



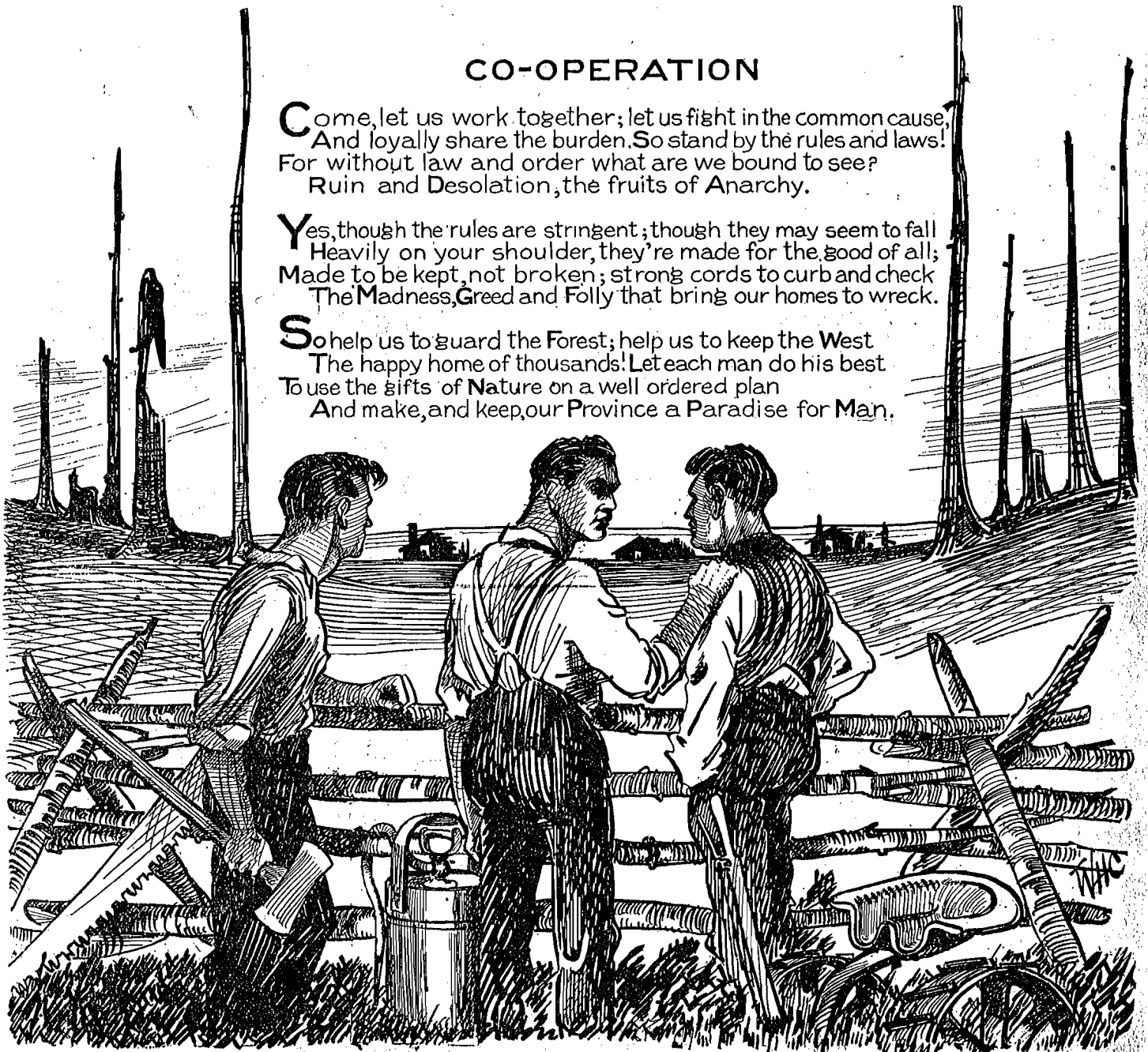
Vol. 1 - No. 4.

CO-OPERATION

Come, let us work together; let us fight in the common cause,
And loyally share the burden. So stand by the rules and laws!
For without law and order what are we bound to see?
Ruin and Desolation, the fruits of Anarchy.

Yes, though the rules are stringent; though they may seem to fall
Heavily on your shoulder, they're made for the good of all;
Made to be kept, not broken; strong cords to curb and check
The Madness, Greed and Folly that bring our homes to wreck.

So help us to guard the Forest; help us to keep the West
The happy home of thousands! Let each man do his best
To use the gifts of Nature on a well ordered plan
And make, and keep, our Province a Paradise for Man.



BETWEEN OURSELVES.

Sometimes, when you go to a house, sit down on a chair and cross your legs, a two-year-old will get on your foot and "Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross." After a while the horse gets tired and comes to a stop, and the two-year-old says "More! More!" Then you know that, with that youngster, you have made a hit.

A two-year-old makes no bones about expressing his approval or otherwise, and you are left in no uncertainty as to whether you have pleased or not.

