origin.

Very many years ago a famous Frenchman stated that "the Lord fights on the side of the biggest battalions," - a theory which Napoleon promptly disproved at Marengo, Austerlitz and finally at Waterloo. What was actually proved, was that the sole hope of victory lay in the best system of organization, plus the men to carry out the ideas thus evolved.

The present fire season has, taking it throughout the Province, been a most unfavourable one, and one which has severely tried our resources. As I write, there has been a break in the weather which appears to be general, and this should give the field men a respite for a while, and a chance to sit down and think where the leaks were in their supposedly watertight organization.

The hope of success lies to a very large extent in our ability to realise where mistakes have occurred, and to take steps - firm, positive steps - to see that they do not occur again.

We have recently had an Assistant Ranger - with two years of service - take the stand that "the Department has never laid down a rule as to how long a period should elapse between the time of being notified of a fire and the time the field man should start for it!"

This was an attempt to justify the fact that, after being notified that a fire had broken away and looked bad on Sunday at 6.15 P.M. sixteen miles away, he left for the scene at 9.30 A.M. on Monday.

That such an excuse reflects on the mental capacity of the individual offering it goes without saying, but at the same time it brings up the point of whether the instructions we have issued to Assistant Rangers are read and understood. Our booklet on this subject represents the dearly bought experiences of our field men, and is issued with the sole idea of being a help to men in the fieldd

There are other things on which instructions have been issued, -- and possibly filed.

We periodically receive rush orders for suction hose. Now, on at least two occasions, we have issued instructions that suction hose should never, at any time, if it is at all possible to prevent it, be packed coiled. On a Ford, the hose should be stretched along the running board and fenders, and in a launch stretched out with as few bends as possible; but there will naturally be conditions where this system cannot be followed (as on a packhorse, speeder, etc.) and in such cases only may the rule be broken.

The reasons for the above instructions were - the inside wire is readily broken by the bending strain; the edges then cut into the fabric and cause an air leak; and the pump cannot suck water and air and give the required results.

Still again, we asked that all field men who have cars, launches, or speeders should carry AT ALL TIMES a two-man kit for fire fighting. Recently a report read that ".....this fire only covered a few square feet when discovered, but by the time I got a shovel it had spread over a quarter-of-an-acre, and then got out of control before a strong wind." There is surely no need to dilate further on this. It is even worse than "while we were at lunch, a wind carried the fire over the fire line and out of control."

These are the little things that count; these are the things that show the difference between efficiency and chaos; and in the end the organization is judged by the man who took his time to get to the fire, the hose that sucked air because of carelessness, and the man who, like the Dutchman, "had a shovel but left it at home!"

The first fatality reported this year from Forest Fires occurred in the Prince Rupert District. Fire was started by an Indian boy playing with fire; it got away, burnt forty-seven tons of hay, and spread over 300 acres; and in some manner a man named E. J. Molund was burnt to death while fighting it.

C H E C K S.

The motto on the front cover of No. 1. Vol. 1 of "ROOT AND BRANCH" - 'Contributions, pro and con, are what this infant thrives upon' - and the article on CRUISING by Mr. St. Clair, brings to mind the fact that we do not seem to have heard from any of the Districts on this subject. Are your experiences the same as ours? Do you make a check on field computations? Do you think a better check would be obtained if all cruises were made on forms 109 and 110, and the forms attached to the cruise reports? Frankly, I believe our results would be far better and would show a better relation to actual cuts than has been our experience in certain cases, if all cruises were made on forms 109 and 110 and checked as suggested.

The common mistakes in computation are easily made by the best computers when rushing through a large batch of cruise sheets, which fact is not, however, any excuse. I found in checking over a large cruise recently that all the mistakes listed in the 'Instructions for Intensive Reconnaissance' had been made at various times, though the most frequent was in taking off the volume from the multiple volume tables. Usually this was the result of reading the wrong column rather than the wrong tally from the cruise sheet.

It is interesting to speculate along these lines, but productive of little satisfaction, as to how much of the spread between estimate and cut in many past sales has been due to errors in computation. If there is a leak in this way it should be stopped at once and the best way we can see to do it is to have the notes and computations attached to the reports and checked at the District Office before being forwarded.

