

Briefs About People and Events

AN INVENTOR AT LARGE

FELLING trees with red hot wire and rapid guns to test some new inventions have placed Rudolph Mayer, the experimenter, on the forest service black list.

The wire not only burnt its way deep into a big red cedar trunk but also started a fire that quickly spread to adjoining pitchy timber.

The wire was carried to and fro rapidly by an electric motor, the heat generated by friction being intended to sever the wood tissues quickly and smoothly.

Mayer's other idea was to aim a rapid fire gun into the trunk of a tree slowly turning the muzzle across the diameter. In the experiment the hard pointed bullets felled a two foot tree but many passing through the trunk chipped large chunks off other trees and frightened the lumberjacks a long distance off.

EXPERIMENTAL FORESTRY

The Dominion Forest Service is extending its experimental co-operative forest work and many sample plots are being laid out this season to determine the results of different methods of cutting in both coniferous and hardwood stands. The result of both clear and selection cutting on the reproduction will be studied and also how much of the overwood and also pure stands should be removed to get best reproduction. Experiments will also be tried by removing undesirable species and trying to foster the growth of the more desirable ones. Plots have also been laid out in natural reproduction where the young trees are thinned out to different distances apart to see what results can be obtained.

THE STONE AGE IN B.C.

The Stone Age existed in British Columbia up until as late as a century ago, according to prominent archeologists who have been exploring old community sites, mounds and graves along the coast and in the interior. Stone and bone tools were in common use when white explorers visited the North Pacific, although copper and iron were found almost everywhere. Stone hammers and axes

discovered are almost identical with the tools of the neolithic man found in Europe. Old shell mounds on the Fraser and Thompson rivers reveal many things formerly used by man of the Stone Age.

TO TEST SHINGLES

The Dominion Fire Prevention Department is employing a committee of three experts under the chairmanship of Professor McKay, of McGill University, to make tests on wooden shingles and suitable roofings, to see how they compare in resisting fire and decay.

FOREST EXPERTS ENDORSED

Messrs. James W. Sewall and James A. Connors of the Sewall timber cruising organization, Old Town, Maine, have been at Tupper Lake, New York, as expert witnesses on timber quantities in the case of Litchfield vs. Town of Altamont. Their estimates of quantity of timber were taken as conclusive in the case in question in spite of considerable adverse testimony.

NEW WAY TO BURN STUMPS

A new stump-burning method employed in Washington consists of placing an apparatus against the stump with a flue and blowpipe in position. A draft created by the blowpipe turns the inside of the stump into a mass of coals, the fire eats down into the roots and the entire stump is consumed at half the cost of former methods.

A NEW ONTARIO NURSERY

The Forestry Department of the Ontario Government has bought the Ralph Stutt farm, also the farm of the late Thomas Hooper, and some 30 acres of the late Wm. Connell farm, all near Orono, about 175 acres in all. Mr. Meredith Linton will be superintendent in charge of these lands. These lands will be used as a nursery and will grow pines and a number of other varieties of trees for reforestation purposes from seed. This will likely give employment at some seasons of the year to as many as fifty hands.

NEED OF PUBLIC INTEREST

"The situation this season," writes District Forester Bonney of Prince George, B.C., "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."

A BENEDICTINE WOODS

Benedictine monks for 910 years have been cultivating one of the world's finest forests. It surrounds an ancient hermitage, about 50 miles southeast of Florence, Italy.

This forest is as fine as it was nearly 1,000 years ago, though lumber has been taken out of it steadily in great quantities.

A SCHOOL OF PAPER MAKING

The Quebec Provincial Government has under study at the present time a project for the establishment of a school at La Tuque for the teaching of the pulp and paper industry. The council of the town of La Tuque has passed a resolution urging the Government to establish the school there. It is likely that this question will be studied by the Cabinet at an early date.

VENEZUELA'S COW TREE

One of the most curious botanical curiosities of South America is the so-called cow tree, which grows on the broad barren plateaus of Venezuela.

The sap of this tree resembles milk both in appearance and taste, and, according to naturalists who have examined it, it is very wholesome and nourishing and not so very different from rich cream except for a slight balsamic flavor. The tree frequently attains a height of over 100 feet, and is often entirely smooth and without a limb for a distance of 80 feet from the ground.

If a hole is bored or any sort of wound made on this smooth bark the milklike fluid will commence to flow and continue for several days until it coagulates at the mouth of the wound and forms a waxy substance which prevents further flow.