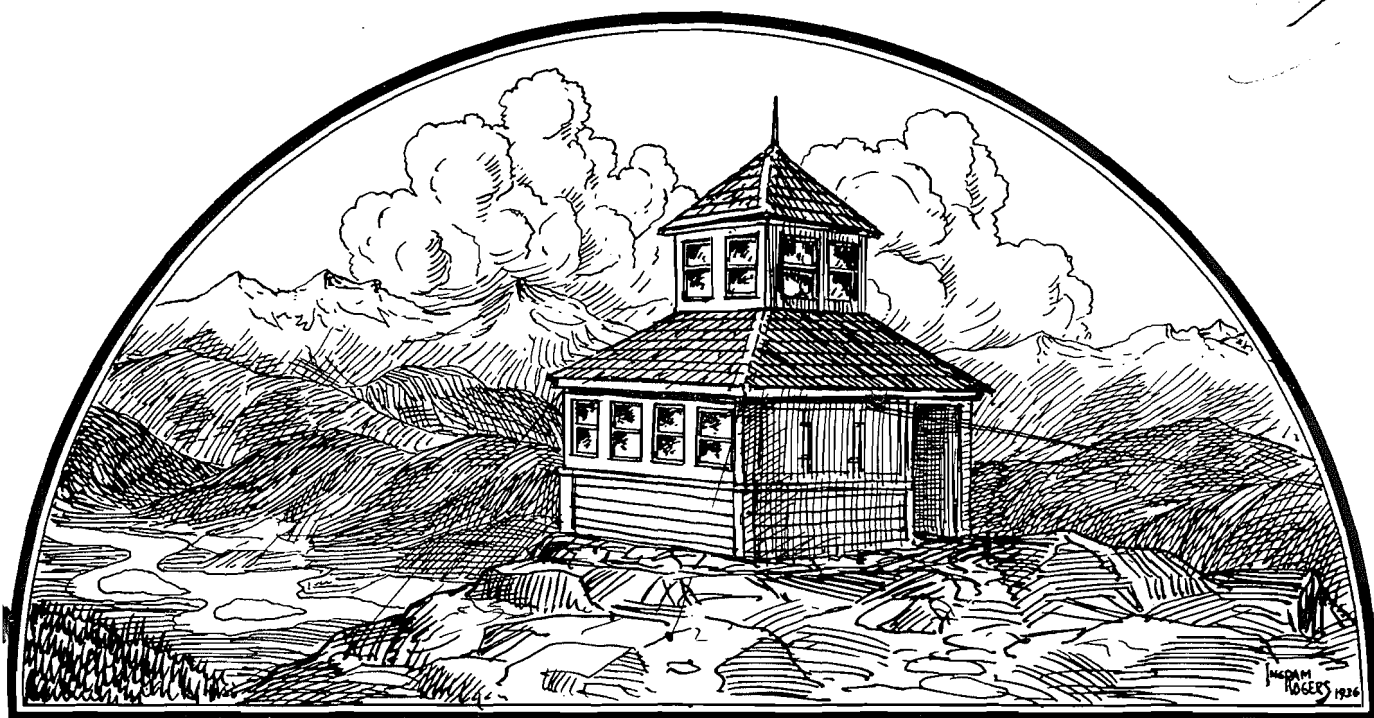




The Eyes of the Forest Service—a Lookout Station

FOREST BRANCH NEWS LETTER

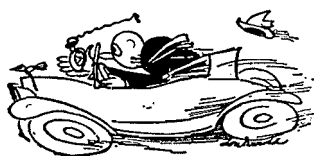
An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense, 'n' opinion, compiled from time to time by anybody who has the time, for the profit, amusement and annoyance of the staff. Nobody to blame but the contributors.

No. 12

Victoria, B.C., Sept. 15, 1936.

08581

The fire situation recently relieved by timely rains, developed to rather alarming proportions since our last letter. Perhaps we neglected to touch wood as we wrote a month ago. Whatever the cause, the Nelson District, and to only a slightly less extent the Kamloops District, have been "enjoying" a bad time. Fires on the Elk and Flathead joined up with others in Alberta, reminding us of the crack made during the 1931 season that we had used the Rocky Mountains for a fire break but it didn't hold.



Messrs. Melrose and Taylor made rush trips to these two Districts and remained throughout the month of August watching the lightning starting new ones and the strenuous attempts to put out the old ones. Taylor, who flew over the Elk and Flathead fires when things were at their worst, reports that Alberta had 25 acres on fire for every one of ours so perhaps we didn't get off so badly.

