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BRITISH FORESTER PRAISES PROJECT

As part of a tour of inspection of tree-planting projects throughout the world, Dr. A. J. Grasovsky, official of the British Colonial Forest Service stationed in Palestine, recently spent several days at the Lake States Experiment Station and in South Dakota studying the work of this Project. State Director Ford and F. A. Fredrickson accompanied him on the South Dakota trip and report that he was much impressed with the survival which we have obtained in our plantations.

Explaining that his observations of the march of deserts and the reclamation of dead lands in Asia Minor and elsewhere throughout the world convince him that shelterbelts offer one of man's best answers to the problem of wind and water erosion, Dr. Grasovsky told newspaper reporters: "The Federal Shelterbelt Project in the middle west of America is the most promising of definite beneficial results of any in the world. Although similar projects in other parts of the world may vary in technique, there can be no comparison in magnitude or in the way in which the job is being done.

"Ignorance and laziness in the use of land have caused the most advanced civilizations of their time to collapse," Dr. Grasovsky declared in discussing his studies in Mesopotamia, where misuse of the land centuries ago transformed a fertile and densely populated region into desert, and went on to voice a warning that a similar fate is possible here unless steps are taken to prevent it.

"Shelterbelt planting will greatly assist in stopping the rapid deterioration and retrogradation of soils in this country," the British authority declared. "In many cases, where deterioration has not gone too far, trees will help to bring about recovery and make agriculture profitable and life more enjoyable.

It is indeed heartening to have these observations from such an authoritative source.

THE PLANTING JOB

The planting operation begins when the SBP-5's are received from the State Office, and continues until the trees are planted in the strips.

1. When the SBP-5's are received they are routed for progressive travel. That is, so that the largest number of strips can be delivered by traveling the shortest distance.

2. The original SBP-5's are numbered consecutively in the manner in which they are to be unloaded. The location of the strip is marked in the upper left-hand corner in the blank section provided for that purpose. The duplicate SBP-5's are numbered in reverse order to the originals and sent to the Central Heel-in Bed. The trees are packed on the truck with the last to be unloaded packed first. The trees are packed by species in a bundle, tied and tagged with a linen tag with the code, landowner's name, and the species of tree typewritten on it.

3. One Supervisory Strawboss is held responsible for heeling-in the stock. He and a crew of two men heel-in the trees. The original copies of the SBP-5's are taken into the field by the heeling-in crew. After the trees are heeled-in on a strip, the Strawboss initials and dates the SBP-5 in the space provided on the reverse, and on the face of the form, in the same section, he indicates the location of the heel-in bed by making a cross.

4. For the convenience of the planting crew, the trees are heeled-in as nearly as possible on the middle of the strip.

5. Two planting crews are hauled on one stake body truck. A planting crew consists of twelve men, as follows: one Supervisory Strawboss, one tree tender and water boy, two markers, and eight planters. Each truck has an extra man whom we call the "handy man". He stays with the crew that has the truck. If Crew #1 has to move in the forenoon he plants with that crew and makes the move, and then at noon he goes to Crew #2, and should they have to move, he is there with the truck to make the move. In this way neither crew is waiting for transportation.

6. When the crew arrives on the strip, the marking crew is the first off the truck. Their equipment consists of one ten-foot measuring stick and one hundred feet of small linked chain. A few builders' lath are carried on the truck and in case there is no established line to follow, one is staked through. This is only necessary where the farm is unfenced, or the strip is in mid-field. From the established line the markers measure off the spacings of the rows at the point of beginning for the entire strip. The leader takes the measuring stick and one end of the chain and goes down the strip the length of the chain and again measures off the spacing of the rows for the entire strip. Each end of the chain is placed on the marks so made and drawn taut, and pulled to and fro two or three times, thus making a plain mark for the planters. The two men step over to Row No. 2 and repeat the process and so on for the entire strip.

7. The planting crew unloads immediately after the markers and each planter gets a planting tray and shovel. He then gets some water in his tray and the foreman calls planters for Row No. 1. This being the shrub row, two men are used. The tree tender supplies the shrubs and the planters place

them in their trays. The foreman steps to Row No. 2 and calls for the planter assigned to Row No. 2, naming the species to be planted in that row. This process is repeated until all the rows have been assigned.

The planters begin as their trays are filled. By this time the markers have completed the first section of the strip and proceed down the strip. When the strip is completely marked, the marking crew returns and assists in the planting.

8 When all men have started planting, the tree tender puts a few bundles of each species in a heavy canvas bag with a zipper top and a web strap, gets a ten-quart water bucket filled with water and starts making the rounds, supplying trees and water as needed.

9. The foreman keeps the time for the crew and makes a record of the name of the planter by row and species, and supplies the information called for on the SBP-5. He also carries an eight-foot measuring stick to check the spacing in the row. He inspects the trees after each planter and sees that they are properly planted.