With "children of a larger growth" one is not so sure; so, when the Editor of "ROOT AND BRANCH" met me the other day and asked for "More," I looked at him very sharply to see whether he asked because I was Deputy Minister or because he really wanted more. I must say that his face was very childlike and bland, and if he were dissimulating he did it very cleverly, and so I am giving him the benefit of the doubt.

I thought when I sat down that now would be the time to get off some "heavy stuff", but unfortunately I don't know the Latin names of any of the timber species, and I should be sure to be called down by some of the experts. Under the circumstances, therefore, I have decided to leave the heavy stuff to the experts and just have a smoke and a short chat with you all before I go to bed.

Before I forget I must try to square myself. Some of the members of the fair sex wanted to know why I mentioned only the men when I wrote last, and thought their sex had been slighted.

As a matter of fact, it would never do to mention one of them unless I mentioned them all, and just imagine what trouble I should get into if I forgot one of their names. All I can say is that anyone knowing the members of the Lands Department belonging to the miscalled "weaker sex", is strongly tempted to become a disciple of the religion of Brigham Young.

I should like now to say a few words to the boys who, for the past two months, have been valiantly fighting the "Dragon" so aptly described and illustrated on the cover of the second number of this magazine. I want you to know that your work has been appreciated at Head Office.

I am glad also that the public have shown their appreciation of the good work you are doing and have done. Persons working

for the public are apt to get more kicks than halfpence, and the average individual has a half sneer for the Civil Servant as one who has a "soft snap" or a "cushy job." I have had a good deal of experience in different lines of business, and some of them on a large scale, and I have no hesitation in saying that there is not a business of the same magnitude in the Province that is more efficiently manned or more economically operated than the Department of Lands.

Perhaps it would not be out of place to say that most of us at Headquarters know by practical experience what the fire-fighters are up against these days, and an intelligent appreciation means much more than merely so many words. To those of you who have been hurt or whose health has broken down, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and hopes for a speedy recovery.

There were a few other things I intended to say tonight but it is getting late, and I don't want to weary you with preaching long sermons, so will again say "Good night."

Geo. R. Naden.

In our last issue we referred to the accident to Patrolman J.B. Edwards, who was badly injured by a rock-slide while fighting fires in the neighbourhood of Mount Robson Park in the Prince George District.

It now transpires that Mr. Edwards has a girl, Miss Violette Thomas, of Neith, Wales, who was on her way to join him when the accident occurred. They were to have been married immediately. Mr. Harry Edwards, father of J. B. Edwards, intimates that the ceremony will not stop, but will proceed just as soon as his son has recovered from his injuries. Meantime, Miss Thomas awaits the event at the Edwards' homestead near Isle d'Pierre Rapids, some thirty miles west of Prince George.

We trust the happy consummation will not be long delayed. We wish the young people the best of luck. May Fortune smile upon them, and may the shadow which now hangs over them be the last to cloud their sky.

AS I SEE THE SITUATION.

There are times when it seems almost impossible to find expression adequate for the situation in hand. To me, the present fire situation and the appreciation of the work done by our staff is one of these occasions.

How carefully did we build and plan to make this a record year in protection, and with what apparent ease has Nature, as if in revolt at man's carelessness, used this as a weapon and by drought and wind turned it into a record year of forest destruction!

Our fire-fighting funds have been exhausted and special funds asked for. The property loss exceeds a million dollars. People have been driven from their homes to seek safety by fleeing to nearby streams or to the ocean. And saddest of all, already a toll of three lives has been recorded; E.J. Molund of Walcott trapped while fighting a fire which was the result of a child's caprice; James Litchens of Forest Grove caught in a fire; and young Jack Clifford burned to death in the Merville disaster.

It saddens the hearts of all of us to look upon that sorry wreck of homes and hopes, but at least we can say - and we can look the whole world squarely in the eye when we say it - that WE DID OUR BEST. Everything that human foresight, skill and courage could do to stem the tide of ruin was done; but the odds were too heavy - it seemed to have been willed so.

Our organization has been called upon to exert prodigious efforts in trying to control the situation. Some have met with painful accidents; others, through long-continued physical strain, have reached the breaking point. The bright side, however, - and a side which is most encouraging and speaks well for the future - is that the organization has stood the test, and has given a most excellent account of itself. From letters published elsewhere in these pages it will be seen that the service is being appreciated. These letters are especially welcome, since in times of loss and stress complaints are usually more prevalent; generally, it is the reverse side of human nature which is uppermost. It must not be thought that only the men to whom these letters refer are deserving; many an instance of splendid devotion to duty and disregard of self has gone unnoticed and unrecorded because the doer was too modest to sing his own praises. The few which have obtained mention are just the V.C.'s which have been awarded.

Even though we may be called upon for yet further efforts, I feel that we shall come out of the season in great measure the victors. In surveying the year's experience to see where we can apply ourselves to better advantage, and what action can be taken to prevent a repetition of this year's occurrences, it

may occur to many that our staff artist has struck the keynote in his cover design "CO-OPERATION." The job is too big, the stakes too high for any individual - it is only by the united efforts of her citizens that the Forests of British Columbia can be saved.