We will have to await vouchers and reports for costs and damage but the Protection Fund, fairly healthy in the spring, will probably look reasonably sick before the last account is in. Number of fires at last report was 1,402 as compared with 937 a year ago and 1,434 in 1934. The hazard has continued negligible in Prince George, Prince Rupert and Vancouver Districts.



We deeply regret the death of two fire fighters, A. Skiba of Cranbrook and W.H. Podavilnekoff of Brilliant. The first-named was one of four trapped on a fire near Munroe Lake. The other three escaped with severe burns. Podavilnekoff was killed by a falling tree on a fire near Salmo.

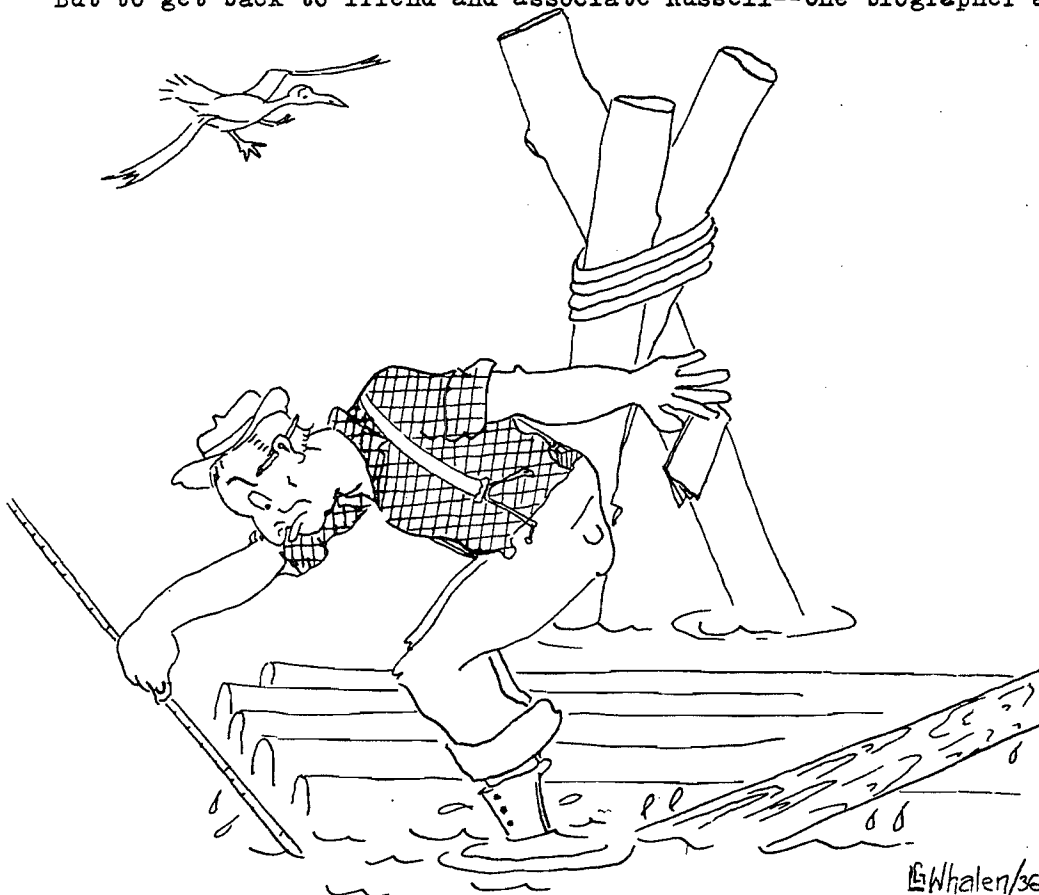
The Y.M.F.T.P. continues to do excellent work and lots of it. Reports from all parts of the Province are complimentary. The Ranger Assistants have earned recognition as valuable Forest Officers, especially in the busy fire districts. The Camps at the Experiment Stations make us want to join up every time we visit them. We don't know much about the trail crews from personal contact but if they are as good as they are reported to be they are just a little ahead of the standard. One crew on the Nitinat-Cowichan Lake Trail are publishing their own paper, "The Hobnail Trail Courier--Largest Circulation in the Nitinat", several copies of which have found their way to this office.

