

ed on peaks selected with all the care of a topographer choosing triangulation stations, and equipped with rangefinder, telescope, compass, maps and telephone. He receives his call to action by telephone, telegraph, wireless or heliograph. Instead of rushing out coatless and hatless to wage a single-handed fight with whatever tool is handiest, he considers his carefully drawn fireplan, notes on his topographic map the lie of the land at the fire; decides upon the forces necessary for its control and the quickest way to get them on the ground, and then by means of his telephone he sends to that fire enough men and horses fully equipped with tools and provisions to smother it in its very incipency in less time than the old-style ranger would have taken to gather together his grub-pile and saddle his horse. This is no idealistic picture, but an actual accomplishment fully developed and regularly employed by government and private owners of timberlands who control more timber several times over in the United States alone than stands in all Canada.

Moreover, fire protection does not by any means exhaust the duties of a ranger on the reserves. It is now generally realized that forest reserves are not created to take out of use but to put it to use under methods of scientific forest management that will insure its continuation as a permanent crop instead of permitting it to be exhausted at one cutting. If it is realized that it takes from four to six years of collegiate training to give men the fundamentals of this art of forestry it will be conceded that the forest ranger, upon whom falls the duty of carrying out the plans for scientific forest management, cannot be fitted for these duties unless he has been specially trained for them. It might well be asked, if a forest ranger is not simply a man who can ride a horse and swing an axe, what his qualifications are.

What should a Ranger know ?

Putting aside the fact that rangers in the Canadian service are not infrequently unable to produce even these rudimentary qualifications, it might be answered that a forest ranger should be a man in perfectly sound physical condition, not too old to endure the hardships of wilderness travel — say, between 20 and 45 — a first-class experienced woodsman, able to pack, cook, establish camps in a sanitary manner, and handle horses and boats. He should be ei-

ther a practical lumberman acquainted with both the woods and the milling end of the business or a practical stockman, or both. He should have at least a common-school education. He should be able to make all kinds of compass, surveys and prepare simple maps, to cruise timber, to lay out, estimate and construct trails, to erect forest telephone lines, install instruments and maintain them in working order, to plan, estimate and construct ordinary log and frame buildings, to handle crews of men, to deal tactfully with forest reserve users and mountain travellers and sportsmen. He should have some knowledge of elementary silviculture, know the common trees and forage plants of the region, know something of the habits of the fish and game animals and enough of forest insect and fungous diseases to recognize an infestation on sight. Needless to say, he should have had previous practical experience in fire-fighting before being placed in a responsible position involving the direction of such work. A ranger must also be able to write concise, intelligent reports on all lines of his work, to maintain the necessary office files and records and must be thoroughly conversant with all the various laws and regulations which he is called upon to enforce and administer; being empowered to arrest without warrant, he must be familiar with the legal machinery of his province and know how to present and handle his case in court, to collect evidence, and establish his charge with competent testimony.

It may well be asked where men with such varied qualifications are to be obtained, and it must be admitted that they cannot be found in Canada to-day. Yet forestry as it is understood and practised by almost every civilized and progressive nation in the world, demands that men with these qualifications be secured to form the very foundation of a forest organization. The experience of foreign countries is enlightening. In Germany, and other European states where forestry has been practised for generations, forest academies conducted to a large extent under government auspices prepare men for the grades that correspond to the forest ranger, and subsequent training at their own expense in government employment completes their preparation. In India, the Philippines and Japan, government training