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Examination of Messrs. Langstroth and Ternan of the B.C.
Forest Service on May 11th, 1939, at Victoria, concern-
ing the large Campbell River Fire of 1938.

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Mr. Lundell: What was the condition of the ground, Mr. Langstroth?

Mr. Langstroth: How do you mean?

Mr. Lundell: Was it dry?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, it was dry.

Mr. Lundell: I believe you said you called Mr. Ternan that night
by phone. Was Mr. Ternan in Vancouver?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, I called him in Vancouver.

Mr. Lundell: I see. Did you report to Mr. Ternan?

Mr. Langstroth: I reported the condition as I saw it at the time.

Mr. Lundell: That was about 1 o'clock?

Mr. Langstroth: Approximately 1 o'clock.

Mr. Lundell: Did you call from Campbell River?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, from Campbell River.

Mr. Lundell: You left the scene of the fire around midnight?

Mr. Langstroth: Around midnight.

Mr. Lundell: Were Mr. Daly, Mr. Lund and Coy all at the scene
of the fire at the time you left?

Mr. Langstroth: I think I am right now. We went up. Mr. Lund
and Mr. Coy stayed up and Mr. Daly came down on
the speeder that brought me down.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go up the following day, the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: At what time?

Mr. Langstroth: I went into Bloedel's camp about...I think it was
about 7 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Lundell: On Wednesday, July 5th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, I waited for Mr. Ternan to arrive by plane.

Mr. Lundell: Did Mr. Ternan arrive?

Mr. Langstroth: He arrived.

Mr. Lundell: And did you go out together?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, we went out together?

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Mr. Langstroth: Yes, we went out together.

Mr. Lundell: At what time about?

Mr. Langstroth: I went up to the fire by speeder and arrived about

9 o'clock. That is, up in the woods.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go in by Bloedel's main line Branch 21 and 21C?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, could not get on 21C at that time..went down to the switch at Branch 21.

Mr. Lundell: And then you walked on down? You were getting close?

Mr. Langstroth: We were at it. Our movements after that were pretty hard to detail. We were here and there and back again.

Mr. Lundell: Could you tell me just where the fire was burning that morning when you arrived?

Mr. Langstroth: From just south of the spur of 21 and 21C. South of it. It had pretty well cleaned up on all Branch 21C, that is, working west. It had gone south to the felled and bucked.

Mr. Lundell: And had not hit the swamp we referred to a while ago?

Mr. Filberg: At what time was this?

Mr. Langstroth: At 10 o'clock. When we had time to get around and see what had happened on that side. As far as how far the fire had gone out into old burn, that is rather hard to state.

Mr. Lundell: That is, south of Cosling Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, south and east, but it had gone down in spots.

Mr. Lundell: Could you tell how far east it had gone?

Mr. Langstroth: Could not tell in morning it was...

Mr. Lundell: Did you go around to the east side of Cosling Lake that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Around part of it. Not clear around.

Mr. Lundell: Around the south end of the Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: The south end was all on fire. We were down to Campbell Lake south of Cosling..around that end of it

Mr. Lundell: And up to the east side?

Mr. Langstroth: No, not that day.

Mr. Lundell: You were not able to tell how far east the fire was burning that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Only to guess at it.

Mr. Lundell: What was the condition of the weather that day?

Mr. Langstroth: The wind had changed to south-east---light south-east, and slightly cloudy.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have some conversations with the officials of the Biceidel Company that day? Will you please tell us.

Mr. Langstroth: We were in touch with them by phone.

Mr. Lundell: Who were they?

Mr. Langstroth: The same three--Joy, Dely and Eric Lund.

Mr. Lundell: What discussion did you have?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, it is hard to state just what was said. We were discussing ways and means. As time went on the fire was giving trouble and we were trying to organize to keep it crossing Branch 21 to the west. They had a good part of the crew concentrated on that end of 21 to the switch and down to Branch 21. I had pumps in that swamp or lake you mentioned. It was part of the connecting link in the fire line on Boot Lake over to the south-east. The Cat worked on through cutting line in a south-east direction.

Mr. Lundell: That is south-east of Boot Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: They cut the road to the swamp quite early in the day...had pumps in over Cat road.

Mr. Lundell: Where was the Cat?

Mr. Langstroth: Worked on south-east over the ridge and down towards the Campbell.

Mr. Lundell: That is on the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Do I understand only one Cat was used in fire-fighting on the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe so..don't know of any other.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any discussion with regard to cutting of a fire trail around the south end and around the east side of Cosling Lake on the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: I started in on a fire break on the east side of Cosling Lake about half way down the Lake and worked around..Cut it off and worked on south...then on east and I do not know if there was any discussion about it other than to get on extending them.

Mr. Lundell: Are you sure that was on the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not know that there was any special discussion about taking that action on the 6th. They were heading for that direction and it was a case of keep on going until you get around.

Mr. Lundell: The Cat was heading in that direction?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, but the biggest fight we had...

Mr. Lundell: Was to keep it from one (part?) of the cold deck and felled and bucked to meet at their cutting into Branch 210?

Mr. Lundell: You do not know of any other discussion that took place that day with any of the Bloedel Company officials?

Mr. Langstroth: I cannot remember anything special that occurred on that day..any more than that.

Mr. Lundell: Did you give the Bloedel Company any instructions with regard to fire-fighting on either the 5th or 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: It was more in the nature of a discussion than it was an order or anything of that nature. We were on their operation..their crew..and we discussed ways and means and which would be better to do and in some cases did not (get up?)

Mr. Lundell: In other words, they were running the show.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, they were running the show in that regard.

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Mr. Lundell: Did you have any men of your own in there?

Mr. Langstroth: Only one.

Mr. Lundell: The pumpmen who was there the day previous?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did he work on the pump all that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did you state you were at the scene of the fire all of the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, we were there all day. I cannot quote the time we came out. Perhaps I have something written in my diary, but I believe it was approximately dark before we made any attempt to leave the scene.