The Editor complains in a late number that "some upstart rag by the name of Colonist is attempting to gain a foothold in Nitinat" but so far as we know the Courier is holding its own. We reproduce elsewhere a typical issue culled at random from those at hand, also a sketch of the editor in his search for the peaches. His fame has gone abroad as we found this in a foreign publication. Not being able to print as badly as the publisher or to draw as well as the cartoonist we reproduce this sample number under difficulties.



We have nothing to say regarding the literary quality of the contents of the new publication. Perhaps in view of our own efforts it is just as well that we haven't. But we do like the spirit which converts the curse of mosquitoes, no-see-ems, back-packing, and doughnuts with holes in the middle into the Courier.

No. 2 drawing for our "Who's Who" column falls on Russell (J.R.) McKinlay, Official Scaler, Vancouver, and we are so well supplied with material, two life histories, a photograph, and an artist's sketch of McKinlay at work, that we find it difficult to condense it all to our allotted space. For one thing our present victim introduces the official scaling staff to the pages of the News Letter, or vice versa. We hear so little about them that some of us will be asking questions. If you don't know them look them up in the Act. Rangers, District Foresters, Patrolmen, Foresters--they all get more or less into the limelight but the Official Scalers go about their work so quietly, efficiently and unassumingly that we hardly realize they are there. And that's about the best compliment we can pay them, for their chances for trouble and limelight are plenty. But to get back to friend and associate Russell--one biographer advises that he



EWhalen/36

joined the Scaling staff in 1923 so is by way of being an "old timer"; was engaged for years in the lumber business before he became a scaler; married, three boys and one girl (family that is), comments freely on his mental, physical and moral traits--says for instance that he has a sense of humour and looks young "with his hat on." We can see he looks young with his hat on. If we were certain of the sense of humour we'd quote a lot more.

The gist of the second write-up is that he was born but the writer doesn't know when or where. Deduces from his sense of humour and ability in argument that he is Irish. (Incidentally one son is through U.B.C. and is studying law. Apparently inherited his father's gift o'gab and missed out entirely on the humour.) One comment we like is that "he has enough will power to quit smoking every once in a while and enough sense to start again when he finds his poundage increasing too rapidly during his abstinence." The same sketch congratulates Mrs. McKinlay on her choice of a husband.

If you can make a write-up out of all that you are welcome to try your hand. Anyway he sounds like a regular guy to us.

Largest Circulation in the Nitinat.

THE HOBNAIL TRAIL COURIER

Angus McMillan - Editor
Paul Hooper - Reporter
Don Hughes - Cartoonist



Sees all
Hears all
Nos NOTHING

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FAMINE IN NITINAT

MEN STARVING BY THE DOZEN

The famine in Nitinat has now reached the third day. Search parties struggled out through blinding rainstorms hunting for canned peaches which are believed to be somewhere in the vicinity of Youbou.

All hope has been abandoned for the survivors at Camp 3+. Supplies are expected sometime in September.

A list of victims will be published at a later date.

WAR IN NITINAT

By order of a council of victims war has been declared on "no-see-ems".

Farmer, at one time in danger of hanging for the murder of a mosquito, has been awarded the "order of the purple stripes".

Among the injured is Doc Ward who was spotted by the enemy while leaning over the Grand Canyon.

A Y ↙ B
 ↗ C K D

Picture of a family of no-see-ems.

A-mother C-sister
B-father D-brother.

CRIMINALS GET OFF.

Grant & Tuttle were recently tried for claim jumping. They got off although anybody could see they are guilty.

This space reserved for late news.

Lately our fat friend has been caught returning borrowed goods. He must be in reverse.

Local Comment

Farmer has exchanged his purple panties for ones with a shade of blue in them (what next).

100 pounds of spuds packed "Farmer" in from Camp 3 yesterday. Don't ask us why.

A wind blew two trees over a creek today. Hooper claims the credit. He might get credit for the wind.

MOSQUITO MENACE INCREASING

Possibly these little pests have something to do with our depression. The victims have taken to swearing in shorthand so as to get out more words per second. Dictipator Hobson is trying out his Chinook or something in an effort to clear the air of these vampires.

MIDNIGHT DEBAUCH.

Supplies of Candy have somehow got as far as Nitinat. Victims of the drug have been found chewing it in the bush. Watson is believed to be the arch fiend who has smuggled in this tooth destroying stuff.



Dinner Table Rhapsody

WEEKLY APOLOGIES.