10. Where a strip is not completed in the afternoon, all the planters heel-in their trees in the row where they stop planting. When they return the next morning each planter returns to the row he was previously planting and gets started quickly.

11. Upon completion of the strip, the tree tender gathers up the trees not used and reports them to the foreman. The trees are then heeled-in in the truck and carried to a temporary heel-in ground and are reported to the Supervisory Strawboss in charge of the heeling-in. When a quantity of trees has accumulated in the temporary heel-in bed, the stock is picked up and returned to the Central Storage.

12. From the foreman's report from the field a progress report is made to the State Office each week and the third copy of the SBP-5 is completed and mailed to the State Director.

- James W. Kyle, Oklahoma

"HUNT CLUBS" FOR RODENT CONTROL

In an effort to interest the general public in rodent control work, and to promote such work on a large scale among private citizens in our concentration areas, Robert Isaac, Biological Survey Agent at Kearney, struck upon the idea of organizing "Hunt Clubs" in the various districts. Such clubs have already been organized at Page, Alliance, and Stapleton, and another club is in the process of organization at Arnold. An attempt is being made to get such clubs started at Ewing and Elgin. These clubs are organized on a more or less permanent basis, with elected officers, rules, and a definite plan for each drive.

A rather elaborate outline, too long for inclusion here, has been drawn up to effectuate this idea, the essential elements of which are (a) organization of club, (b) general plan of drives, (c) keeping up interest through competition and offering prizes, and (d) formulation of rigid rules to be observed during the drive.

Both the Biological Survey and Forest Service are cooperating in the formation of "Hunt Clubs," and in drives held by such clubs. We are furnish-

ing as much transportation as is available in the locality of the drives, and have provided rabbit traps or "corrals" on several different occasions. In shotgun drives, the Biological Survey has agreed to furnish a shotgun shell for each pair of ears turned in after the drive. Nine drives or hunts were held during late February and March, with good results reported.

County Agents in our concentration areas are becoming interested in "Hunt Clubs," and are taking an active part in the formation of them. Public reaction to the idea is good, especially in the Stapleton area. We cannot help but feel that if persons of the right type can be found in the various communities to act as leaders, publicize the idea, organize drives, and most important of all, keep the members of the organization interested and "sold" on the idea, an important step toward the solution of the rodent control problem will have been made.

- H. E. Swim, Nebraska

WHY LACK OF UNIFORMITY IN UNIT COSTS?

The following tabulations and comments may serve as a little oil on troubled water to Regional Office personnel attempting to harmonize allotment estimates between Units, and wondering why in Sam Hill the Units cannot furnish allotment estimates figured at somewhere near the same unit cost basis as between years.

2,184 man months R.R. labor produced 35,490 man days during Fiscal Year 1936. 3,200 man months (quota) R.R. labor will produce only 35,200 man days of labor during Fiscal Year 1937. Relief Rollers classified as laborers during 1936 received \$24.00 for 130 hours; this year they receive \$26.40 for 88 hours.

Since the cost of supervisory personnel remains approximately the same this year as last for the jobs listed below, only laborers are being considered:

Planting 7-rod Strip; Av. 1/2 mile per Crew Day					
Year	No. Laborers in Crew	Crew Days per Month	Cost	Acres Planted	Cost Per Acre
1936	14	16 $\frac{1}{4}$	\$336.00	113.75	\$ 2.91
1937	14	11	369.60	77.00	4.80

1937 labor costs are \$1.89 per acre more than 1936 costs, or an increase of 65% an acre. Costs would be higher for all other activities in similar proportion.

\$2.40 doesn't sound like a great deal more than \$1.48; however, assuming that the 2,184 man months R.R. for Fiscal Year 1936 were all labor, they would produce 35,490 man days at a unit cost of \$1.48 - gross cost \$52,416.00. The 3,200 man months R.R. labor for Fiscal Year 1937 would produce only 35,200 man days, but the cost at \$2.40 per day would total \$84,480.00, or \$32,064.00 more than a smaller number of man days cost in 1936 - approximately a 62% increase in labor costs over those of 1936. Double the number of men are required to get a month's work performed as compared with regular method of employment, which means, in addition to the extra cost per man month, double the training problem for that type of employee.

- A. N. Butler, Oklahoma

1937 NURSERY STOCK PRODUCTION PROGRAM

The nursery sites for 1937 have been selected in all States and, on the whole, very satisfactory sites were obtained from the several bids submitted in each State. It is predicted that if a reasonably normal season is forthcoming, the per-acre production of premium-grade stock of a better assortment of desirable species will far exceed any previous year. This prediction is based on a more experienced personnel, better technique, equipment, and seed, and more favorable soils on which to grow the stock. In addition to higher production, considerably lower production costs are confidently expected. The planting organization should raise no objection to this.