P. Z. C. verhill.

The Editor of the "WESTERN LUMBERMAN", in closing his review of an inspection trip in the Vancouver district, expresses very nicely the idea which lies back of Forest Branch work. He says -

"Neither was the trip all of unbroken ease. Try, if you haven't done so, hiking two or three miles up a hot, dusty railroad grade in the broiling sun of the last of this June, to inspect some logging camp, or to see how some fire is being handled. And the Minister took off his coat and hiked with the rest of us.

"And in all of this there was, and is, just one predominating idea - and that is "Service and benefit to the public." The idea of the Forest Branch is to co-operate with and benefit the men and capital invested in our timber industry."

HELLO, CENTRAL! - In his article on the Fire Season in this issue, Forester Cowan pays a warm tribute to the splendid service given by the girls employed at the rural sub-stations of the B.C. Telephone Company. This service cannot be over-estimated, and while possibly there is no need to add anything to what has been so well said by Mr. Cowan, the Editor cannot refrain from adding his paean of praise, since CO-OPERATION is our theme in this number.

If in our thoughtlessness we have ever been irritable, unreasonable, or impatient in our dealings with them, we ask their pardon. It shall not occur again; for the impression they have made upon us by their fine spirit of co-operation during this time of strain and stress is not for the moment only, but will remain with us.

Forest Reserves and "Minimum Requirements".

To those who have an opportunity to read American Forestry and Lumber Journals the term "minimum requirements", which has been injected into their widespread discussion of a national forest policy, is no doubt familiar. The phrase was first given voice by Chief Forester Greeley, when he asked all agencies, both public and private to enlist in a study of the "Minimum silvicultural and protection requirements", which would insure the continued productiveness of cut over lands in the differing forest regions of the United States.

In reading the various articles on this subject, from foresters, lumbermen, economists and others, it has occurred to me that some thought along this line in this Province would not be amiss, and I feel that we also might profitably initiate a study and discussion among ourselves as to the specific things which should be done in each of our important types of timber to keep productive land capable only of growing timber. Such a discussion only aims to bring out what are the fundamental requirements necessary to secure any kind of a stand that will pass muster as being of some commercial value.

I should like to suggest as one of our first "minimum requirements" the idea of land classification and the segregation by reservation for the perpetual growing of timber of all lands suitable only for that purpose. A start has recently been made on this policy by the establishment of four permanent Forest Reserves in the Vernon Forest District. These reserves as established and described in the Gazette July 13th 1922, cover practically the entire timbered portion of the watershed of Okanagan Lake. It is from streams which have their sources on these reserves that the great fruit growing districts of the Okanagan receive their water supply for irrigation purposes. The double purpose of timber supply and watershed protection is therefore served when these areas are reserved.

The Commission of Conservation estimates that less than 6% of the area of the entire province is agricultural land. It should not be such a difficult job to determine the boundaries of such areas.

Now that the policy of setting aside Forest Reserves is established, it should not stop with these four reserves, but should be continued to cover the absolute forest land of the province, as rapidly as we can obtain adequate information to justify such reservations. So as a first "minimum requirement" let me suggest that each Ranger for his ranger district and each District Forester have mapped out, in his mind at least, and on paper if possible, the areas of absolute forest land, and the location of the boundaries

between agricultural and forest land and recommend that such areas be permanently reserved.

Probably we will all agree that adequate protection from fire is one of the most necessary requirements. The specific details of what is required in each district will vary with local conditions. However, there must be a searching of hearts and minds and an earnest and thorough study of what is needed along this line, in order to obtain reasonable assurance that we can bring reproduction to maturity without its being destroyed by fire.

Next, we should get down in black and white our ideas of the necessary silvicultural requirements to produce a new stand, and this will include such things as slash disposal, seed trees, diameter limits, clear cutting, selection cutting, and so on.

About fifty per cent. of our lumber cut is from Timber licences and Timber Sales. Section 21 (3) of the Forest Act makes it possible to regulate cutting on Licences, by Order-in-Council and of course Timber Sale Contract Clauses can be varied to care for the necessary requirements along this line.

Have we not about reached the point in our Forestry development where we should have some definite and concrete ideas along the line of absolutely fundamental "minimum requirements", and granted we have advanced to that point, is it not time we were getting down to specific recommendations? What better medium can we have to set out our opinions along this line than "ROOT AND BRANCH"? Don't all speak at once!!

R.C.ST.Claire.

CLOSE UTILIZATION : The following is an excerpt from a Timber Sale Inspection Report from the Prince Rupert District -

"Mr. L----- subcontracts felling and bucking, and has a clause in his contract providing that, in the event of his being penalised for waste in stumps or tops, he will deduct the penalty from the feller's price. This has made for very satisfactory utilization in all his operations."

THE FIRE SEASON.

And they asked me how I did it, and I gave 'em the scripture text,
Just keep your light so shining a little in front of the next.

--Kipling--.