This paper wishes to apologize for the articles it printed last week concerning P. Hooper & G. Grant. The articles were uncalled for as everyone already knew the facts.



Picture of an average man taking a bath in Nitinat water.

Several members of the camp passed their first test in the "Order of Plug Guzzlers & Snooze Suckers". A number of applicants have withdrawn.

IMAGINATION.

A young man is tripping along. He trips on his beezers and dirties his KNEEZERS. On getting up he sees a bear sniffing at his tracks. He says "You like my tracks? I'll make you a lot more." You can still hear him singing "Feet, Do THY DUTY." On reaching camp the bear had grown to 50" by 60". Such growth! He tells me the feminine of bear is bearess. Ek. Tsk. I wonder the young man hasn't been the same since.

Listen Jack, - if you want us to eat your doughnuts kindly remove the hole from the centre and wrap it around the outside.

We have been telling ourselves for years that we should be much more active in telling the other fellow what it's all about. So long as there are a few trees standing and a little young growth here and there, there will be no pressing forestry problems for the average observer unless we point out that one tree doesn't make a forest and one acre of young growth doesn't restock a province. Dr. C.D. Howe, Dean of the Forest School at the University of Toronto, returning from a trip to Europe, has some pertinent remarks to make along this line. The following by Dean Howe is quoted, without his knowledge or permission, from the Annual News Letter of the Foresters Club of Toronto University:

"One of the most impressive things observed on my Scandinavian trip last summer was the fact that while forestry was accepted by the public as a necessary practice--in one country for the past one hundred years--yet it is necessary to keep up a constant public agitation along educational lines. Eternal vigilance seems to be the price of forestry as well as of other worthwhile things. In these countries of course they have the advantage of being able to show the people what can be done through successful demonstrations. There are several organizations in each country whose business it is to see that the people visit forestry operations--school children, boy scouts, farmers' sons, young men taking their militia training, woodlot owners and business men. In fact provision is made so that all these groups may take part in some phase of forestry work from a day's time up to several weeks. And in addition to all this there is constant pressure on the public by really popular forestry magazines, often with articles by farmers telling what they have accomplished with their woodlots, and by high school students describing their experiences in planting.

"These countries are also far ahead of anything I have seen in putting up attractive and compelling exhibits at county fairs through diagrams, posters, cartoons and models illustrating forest conditions, statistics of production and forestry practice. The literature at these exhibits is abundant and easy to read, that is by a native of the country. At one country fair that I visited, wall space about sixty feet by twelve feet was covered by posters and on a table were twenty-six pamphlets, issued by governmental organizations and popular forestry societies, describing various phases of forestry work; also an eight-page weekly newspaper devoted chiefly to what was going on in forestry.

"If all this is necessary in countries of generally accepted and widely applied forestry practice how much more is it essential in a country like Canada. I appeal to you again to help more than you have in the past in the very essential and fundamental work of public education in forestry."

There is nothing very new in a forest officer being called on in an emergency. Especially along the C.N.R. from Rupert to Red Pass where road communication is not too good it is quite the thing to call on the Ranger in the middle of the night to get an emergency case to hospital but we seldom hear about it. Sid Cooper and Joe McLaren (Terrace) have broken into print however as a result of their efforts in the case of flood conditions on the Skeena last spring. You will find the story in the August issue of "Forest and Outdoors."

The latest contribution to the "Rhymed Argument" comes from G.B. Carter, Ranger Assistant, Vernon:

All you fellows that knock and slam,
At Waller's poem, refined and calm,
Should know better, you'll all agree.
(Outside the hang-over from your last spree.)

You rant and rare, pant and tear,
And holler as if you'd had a scare,
But you know damn well you wouldn't trade,
Your job for all the "Hussies" made.

When it's hot, and you're dead with the heat,
The good old bush is your retreat;
Pretend you don't like it, curse it with verse,
Go without it, you'll be ready for the hearse.

So for goodness' sake give Waller a break,
Give in a little; we can always take
A lesson from it, the forest green,
For when you retire you'll see what I mean.

Let's give him a hand for a darn good poem,
For many a night you've made a home;
You'll be doing it still for many a year,
And when you're too old, you'll view with a tear
Your days in the bush--do I make myself clear?

The usual correspondence courses will be available again this year. Subjects are detailed below. The rules should be common knowledge now--one man, one course, application to be made to the District Forester before the end of September. Available subjects are listed below.