Below is a tabulation showing the location and approximate gross acreage of the nursery sites, by States:

<u>State and Nursery</u>	<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Carryover Acres*</u>	<u>Nurseryman</u>
NORTH DAKOTA			
Mandan	40	2.48	Thomas C. Hutchinson
Enderlin	40	17.57	Carl O. Davis
Total	80	20.05	
SOUTH DAKOTA			
Brookings	22.58	22.58	L. D. Martelle
Baltic	6.00	6.00	Harold Devick
Sioux Falls	42.00	- -	Harold Devick
Farm Island (Govt.)	50.00	3.00	(I. W. Kreiger, Walter F. Cozine)
Total	120.58	31.58	
NEBRASKA			
Fremont (Conifer)	14	3	Meine K. Meines
Fremont (Deciduous)	42	-	Carl Taylor
North Platte	42	-	William Moffet
Total	98	3	
KANSAS			
Manhattan	40	-	Raymond Buskirk
Hutchinson	40	-	John Rogers
Total	80	-	
OKLAHOMA			
Noble (Conifer)	6	-	Elmer Luke
Noble (Deciduous)	34	-	Elmer Luke
Mangum	45	-	Sam Byars
Total	85	-	
TEXAS			
Plainview	45	-	Albert Klein
Grand Total	508.58	54.63	

*Carryover acreage included in gross acres.

- Jerome Dahl, R.O.

MAKING SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS TREE CONSCIOUS

Certain things are occurring in South Dakota this spring along farm forestation lines that two short years ago would have been considered impossible. These things, to us at least, indicate that our efforts in farm forestation are bearing fruit. The change has been so gradual that one who is continually on the ground can scarcely notice the transition. When you consider what we are able to do with communities and individual farmers today as compared with what we were able to do in the Spring of 1935, no one can deny that we have made real progress in educating our people to the need and value of trees in stabilizing agriculture and bettering rural living conditions in this state.

In 1935 it was like pulling teeth to secure sufficient cooperators for 28 miles of strip in a widely scattered area. Not only that but in 1935 we were furnishing fencing material of real quality. We were going to buy the land and pay good rent for it until the purchase was made. We canvassed on this proposition, that was little short of Santa Claus, and yet we got five refusals to one acceptance. Those were discouraging days.

This spring we have more land offered than we can handle on a deal that is far less attractive to the landowner. The cooperator must furnish the fencing material and gets no rental from the land.

We have applications for sixty miles of strip in six townships (an area 18 by 12 miles) in Clark County that we cannot touch in 1937. If any one had made a prediction in 1935 that such a condition would exist, he would have been considered mentally questionable, but it nevertheless does exist today.

In Richland township in Beadle County one of our 1937 cooperators has organized 12 of his neighbors to buy a full carload of new fence wire for our shelterbelt strips and they are now negotiating for the cooperative purchase of a car or two of posts. If we had received such information in 1935 when we were furnishing the fencing material - and fighting for land at that - we would have desired to keep on sleeping so the dream would not turn out to be untrue.

This year's fencing requirements are severe for a people who lost two complete crops in the past three years and got only a half crop in the other. When this requirement first showed up on paper as the result of heavy deliberations on the part of Timber Management, we were red-eyed and horrified. We ate fire as is the custom in South Dakota. Our farmers were broke and we knew it couldn't be done. But it has been done. Every strip we will plant this spring will be fenced and the landowner furnishes the fencing material. Not only this but much of the fence will be of better quality than our minimum standard. We aren't dreaming this because it's on the books and is a fact.

The "don't canvass for land" order caused us to consume more fire in generous amounts. We figured it couldn't be done unless we went out and got the land through personal solicitation. When I personally visit a field office and see a landowner sitting at the table applying for a strip, and two or three more waiting their turn, I pinch myself to see if I'm me and if I'm still in South Dakota. In 1935 it would have taken a stronger heart

than I possess to withstand such a shock. Believe it or not, no canvassing was done in South Dakota this year and we have more than twice as much land as we can plant.

Indications now are that about 80% of our cooperators will do their own cultivating and many of them will receive nothing from the A.C.P. In the Mitchell area many cooperators will help our crews with the fencing job without pay. They have volunteered this. Wouldn't that have sounded funny in 1935? Yet two short years later it is a fact.

When the Norris bill first came out stating that the landowner would have to stand 50% of the cost of establishing the strips, exclusive of the value of the land, everyone on this unit was crushed. Not much was said but I know that to the last man they figured we were sunk. Today such a 50-50 proposition not only looks possible but actually easy.

Why all this sudden change in the situation? It hasn't been an act of God. We are dealing with the same land and the same folks as in 1935. I figure it this way. We have been unconsciously educating people through practical demonstrations in a far more efficient manner than any of us realized. Regardless of what happens to this program, I firmly believe that we have accomplished far more than the mere planting of a few hundred miles of shelterbelts. We have done much to establish as a regular and necessary agricultural practice a thing that two short years ago was belittled and ridiculed.

- A. L. Ford, South Dakota

EDUCATING AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

After inspecting the three new field offices during the week of March 14, this Executive Assistant discovered that:

1. It is quite a job to check and make up 40 sets of examination sheets and cooperative agreements in a day.

2. The District man has to spend a lot of time in the office explaining the planting program to farmers; but this results in a lot of applications.