Mr. Lundell: You and Mr. Terman were there together all day?

Mr. Langstroth: Not together but forth and back and round together quite a bit. That was night. We came down and went on the speeder (to) C.R.T. and had a look after we came.

Mr. Lundell: You went down Gosling Creek?

Mr. Langstroth: No. We went down our line and came on speeder and had a look from the lakeshore.

Mr. Lundell: You went down the Elcedel line to the beach and came back C.R.T. line and took a look at the fire from the Campbell Lake side? Then you were following the course of the fire on the east side of Gosling Lake, were you not?

Mr. Langstroth: Pretty well.

Mr. Lundell: How far east of Gosling Lake was the fire burning the night of the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Approximately half a mile I would say.

Mr. Filberg: How far south was it burning the night of the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: It had spotted right down to the C.R.T. track; in fact, one spot was across the track between there and the Lake.

Mr. Filberg: The night of the 6th?

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Mr. Lundell: When you speak of spotting I presume you mean the fire had jumped that far ahead over the C.R.T. track.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, that is right.

Mr. Lundell: The fire in that area and east of the Coaling, was it a series of spot fires or solid fire?

Mr. Langstroth: More spot fires, some pretty big spots.

Mr. Filberg: How far ahead of the main fire?

Mr. Langstroth: Probably about half a mile--that was the limit ahead of the main fire.

Mr. Lundell: What was the direction of the wind that night?

Mr. Langstroth: That night I think it was still trailing out of the south-east.

Mr. Filberg: There had been little wind on the 5th or 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Very little. No great amount at any time.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go to the fire on the 7th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did Mr. Terner accompany you? What time did you arrive?

Mr. Langstroth: I think we arrived about...between 6 and 7 if I am not mistaken.

Mr. Lundell: In the morning?

Mr. Langstroth: I am not sure. I do not know whether Mr. Terner remembers any more definitely than I do.

Mr. Filberg: How did you go in that time? Speeder?

? Over which track? Bloedel?

Mr. Lundell: Where was the fire burning that morning?

Mr. Langstroth: Just about the same all around as near as we could see the day before.

Mr. Filberg: How was the wind that morning?

Mr. Langstroth: Pretty well same condition..a little bit veering but very little wind.

Mr. Lundell: Was the weather the same?

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Mr. Langstroth: Much the same.

Mr. Lundell: Cloudy?

Mr. Langstroth: Cloudy.

Mr. Lundell: Cloudy but dry--no rain?

Mr. Langstroth: No, no rain. I think our records show humidity to be exceedingly high.

Mr. Lundell: What fire-fighting effort was made on the 7th?

Mr. Langstroth: They were continuing the Cat road up around the south-east and east side.

Mr. Lundell: Of Gosling Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, of the fire. I suppose it was east of Gosling Lake--to up on the ridge, but that quarter from the C.R.T. right around the track and working up the ridges to the east side.

Mr. Lundell: Just one Cat?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, one cat.

Mr. Lundell: And covering your line on the south-west--was that between Branch 21 and swamp. That was down below (?)

Mr. Langstroth: Well, farther south and east, the draw to Gosling Creek south of the lake up into Campbell and the ridge over lies to the west of that. We had to go right over the ridge.

Mr. Lundell: Had the fire crossed the fire trail between 21 and the swamp?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Still held?

Mr. Langstroth: There were spots that day but they were cut out. The line held.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any other fire-fighting effort on the south and whose side of the fire (?) the Cat you mentioned a minute ago on the 7th?

Mr. Langstroth: A Cat and a few men on Bioedel I believe was all.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any discussions with any officials

of the Bloedel Company on that day that you remember?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I don't believe there was anything on the fire line out of the ordinary in the way of just discussing ways and means, how it was going and so on.

Mr. Lundell: Mr. Fernan was with you that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, we were together and apart and so on...went around a lot together.

Mr. Lundell: Did you cover the whole fire area?

Mr. Langstroth: I did not cover all the area. I covered about three-quarters of it I think.

Mr. Lundell: What part was that?

Mr. Langstroth: From the part the Cat was working on line that day right around to the south and west and back up in to the north side.

Mr. Lundell: South and west and north side?

Mr. Langstroth: The piece in the east end I did not cover that day.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any change in the wind or the weather that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I am trying to think. I think it was so slight it did not matter. I believe that was the day there were some showers that did not hit us.

Mr. Lundell: Did not fall anywhere in the fire area?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Did you give any instructions to the Bloedel

officials that day?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I don't believe I did. Shipped in some equipment.

Mr. Lundell: You shipped in more. Some more Government equipment?

Mr. Langstroth: A bit more hose. Another pump anyhow. I forget which side of the 12 o'clock line. A third pump was in by that.

Mr. Lundell: That was the third Forest Branch pump that was in before midnight on the 7th?

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Mr. Manning: If you wish to refer to your diary for the weather probably it would be a whole lot better.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, perhaps it would be better in case I made a mistake with regard to those things. According to the weather I have noted here (consulting diary) I had the wind switching from south-east to north-west on the 7th.

Mr. Terman: (Interjected some remarks here, as in repeating Mr. Langstroth reversed his directions.) Mr. Wilberg and Mr. Lundell asked a few questions and Ranger Langstroth explained what he meant.

Mr. Lundell: Did you stay at the fire all day on the 7th?

Mr. Langstroth: Apparently I got back to Campbell at 21.45, that is, 9.45.

Mr. Lundell: With Mr. Terman?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, we came back together that day.

Mr. Lundell: Now on Friday, the 8th of July, did you go up to the scene of the fire again that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I was at the fire. I have not got here what time I arrived. I did not leave Campbell River before 9.50.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go out alone?