While on the subject of checks, how many districts are making use of the opportunity presented in the Logging Operation and Timber Sale Inspection reports? These, if properly made, afford a check between the ranger's information on cut and the actual scale; on how the scaling is keeping up with the cutting; current waste; slash disposal; marking; and Fire Prevention. Are all these being followed up? Do you check the amounts reported out against the scale returns and find out why returns are not keeping up (if they're not)? Is waste being reported each time, and if so is it billed for at once?

Another form of check is in the monthly summary reports. Do these show one man overloaded and another with not enough to do? Do the Management and Operatio n summaries check? Are Management and Operation interfering with one another in the field? Do these summaries suggest any regrouping of organizations?

We'd like to hear some District views on these questions.

-- G. P. Melrose --

CLOVER FIRE-BREAKS

The Fire Season is upon us with all its attendant expense, work and worry; and the officials of the Forest Service who have good field experience should co-operate and contribute their views as to how the annual loss by fires may be offset or prevented.

Up to now, it would seem that part of the year is taken up by the encouragement or development of Forestry for the purpose of making it a revenue-producing asset, which it should be; but unfortunately a great deal of the revenue collected is spent in combatting the annual conflagrations, and it is noticeable that, even with improved methods, the cost of fire-fighting is mounting annually.

No system at present in vogue will stop the danger caused by the carelessness of campers and others who frequent the woods during the hot, dry season, and, while publicity is a help, it cannot be considered a preventative for the discarded lighted match or burning cigarette stub.

The object of this article is to create discussion on untried methods for Forest Protection which appear as reasonable.

An effort was made when Forest Protection was first mooted in this Province, to induce large operators to sow red or white clover over burnt areas, but no success accompanied the suggestion: as the timber-owners had no vested interest in the land, they could not be expected to go to the expense of obtaining and seeding clover for the protection of adjacent timber. But this might be accomplished as follows - The Forest Rangers to furnish a careful report of all fires in their districts which have taken place adjacent to green timber, then measure strips six to eight feet in width parallelling the remaining timber, and forward a sketch, accompanied by an estimate of the area of these strips, to head office. These strips to be seeded down with red or white clover prior to the fall rains, by one or two men, using the ordinary farmer's hand seeder and spreading approximately eight or ten pounds per acre.

To obviate the present high cost of seed, the Dominion and Provincial Agricultural Departments should be encouraged to grow clover for this purpose, as every acre seeded down as a firebreak to save a national asset is a benefit to the farming community.

W. F. Loveland.

Speaking of "untried methods," how does this one strike you?

A correspondent suggests ".....huge aeroplanes, capable of lifting seven or eight tons, with a speed of seventy miles per hour, and equipped with water tanks below the fuselage. These tanks to be capable of holding five tons of water. In case of fire, all that would be necessary would be to start the plane, fly over the area, open your floodgates - and the fire would be no more!

Unfortunately for those who, by this time, are seeing the end of pick and shovel work, the writer admits that "it would be impossible to fly directly over a hot fire, and it would no doubt be impossible to use this method in case of a very fierce fire and a high wind." So, when it comes down to the real rub, we shall still need the pick and shovel - to say nothing of the lil' ol' pump!

The writer of the article on "CLOVER FIRE-BREAKS" which appears in this issue, seems to recognize the high cost of seeding as a factor for consideration. It requires about twelve pounds of clover to seed an acre, and the seed costs about forty cents a pound. In general, cultivated grasses appear to act pretty much like human beings - they have acquired a taste for cultivation and do not flourish in the wilds. The Grazing Commissioner assures us that in most cases the native wild grasses will gradually choke out the cultivated grasses when seeded on the range. The question presents itself, therefore, as to how long the clover would stand after seeding.

Clover is a prolific grower. Might not the accumulation of a vast amount of herbage in dry spells augment the fire hazard instead of proving a protection?

SUCCESS: The father of Success is WORK, the mother is AMBITION, the eldest son is COMMON SENSE. Some of the other boys are PERSEVERANCE, HONESTY, THOROUGHNESS, FORESIGHT, ENTHUSIASM and CO-OPERATION.

The eldest daughter is CHARACTER. Some of her sisters are CHEERFULNESS, LOYALTY, COURTESY, CARE, ECONOMY, SINCERITY, HARMONY.

The baby is OPPORTUNITY.

Get acquainted with the "old man" and you'll be able to get along pretty well with the rest of the family.