3. One of the worst dust storms of the year occurred at Arnold, March 17. Desks had to be cleaned about every half hour or papers became buried.

4. One field clerk was so conscientious about getting his time slips in promptly, he was cutting the men off at the close of work the 14th so slips would be in the State Office the 15th.

5. It is possible to get on the train at Alliance at 7:30 P.M. with clear skies and dry footing, and step off the train four hours later at Broken Bow into ten inches of snow.

6. In re poker: A certain Junior Foreman can not be run out of a pot; a certain member of T.M. plays so fast he makes the boys dizzy; the Biological Survey plays an inferior brand of stud.

7. It is possible to get stuck in a snow drift in late March - also possible to get out, provided Jerry Dahl is behind you with a shovel.

- Ray Smith, Nebraska

FITTING SHELTERBELTS TO CONTOUR FARMING

There is a great deal more terracing and contour listing done in the Southern States than has so far been done in the North. We believe that this method of ground preparation will be used to an increased extent all through the shelterbelt zone, and have been working on a system of planting which will fit this type of ground preparation and land-use plans. The latest to become converted and to try his hand at devising some definite system of planting was Don Nelson, now detailed to Nebraska. Don developed a scheme which we feel will work, for use when the lister rows run more nearly parallel to the tree rows, a condition which had bothered us.

In addition to fitting in with the landowner's system of contours and terraces, thus obtaining the maximum benefits of water conservation, this type of planting automatically puts the cultivation job up to the operator of the farm. Inasmuch as this work can be done at the same time as his crop cultivation with very little extra time or work on his part, every one we have contacted has been very much in favor of the new system.

The landowner benefits through not going against his land and water conservation plan. The trees benefit from obtaining additional moisture and more frequent cultivation. The Service benefits from a savings in land preparation and subsequent cultivation costs plus the credit for adapting our plantings to sound land-use practice. We confess that we are a wee bit enthusiastic about the possibilities of this type planting.

- W. E. Webb, Texas

(Editor's Note: Briefly, as we understand it, the scheme involves planting the trees on top of the lister ridges wherever they cross the row, the planting site being scalped down to about the original ground level. When the farmer "busts out" his middles up to the strip in preparation for planting, the resulting crop row then coincides with the "unbusted" ridge within the strip upon which the trees are planted. In cultivating his crop, therefore, the farmer can go right on across the strip, the trees being, in a sense, check-rowed. Spacing in the row would not, of course, be uniform, but seldom, if ever, would the distance between trees be exorbitant.)

4-H CLUB PLANTS TREES

We had a small crew of four men out helping the 4-H Club plant their strip, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of St. John, Kansas, April 3. Those young 4-H fellows certainly could plant trees after a little instruction. The strip will be used as a game preserve as well as protection for the cropland north of it. On the south side runs Rattlesnake Creek where quite a few ducks make their summer home.

It is a fine thing to see these young folk taking an interest in protecting our wildlife.

- G.W.Spring, Kans.

A NEW METHOD OF THRESHING AND SOWING AMERICAN ELM SEED

A successful method of threshing American elm seed has recently been discovered by Ernest George at the U. S. Field Station at Mandan, North Dakota, which will revolutionize the seeding method, as well as making it possible to store elm seed from year to year.

Last fall Mr. George stored a quantity of American elm seed in sacks and tin cans at the seed house at the station. This spring it was discovered

that by placing a pound or two at a time of this seed in a flour sack and trampling it with the feet, the fins attached to the seed were easily pulverized into a fine powder and fibre substance. By running this substance through an ordinary fanning mill with all the wind vents shut, the seed was quickly removed. After running through the mill it was discovered that some of the seed still had a thin seed coat attached. This was removed by rubbing the seed through the hands or by scrubbing the seed across a fine wire screen. The seed was then run through the mill again to remove this chaff.

The clean seed, which will run for American elm 165,000 to the pound, may then be sown with any common garden seeder. It is suggested that in using the seeder, the ordinary or usual seed furrow be made in the field and the cover shoes on the seeder removed so that the seeds drop into this trench exposed. Covering can then be made by hand. This method insures a close check on the seeder and an even coverage. The seeder should be set to handle seed similar to carrot seed.

A germination test was run on elm seed thus stored and threshed. Seeds with the fins attached tested 77% on a ten-day test, while seeds threshed as described tested 100% germination on a ten-day test, showing that the threshing removed all bad seeds and also hastened germination.

This new discovery now makes it possible to carry over elm seed successfully and to seed it much earlier in the season. Seeding may also be done at any time regardless of wind conditions, which under the old method made it impossible to seed elm successfully except on still days.

A quantity of both American elm and Chinese elm seed was carried over winter by the North Dakota Unit and has now been threshed and tested, showing virtually the same satisfactory results as were obtained by Mr. George.
- Thomas C. Hutchinson, N.Dak.