Mr. Langstroth: I had one of the Ranger Assistants with me.

Mr. Lundell: Mr. Terman did not go up with you?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go out the same way--the Blooded main line?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, apparently out the same way.

Mr. Lundell: Where was the fire burning that morning when you arrived?

Mr. Langstroth: Same place.

Mr. Lundell: No change there?

Mr. Langstroth: Very little, except that it was flattening down.

Mr. Lundell: Not burning so intensely?

Mr. Langstroth: No nothing near.

Mr. Lundell: Were there any spot fires around?

Mr. Langstroth: Oh, yes, there were quite a few of them.

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Mr. Lundell: All spots?

Mr. Langstroth: No, mostly on the south end.

Mr. Lundell: What do you mean by the "south end"?

Mr. Langstroth: The point that goes east following Gosling Creek.

Mr. Lundell: Between Gosling Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: The part that goes east of that end what was (?) the operation.

Mr. Lundell: On Lot 51?

Mr. Pilberg: Most southerly end of the fire?

Mr. Langstroth: Most southerly end of the fire.

Mr. Lundell: What were the fire-fighting efforts made that day-- the 3th?

Mr. Langstroth: We were having a bit of trouble between Root and Gosling Lake on the north side in spots. The fire was working into the fire break. That was the green timber that was left stretched across those two lakes north of 21 and 21C, the switch point of 21 and 21C.

Mr. Lundell: What was the disposition of the fire fighters?

Mr. Langstroth: There was quite a crew on the south end of the fire if I remember rightly. I am not referring to my diary for that now. We were using several pumps on the south end of the fire.

Mr. Lundell: The Gosling Creek area?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes. Both sides. I had two pumps anyway.

Mr. Lundell: In that pothole south-east of Bloodal in the swamp?

Mr. Langstroth: In the swamp. I had them working also on the north side in the fire break working out of Gosling Lake there was one and I believe they were still working on the east side of Gosling Lake.moved to (two?)....

Mr. Lundell: Pumps?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes. They backfired a couple of days before all that line they cut.

Mr. Lundell: Bloedel's had cut on the line they cut with the Cat?

Mr. Langstroth: No, another line.

Mr. Lundell: A hand trail.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: On the east side of Coaling Lake? Between Coaling Lake and green timber?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, green scrub.

Mr. Lundell: What was the state of the weather on the 8th?

Mr. Langstroth: I have a note here of the same thing--switching from north-west to south-east--light.

Mr. Lundell: Light wind. Cloudy or clear?

Mr. Langstroth: I have not that noted here, and I would not say whether it was cloudy or not.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any conversations or discussions with

Bloedel Company officials on that date?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not believe there was any other discussion.

Mr. Lundell: Were any instructions given by you.

Mr. Langstroth: I will tell you this: I went to Camp 10 that night. Does that mean anything to you?

Mr. Lundell: Yes, the Campbell River Timber Company camp.

Mr. Langstroth: That night the wind gave them trouble along the south-west side and they took fallers out.

Mr. Lundell: That night after they had come in from some part of the fire to fall snags?

Mr. Langstroth: Had brought back Camp 10. (?)

Mr. Lundell: Sent some fallers out from Camp 10 that night?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: On what part of the fire?

Mr. Langstroth: To the south-west side.

Mr. Lundell: Is that around Boot Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, south of Boot Lake, nearer Campbell than

Boot on the ridge between the (.....?)

Boot Lake and Campbell Lake south-west of the tip of Coaling Lake.

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- Mr. Lundell: Did you spend the night at Camp 10?
- Mr. Langstroth: Apparently there from 9.30 until 6.30 a.m. next morning.
- Mr. Lundell: Do you know how many fallers went out?
- Mr. Langstroth: Well, there was a speeder load. I would not say how many there were on it. I would make a guess of probably a dozen on that. That is just a guess that is all. Ordinarily they would not have fallers out at night.
- Mr. Lundell: What if any operations were carried on by the Elsie Company on the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th--logging operations.
- Mr. Langstroth: I do not think there were any. I do not know of any.
- Mr. Lundell: Did you tell me whether you gave any instructions to anyone in the Elsie organization on the 8th. I was not sure whether you said so or not.
- Mr. Langstroth: I do not believe I did.
- Mr. Lundell: The 9th--that was a Saturday. Did you go back to the fire on the 9th--from Camp 10?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, from Camp 10. I left the camp at 6.30 in the morning. I would not have been more than half an hour getting down at the outside. Went up the C.R.T. main line and up Cosling Lake where I was working along with a (ironbar) on the south-west side again that morning.
- Mr. Lundell: Was that side still the travelled area?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, it was.
- Mr. Lundell: Were fires spotting in that area?
- Mr. Langstroth: We had to ship pumps to get water to a higher elevation. I believe that was the morning they shipped a pump into Cosling Lake to get water up over that ridge.
- Mr. Lundell: Could you tell us in general terms the boundaries of the fire that morning you arrived there?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, the switch point on Branch 21 and 21C at the very tip in the notch was burned out and heading south of Branch 21. I saved one small cold-deck pile. That is, you gather the fire was kept from burning that. This cold-deck pile was on the east side of Branch 21. I saved this one small pile. Then the boundary following south from there followed 21 until I turned off to the swamp south-east of Boot Lake, then from the swamp south and south-east over that ridge and down the west side, keeping to the west side anyway of Cosling Creek until you get about a quarter of a mile above the crossing of Cosling Creek and the C.R.T. main line. Then the fire line crosses Cosling Creek and tied in further east to the C.R.T. main line.

Mr. Lundell: Came right down?

Mr. Langstroth: Went at an angle, if you understand.

Mr. Lundell: What about that spot that had been burned south of the C.R.T. main line on the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe at that time it was pretty well out.

Mr. Lundell: Where did it go from there?

