

## From Forestry Men at the Front

Mention has already been made in *The Civilian* of the splendid system followed in the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior, in keeping records of the men of that staff who enroll for overseas service. Each man's career is carefully followed, and, to keep in touch with events in his familiar home sphere, he is supplied with copies of the "Bulletin"—a quarterly mimeographed publication especially prepared for this service and devoted to the affairs of the forestry service. At Christmas-time each man is also sent an appropriate "box," with the good wishes of the members of the staff at home.

Needless to say, this remembrance and attention delights the boys at the front, and Mr. R. H. Campbell, Director of Forestry, and members of his staff are constantly receiving letters of appreciation from England, France, Egypt and other fronts. These letters contain many passages of great interest, and *The Civilian* is privileged to publish a few of them herewith.

*From Lieut. Alan E. Parlow, Forest Assistant, Dominion forest reserves in British Columbia:*

The Forestry Companies seem to have greatly impressed the French with their speed and efficiency, though their methods are careless when compared with French practice. The experience of our lumber men in managed forests here should make a difference to their attitude when they return to Canada.

*From Co. Q.M.S. Fred. Fischer, Chief Fire Ranger, The Pas, Manitoba, writing from the Headquarters of the Forestry Corps, France:*

I may say that our district is doing fine work in the pine forests. The timber is fair average, but owing to the custom of scoring the trees with long parallel cuts, the bark grows around these scars in ridges, making it necessary to take off a thick slab, which waste is however not lost as every particle of the tree is utilized even to the small limbs which are made into charcoal and the roots into firewood. The practice of scoring the trees is to obtain the gum which is collected, which after a certain process is made into resin products. This industry is of great importance in the country. You may therefore imagine that our operations are not looked upon by the natives with any

degree of enthusiasm, as they depend largely on this industry for a living.

The system of fire protection here is very good, if expensive, but the timber warrants the expenditure. The forests are generally divided into squares of about 100 acres or more by fire guards of about 200 feet wide\* which are cleared, ploughed and kept free from vegetation; wells are sunk at regular intervals, insuring a supply of water, which is easily obtained at an average depth of 4 to 6 feet. Permanent fire guardians are also kept on the different estates.

*From Pte. P. Mars, Fire Ranger in Coast District, British Columbia, writing from France:*

The Germans destroyed all the timber in the part of the country where I have been lately, although I have seen some nice hardwood groves where they were unable to reach. They certainly have the method of destruction down fine. Allowing for them being as good at building up as knocking down it will take them some time to make this country what it was before they came into it, but I think they will get the chance to start on it pretty soon. Some job for them to put two-hundred-year-old oaks back in three years.

(To be continued.)