EDITORS WANT TO SAVE TREES

Last week we were called into conference with local editors at Kinsley, Kansas to use our authority in helping them prevent the cutting of more than 400 live cottonwood trees, all over 40 years old, in order to make a change in the right-of-way for a township road. Evidently the people of Kansas are looking to the Forest Service to protect existing groves and plantings, and we regret that we had no jurisdiction with regard to the destruction of these trees. Incidentally, the Kansas State Highway Department imposes a heavy penalty for the destruction of trees along their rights-of-way.
- Ralph V. Johnston, Kans.

RANGE WORK ON THE MARCH

The range program within the Prairie States is getting under way. Our territory falls within three AAA divisions and involves different set-ups in each. In North Dakota and Kansas, of the Western Division, we are selecting the local Range Examiners; and, while these are to be appointed by and carried on the pay roll of the AAA, the men will report to us and will work under our jurisdiction. In South Dakota and Nebraska of the North Central Division, the men are selected by the several county committees and work under their administrative direction, but we give them limited training in the use of the Forest Service methods of making range surveys. In Texas and Oklahoma the Range Examiners (or Inspectors) are

selected by the county committee. A small number of our men were assigned to attend the several meetings in those States and to explain and demonstrate in the brief time available the Forest Service range survey procedures. Our part of the job in the latter two States has been completed and, while the time allowed and the facilities were inadequate, our men were able to give the local selectees the essential fundamentals, and, in addition to that, they accomplished a great deal in the far more important element of convincing the people there that they really have a serious range problem which needs early solution and remedies, if further disastrous depletion of the range resource is to be avoided.

At the urgent request of AAA authorities, Mr. Guy C. Kyes, who had charge of the demonstration work in those States, is to be assigned there through the season.

As for South Dakota and Nebraska, our men have concluded their series of initial training schools, from which local range examiners (or Inspectors) have been selected. Here again the training period was wholly inadequate but this situation has at least been partially met by the fact that the field men of the AAA have seen that there is more to this job than they had formerly anticipated and have recognized the need for additional training of the smaller groups of selected men, and have arranged for additional training of those men before they are released on actual examinations. Mr. Arthur J. Wagstaff of Region 4 has been placed in charge in Nebraska, and Kenneth W. Taylor of Region 9 is in charge in South Dakota. An advance conference of the Forest Service men was held in North Platte, Nebraska, March 29 - April 3 in order to prepare them to change over from the jobs of "doing" to "teaching." Our North Dakota, as well as the South Dakota and Nebraska men, were in attendance during this period. Comments from outside our own organization throughout the range territory indicate that our range men have done an excellent job in the training within the time allotted to them. Here again they have accomplished more than training as they have convinced the State people and the locally selected examiners that there is really a great deal to this job and that range remedies are sorely needed.

In Kansas, our three men under the direction of Forest Service State Director Reitz and Mr. John C. Baird have given far more intensive training to the twelve carefully selected local men, and their work will be closely followed by inspection; so we are confident that the work done by these will be reliable. Training will start in North Dakota May 3 on a scale comparable to that in Kansas.

Recognizing the need of correlation of efforts and standards of the several different Government branches engaged in range surveys, a conference called by the Secretary of Agriculture has just been concluded at Salt Lake City, Utah. Representatives of each of the several Government branches, including the AAA, the Resettlement Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture; of the Indian Service and Division of Grazing of the Interior Department; and of the State Experiment Stations, were in attendance. Messrs. Roberts and Kirby represented the Prairie States Forestry Project. It is believed that a good initial start was made in reaching an understanding and agreement as to standards of field methods and compilations, and that hereafter the work done by each agency may be accumulated into one big record in a form usable by all of the several branches of Federal, State, and County Government. The project will be headed up by the Forest Service. This will require an additional organization in the Lincoln office to assemble, interpret, and compile the surveys of this and other agencies within the Plains States.

- F. Lee Kirby

: NEBRASKA :

By the time the April issue of the PLAINS FORESTER goes to press, the Nebraska Unit will be well into its spring work program. At the time of writing, lands negotiations are practically complete, and fencing and planting programs have been started in all districts. Planting training meetings, attended by all crew bosses, have been held in all districts, and various planting problems discussed, and full planting instructions given. Efficient, rather than speedy, planting methods have been stressed throughout. Practically all our crew bosses and many of our laborers are experienced men, having served with us during one or two previous planting seasons. We have good planting stock, and with the exception of the Alliance district, soil-moisture conditions are good.

One point of intense activity is the central heel-in bed at Fremont. Late in March, the protective covering of sand and straw was removed, and digging started. Trees are being made up into individual orders for the strips, and are being shipped as rapidly as possible to the districts, where they are being heeled-in temporarily on the planting sites. Due to favorable soil texture and careful handling, our trees are coming out of the heel-in bed in exceptionally good condition.