Mr. Langstroth: Followed along the C.R.T. main line for a quarter of a mile, maybe more. The Cat road went up over the ridges then. Tied in to odd grades and finally the Cat road wound up on the east side of what had been a swamp hole almost up to the green scrub on the ridge at the north.

Mr. Lundell: Is that the ridge between Cosling and Loveland Lakes?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What was the condition of the fire that morning--the 9th?

Mr. Langstroth: Pretty flat.

Mr. Lundell: What do you mean by that?

Mr. Langstroth: There was very little smoke showing.

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- Mr. Lundell: Was the fire smoldering?
- Mr. Langstroth: Oh, yes, plenty of smoldering spots.
- Mr. Lundell: All inside the boundaries mentioned?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes.
- Mr. Lundell: What was the weather like that morning?
- Mr. Langstroth: I have noted on here showers.
- Mr. Lundell: On the 9th?
- Mr. Langstroth: Wind: south-east, light.
- Mr. Filberg: What time was that--the hour of the showers?
- Mr. Langstroth: I have not a note. I could make a guess. I think that shower came in some early hours of the morning but I cannot swear to that.
- Mr. Lundell: Have you any record as to whether the showers were light or heavy?
- Mr. Langstroth: They were not heavy.
- Mr. Lundell: Intermittent?
- Mr. Langstroth: No. There was only just one I remember spotting the dust.
- Mr. Lundell: That is the one you speak of early in the morning of the 9th?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes. There may be other records to show..
- Mr. Lundell: What was the disposition of the fire-fighting forces on the 9th, Mr. Langstroth?
- Mr. Langstroth: Well, they were strung out pretty well all around I believe all that day.
- Mr. Lundell: All around the whole fire boundary?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, more or less all around the fire, but the south-west side was the one that needed the most attention.
- Mr. Lundell: You are still referring to that ridge west of Gosling Creek?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, that is, the south-west side.
- Mr. Lundell: Did you have any conversations or.... discussions with Bloedel Company officials that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I apparently did, from my diary, if I may quote.
I have here I went around the east end of the fire and made an inspection of the Cat road fire line and an open portion that had to be filled in around the green scrub by digging out and so on, and discussed that with Daly after I met him, if my memory serves me right, that is the day we just had enough spots to show the lake.....
.....
Did not amount to anything as (you?) went. I believe I met him on the east side of Gosling Lake and discussed with him the fact that there was a fire line to be connected up along the green scrub. There was a gap there in the fire line of that green scrub.

Mr. Lundell: Is that the green scrub you referred to before, east of Gosling, between Gosling and Loveland Lakes?
Mr. Langstroth: Yes, much nearer to Gosling than to Loveland.
Mr. Lundell: Do you remember having any conversations that day?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I doubt if there was anything discussed further.
Mr. Lundell: Remember giving any instructions that day?

Mr. Langstroth: No, only that discussion about--

Mr. Lundell: The fire trail gap that you mentioned? Did you bring in any further equipment?

Mr. Langstroth: No, not at that time. It was some days before we brought the extra hose in.

Mr. Lundell: Were you alone that day or was Mr. Fernan with you?

Mr. Langstroth: He was not there.

Mr. Lundell: Do you know if any logging operations were carried on on Saturday the 9th?

Mr. Langstroth: None I know of.

Mr. Lundell: Now we come to Sunday the 10th. Were you at the scene of the fire on the 10th?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I was not.

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Mr. Lundell: Where were you that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I was in the office part of the time.

Mr. Lundell: At Campbell River?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, at Oyster River, and I had to make a trip to Nanaimo. Came back late that night.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any telephone conversations with any officials or employees of the Bloedel Company?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not remember any.

Mr. Lundell: Do you have a record of the weather and direction of the wind.

Mr. Langstroth: I have showers noted here on that day.

Mr. Lundell: Extensive showers?

Mr. Langstroth: Not extensive. I have wind marked here, both a light breeze and stronger out of the south-east and also north-west.

Mr. Lundell: They veered apparently around to north-west some time during the day?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Any record as to weather clear or clearing that day after the showers?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I have not.

Mr. Lundell: Did you at any time on or before July 10th give Bloedel any permits to resume logging operations?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Now, on the 11th of July, Monday. Did you go back to the scene of the fire.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: At what time?

Mr. Langstroth: It was later on in the day. At 10.00 I left Campbell River apparently. I went in by Forbes Landing--took a kicker and boat.

Mr. Lundell: Went right up to the head of Campbell Lake.

Mr. Langstroth: To the edge of the fire, the nearest point to the lakeshore, near Gosling Creek.

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Mr. Lundell: What time approximately did you arrive?

Mr. Langstroth: If I remember I was there before noon. I think it was about 11 o'clock.

Mr. Lundell: What were the boundaries of the fire then when you arrived.

Mr. Langstroth: I believe they were the same as previously.

Mr. Lundell: On the Saturday?

Mr. Langstroth: On the 9th.

Mr. Lundell: What was the state of the fire?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, it was pretty flat.

Mr. Lundell: Was the fire still smoldering?

Mr. Langstroth: The odd smoulder but the bit of work was being done most on the south-west side. There was not very much of that because there was not much showing.

Mr. Lundell: Apparently not much fire showing?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Were there any spot fires showing on the east side of Gosling Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not remember seeing any. If I am right in my memory that is the day that I could not count any from the opposite hill.

Mr. Lundell: What hill?

Mr. Langstroth: From the west side of Gosling Creek. I went up the side of it that day.

Mr. Lundell: You could not see any (from there?) (flame?)

Mr. Langstroth: I believe I am right in saying I could not see any (flame ?)

Mr. Lundell: You did not go over the ground of the fire trails?

Mr. Filberg: On the south end of the fire did you go over the fire trail?

Mr. Langstroth: Just there where I left the boat following around to the west.

