

With the Forest Engineers.

(Contributed by the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers.)

Notes of the Work of the Engineers in the British Columbia Forest Service.

The Province of British Columbia entered on a new line of development in the establishment, under the Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, of a Forest Branch, the direction of which as is well known was given into the hands of Mr. H. R. MacMillan late of the Forest Branch in Ottawa. So many matters were pending the passing of the Act, so many new problems have arisen simply through the establishment of the Branch that the new Chief Forester, since assuming his duties, has been the centre of a veritable snowstorm of papers of all kinds which required attention. Consequently, he has been held to his desk for every minute of the day working with unceasing energy to organize new branches to take care of the details. He has made numerous trips around the country becoming acquainted with the government officers and lumbermen, and has made numerous friends in his official capacity in the City of Victoria. Naturally, in a new organization the equipment and staff were utterly inadequate for the press of business. But Mr. MacMillan had the authority to care for the needs of his department, and now, instead of one chief clerk and a stenographer, the Forest Branch consists of forty two individuals in addition to all who were with the Lands Department prior to the creation of the new base of administration.

Mr. M. Allerdale Grainger, who probably knows as much about the forest legislation situation as any other man in British Columbia, having been Secretary of the Royal Commission which brought about the

Act, has been steadily engaged in arranging the details of the Records Office, which falls to him under the provisions for the new Forest Board.

Mr. John Lafon, Chief of Management, has been occupied principally with the work of timber sales and the cruising being done upon tracts of land which it has been thought could be alienated.

Chief of Operation, R. E. Benedict, has been engaged mostly in inspection of fire losses, and in viewing at first hand conditions which he had heretofore known in only a general way. He reports a rapidly growing sentiment among people of all parts of the province for forest reserves to ensure thorough patrol in the vicinity of large towns, and to make certain a constant supply of water for irrigation purposes.

THE RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY.

Since stock-taking ranks with protection as an essential of forest policy, the Branch has lost no time in bringing about a reconnaissance survey of a great part of the province. The Columbia and Western Land Grant comprises two and a half million acres recently sold back to the Government by the C. P. R., to whom it was deeded many years ago, and this tract has been the scene of a very active survey. Under Chief of Surveys H. K. Robinson twelve parties of reconnaissance men are working in the valleys of the Adams, Salmon, Nicola, North Thompson, Omineca and Columbia Rivers, around Mable Lake, and along the route of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

The surveyors are noting every