LIQUID AIR CRACKS NUTS: Liquid air for cracking nuts is the latest application of science. Experts at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington were appealed to for a method of breaking the shells of chicha nuts without damaging the kernels. They found it took a weight of nearly a ton to crack the nuts, and that after the effort the meat of the nut was broken in many small pieces.

Then they applied liquid air to the problem. They did not freeze solid a piece of rubber and use it as a hammer, as is done in the classic stunt of physics classes, but they simply immersed the nuts in liquid air for thirty seconds and craked them easily without damage to the kernels. Now the physicists are trying to find out whether this method can be applied commercially on a large scale.

(The above is from a recent issue of "Business." Liquid air is only hot air cooled and compressed into liquid form. On reading the article the thought occurred - Could we, by cooling and condensing, and applying our efforts in liquid form, advance faster with the cracking of the nuts with which the Branch is confronted?)

THE LOG RAFT GOES TO SEA. With the raft afloat and ready for its voyage, an ocean-going steamship that is a magnified towboat with 1200 or 1500 horse power in her engine room, swings in line ahead of the log-built craft and makes fast her two-inch hawser to the towing-link of the backbone of chain that runs through the centre of the raft. Then a river tug - a fussy little body, important and officious over the task of guiding the way down to the sea, - backs down to the bow of the bigger towboat and there makes fast her own tow-line.

A gray-haired man on shore surveys the whole scene, sees that all is ready, then waves one arm at the men standing at the mooring bitts and shouts "Cast off."

From the bass-voiced siren of the bigger towboat there spurts a single burst of steam - a grunt in ship language which means "Let's go." The little river tug echoes the remark with a burst of her own; but she speaks in falsetto - "Let's go." That makes it unanimous. Bells jingle in two engine rooms. Two hawsers stretch out, dripping water, and the raft moves slowly out, bound down-stream to the sea.

("Business.")

FIELD NOTES

Assistant Ranger D.O. Dighton (Vancouver Forest District) has been dismissed from the service for neglect of duty. Naturally we regret the necessity, but neglect of duty is an offence which cannot be condoned. The interests at stake are too big; we dare not trifle with the situation, even if we would.

The District Forester at Kamloops, in the course of an interesting letter, says - "With the abrupt change of weather conditions, from cool to extreme heat of summer, the fire hazard has become very pronounced. Permits to burn have been cancelled or sparingly issued under rigid conditions. All our fires have been successfully controlled with slight timber loss and cost, save one in the Lemieux Creek Valley near Mount Olie, which is giving considerable trouble from smouldering fires in the heavy matt of the valley bottom. Two pumps are at work with a small crew in an effort to drown out the last sparks so that we may be assured of no further trouble during the heat of summer. This fire originated in April and covered some 200 acres of logged-over, unoccupied private land. Heavy rains apparently extinguished it, but high winds in May fanned up a hidden spark which caused a second burn on the hillside over about 100 acres. It is the aftermath of this outbreak, and the second fire itself which has accounted for one-third of our expenditure to date."

Honorary Fire Wardens in the Kamloops District have already proved their worth in emergencies, and the District Forester looks for considerable co-operation from them this season. The local Provincial constables are also giving their hearty co-operation, which fact is being duly appreciated.

Win the boys and girls for forest protection, and the future of the nation's forest resources will be secure. Says District Forester Manning - "On my last trip into the Interior I talked to the children at three schools. It took very little of my time and did not at all interfere with my regular work. I endeavoured to put the subject before them in a way that would interest them. Thus we are not only educating the public of the future, but are reaching the present generation of grown-ups in the children's homes."

Mr. Manning goes on to say - "We, like everyone else, are inclined to value things in accordance with what they cost us. We spend money on cartoons, on signs and posters, and overlook the chances for publicity we have when talking to people either individually or collectively. Because it costs us nothing (except perhaps a little effort and time), we value such an opportunity lightly."

"The usual Spring precipitation has been far below normal," writes Mr. E. B. Proud, from Kamloops, "and the vegetation in the semi-wet belt consequently retarded. A cool, backward growing season up to the last week in May followed by drought and extreme heat, aggravated this conditiona. Ranch crops and range grass is already showing signs of injury and, unless rains come soon, the outlook is discouraging. I may say, however, that scattered light showers occurred yesterday and today (the 20th)."

Later news from Kamloops is to the effect that showers have become general and cooler weather prevails, which would indicate that the customary June rains have at last set in.