Mr. Lundell: That would be from the head of the Lake west?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What was the weather like that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe it was cool. I have noted here light south-east as far as wind goes. No rain.

Mr. Lundell: Do you remember how the fire fighting forces were distributed?

Mr. Langstroth: There was the odd man anywhere I went on the trail. That is all I'd be able to say I guess on that.

Mr. Lundell: Any pumps?

Mr. Langstroth: Oh, yes, pumps still running at various points.

Mr. Lundell: Along the fire trails you covered?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, along the fire trails I covered--Cosling Creek and that pothole swamp.

Mr. Filberg: This was essential to prevent the fire from going west?

Mr. Langstroth: That side I went on that day, yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any conversations with any of the Bleedel Company officials?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, I met Tom Daly, but I know it was just around quitting time--ordinary quitting time--somewhere about there at Switch 21 and 21C. It was a little ahead of quitting time because when I met Daly that night he told me there had been a call at Campbell River about fire in the Elk and I remember I got a call through from the switch point to the office, asked for a car to meet me and we got down on a speeder ahead of the creek (?)

Mr. Lundell: Far (fire?) up the Elk Valley?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Is that the only conversation you remember having that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe that was the day Mr. Daly told me.....

Mr. Manning: (interrupted at this point) Wrong.

Mr. Lundell: Did you know anything about Bleedel's(?)

Just what you were told?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe that was what I was told.

Mr. Lundell: You had no personal connection with that....(?)

266

Mr. Ferris: What do you mean?

Mr. Lundell: You did not yourself (give permission) to resume?

Mr. Filberg: Did you instruct them not to?

Did not instruct them not to.

Mr. Lundell: You did not give?

Mr. Filberg: You knew they had resumed?

Mr. Lundell: That night as you said?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: It was the only time you met him that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe that was correct.

Mr. Lawson: That is the 11th.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any change in the fire situation on

Monday the 11th?

Mr. Langstroth: No. The matter of patrol and odd pump here and there.

Had been that way several days.

Mr. Lundell: No conversations with any men on the 11th other

than the one you mentioned?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not think so.

Mr. Lundell: Tuesday, the 12th. Mr. Langstroth, were you back

at the scene of the fire that day.

Mr. Langstroth: No, I was not at the fire that day at all. The

night before I was up at the Upper Elk Valley and

some time after dark...I did not get away from there

until near 11 o'clock I suppose before I left

Campbell Lake.

Mr. Lundell: On the night of the 12th.

Mr. Langstroth: On the night of the 11th I went up. I (saw) the

next day and I was feeling haywire and hit bed

when I got home.

Mr. Lundell: Were any of your men up at the Bloodel Fire?

On the 12th?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not think so.

Mr. Lundell: Have you any record of the weather on the 12th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, north-west light--that and calm.

Mr. Lundell: Clear or cloudy?

Mr. Langstroth: Did not check that. No rainfall that day.

No record of any rainfall. Either no wind or light north-west breeze.

Mr. Lundell: No record as to cool or hot, clear or cloudy?

Mr. Langstroth: If my memory serves me it was fairly cloudy.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any conversations with any of

Bloedel's officials by telephone that day--that is the 12th?

Mr. Langstroth: I would not be sure.

Mr. Lundell: You do not recall any.

Mr. Langstroth: I believe I called up and asked how things were going.

Mr. Lundell: You do not remember to whom you spoke or what response you got?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: On Wednesday, the 13th, were you at the fire on that day--the Bloedel fire?

Mr. Langstroth: I was up there about dark. It would be perhaps 9 o'clock, until a little after midnight.

Mr. Lundell: 9 o'clock on the evening of the 13th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Until midnight. What was the situation then?

Mr. Langstroth: The wind had picked up a lot of the smoldering spots inside the (grade).

Mr. Filberg: Where were you at 9.00 P.M. on July 13th?

Mr. Langstroth: At the very south end of it. Went up the Lake, Campbell Lake by boat to the head of Campbell Lake. Just to the edge of the fire.

Mr. Lundell: What ground did you cover during the three hours?

Mr. Langstroth: Just that south-east corner.

From the point where I landed.

Mr. Lundell: In an easterly direction?

Mr. Langstroth: East and north and west and north.

Mr. Lundell: And west and north.

268

254

21.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, up along Gosling Creek on the west side and across the ridges on the east side a ways.

Mr. Lundell: Following fire trails on both sides?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: You went on back by these spot fires. Will you just explain what was happening at the fire.

Mr. Langstroth: Well, there was a loco and tank car and crew working right at the nearest point where I landed with the boat and they were pumping water up the hill and there was another pump working out of the lake on the same side.

Mr. Lundell: How many men were working there?

Mr. Langstroth: I did not count them but I believe I contacted about 20.

Mr. Lundell: Twenty men--along the whole length of the fire trails that you travelled that night?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: How far would that be in miles?

Mr. Langstroth: A mile and a half about.

Mr. Lundell: You explained a little while ago that when you arrived there the men had picked up the spot fires. Just what was happening? Was the wind throwing fire ahead?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, throwing sparks.

Mr. Lundell: Were spot fires (?) Were the spot fires being thrown across the trail.

Mr. Langstroth: They had been before I got there. There were some extra trails put in that afternoon.

Mr. Lundell: You could tell that could you?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

.....the spot fires that had been across the trail.

Mr. Lundell: Were any fires burning to the east or south of the trail outside the fire?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not think there were. I could not see any.

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Mr. Lundell: What was the state of the wind?

Mr. Langstroth: North-west.

Mr. Lundell: Was any blowing there briskly?

Mr. Langstroth: Fairly fresh.

Mr. Filberg: What do you mean by that? How strong?

Mr. Langstroth: I suppose 8 or 10 miles perhaps. That is just a guess.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any change in that situation the three hours you were there or have you described everything that happened?