There is added this year a course on the subject of Forestry. This is a general outline in 20 lessons--rather longer than any of our other courses--being prepared by the Service for the Department of Education, and available to the staff through the District offices. There is much in this course that will be purely elementary for Rangers, and much that will be new and valuable.

No other announcement will be made of these correspondence courses this year. If you want to take advantage of one of them send your application early to the District office.

COURSES

Surveying	Phone Line Construction	Typewriting
Management	Forestry (new)	Operation
Forest Act	Arithmetic	Stumpage Appraisal
Grazing	Scaling	

A recent application from a "Miss" to take the Licenced Scalors' exam raised the question as to whether she could or whether she couldn't. As nearly as we can find out the "Sex Disqualification Removal Act" of 1931, subject to all those limitations the legal mind loves to throw in, does what it says it does; in other words a she is as good as a he when it comes to Civil Service appointments. We have had more than one girl on lookouts. Now the scaling staff. Girl Rangers next.

From a recent logging inspection report: "This operation is being carried on by two old men with a gas rig--a cross between a boom wench and a drag saw."

From a final fire report: "Owner age 84 and housekeeper age over 70 are the only parties on this area." Assistance without pay "2 men for an hour and owner's housekeeper".

"Prince George held a grand parade in connection with the 1st of July Celebrations. There were a number of worthy floats, but Mr. Editor, if we do have to say it ourselves to you, there was none which drew so much attention as that in the cause of Forest Protection. Two of our Ranger Assistants, Victor Blue and Bell Porter took in hand the construction of a float which featured a tractor and truck logging operation sawmill situated on a lake complete with logs and running stream. The C.N.R. was shown passing through the area and in the background was seen Pilot Mountain Lookout with radio antenna and one of the regular Forest Service Tool Caches while the car carried flags and bunting with two large signs bearing the Forest Protection slogan. So much interest was shown that following the parade the float was placed in the showroom of the Prince George Motors where large numbers visited it."

Present-day children get little thrill out of hearing radio originating on the other side of the world, but when Sam Marling took our short wave receiver to the Prince George Public School the pupils got a great kick out of hearing Lookoutman Albert Biederman broadcast from Pilot Mountain Lookout. Probably it was Biederman's Scotch accent.

Biederman himself is no mean man. He recently found it necessary on the Mountain top to compete with a bear for his water supply. The bear thought he needed a bath more than Biederman needed drinking water. When this argument got hot enough and Biederman thirsty enough he popped the bear off with a 22 and is now monarch of all he surveys from his tower.

F.S. McKinnon (Research) was married on August 15th to Miss B.M. Ruttan at Victoria. They were presented with a silver tray by the Victoria office. They left the same day for California. Mac is attending the University of California at Berkeley this year working for his doctor's degree.

Geo. Barnes (Research) resigned on the first of September to accept an appointment as Assistant Professor at the University of Utah.

"Attending the Civil Service picnic (Victoria) this year your Observer notes that there are some uncommonly pretty girls in the Service and as the majority of them spent the day in their bathing dresses or, as he aptly puts it, in their 'next-to-nothings' he saw 'more' of them than he had ever seen before, and they reminded him of that old song from the 'Belle of New York':"

"When you see the little beauts,
Tripping in their bathing suits,
You'll be glad that it is Summer,
You'll be glad that you're alive."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THE FOREST BRANCH LIBRARY

July 15th to August 31st, 1936

- .05 Journal of Forestry, July, 1936.
- .05 Imperial Forestry Institute - Current Monthly Record of Forest Literature. June - July, 1936.
- .1413 Forest Soil Surveys - C.C. Heimburger.
- .911 Forests in Relation to Climate, Water Conservation and Erosion.
- .1413 Pedology - (the Science of Soils) - J.S. Joffe.
- .8 The Major Range Problems and Their Solution - Separate No. 1 of Senate Document No. 199.
- .05 Current Forestry Literature - U.S. Forest Service. May - June, 1936.
- .061 Sixteenth Annual Report of the Forestry Commissioners for the year ending September 30, 1936, London.
U.S. Forest Products Laboratory - List of Publications January 1 to June 30, 1936.
- .05 Monthly Weather Review - April - May, 1936.
- .7182 Summary of Stand and Increment. New Brunswick.
- .2 Timber Growing and Logging Practice in Ponderosa Pine in the Northwest.
Report of the Construction Industry in Canada, 1934.
- .08 Forest Products Laboratories of Canada - Programme of Work - 1936-1937.