A severe outbreak of tent caterpillars is reported from Adams Lake, but so far their depredations appear to be confined to trees of the deciduous species, such as cottonwood, alder, willow and aspen.

Mechanical Inspector J. H. Blake writes from Kamloops that the grasshopper infestation in the District between Kamloops and Merritt is assuming alarming proportions.

"In the road work, cleaning ditches, etc. between Merritt and Princeton on One Mile Creek, the grader was exposing a tremendous number of grasshopper eggs. These eggs were so numerous that the Road Foreman made a special report on them, and at lunch with the gang "grasshopper eggs" was the sole (conversational) fare..... Attention was drawn to the extent of the grasshopper infestation by the sound of the automobile wheels over the small grasshoppers crawling and jumping on the road, and by the action of the wheels on the road causing the car to skid from side to side..... The road was in the worst places totally invisible, the grasshoppers being so great in numbers; and on stopping the car for further investigation it was found that the fence posts, rails, grass and ground were covered by even thicker layers. The appearance of the infested area was very peculiar as a greyish-brown mist seemed to hover over it. This was caused by the "hoppers" jumping and was darkest in color near the ground."

("The appearance of the infested area was very peculiar, as a greyish-brown mist seemed to hover over it". Uh-huh. Yeah, we've notieed it ourselves, often, after "lunch with the gang." And we can understand the Road's being "totally invisible in places", too. Sure, we know. We should shaysho! Some lunch, we'll say. Ed.)

OBSERVING THE LAW.

These are days charged with risk to forests from fire. The majority of these fires are caused by sheer carelessness. Some are the result of crime. It is hard to believe that settlers will ignore good advice and wantonly set fires without permission, endangering the whole countryside - and incidentally their neighbors' all. Yet this is happening daily. It is harder to believe that men, the majority of them foreigners who have sought and received an asylum in this land, are not anxious to uphold the law, and aid to the fullest extent of their power in putting out fires which are menacing an area.

The law says that any man may be comandeered for firefighting purposes. A fire ranger will tell you that generally, if he asks a real Britisher to help put out a fire, the man will drop what he has in hand and say "Sure thing." But with a foreigner, it often is a case of the man demurring. It is as if, having been in something approaching serfdom in his native country, the liberty he enjoys here has gone to his head.

Some fires have been arson, pure and simple, this year. That smoke which makes the evening here at times a thing of depression for the citizens, may be the result of wanton crime on the part of men who are depraved enough to take a Nerolike pleasure out of the danger and destruction.

The public can assist, besides aiding the rangers on every possible occasion. It can spread the gospel of public opinion in favor of a rigorous application of the law. Recently, not far from here, a man refused pointblank to aid the ranger. He was charged and fined - $10 and costs. This was not enough. Yet he is receiving some sympathy here and there on the score that discrimination was shown. Obviously the official could not arrest everyone who refused. He got what he was chiefly after, a conviction.

Let the people living near forests constitute themselves the government's policemen. They will be doing an enormous service, if they can help convict a man who wantonly sets fire to brush. The maximum sentence for this is only three years, but even that would deter many of those who assuredly are guilty of arson.

A tree will yield a million matches. A match will destroy a million feet of lumber in five minutes.

(The above is from the Kamloops STANDARD-SENTINEL, and was written by the Editor after he had published a local news item from Mount Olie, in which the contributor questioned our wisdom in prosecuting a man in that locality for failing to fight fire when called upon. The Editor of the STANDARD-SENTINEL makes himself perfectly plain. We thank him for his uncompromising attitude, and we value his support.)

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

From Prince George comes the news that a son has been born to Ranger and Mrs. Heath of Vanderhoof. Welcome, little --ranger! May Fortune smile upon you.

Ranger R.H. Leighton of Ocean Falls, succeeds to the vacancy created by the resignation of Supervisor J. Turnbull. Ranger Leighton holds his "A" certificate, and we have every confidence in his ability to assume the greater responsibilities of a Supervisor.

We have to record this month the resignations of W.P.Read and Miss E.M. Sutherland, Vancouver; Miss I.B. Forsyth, Kamloops; Miss C. MacPherson, Prince George; and Miss G. H. Jelfs, Nelson. Our good wishes accompany them to their new fields.

We extend the hand of welcome to Miss P.E. Jenns, who proceeds to Prince George; to T.H. Ainsworth and E.J. Nash, who have assumed the duties of Supervisor's Clerks at Nanaimo and Thurston Bay respectively; and to A.W. Simmonds of the District Forester's staff at Vancouver. Mr. Simmonds is another on whom war has left its mark.