Mr. Langstroth: The change was for the better. The fire was flattening down. There were places up well inside the burn or inside the fire line that they could not reach with water.

Mr. Lundell: Could you see if any snags were burning that night?

Mr. Langstroth: I would think there were snags burning well inside the line at that time, yes.

Mr. Lundell: That is between the fire line and Gosling Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, up that draw and some of the area to the east of the draw.

Mr. Lundell: That would be on Lot 21.

Mr. Langstroth: You have got me now. Will say between the fire line and Gosling Creek.

Mr. Lundell: Would you say between the fire line and Gosling Lake as well?

Mr. Langstroth: I suppose that would apply

Mr. Lundell: That was north?

Mr. Langstroth: I would not be able to state definitely.

Mr. Lundell: Did you see Mr. Daly, Mr. Coy, Mr. Lund?

Mr. Langstroth: No, they had left before I got there.

Mr. Lundell: Was the tank car still operating there when you left at midnight?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes. They were due to switch a short time after that.

Mr. Lundell: Switch cars?

Mr. Filberg: This night the fire had not crossed that trail to

the south? The fire trail still held up to the night of the 13th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Were any fallers and buckers out?

Mr. Langstroth: I did not see any.

Mr. Lundell: In the morning of the 14th, Thursday.

Mr. Filberg: You stayed there until a little after midnight?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What time did you arrive the following morning, the 14th?

Mr. Langstroth: I was in the office and got in touch with the lookouts until I went up the Lake in the afternoon and got to the edge of the fire about 4.30.

Mr. Lundell: You spoke of the lookouts. Where were they?

Mr. Langstroth: Elk Falls and Upper Campbell.

Mr. Lundell: Is that between Lower Campbell and Upper Campbell Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: One lookout, Upper Campbell, is just as you leave the Upper Campbell Lake up on the hill to the west side slightly below the end of Upper Campbell.

Mr. Lundell: And the other was at Elk Falls?

Mr. Langstroth: That bit of a hill near Elk Falls Park. To the west a mile and a half.

Mr. Lundell: Were you getting reports from these men that morning?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What were the reports?

Mr. Langstroth: Reports were that fire was spotting about some until in the afternoon when they first reported it picked up big on the day.

Mr. Lundell: You left for the scene of the fire?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What is your record of the weather for that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Strong north-west.

Mr. Lundell: All day?

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Mr. Langstroth: Yes. No other note on it.
Mr. Lundell: Have you anything on the temperature?
Mr. Langstroth: A guess that it was over 70.
Mr. Lundell: Do you remember whether it was clear?
Mr. Langstroth: No rain so I believe it was clear. Wind in the
north-west.
Mr. Filberg: Have you a note of the humidity?
Mr. Langstroth: I have not here a note.
Mr. Lundell: Is the north-west the prevailing wind in that
country in the summer time?
Mr. Langstroth: Pretty well prevailing summer wind last year.
Mr. Lundell: At what time did you arrive at the fire?

See p. 319 =

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J.H. Lawson, Esq.,
Barrister & Solicitor,
510 Hastings Street, W.,
Vancouver, B.C.

275

May 15, 1939.

File: 0131739.

Dear Sir:

Attached please find two copies

of the transcription of notes taken by Miss

Robinson at the meeting in the Deputy Attorney

General's office on May 11th.

Yours truly,


Chief Forester.

KR

Encls. 2.

AK

273

May 15, 1939.

File: 0131739.

J.L. Farris, Esq.,
Barrister & Solicitor,
510 Hastings Street, W.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Attached please find two copies
of the transcription of notes taken by Miss
Robinson at the meeting in the Deputy Attorney
General's office on May 11th.

Yours truly,

Chief Minister.
[Signature]

KR

Encls. 2.

AK

MEMORANDUM1370132
277

TO Chief Forester,

FROM DISTRICT FORESTER

Forest Branch,

Vancouver, B.C.

Victoria, B. C.

May 13th, 1939

Your File: 0131739

Refer to yours of

My File: O.F. #230--Bloedel

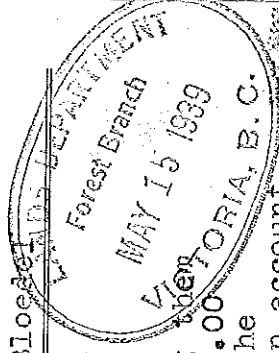
Please refer to your memo of May 5th.

We wrote to Forbes Landing Hotel advising that our Victoria office felt that the sum of \$50.00 was sufficient for the rental of the campsite at the Bloedel fire this year and if they would send us an account for this amount same would be passed for payment immediately.

We are now in receipt of a letter from these people in which they are willing to accept \$75.00 and in view of the fact that we have reduced their original account from \$300.00 to this settlement of \$75.00 we would suggest that your office approve the payment of same.

Kindly advise.

OCT: [Signature]

C. C. Ternan,
ASST. DISTRICT FORESTER.

275
Lawson, Clark & Lundell

Practitioners, Solicitors, Etc.

James D. Lawson, M.A. George F. Clarke

Osborn, F. Lundell

TELEPHONE SEV. 3682 & 3683

1370905

Standard Bank Bldg.

Vancouver, B.C.

E. C. Manning, Esq.,
Chief Forester,
Parliament Buildings,
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mr. Manning:

We wish to thank you for your letter of the
15th May enclosing two copies of the transcription of
notes taken by Miss Robinson at the meeting in the
Deputy Attorney-General's Office on the 11th May.

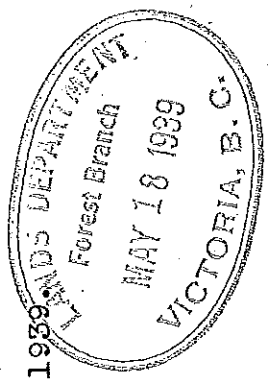
Yours very truly,

OFL:D

LAWSON, CLARK & LUNDELL

Per:

A. W. Lundell



May 17, 1939.