Nursery activities will be started again in the very near future. Bids were accepted for new deciduous nurseries at North Platte and Fremont. The Plumfield Nursery at Fremont will again be used for the production of conifers, under the direction of Meine K. Meines. Wm. B. Moffet will have charge of the North Platte Nursery, and Carl A. Taylor will supervise activities at the new Fremont deciduous nursery. All seed cleaning and treating operations have been completed, and seed will be shipped to the nurseries as soon as they are ready for it.

The cooperative rodent control set-up has not been in operation long enough to justify any predictions as to its ultimate success, but reports received to date indicate that the cooperators are doing an excellent job. Damage to the trees during the first quarter of the year was slight. Since ground preparation and cultivation often destroy a large portion of the poison bait, control work in the new areas has consisted almost entirely of rabbit drives. Poison bait will be placed in these areas after the trees have been planted. Philip Morris, Biological Survey Foreman at Alliance, has been experimenting with poison bait placed around alfalfa and clover stacks in the vicinity of tree plantings, and reports very favorable results. It may be that an entirely new field of rodent-control work will be opened up as a result of Mr. Morris' experiments.

We have received some excellent news stories from newspapers throughout the State, and particularly in our concentration areas. We are greatly indebted to these newspapers, and to the County Agents in our concentration areas, for the fine publicity given to the Project and for the favorable response accorded the work by the general public in those areas. The Nebraska personnel has been exceptionally active in PR work during the spring months, six members of our organization having addressed, or taken an active part in 23 ACP, Farm Bureau, 4-H Club, and State Nursery Association meetings.

Cognizant of the fact that Bill Ihlanfeldt generally runs a tempera-
ture when he scrutinizes our monthly telephone bills, this Unit is making a
concerted effort to pare them to the bone. In order to keep down extra long
distance telephone charges resulting from talking beyond the three-minute
limit, we have installed a three-minute hour glass such as is commonly used
by housewives in boiling eggs. The peculiar thing is that it works to per-
fection when using the long-distance phone. When the phone conversation
starts we simply turn over the glass and it takes three minutes for the sand
to run out. Quit talking before the sand is out and there can be no extra
charges for exceeding the three-minute limit. These glasses can be purchased
at any dime store for from 15 to 20 cents. Try it. It's easy on the tele-
phone bills and makes an excellent gadget to play with when conferring with
persons of importance.

We take pleasure in announcing that two new Senior Clerks have been
obtained from the Civil Service list of eligibles and reported for duty on
March 15. These men are Wilfred W. Lewis and Wendell E. Lane. Although
these men have just started on their new duties, they look good to us. With
a little training these men are going to fit into their respective places
and everything will be running smoothly again.

Junior Foresters Wayne L. Weeks and Donald W. Smith reported for duty
on this Unit March 9. Weeks was with us last year in the capacity of Shelter-
belt Assistant and did an outstanding job in the Salem area. Smith is new in
shelterbelt work. Both are now on land negotiation work, Weeks being with
Pierce at Huron, and Smith with Lund at Mitchell.

Harold Devick has been transferred to North Dakota and will be acting
in charge of the nursery work in that State. Although this move is undoubtedly
going to hurt this Unit temporarily, we are for the deal for Harold's sake.
He has not only brought distinction to himself for his outstanding work, but
we feel sort of proud as a Unit in having one of our members chosen for this
important position.

Junior Forester Bruce Arnold has been temporarily transferred to
this Unit from Region 8. He is a good man and is going to fit into our or-
ganization well. Although he is not familiar with this part of the country,
our folks are going to like him.

This spring's new planting will be confined to two areas instead of
three, as originally planned. We believe that with the shortage of personnel
and equipment we can do a better and more efficient job by concentrating in
two areas instead of spreading out over three.

Miss Ione Nyman is the latest addition to our official family, having
started her duties as Senior Stenographer on April 1. She is rapidly ad-
justing herself to our system and methods. We feel fortunate in securing a
Senior Stenographer of her high type and ability.

The "Evening Huronite" on April 13 published a special "modern farming
edition" devoted to the farming interests of the State, and featuring recent
developments and improved practices in agricultural technique. Tree planting
is particularly stressed, and the issue contains many pictures of our shelter-
belt plantings and several articles on the subject of trees for protective
purposes. A signed story by A.L.Ford describes our seed collection and nurs-
ery activities, and in a picture labeled "Tree Chief," Ford is shown inspect-
ing a shelterbelt plantation.

Negotiation of 204 miles of strips, five and seven rod, was completed toward the end of March. Some difficulty was experienced at first, largely due to prospects for a big wheat crop, but toward the end of the program more applications were received than could be handled. Availability of labor restricted acceptances in some sections. Some ten miles additional has since been signed up, contingent upon having enough stock to plant them.

New planting and replanting was about one-third completed in March and we expect to finish up for this spring around April 20 to 25. Heavy snows throughout the area held up the work considerably. Moisture conditions are better than they have been for several years.