It is unfortunate that the health of Jack Keech of Vernon, who proceeded on sick leave in November last, remains in such a precarious state as to preclude his resuming duties there. R.O. Leslie has been appointed.

"Jack" Frost, Hazelton, forsook the pen for the Biltmore stick last April. Fred Montgomery is the new clerk at Hazelton.

We believe in going right to the fountain-head for our news, but the fountain-head came to us when C.S. Cowan walked in on the 15th and announced that he had that morning become the father of a fine sturdy boy. We wished him many happy returns. When we say that Charles was pleased about it, we are well within the mark. As a plain matter of fact, he was just plumb tickled to death; and we can see that the little fellow is going to have a very indulgent parent. Well, good luck to him; may he be a chip of the old block - we cannot wish him better.

Supervisor Hart, Vancouver, and Ranger W. W. Boyd, Cariboo, we believe are progressing favourably, but we fear it will be quite a little while yet before we have the pleasure of welcoming them back to a resumption of their activities.

Scale returns for May show 186-3/4 million feet - a record for May.

Interior produced	13.5%
Northern Coast	4.3
Southern Coast	82.2

Speaking of "Checks," -

X.2745. Cruise ..... 2300 Jack pine Ties.
Cut ..... 9387 do
Estimated still on area ..... 1500 ties to be cut.

Who should be penalized for not cleaning up the sale? Mr. Ranger, do you consider this satisfactory work?

In conducting any business the machinery for collecting accounts is one of the most important if the business is to be successful. A comparison between outstandings for the various Districts at May 31st, 1921 and May 31st of this year shows that the outstandings are as follows -

Nelson	60% over 1921.
Prince George	54% " "
Prince Rupert	5% " "
Vancouver	2% " "
Cariboo	Stationary
Kamloops	10% reduction from 1921.
Cranbrook	27% " " "
Vernon	36% " " "

Considerable credit is due to those men who have, in the face of adverse circumstances, reduced their outstandings, while those whose outstandings have been climbing should make a new resolution that during the operating season this year not only current but a material amount on arrears will be collected.

Miss McPherson, of Prince George, leaves us to enter the state of matrimony. We wish her every joy and happiness.

Her predecessor left us for that same all-sufficient reason, not so very long ago. Miss Jenns has gone to Prince George to take Miss McPherson's place. Now, Miss Jenns, you'll remember your promise - won't you, please - to turn a deaf ear to their blandishments!

If this sort of thing goes on (we tell them plainly) we shall have to ask the swains of Prince George to advance the travelling expenses.

From the COMOX ARGUS of June 22nd, 1922

Sent to Jail for Camp Fire. Forest Ranger Byers has become exasperated at the promiscuous setting of fires, and has come to the conclusion that the best way to put an end to it is to prosecute. Within the space of twenty-four hours last week no less than seven fires were caused through deliberately being set or through carelessness in leaving camp fires not properly extinguished.

On Friday last, Mr. Byers laid information against one J. M. Shea for having allowed a fire to escape from his camp fire on the shore of Lower Campbell Lake. Shea was arrested and appeared before Magistrate Hames in the local police court. He pleaded not guilty to the charge, but the evidence showed and his own statement proved that, although he had made some effort to extinguish the fire, he had not completely done so, which necessitated the sending in of men to put it out. He was consequently found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of $20 and costs or, in the alternative, thirty days in jail. Not having the wherewithal to pay his find, Shea was taken over to Okalla prison on Saturday by Constable Russell.

FOREST PROTECTION RECORD - JUNE 23rd, 1922

	Fires	Avg. Cost
Cariboo	53	$ 30
Cranbrook.....	51	17
Pr. George.....	96	140
Kamloops.....	45	47
Nelson	78	26
Pr. Rupert.....	108	23
Vancouver.....	266	44
Vernon.....	50	17

In every district are to be found a few people who regard fire as the settlers' ally, in that it burns off the underbrush, clears the land of windfalls, and makes the country easier to traverse. A grim comment on this attitude comes from the Forest Grove in the Cariboo District, which should surely carry a note of warning!