0131729

[Handwritten signature]

276
Vancouver, B.C.

May 13th.

May 22, 1939.

O.F. #230 "Bloedel".

In reply to yours of the 13th instant, \$50. is the maximum the Forest Branch will agree to pay Forbes Landing Hotel for the rent of their property.

We feel that any payment is in the nature of extortion, especially when it is considered that all our efforts and our only motive is the protection of the assets of the community.

In making this statement we understand that it is not a matter of settling for any damages done by the fire camp.

The payment of any sum in this instance is not to be regarded as a precedent in the renting of sites for camps to fight forest fires.



E.E. Gregg,
~~Assistant Forester.~~

EEG:J

0131739

211

TELEPHONE SEYMOUR 2201

1371436 280

DIRECTORS:

J. H. BLOEDEL
S. G. SMITH
B. M. FARRIS
PRENTICE BLOEDEL

BLOEDEL, STEWART & WELCH LTD.

PRENTICE BLOEDEL

MANUFACTURING

PACIFIC COAST FOREST PRODUCTS

510 HASTINGS STREET WEST

VANCOUVER, B.C.

LOGGING OPERATIONS:
FRANKLIN RIVER, B.C.
GREAT CENTRAL LAKE, B.C.
BLOEDEL, B.C.

SHINGLE MILLS:
VANCOUVER, B.C.
PORT ALBERNI, B.C.

SAWMILLS:

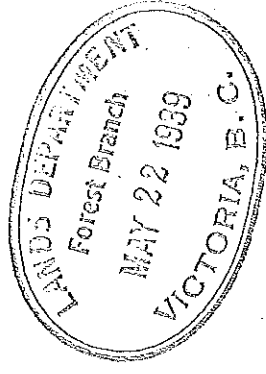
GREAT CENTRAL, B.C.
PORT ALBERNI, B.C.

SEATTLE OFFICE:
1411 FOURTH AVE

May 20th, 1939.

Re File: 0131739

Department of Lands,
Forest Branch,
VICTORIA, B. C.



Dear Sirs:-

Attention of Mr. C. D. Orchard.

Your letter under date of April 26th, addressed attention of Mr. F. A. Fraser, has been handed to the writer who has just returned from the South.

Please be advised that we are not prepared to take your decision, as expressed in the last paragraph of your letter.

I will probably be in Victoria early in June and will discuss this matter with you and Mr. Manning.

Yours very truly,

BLOEDEL, STEWART & WELCH LTD.,

S. G. Smith
S. G. Smith
Manager.

per: E. C. Stone

SGS/ECS



THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
FOREST BRANCH

OFFICE OF DISTRICT FORESTER
MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER.

1377075

June 16th, 1939

Our File: OF #230---Bloedel
Your File: 0131739

E. C. Manning, Esq.,
Chief Forester,
Forest Branch,
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:

We are working on the statement showing the daily number of men employed by the Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Company as requested on your recent visit and we will be able to send you this in to-morrow morning's mail.

In the meantime, their payroll shows that 486 men were working on the fire on July 27th, 1938.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. C. Ternan".

CCT:AC
C. C. Ternan,
ASSISTANT DISTRICT FORESTER.

JUN 17 1939

279

June 15, 1939.

File: 0131759.

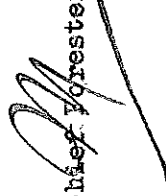
Yours: OF #230--
Bloedel.

District Forester,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Haddon promised me the other day in Vancouver that he would send us a brief statement taken from the time books submitted by Bloedel, Stewart & Welch in connection with their \$65,000 fire claim, showing day by day the number of men on the payroll for which they are submitting a claim. We are particularly interested in knowing the number of men on their payroll on July 27, 1938.

Yours truly,


Chief Forester.

KR



96-

280
June 6, 1939.

File: 0131739.

Yours: OF #250--

Bloedel.

District Forester,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Yesterday Mr. Ternen reported over the phone to me that in the recent interview of Ranger Langstroth by Messrs. Farris and Lundell that the question arose as to whether or not Langstroth should reply to the query, "You did not yourself give them (Bloedel's) permission to resume logging?"

When Mr. Lawson first made request for the privilege of interviewing Messrs. Ternen and Langstroth we stipulated that their answers must be confined to statements of fact with respect to their own actions and observations. This enquiry concerning what permission to resume logging was given to Bloedel's comes within the range of questions allowed and therefore may be answered.

Yours truly,

W. J. Forester.
Chief Forester.

KR

W. J.

*Approved and
phone by Col. Repler
of SCM*

281

May 23, 1969.

File: 0131739.

Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Ltd.,
510 Hastings St., West,
Vancouver, B.C.

Attention: Mr. S.G. Smith

Gentlemen:

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 20th and note that you expect to call at this office some time, in connection with this matter.

inquire.

Yours truly,


C.D. Orchard,
Ass't. Chief Forester.

CDO:J



THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, B.C.

1377333

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
FOREST BRANCH

June 17, 1939

Our File: O.F. #230 - Bloedel
Your File: 0131739

E. C. Manning, Esq.,
Chief Forester,
Forest Branch,
VICTORIA, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

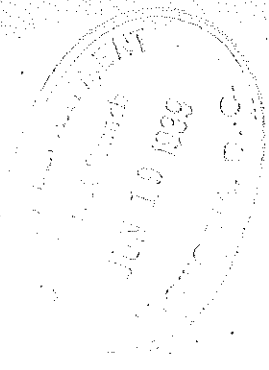
Attached hereto is summary
showing the number of men employed by
the Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Company
during the length of the Bloedel Fire.

Yours truly,

C. C. Ternan,
ASST. DIST. FORESTER.

CCT/EAY

Enclosure





MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, B.C.