We shall appreciate any help that any of the States may be able to give in filling the following request, received from the Supervisor of Recreation Department, Kansas City:

"Please send me a complete bibliography of Nature. Also the Rules, Regulations and legal proceedings pertaining to Nature Lore."

We regret that we haven't time to write up the complete bibliography just at present.

- R.L.B.

Mr. Baird arrived from the Gardiner Purchase Unit, Region 9, to take charge of the 1937 Range Program in Kansas, and Instructor-Inspectors Goodwin and Thomsic reported for duty on March 29. Clearance on recommended appointments of Examiners effective April 7 was received and the following twelve men have been selected: Joseph R. Acuff, Glenn O. Brown, Clarence Cook, Raymond Dicken, T. C. Stebbins, T. C. Dodd, C. C. Graham, Archie Hodgson, Donald L. Maxwell, Robert Cameron, H. R. Hochmuth, C. C. Nicholson. A training school for these men was conducted at Manhattan before their assignment to districts.

Bids were circulated for nursery land, opening March 22, and twelve sites were offered. From this, two 40-acre pieces have been selected, one offered by Ben Puett at Manhattan, and the other by Wagoner Nursery, Hutchinson. We are particularly well pleased with the two leases. Mr. Rogers has been placed in charge of the Hutchinson lease and Mr. Buskirk of the tract at Manhattan.

Just to illustrate how Mr. Rogers, one of our star land negotiators in Kansas, had his work on his mind, he walked into a restaurant one morning and ordered a "half-mile strip" of bacon.

- G. W. Spring

About 20 of the Forest Service "gang" enjoyed a party given at the Reitz home. The new ping pong table received a good working out, and some real talent was discovered among the new Range men. We regretted to go home, along in the early hours Sunday, and hope the next get-together is not too long delayed.

- R.L.B.

: OKLAHOMA :

An incident that occurred in the Elk City District the other night illustrates how thoroughly the planting technique has been established in Oklahoma.

Supervisory Strawboss Wilkins reported that a number of his tree planters attended a country dance and unconsciously originated a new dance step. All of them were pacing off eight feet and then stomping three times. Latest reports are that the step has become quite popular throughout the countryside.

Men who have been detailed to Oklahoma to assist with negotiations and planting have all been transferred to other States or have returned to their official stations with the exceptions of Elvin K. Ferrell and Aubrey J. Arthurs. Mr. Arthurs is scheduled to go to North Dakota on April 15, at which time all remaining detailed transportation equipment and shovels and planting trays from Oklahoma and Texas will be moving northward - we hope.

As the planting season draws to a close in Oklahoma the demand for shelterbelt strips is increasing.

An example of how tree-minded some of our farmers have become is furnished by the case of Mr. W. W. Moore of Sweetwater. He had already signed up for all the trees that our negotiator felt justified in giving him, but he still wanted a half-mile belt along the south side of his northeast quarter. Mr. Moore got in touch with Paul Jefcoat, a neighbor owning the S. E. quarter of the section, and offered to deed him seven acres of land if he would put a ten-row belt along the north side of his quarter. Mr. Jefcoat already has a half-mile belt through the center of his quarter, so we are giving Mr. Moore the additional half mile.

- Elvin K. Ferrell

Senior Clerk Milton F. Olson was added to the State office force March 29. He is the third Senior Clerk we have appointed who hails from Muskogee. Ole, you must not let Muskogee down!

Mr. S. E. Counts, Route 3, Canute, Oklahoma, Washita County, was in the office on March 19 and made application for a mile of five-rod shelterbelt. I asked if he had any objection to cottonwood and he replied "not so much - I have a lot of them," and then went on to tell that year before last he had his cottonwood thinned out and the stock sawed into lumber. He cut 2800 feet of dimension lumber, and one tree, which he said was the daddy of them all, cut 678 feet. The trees were 33 years old at the time they were cut.

While we are planting shelterbelts for the protection of cultivatable land, who knows but that 30 or 40 years from now we may be living in houses, lumber for which was cut from the present shelterbelt plantations.

- James W. Kyle

We enjoyed Mr. Roberts' visit to Oklahoma recently, but why does R.O. always send an S O S when he or Bill Ihlanfeldt get down in our neck of the woods?

By the time this is printed, Texas will have completed its planting job. Lehman finished in his District on Saturday, April 3; Schattenberg, about April 8; and Kemp, about April 10. The original completion date of April 1 was set back by "unusual" weather - we actually had a real snow-storm the day after Easter, and several days of below freezing temperature - and by increasing our originally planned mileage of 180 to 215.

The local publicity about the concentrated planting in the Turkey area, which now totals 50 miles, brought a request for a similar concentration from another county. The Lions Club of Paducah, Texas requested a concentration planting in a sandy section north of this city which had begun to blow out badly. The Lions Club called a meeting of farmers in this section and sent speakers to the meeting; as a result there was 20 miles signed up in two or three days. Virtually all of these strips connect and have given us the densest concentration to date. There was only enough stock available for this 20 miles, and many applications had to be turned down.