"Living in the vicinity of Forest Grove was a man named James Atkins, about 75 years of age and (it is understood) a veteran of the CIVIL WAR. It appears that a small fire started up near his fence and house. It could not be ascertained whether or not he had started the fire; but in any case the neighbours, not finding him at home, instituted a search and found his body near the fence, very badly burned. The police investigated and came to the conclusion that he had either been overcome by the smoke and fainted, or had died of heart failure due to the excitement. It appears that he was found in such a position that he had every opportunity to escape if he had been alive when the fire reached the fence, as there was a considerable clearing between this point and his house, which the fire had not traversed."

Let's change the subject. The following is an extract from a letter from our Missionary in the FAR EAST. (We allude to Mr. Loren L. Brown, Lumber Trade Commissioner in Toronto.) - "There is used in Eastern Canada approximately one million feet per year of lumber in the manufacture of ice cream shipping tubs - Cypress, B.C. Red Cedar, Spruce and Virginia Cedar are most popular woods. If Fir or Hemlock can be used for this purpose, it would mean that a greater proportion of this business would come to B. C. Fir is now very extensively used in the States, but the conservative East must be "shown." An Ottawa firm of ice cream shipping tub manufacturers (Connors, Ltd.) has offered to make these tubs of Fir and Hemlock, and give them to us, so that we can present them to a couple of large users here in Toronto and keep service records on them to prove our contention that we have suitable wood for this purpose, if we will donate the lumber."

Mr. Brown goes on to say that the amount of building going on in Toronto is remarkable. 690 new residences were built in May, and the total building permits for Toronto amounted to $4,195,000. In one block alone 22 houses were built last month, and finished throughout in Douglas Fir.

Jim Smith was an old prospector who, in due time, died and went to Heaven. Laden with his turkey and his pack he presented himself to St. Peter at the gate. Said St. Peter _ "And what's your name?" "My name is Jim Smith." St.Peter: "I see you're a prospector." Jim: "I was! Is there any room inside?" St. Peter: "No, I'm afraid the little space we had reserved for prospectors is all taken up." "H--l," said Jim, "that's too bad." Then brightening up, "Say," said he, "is Dave Smith there?" "Yes," said Peter after a glance at the register. "Well, then, can I send him in a note?" "Yes" Jim wrote - "Dear Dave, there's a big strike on Pincher Creek." Peter read it and sent it in, and presently out came Dave with his turkey and his pan and his pick, and went hurrying down, to be followed a moment later by another and another, until eight of them had passed out, all in a high state of excitement. "Well," said Peter, "you had better come in; they've all gone and there's lots of room now." "Oh, I don't know as I will," said Jim, "maybe there's something in it."

- - - - - - - - - - -

One day last week, St.Clair looked into the sanctum and beckoned us out into the corridor. "Say," he said in an urgent whisper, "can you initiate me into how to get a drink in this darned building?" We were frankly horrified. "What," we said, "a DRINK, in this building! It isn't possible; it can't be done." "Do you mean to tell me, " insisted St. Clair, "that you can't get a drink in this building - not ever?" We weakened a little at the "not ever". "Oh, well," we said, "maybe once in a while, yes, but not as a regular thing. No, sir," "Well, I'll be darned." We could see he wasn't satisfied and we began to feel quite embarrassed. Was there anything about ourselves to suggest -------- but no, everything seemed to be O.K. St.Clair was turning away, when the possibility crossed our mind; we grasped him by the sleeve, "Say" we said, "do you mean a drink of WATER?" "Why, certainly!"

- - - - - - - - - - -

The AMERICAN LUMBERMAN quotes Secretary of the National Association of Box Manufacturers as follows, in discussing recent developments along wood product lines:

"Rather than wear wood-pulp B.V.D's, a wallpaper shirt with cardboard collar, a Chicago Tribune vest and Kraft Prince Albert, I shall imbibe a wood-alcohol sundae and go to my Puritan ancestors in a wooden kimono!"

Elsewhere we publish some comments by Inspector Blake on the grasshopper situation in the Kamloops-Merritt District. Last time, Jim offered us a story about a fire-fighting dog from up around Quesnel Dam or Soda Creek or somewhere, which we were compelled to reject on the grounds that this is not a fiction magazine.