There is hardly a "write" left in me. This sounds as if a pun were intended, but not so - it is simply that the fire season has taken a deal of energy out of me; but please be assured that it has still left a good deal of fight! In the Vancouver District, which has taken a goodly portion of my time lately, there has been a regular holocaust; fires covering huge areas in the space of a few hours, field men fighting for days without a let-up or even sleep. But that the feature of the whole business is, that although the fires have been numerous and wide-spread, the organization has stood up, and is still standing up, to the strain.

One of the things that particularly impressed me is the way in which the B.C. Telephone girls on Vancouver Island (I speak only of the Island because my attention has been concentrated there) kept in touch with our men, tracing them from point to point to deliver their message, and giving assistance of a character which cannot be estimated and certainly could not possibly be paid for. This is part of the great work of organization, backed by the organization of existing facilities.

For the work of our field men, I have the greatest admiration, for they have stood up under a long continued strain, and I take this opportunity of saying so.

You will, however always meet with public criticism, most of it undeserved, but rarely will a person or firm write a word of praise, even when the efforts of our men have been directly responsible for the saving of many thousands of dollars worth of property. In but a few cases have letters been received showing a definite appreciation of work performed, and these cases mention Rangers G.H. Smith, of Powell River, Byers of Comox, Carey of Victoria, Wilkinson of Squamish and Assistant Rangers Lowe of Stillwater and Burchett of Cowichan Lake and Patrolman Archer of Shawnigan Lake.

I know that such instances could be multiplied many times, but as Government officials, all we generally receive is criticism and when great efforts have met with great success; the general attitude is "well, that's what they are paid for".

It is hard, sometimes, to find the reason for the continued carelessness of the people of the Province; each year a new danger springs up, and to meet the situation, such dangers must be foreseen. For that reason, we must be in a position to take what preventive measures are possible to forestall such dangers, "to keep your light shining, a little in front of the next".

I believe that our Service is showing a better return for each dollar invested than ever before, but the general public is still leaving things to chance and that's what we are fighting.

The logical cure therefore seems to be education, and when one looks around and sees things as they really are, the task appears to be and is gargantuan.

But that is the task we must set ourselves, and if great efforts in fighting fire follow preventive measures, instead of leading them, the goal will be nearer of attainment.

All Districts have had their troubles; for instance the combined cost to date of fire fighting in the Prince George and Prince Rupert Districts is almost 12 times that of last year. The number of fires to date are almost 1400, compared with 1330 for the whole 1921 season.

What is the answer to all this? Does it mean that our efforts are useless, when we meet with a dry season or is there some method of stopping this outburst of flame and destruction that comes each summer? An analysis of the cause of fires shows that there is; and the tightening up of the Forest Regulations is bound to have its effect. Ranger Eden of Quesnel, has developed into a regular sleuth, and is rolling up a list of deserved convictions; Prince George and Prince Rupert Districts are coming down heavily on those whose fires "can't do no harm" and all this is going to help in the work of education. It's needed, and needed badly, for we have an extraordinarily apathetic public to deal with, where fire is concerned.

There has been a large measure of success attained in this work already; there is not the slightest doubt that the Forest Protection viewpoint is gaining ground; that a very appreciable measure of success has attended the efforts of our field men -- but the problem is a big one, one that must be met in a big way; there is a very big field to cover, because one or two men can start all kinds of fire trouble.

That's the job; and it takes big men to handle it properly.

You can do it, if you put some of the energy and thought into it that you have put into your fire fighting this year, but unlike fire fighting, your efforts do not show results in so short time.

That's Forest Protection -- a big job, to be handled in a big way; to keep thinking ahead of the public, to lead and not be led by circumstances, "to keep your light so shining, a little in front of the next".

C.S. Cowan.

INTROSPECTIVE.

The other day, while pre-empting a seat in the Vancouver office, I happened to notice a letter from a field man in which he was commenting on a suggestion that the District News-letter be discontinued in favour of "ROOT AND BRANCH".

I was particularly struck with one comment, and have been wondering since whether or not this sentiment is general among the field men - namely, that ROOT AND BRANCH is lacking in the personal touch. If that is the general impression, then something is wrong and we must set about righting it.

We are all agreed that the District News-letter has a place in our family life which ROOT AND BRANCH cannot fill. ROOT AND BRANCH is the medium of the organization as a whole; it cannot enter intimately into the affairs of the individual District - that is the function of the District News-letter.

Since its birth, four months ago, ROOT AND BRANCH has accompanied the Ranger in his incursions into the realm of Chivalry; has descended with him (in his dreams) into the depths of Hades; has extended the hand of fellowship and welcome to the new recruit; has showered its good wishes on the seeker after new fields of activity; it has blessed the little stranger; and it has stood in sympathy by the bed-side of the sick and bruised. What more could it do to open the door for true friendship? Has it not already won a place in the life of our organization?

ROOT AND BRANCH is a field paper for field men. It needs your co-operation, and it is up to you to give it the personal touch by recounting your personal experiences. The District News-letter is a district matter, but surely our field staff is not so big, nor the problems so far divided that we cannot feel personally for each and every member of the staff; and each and every member of the staff must have a personal relation to each other.

