A great many people outside the ranks of the Forest Branch are genuinely interested in forest conservation. Some of them get ideas which they tell us about. A few attempt to do something about it themselves. Of all these latter, one W.C. Saunders of Palling has accomplished something of lasting value of which he might well feel more than a little proud. His movement is having a decided effect on the forest protection problem over a large area and, incidentally, he is rendering a service to the communities with which he has come in contact, which quite possibly overshadows the forest protection factor.

Palling is a farming centre a few miles west of Burns Lake on the C.N.R. In spite of a main line railway at their front doors this, and dozens of other small centres, are isolated and badly handicapped. This is especially true in the case of young people. There are no movies, Boy Scouts, organized sport, libraries, summer camps. Opportunities for young people to earn a little real cash on their own are few. A trip to larger centres is expensive and out of the question for all but the favoured few.

Observing these things and coupling them with his interest in forest conservation Mr. Saunders evolved the idea of a Young Rangers' Band and organized one Band in his own settlement. This was about 1928. (We are not very sure of the date). Since this first Band was organized the movement has spread to adjacent towns until there are now some three or four hundred members.

The Bands are a secret society, no less. They have a ritual that would do credit to the ideals, character and organizing genius of many a more ambitious organization. Several Forest Branch officers have been initiated as honorary members and we who are fortunate enough to have been accepted as members can vouch for the impressive character of the ceremony and the serious, business-like way the boys conduct their affairs.

Membership is limited to boys and girls of school age over 12 years. Their chief object is ostensibly forest protection but with this is coupled organized sport, summer camps, social features, etc.

One of the admirable features is that the Bands have stood on their own feet. Mr. Saunders, Ranger and Mrs. Wilson, (Burns Lake) and a few others have encouraged and helped to some extent and have given some assistance in the case of camps but there has been no begging. Any assistance they have had has come to them as free gifts from interested parties in such manner that they were able to accept without loss of independence or dignity.

So far as the Forest Branch is concerned we find that as a result of this movement we have a forest officer in nearly every home where the young Ranger Bands have organized. If the old man reckons he will burn a bit of slash when the Ranger isn't looking, even though conditions are pretty bad, the boys gang up on him and we are saved one more fire.

Young Rangers have put out, mapped, and reported fires in full detail to Ranger Wilson and the following report in a recent letter is fairly typical of the effect these Bands are having:

"On the 23rd Ranger Wilson, proceeding to a smoke south of Palling, found a crew of 14 local men on the fire when he got there. Two grown men worked 15 hours, parts of two days, and refused pay. Six Young Rangers--some of them are 6 feet tall and husky--contributed the first day without pay but were put on the payroll for the two following days. One man and one girl each drove to Burns Lake to report the fire. Granted the fire was near a good tie stand, the idea of the available man-power of a small community turning out promptly without pay to fight fire in the common interest is something new in protection history in B. C."

This Young Ranger Band movement would have no particular value in the cities where it would merely compete with the Boy Scouts and other admirable organizations in a field already full of interest and activity. In the more or less isolated country districts where the greatest need exists it can be made an important factor in forest protection and incidentally in the community life of the people. The character of the adult guidance is always the determining factor in the success of any youth movement and they have been particularly fortunate in this respect in the Palling-Burns Lake country in Mr. Saunders and his colleagues.

Josh Wood (Vernon) keeps an alphabetic index of all the people with whom he has business, together with an outline of important details, numbers of timber sales awarded, lot numbers of lands owned, etc. Wood took over the Revelstoke Ranger District, a stranger in a strange land, in 1931, and the Vernon District in 1934. Perhaps his index was invented of necessity to assist in getting acquainted with strange surroundings. Whatever its origin he says it is in daily use and is now kept up as a matter of routine.

Copied from a crime report dealing with a case where a man was prosecuted for

operating an engine--"in or within one half mile of a forest or woodland which was not provided with a safe and efficient device for arresting sparks."

Copied from a fire history--"Crew was employed falling snags and putting out fires with water buckets which were burning in the roots of large fir and cedar stumps."

Almost every requisition for paint received at the Chief Forester's office calls at the same time for a couple of paint brushes. Paint brushes, especially good ones, are expensive. We have tried various compounds sold for the purpose, and every method ever suggested to us in an effort to clean and save used brushes, with so little success that we concluded that the only system for the casual paint job was to buy cheap brushes and throw them away after each job. That meant that small jobs were never attended to. Brushes cost too much to use one for a touching up, and small paint jobs generally were a complete nuisance. Then we found out how it should be done. You can have a brush in perfect condition at all times, a brush will last for years, and practically no cleaning to do.

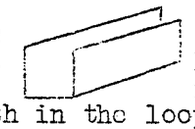
This is how it is done. Bore a hole through the brush handle. Secure a suitable tin and punch holes through the opposite sides, so placed that a length of wire through the holes in the tin and through the brush handle will suspend the brush about one inch off the bottom. Fill the tin with raw linseed oil (boiled oil is not suitable), up to, or a little above the shank of the brush.