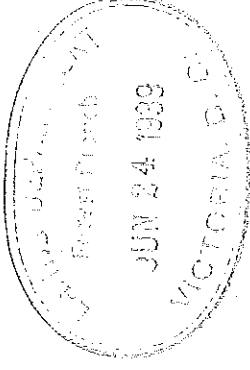
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DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
FOREST BRANCH

June 23rd, 1939

Our File: OF #230--Bloedel
Your File: 0131739

E. C. Manning, Esq.,
Chief Forester,
Forest Branch,
Victoria. B.C.



Dear Sir:

We have contacted the office of Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Limited here in Vancouver and find the details of their payroll submitted with their claim covered the total number of men employed on the fire and includes their regular crew as well as those brought in to fight the fire.

Yours truly,

C. C. Ternan,
ASSISTANT DISTRICT FORESTER.

CCT:AC

285

June 22, 1939.

File: 0151739.

Yours: OF #230 - Bloedel

District Forester,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir: Attention Mr. Fernan

Your letter of the 16th instant
and summary of the Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Co.
payroll are received.

Re the 486 men mentioned as being
on their payroll on July 27, 1938, are we to take
this as the total number of men on their payroll
at that time or the number over and above their
regular crew for which they are submitting us an
account?

Yours truly,


Chief Forester.

KR

286
Lawson, Clark & Lundell

Representatives, Solicitors, Etc.

James H. Lawson, M.C. George H. Clark,

Cicero F. Lundell

TELEPHONE SEV. 3662 & 3683
CABLE ADDRESS "LAWCLA"

Standard Bank Bldg.

Vancouver, B.C.

19th September, 1939.

E.C. Manning, Esq.,
Chief Forester,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Confirming the writer's conversation with you today, we should like to interview all those officers and servants of the Forest Branch who were in charge of or engaged in the back-firing which was carried out on the Forbes Peninsula on the 14th-15th July, 1938. We are making this request because some suggestion may be made at the trial of the action Elk River Timber Company Limited versus Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Limited that the fire which escaped and destroyed and damaged the plaintiff's property spread not from the Bloedel fire which was burning on the Forbes Peninsula but from the back-fires which were set by Forestry officials on the night of the 14th-15th July, and that the Government was therefore responsible for the spread of the fire.

In our opinion it is therefore essential that all facts and circumstances relating to the back-firing be investigated before the trial, which is expected to commence on the 1st November.

Received by Mr. Manning on 19th Sept 1939
19th Sept 1939
19th Sept 1939

131739
1396944

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287

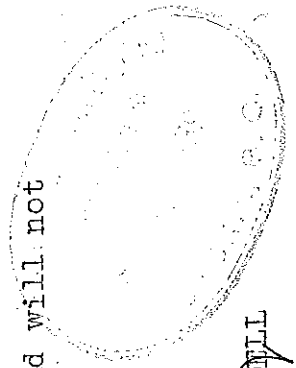
- 3 -

E.C.Manning, Esq.

19th Sept. 1939.

We should appreciate it very much if you would consider our request, and, if you see fit to grant it, would you be good enough to arrange a time and place where the interviews may be had. It will be understood that the interviews will be confined to facts and will not extend to opinions.

1396944



Yours very truly,

LAWSON, CLARE & LINDALL

PER:

C. J. Lawrence

OFL/MS.

*Compared to statements
by forest officers of what they
saw, what other
institutions they were
instructed to*

208
September 22, 1935.

File: 0131739.

Messrs. Dawson, Clark & Lundell,
Barristers & Solicitors,
Standard Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

Gentlemen:

Your letter of the 17th instant, asking for an opportunity to interview certain of our forest officers engaged in back-firing on the Forbes Peninsula in July, 1935, is received.

We have no objection to such a meeting provided your questions are confined, as at the last meeting, to facts pertaining to the forest officers' own actions, what instructions they issued, and what they saw.

You may arrange the details of the meeting, such as time and officers involved, direct with the District Forester, Vancouver.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Messrs. Farris and Company, 1505 Standard Bank Building, Vancouver. It is understood that they may have a representative at this meeting if they so wish.

Yours truly,

Chief Forester.

MR

CC - D.F., Vancouver.
Messrs. Farris & Co.

289

September 22, 1939.

File: 0151739.

Messrs. Farris & Company,
Barristers, Solicitors, Etc.,
1508 Standard Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

Gentlemen:

Please find attached copy of letter of even date to Messrs. Lawson, Clark & Lundell, regarding a proposed interview with our forest officers, contents of which are self-explanatory.

We shall endeavor to arrange a date which will be satisfactory to you in the event you wish to have a representative there.

Yours truly,

J.
encl.


Chief Forester.

Copy forwarded D.F. Vancouver

29

September 22, 1939.

File: 0131739.

District Forester,
Marine Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Please find attached copies of letters of even date to Messrs. Lawson, Clark & Lundell and Messrs. Farris and Company, contents of which are self-explanatory.

Kindly see that the firm of Farris & Company are fully informed re the date of the meeting, etc.

Yours truly,

J.
encls.


Chris Forester.

Lawson, Clarke & Lundell

Barristers, Solicitors, Etc.

James H. Lawson, M.A. George F. Clarke
Dean F. Lundell

CABLE ADDRESS "LAWCLA" 13979.

Standard Bank Bldg.
Vancouver, B.C.

September 25, 1939.



E. C. Manning, Esq.,
Chief Forester,
Parliament Buildings,
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mr. Manning:

Your File No. 0131739

We wish to thank you for your letter of
the 23rd September.

We shall arrange the details of the meeting
direct with the District Forester at Vancouver as
you suggest.

We very much appreciate your courtesy in
this matter.

Yours very truly,

OFL:D

LAWSON, CLARK & LUNDELL

Per:

G. F. Lundell

Legat