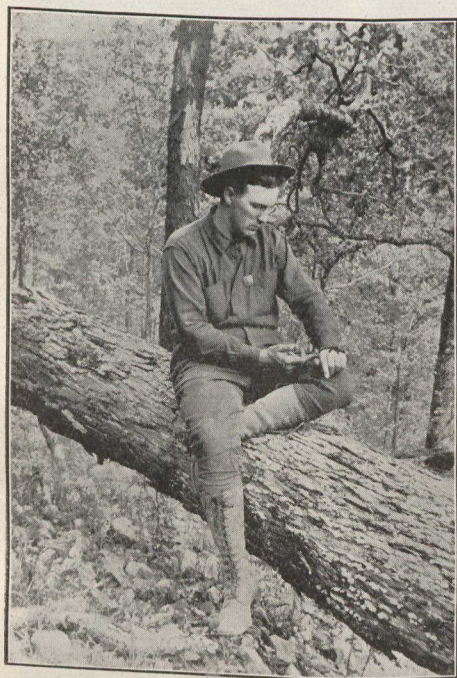


along practical lines and require two days for completion. The first day is devoted to written tests designed to show the applicant's knowledge of the Government land laws and regulations, the timber business, the principles of surveying, mapping and reconnaissance, the live stock industry and other phases of forest work. The second day is a field test on surveying, timber estimating, packing a horse, throwing the 'dia-



Mr. Record, author of the article, in Forest Service Uniform.

mond hitch,' saddling and riding, for all these are part of the ranger's everyday life.

Answers to the written questions frequently reveal a phase of the subject not contemplated by the examiner. One applicant, when asked how National Forests were created, replied that 'they were created by God and staked out by man.' Another young hopeful attempted to conceal his ignorance of a 'steam nigger' by saying it was 'that part of an engine which has a peculiar work to perform.'

A forest ranger's salary varies from \$1,100 to \$1,500 a year. He is required to keep one or more saddle horses and also pack-horses where needed. He furnishes his own saddle, saddle-pockets, blankets, pack outfit and personal equipment, and pays his own expenses. Sometimes he makes camp alone, at others he stops at a ranch house or 'throws in' with a sheep herder or 'cow-puncher.' The important thing is to find water, for a 'dry camp' after a hard day's ride is a discomfort that even a tenderfoot studiously avoids. For the benefit of strangers in a National Forest the roads and trails are posted with cloth notices giving direction and distance to camping places, ranches and settlement.

Every National Forest is divided into ranger districts, containing on an average about 160,000 acres each. The ranger in charge is provided with permanent headquarters, since private accommodations cannot usually be found in the big woods. In time all ranger headquarters on a forest will be connected by telephone with each other and with the supervisor's office, affording ready means for communication and establishing close relations among all of the forest officers.

Ranger headquarters consist of a house, barn, well, garden and pasture. His office is supplied with a stove or fireplace, table, chairs, typewriter, filing cases, card index, blank form cabinets and miscellaneous equipment. If the ranger has a wife it becomes her duty usually to write her husband's letters and reports, and to see that all papers are filed so that they may be located without ransacking the place.

A tall flagpole stands near the house, and the presence or absence of the flag indicates whether or not the ranger is at home. Special effort is made to make the ranger headquarters substantial and attractive and to serve as models for the entire community.

The district ranger fills a very im-