That is the object of our publication; and if the publication is failing to meet that need it is up to the field men to tell us what to do. Remember the motto of the journal - "Contributions pro and con are what this infant thrives upon."

P.Z.C.

THE SILVER LINING.

The following are extracts from letters which have reached us during the past few weeks - some of them addressed directly to the Department, and some to the local press - in which the writers express their admiration of the work done by the Forest Branch officers in combatting the fire situation. Some of them, it will be seen, are from points so far distant as Chicago and Los Angeles. Particularly interesting is the letter from Mr. R.L. Maitland, who displays a most generous spirit in that, while himself a heavy loser, he still is able to appreciate the efforts that were made.

As the Chief Forester remarks in his article in this issue, it is both gratifying and encouraging to receive these tokens at this time. Our cloud, dense though it is, still has its silver lining.

(From the COLONIST, July 23rd, 1922.)

A Question of Duty. Sir,- I would esteem it a favor if you would give me space in your paper to express my appreciation of the splendid way in which two B.C. Forest Service men fought for nearly two hours on a large car which caught fire yesterday on the Malahat Drive. The deed was all the more exciting to onlookers, knowing a 20-gallon tank of gas was on the rear of the blazing car which, had it blown up, would have been not only serious for the two fire-fighters, but would have started a forest fire. As it was, once the flaming gas did ignite the bush, but they had it out in a flash, then back to the car they went doubling their efforts until at last they were successful. I complimented them on their action only to draw the remark - "Just done our duty; fire in the woods must be put out." This devotion to duty should, I think, be recognised by the B.C. Forest Branch, because it meant certain death to those two gallant fellows if the gas tank had exploded.

Chicago, U.S.A., July 20th, 1922.

J.H. Stevens.

(From the VICTORIA DAILY TIMES, Aug. 2nd, 1922.)

Courteous Fire Wardens. To the Editor,- I would like to say a word of appreciation for the fire wardens of Vancouver Island. We know that too much care cannot be taken with fire, but when one's mistakes are courteously pointed out the lesson seems to sink deeper in. I have motored from Los Angeles to

Qualicum Beach, and in all that journey have camped by the wayside and in various camping grounds, and was always sure that I was particularly careful with fire. A few weeks ago, however, I was just leaving my luncheon fire when a fire warden drove past and seeing that I had lit a fire stopped and spoke to my wife and myself. He told me that I had broken the Island fire laws in that I had not cleared the debris for three feet around the fire. I replied that perhaps that was so but I had put the fire out with water. He then took off his hat and said "Here's the reason for the law," and fanned what I thought was a dead fire; in a few minutes there was a bright little blaze. Looking up, he said "You can see there is a reason for the regulations." He told me then that I had rendered myself liable to prosecution, but if I had digested the practical lesson he had given me he felt that his object was achieved. I have met Forest Service officials, both from our Federal Service and the California State forests, but I have never had a lesson explained as politely as this one was by the Island fire warden. I would like to assure him that I will follow his instructions as far as I can, and I congratulate his employers on the possession of such a courteous and painstaking official.

J.H. COLLINS.

1473B 16th St.E., Los Angeles.

CANADIAN COLLIERIES (DUNSMUIR) LIMITED.

Cumberland, B. C., July 19, 194

Hon. T.D. Pattullo,
Minister of Lands,
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:

In connection with the heavy forest fires that have for the past ten days been devastating this District, and are at present still a serious menace to the industrial plants and homes of the community, I desire to convey through you to your Forest Department the sincere thanks of the Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Limited for the valuable assistance and advice of your Forest Officials..... Your Department and the Province at large, are to be congratulated on having in its service men as efficient and untiring in their efforts to save the public property.

Very truly yours,
Canadian Collieries (D) Ltd.
(sgd) Thomas Graham,
General Superintendent.

HAITLAND & HAITLAND
Barristers and Solicitors
Office; 522-525 Rogers Building,

VANCOUVER, B. C., July 11, 1922.

The Honourable T. D. Pattullo,
Minister of Lands,
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Mr. Pattullo:-

Re Lang Bay Fire.

Owing to the large property loss at Lang Bay and the destitute circumstances in which some of the settlers have been left, it is only natural that there should be criticism on those in charge of the Forestry work at this point.

As I have lived at Lang Bay every summer for ten years with relatives adjoining my property on each side, I think it is only right that I should express my appreciation of the work done by your Department during the fires surrounding this whole district. While we lost our three houses, the fire wardens on three different occasions notified everybody in the Bay of the danger, but the fact that the weather cleared every morning led to indifferent consideration of these warnings.

When the real storm came on the 6th instant, a forty mile wind developed about 2 o'clock in the afternoon without warning or opportunity either for the settlers or the fire wardens to organize any effective fighting.