By all accounts, it was a highly intelligent animal. Probably a brother of the Doctor's dog. The Doctor was called away quite frequently, and in his absence the dog used to occupy the Doc's favourite chair; and the Doctor returning and finding him there, used to cuff him severely. On a later occasion he came in and found the dog to all appearances sleeping peacefully on the hearthrug. But the cushion of the chair was warm, so the Doc (who was a bright sort of a chap) put two and two together and gave the dog another beating. Apparently it registered, for on entering his study suddenly on an evening shortly afterwards he was surprised to find the dog sitting in front of the chair and blowing on the cushion to cool it!

We have before us a card of invitation to a Basket Pic-Nic which was held by the staff of the District Forester at Vancouver on June 10th; also a Programme of Sports. Sports commenced at 2 p.m., and comprised flat races, novelty races, a baby show (up to 18 months), a children's show (18 months to 3 years), and a tug-of-war (Scalers vs Office Staff). The 'industry', we hear, was well represented, which was one of the pleasant features of a highly successful day. The affair was well managed, the weather was delightful, and (as our old friend Bob Edwards used to say) "an elegant time was had."

The judges were Major Andrews, R.V.Stuart, and A.L. Bryant; E.P. Fox was the Secretary and Starter - and the person who did the bulk of the work - W. Nichol was the Clerk of the Course; and J.A. MacRae, Announcer.

No detailed accounts are to hand, but we would hazard a guess that the anchor-man for the Scalers was A.E.Dunning and for the Office Staff Stanley Brown; and in regard to the baby show, we opine that Major Andrews did the judging, and Messrs. Stuart and Bryant administered the pats on the head.

But where was Joe Mackay? We don't see Joe's name anywhere.

Anyhow, the affair was a big success. The card of invitation not only states the time and place, but tells the guest how to get there. We'll tell the world that's service!

KINDLY CRITICS.

Professor H.R.Christie of the University of B.C. writes:-

"Thanks for sending me 'Root and Branch', and let me congratulate you on it. It is a credit to the Service and compares favourably with any periodical of its kind."

We thank Professor Christie, both for his expression of appreciation and for the kindly sentiment which prompted it.

- - - - - - - - -

This from the "ILLUSTRATED CANADIAN FORESTRY MAGAZINE" for June:-

"Welcome to our Midst. 'Root and Branch' is the unique name of a new publication of which the initial number has just been issued by the British Columbia Forest Service. The first issue is a highly creditable one and is certain to prove useful in developing loyalty and mutual consideration."

Decidedly encouraging. Our elder brother has grasped our motive to a nicety!

- - - - - - - - -

This from Supervisor J.A.Fairbank of the Vancouver Forest District:-

"Little 'R.A.B.' is before me and seems to be a vigorous winsome youngster. Just another indication of the cheerful workers in the Forest Branch."

Here's lookin' at ye, Supervisor. May your shadow never grow less!

- - - - - - - - -

And this from Kamloops. "Mr. T----- is so anxious to have a copy that he says he would be glad to pay for it if necessary."

But Oh! Boy! If this goes on, we shall have to boost our advertising rates.

- - - - - - - - -

Don't forget the slogan -- "CONTRIBUTIONS, PRO AND CON, ARE WHAT THIS INFANT THRIVES UPON."

- - - - - - - - -

JUST MUSIN'

(On marking a Reading Course.)

As one who struggled (sometimes vainly),
with answers frenzied and distraught,
Methinks from R.H.L's effusion,
the work has partly gone for naught!

For he who scoffs at Latin terms
unmindful is of anguish wrought
When Douglas Fir is 'mucronated,'
when 'taxifolia' is sought.

Such papers caused unhappy moments,
while we our ardent pupils taught;
Who - asked the Latin name for Jackpine -
quote glibly, "Why, 'pinus contort.'"

So, when the Autumn leaves do fall,
and fires have lost their summer's sting,
Back goes the Reading Course to those
who merely touched the Pierian Spring.

"A little learning is a dangerous thing,
Drink deep, or touch not the Pierian Spring."
(Pope)

We hear that certain classes of fiction can now only be obtained from the Book-leggers.

Scotchman (to Australian); "Aye, aye - and so you're an Australian? A gr-r-r-raun country that. They tell me there's lots o' Scotch folk there."

Australian; "Yes, - oh, yes. But the rabbits are the worst pest."

CULLED FROM OUR APPLICATION FILES:

"He loves climbing mountains and camping out is his weakness."

"I have never had a horse, but I am positive that I know how to ride and take care of a horse."

And this one, in regard to the applicant's Military career, -- "Mentioned - several times, by the section sergeant in a most derogatory manner."