When you have finished painting, clean as much paint out of the brush as you can conveniently and quickly with a little gas and hang the brush in the "brush pot." The remainder of the paint will settle to the bottom of the can. About once a year pour off the oil and clean the sediment out of the bottom.

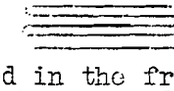
If you ever have any painting to do this stunt is well worth trying.

We have all seen fire hose looped back and forth on itself in racks provided for the purpose in the halls of public buildings. The advantages of this method of storing are obvious.

Bob Little (Invermere) finds his Park Ranger neighbours putting up their 1½" linen hose in this manner and thinks the system is superior to our rolls. He includes a drawing of the "frame" used for "folding" the hose which would be difficult to reproduce here but we will try to describe it and the system.

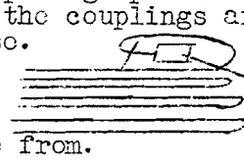


Build a frame (bottom and two sides of a box) of 2" material. Inside dimensions 3" wide by 25" long by 16" deep. Introduce two pieces of cord, one at each end, for tying the hose when it is properly arranged in the frame. Fold the hose back and forth in the loops in the frame. Use two six inch spikes introduced into the end loops in turn and bearing on the ends of the frame to permit drawing the hose tight and making a neat tight bundle. Tie tight with the cords placed in the frame for the purpose. The results should be a neat bundle which should pack away and handle more conveniently than our usual rolls.



We would like to hear some comments on the system after it has been tried out.

NOTE: Since this was written we find a photograph on file back in 1923 showing hose put up in this style. In the photo the couplings are rolled back under an extra length of hose left free for the purpose.



There is no record as to where the photo came from.

We are drawing out of the fourth consecutive season of unusually light hazard in B. C. They have had the usual disastrous outbreaks in the N. W. States and eastern Canada has suffered more severely than usual this year. Our turn may come again next year. In the meantime we touch wood every time we think of it and enjoy while we may that grand and glorious feeling that goes with no fires, allotments well in hand and a currently solvent fund. The following table tells the story. Note that these statistics are for your personal information only. They must not be published outside the Service.

As on September 14th

District	1935 Fires to Date	1935 Cost to Date	1934 Fires to Date	1934 Cost to Date	1933 Fires to Date	1933 Cost to Date	1932 Fires to Date	1932 Cost to Date	1931 Fires to Date	1931 Cost to Date
Vancouver	426	17,865	303	8,179	225	6,984	189	472	437	25,100
Pr. Rupert	67	290	135	687	36	93	78	906	163	3,836
Pr. George	74	608	63	279	90	3,995	131	2,775	174	6,000
Kamloops	188	1,425	467	24,812	373	5,339	344	1,333	716	51,668
Nelson	277	3,124	552	105,088	333	20,476	381	4,190	951	247,051
TOTALS...	1,032	23,312	1,520	139,045	1,057	36,887	1,123	9,676	2,441	333,655

On September 6th a party proceeded from Victoria to inspect our Cowichan Lake Young Men's Forestry Training Camp, consisting of the Honourable Mr. Wells Gray; Mr. Griffith, Relief Administrator; R.V. Stuart and his Employment Agent, Mr. Black; Mr. Bruce Hutchison, well known reporter of the Province; and Mr. Merriman, representing the Times and the Sun. Mr. Greaves of the Colonist could not go. Mr. Manning accompanied the party.

Everyone was favourably impressed with the whole project. One could hardly fail to realize the usefulness of the work being done and the excellent training the men were receiving. The whole atmosphere of the place reflected very creditably on the Forest Service, due to the competent way the whole programme of work under Mr. Schultz was being handled.

An interim report in the form of a little booklet with photographs has been prepared on this Y. M. F. T. P., copy of which is being sent to each District Forester. It is regretted that we cannot afford to forward any more copies on account of the cost. It is felt that the success of this plan may do much to popularize forestry in this Province. Every forest officer should do everything he can to assist, under this Plan, any of these young fellows with whom he comes in contact. It is rumoured that the programme may be considerably enlarged next year, and everyone can realize what a help this would be in our improvement programme and other phases of our forest protection work.

There is no holding George Barnes of the Forest Research Division these days. He is still celebrating the arrival, on August 15th, of a son, James Wallace. Our hearty congratulations to George and Mrs. Barnes on this happy occasion.

Our Editor, Dick Orchard, is enjoying a holiday in the balmy climate of California. It's all right--we understand his good wife is with him. We miss our guess if he doesn ' t come back with enough forestry news and dope on new gadgets to keep the News Letter going for some time.

Miss Helen Forbes, Clerk-Stenographer in the Nelson District Office, has resigned after 10 years' service with the Branch. We understand a little fellow with bow and arrows has been hanging around the District office and our next News Letter will probably record the latest achievement in his ancient art.

We regret to announce the death of George G. MacAfee at Victoria on August 28th. George, who was a veteran of the Great War and an Amputation case, was employed in Headquarters Records Office and was formerly a member of the District Office staff at Nelson. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

Percy Barr, late Forester in charge of the Research Division and now Professor at the University of California, was renewing old acquaintances at Head Office during the week of August 12th.