The chief criticism seems to be that there were no boats available to take the settlers from the beach and no force available as promised to protect the houses. It appears to me that this condition of affairs arose from the very sudden manner in which the storm came up and also the fact that the Forestry officers were in demand in every part of the district at the same time. The sea was very heavy, making ordinary navigation impossible, and the question of saving the houses against the wind was also out of

the question. This is amply proven by the splendid work done in making a wonderful fight against the fire, unfortunately without success. It seemed to me that the fire warden did everything that a human being could do, and I am glad to say saved the wharf from being burned.

.....I am writing this letter in view of what I think is unfair criticism against the Department, as it does seem to me that credit rather than criticism is due in this particular case. I might add that I was personally present from the 1st of July until we were burned out.

Yours truly,

(Sd) R. L. Hattland.

CARELESSNESS AND FOREST FIRES.

Hunters, fishermen and woodworkers of all kinds smoke in the forests, while automobilists toss bits of fire from their cars and speed thoughtlessly on, unaware that they have left behind them an incipient conflagration. A single glowing cigarette stub may cost thousands of dollars for fire fighting, to say nothing of the value of the timber destroyed, the desolation of scenic beauty and the harm done to stream flow.

To do your bit in forest fire prevention puts you on the side of orderly government. Anything else is Anarchy.

Nine fires in ten are caused by human hands. The causes look trifling but the consequences are a national disaster. Canada has lost thousands of square miles of timber from fire alone, ten times as much as has been turned to use.

The red terror is the forest fire. It robs the public treasury. It cuts off employment. It undermines our lumber and pulp and paper industries.

Forest fires destroy in a few days, wealth that only many years can replace.

(Forestry Branch News-letter,
Department of the Interior, Canada.)

FIELD NOTES.

We hear much these days about over-crowded range, and the need for burning timber to improve the stock ranges.

It is interesting to note that the National Forests of the United States have an area of 156 million acres, which is estimated to contain 563 billion feet of timber and still leave room for grazing 9,500,000 head of stock.

This would indicate that the 92 million acres of timberland in British Columbia, containing only 360 billion feet of timber, should have ample fodder for the 50,000 head of stock for which permits are now issued, and leave some to spare. A visit to any of our high ranges will confirm this and show much fodder which has not yet been put to use.

"There have been 105 fires to date (July 27th)" writes the District Forester at Cranbrook, "and while I have not received final reports on some of the larger fires, I do not think that the merchantable timber loss will exceed two million feet. But there has been a heavy loss of young growth.

"There were some local showers yesterday, extending from Goatfell to Cranbrook.

"Our organization has at all times been able to take care of fires without delay, and the majority of the fires (with the exception of the ones at Creston, Skookumchuck, North Fork of Gold Creek, Galloway, Palliser River, and one in the C.P.R. operations) have been confined to a small area."

"The situation this season," writes District Forester Bonney, "illustrates very clearly how ineffective and helpless any system of fire prevention is in the face of an apathetic public, when weather conditions are against us. As one's experience grows it is apparent that progress in fire prevention (especially in a sparsely-populated district where means of communication are very limited) is directly proportional to and largely dependent upon the attitude of the general public."

Eleven mills are actively sawing in the Prince George District at the present time, but their output will be considerably less than last year on account of the fact that only a small cut of logs was taken out last winter, and most of them are not in a position to do much summer logging to advantage.

The demand for local lumber is picking up, and if the readjustment of freight rates materialises it is anticipated that a general improvement all along the line will result.

Check scaling of Coast scalers is progressing with new vigour, and the keenest interest is being taken by the scalers. A system has now been perfected for charting the result of check scales so that the efficiency of any scaler on any grade of logs can be seen at a glance. The record is not only in footage, but also in value of boom, and shows plainly how an individual scaler fluctuates above or below the zero line as his scale and grading is off the normal. The industry demands efficiency, and the present system will show that they are getting what they want, or what changes are necessary to bring scaling up to the required standard.

THE PROMISED LAND. Contrary to the belief expressed in our last issue, The Promised Land is not Maryland, U.S.A. It is located in Baluchistan. The following is extracted from their Progress Report for 1920-21.-

"Experience has shown that no special measures are necessary for the protection of the State forests from fire. (That in itself is sufficient to establish Baluchistan's claim. Ed.) The only fire which was reported in the Sibi Range burnt an area of ten acres, as compared with two fires in the previous year burning an area of thirty acres. The percentage of area burnt was .005 against .014 during 1919-20."

Did we hear someone say "A cinch!" These lads in Baluchistan have had one tough time, lemme tell you! "The failure of the Summer Monsoon, snow and winter rain had characterised the period under report. It is said that the present dry season is the worst of its kind. Many springs have dried up and water in the others is on the decrease."

The Forests were made for the hunters of dreams,
the brooks for the hunters of song;
For the hunters who hunt the gunless game,
the woods and the creeks belong.
The story is told in the moan of the pine,
the song in the flower bell curled;
And the stories contained in the fern and the vine,
Are as old and as new as the world.

C.S.C.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Fred McVicker has resigned his position as Assistant Forester in the Vancouver office to go into the logging game. He will be associated with H.S. ("Buck") Irwin, whom old-timers will remember as the one-time District Forester at Prince Rupert. We wish them every success, and trust that in their dealings with the forests they will remember that they are Foresters as well as Loggers.

F.D. Mulholland has been appointed Assistant Forester in the Vancouver District in place of McVicker; and T.A. Clark is being assigned to the Prince Rupert District as Junior Forester, in the place vacated by Mulholland.

Supervisor Hart (Vancouver), who has been ill for some time, is still in hospital and will be unable to resume his duties. He has been granted three month's pay, and of necessity his position is being filled. We trust that he will soon be restored in sufficient measure to take an active part in things, and that he will find employment that will be as congenial as was his work with us. At the same time, we are going to miss Hart from our staff.

Ranger W.W. Boyd (Cariboo), we hear, is progressing favourably, but it will still be some time before we can report him back on the job; and J.D. Boyd, District Forester at Williams Lake, is suffering from an attack of para-typhoid. He has been able to keep going, but claims now to be eligible for the light-weight class. With one ranger off the job, himself ill, and a bad fire season, he has had a hard situation to face.

Ranger O'Grady (Vancouver) improves daily. The infection in his leg is disappearing, and he expects to have it set within the next week or two; but it will be a long time yet before he can resume his place in the line-up. And in the meantime, O'Grady's gloomy winter has been turned to smiling spring by the arrival of a little stranger in his home - on which be peace!

A.L. Bryant, Supervisor of Sealers, has been spending some time at Merritt, investigating "Blue stain" in Yellow Pine, due to the Pine Bark Beetles. Bryant's problem was; - "Should blue stain be counted a defect, or not?"

The resignation of Ranger T.L. Williams of Port Clements (in the Prince Rupert District) is to hand. Work at Port Clements is at low ebb, and it became necessary to transfer the Ranger to Burns Lake, but Mr. Williams could not accept the transfer on account of family reasons.

We hear from Vancouver that Supervisor J.G. MacDonald is laid up, his illness being due, apparently, to overstrain from strenuous fire work.

Ranger Gritten, while proceeding to a fire at Pender Harbour, ran the launch "CHERRY" aground on a rock. Ranger Gritten is to be censured in that he was running the boat at full speed in what he knew to be dangerous waters. Rangers must remember that, even in cases of emergency, the necessary precautions must still be taken; and that the saving of a few minutes in getting to a fire is more than outweighed by the possibility of not reaching the fire at all! It took Ranger Gritten from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. to get the "CHERRY" off and beached, with detrimental results to his salary cheque.

Assistant Sealer J.T. Fullerton has tendered his resignation, and Assistant Sealer J. Rankin Scott (who has been holding a temporary appointment heretofore) takes his place. Mr. Scott is made welcome among us.

Asst. Ranger R.A. Beattie (Whaletown), while in charge of the launch "BIRCH", and towing a dinghy, attempted to cross the bows of a fishing craft, with the result that the dinghy was stove-in and lost. Beattie did not await the findings of the Tribunal, but promptly handed in his resignation. In other words, Beattie beat it. "Thus conscience doth make cowards of us all!"

Mr. John Hoy, whose benign presence contributes so materially to the "joie de vivre" at Headquarters, surprised us last week by announcing the birth of a son. Usually we are given some inkling in advance of the actual happening, as father almost always gives himself away in some way or other. But not John! We should hate to sit in a poker game with him. The little fellow has our blessing; we trust he may long be spared to add lustre to the name of Hoy.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Archie, wife of Captain Dan Archie (Prince Rupert). Captain Archie is assured of the heartfelt sympathy of all of us.

YOUR PAPER.

"..... We have also received the two copies of ROOT AND BRANCH, which were so interesting that we share your regret that the May issue is not now available. We will take the liberty of making some quotations from this paper in our Forestry Department.....The intimate and informal nature of the text is noticeable on examination, corroborating your statement that this is a family affair, and as such it doubtless is of great value to the entire family."

(From the LUMBER WORLD REVIEW, Chicago.)

"Just received your July issue of ROOT AND BRANCH, and have read it from cover to cover and consider it a splendid issue. Just the thing to build up a proper spirit in an organization. T.G. Loggie, Our Deputy Minister, is having items copied for our Rangers, which is sure evidence of his hearty approval. The action in your articles brings back many keen memories of my five years in your organization, and I wish it every success."

(From Mr. G.H. Prince, Provincial Forester, New Brunswick.)

That's what they think; but what do YOU think? That's what we want to know. Every once in a while a member of the staff here comes in from the field, and we ask him, - What's the feeling in regard to 'Root and Branch'? Is it popular, or not? Just what do the boys think of it, anyway?" And we are told, - "Oh, so far as I could gather, it seems to be O.K."

Now, the paper is either good, or it's rotten. If you think it good, why not encourage us by saying so? If you think it's rotten, tell us why and where, and we will do our best to improve it.

But we can't make bricks without straw. Of course, while the fire season is engaging everyone's attention we cannot expect to receive many contributions from the field; but with the fire season on the wane, it should be possible, surely, to drop us a line occasionally, recounting your personal experiences - or little incidents which struck you at the time as being interesting, or amusing (if they appealed to you in that way, the chances are good that they will appeal to the rest of us.)

The Editor.

Courtesy is pretty much like a pneumatic tyre - nothing in it but wind, but it sure does ease one over the jolts!

OH, THOSE "HOPPERS" ! Last month we published an expurgated version of Jim Blake's account of the Grasshopper plague in the Nicola district. Now George Copley comes to bat with a statement that, on his last trip, the clouds of hoppers were so dense that they choked the radiator of his flivver. George says he had to stop every once in so often and scrape them off with a stick so as to give his engine a breath of air. Silly things, hoppers! No wonder Lizzie got hot under the collar.

With the stockmen having to import their fodder from outside points, we can see the price of meat curving sharply upwards within the near future. Well, let 'er rip! When butchermeat gets beyond our reach, we shall simply move out to one of the adjacent beaches, and gorge ourselves to repletion on the sand which is there.

(The perpetrator of that one intends to apply for the copyright, - as soon as he gets about again.)

To get to Baluchistan, just "follow the man from Cook's."

What causes Forest Fires, anyway? The subject was under discussion on the street-car the other day, and a lady remarked to her friend, - "Aren't these forest fires dreadful. People should really be more careful in the woods." Said her friend, - "Oh, no, my dear. Fires don't start that way at all. What starts them is the sap which is drawn from the trees by the heat. Then the sun beats down on it, and sets it alight."

Moral : Sap-heads should keep out of the sun.

"By my Halidom, a right merry joust, fair sirs, and shrewdly run! But victory, methinks, perches on the banner of him hight R.H.L. Ho, varlets, clear the lists, and " - oh, pardon us, we refer, of course, to the brisk little debate on the Reading Course with which R.H.L. and C.S.C. have been enlivening these pages, and which has bidden fair to rival the Course itself in interest. But now that the Reading Course has been disposed of, does any other gentleman feel disposed to break a lance?

From Finlay Forks, that far-distant outpost of our little empire, where Asst. Ranger M.G. Macleod upholds the traditions of the service, comes the following:-

"In acknowledging receipt of your periodical Root and Branch, I am of the opinion that it surely is a step in the right direction. It will have a tendency to unite and bring amity into the ranks of the Forest Service, and give an opportunity for the exchange of thought, establishing confidence, co-operation, co-ordination, and good feeling..... There can be nothing but praise for its motive; it should be of real service to the Forest Branch."

FOREST PROTECTION RECORD, JULY 31st, 1922.

	Fires.	Avg. Cost.
Cariboo	83	\$ 57
Cranbrook	126	127
Kamloops	115	105
Nelson	264	121
Prince George	210	129
Prince Rupert	182	160
Vancouver	649	204
Vernon	104	48

or an average cost per fire of \$149, over the whole Province.

Asst. Ranger Snelgrove, Tete Jaune, while taking a small crew up Beaver River, to fight a small lightning fire, was wrecked on a log jamb. Tools and outfit were lost and the men were nearly drowned making the shore.

STILL MUSIN'

"For many years a fruitless effort has been made to keep the tree which inhabits the northern Pacific Coast region extending to Alaska and eastward over the Western Cascades, and known as 'Pinus Contorta', distinct from the tree of the high Sierras and Rocky Mountain plateau known as Lodgepole pine ('Pinus murrayana' and 'P. contorta murrayana:').....
... The difference in thickness of bark, size of cones and leaves and form of tree, are not too great to be merged in one polymorphous species." (Sudworth's "FOREST TREES OF THE PACIFIC SLOPE", P. 49)

Same work, p.100. "Douglas Fir, - 'Pseudotsuga taxifolia'".
Footnote, - "Several authors maintain for this tree the name 'Pseudotsuga mucronata'."

Then, learned preceptor, why the anguish? This only lies twixt thee and me, that thou for "Tweedledum" wouldst battle while I elect for "Tweedledee"! But I would fain divulge the secret of what impelled my choice that time; it lay in what is called by Gilbert "the sad exigency of rhyme." And I maintaining the crime's less heinous to use a term less widely sought, than outrage every human felling, to make 'contorta' rhyme with 'taught'.

R. H. L.

Would the young ladies of the B.C. Telephone Company be offended, we wonder, if we referred to them as our "Comrades in arms."

"Say, Mose, what you know 'bout trees?" "Ah don' know much, Rastus, but ah did heah a tree root once."
"Root?" "Yassuh, root. An' ah heard that same tree holler."
"Well, Mose, yo' sure am branching out. 'Bout the on'y thing ah knows 'bout trees is 'at sometimes I hear 'em bark." "Cullud man, yo' stop right ther. Trees don't bark." "Mose, all trees bark, and ah was right ther when 'at same tree took leaf." "An' took his trunk with him?" "Nossuh, tuk no trunk; seems wuz broke - anyways, had to leave his trunk for board."