Ground-moisture conditions are ideal, and unless sand buries or cuts off the young trees, the survival should be very high. These plantings are in good farming country and if they can take it and pull through like the Casey strip of New York Times' fame, they will furnish a wonderful demonstration of massed planting effects.

Jules Vogel rates "par excellence" as a chef, if his recent demonstration in concocting a picnic shrimp salad, a la Dixie, is a fair sample. We know this can be certified to by Miss Alexander, who, judging by the amount of salad she stowed away, must have just completed an 18-day fast. The Webbs were supposed to be present but missed out because of W.E.'s absence in the field. This will just cost Jules another salad.

Bill Wulf's ability to detect fraud was amply proved recently. Louis Wirth, on leave from Texas, tried to palm off some California Sunkist oranges on Wulf, claiming they were Texas fruit. Wulf was inconsiderate enough to look at the label. It's now up to Wirth to prove the superiority of the Texas product by sending up some samples.

Speaking of blowing - it really does blow down here. On March 20, Engstrom and Webb selected a nursery site from the list of bidders out in the High Plains country near Plainview. On April 2, two weeks later, Klein and Webb went back again to arrange for ground preparation, location of buildings, etc. A fifty-mile wind had blown for two days and covered the entire site with blow sand. It was necessary to cancel this lease and obtain another on short notice. No seedlings could have stood the cutting action of the sand blown in on this site.

Seein' is Believin'

Jack Burt took John Sharp and me out the other day and showed us how they were planting the trees in the shelterbelt. I told Jack that he didn't have to show me how to plant trees, because anybody that could handle a shovel could plant a tree. Well, Jack just laughed at me and went ahead. When we got out there and he showed me the way a tree would have to be planted to make it grow right and live, I found out that tree planting was more of an art than I thought it was. I will have to hand it to Jack, because he really knows the art.

We really ought to appreciate this shelterbelt program too because it is going to mean a lot to this section of the country.

Clipped from "Turkey News," Turkey, Texas

Land negotiations have been progressing rather slowly, with the final date for receiving applications being advanced from March 27 to April 15. This has been necessary for various reasons. At first the farmers held off on account of no spring moisture. Then two wet snows came, about ten days apart, putting the roads and highways in impossible condition. Meetings have since been held, and with the additional moisture now in the soil, applications are coming in satisfactorily. No difficulty is now expected in having our quota of 100 miles ready at planting time. In Districts IV and V the total precipitation in the form of wet snow has been well over an inch in all parts. In Districts I, II, and III, not so much was received, but farmers all over the State are again optimistic as to the crop outlook and are seeding as much land as they can get.

Topping the news of the month comes the advent of George K. Clark's nuptials, which took place at Fargo March 27. The Clarks have just returned from their honeymoon trip to Chicago and will be at home on April 12 to certain expectant seekers of cigars. Congratulations, George, and to your charming wife a sincere welcome.

Thanks to the efforts of Operation and our cooperative Washington Office, Miss Olive R. Peterson has again returned to our organization after nine months of profitable and enjoyed associations with the Washington Office. Miss Peterson arrived here April 1 - slim, trim, and ready to lend a capable hand to the task ahead.

We welcome as a new member to the Forest Service, Victor C. Rosenwald, who comes to us from the Forest and Field Clerk register, to fill a Senior Clerk position vacated last July. To Vic we delegate the all-important job of keeping the ever-mounting number of pay rolls and vouchers rolling promptly into the hands of our diligent auditors in Fiscal Control.

Paper and Pencil

Oh paper! what would the forester do without you! Oh paper! where would you be without the forester! And yet we wonder. Do we as foresters plant and grow enough trees to support our own needs in paper requirements? If all the paper we have used on this Project was placed end-to-end and side-by-side, how many times the length of the zone would it go? Or if we could have transplanted the spruce, etc., used to make the paper we have used, would we have just as many shelterbelts established as we have now?

^ Innocent pencil, just a sliver of cedar and bit of graphite. One wonders if you realize the joy, sorrow and frustration which you cause. It has been said that the "pen is mightier-" but pens are not in general use just now. The path which you weave as you cross a blank sheet may change the course of a nation, lift mere humans to the skies in exultation or plunge them to the depths of despair. I wonder if we as foresters realize what tremendous instruments we carry in our pockets, whether it be the stub in the nook of the vest pocket or the equipment of the seven-pencil man whose vest resembles a steam calliope.

- L.A.W.

Junior Foresters Mack Bryan and Ed Harden have arrived from Tennessee to again lend their capable assistance to planting activities on Districts 3 and 4. Yes, girls, both of these men are still eligible bachelors.

CONVINCING EVIDENCE

Mr. Karl F. Ziegler, Junior Forester in the Coldwater District in Kansas had the following interesting experience in the negotiation work this spring. He tells us that one morning Mr. E. G. Thorp came into the office with certain information from Mr. E. E. Alexander concerning the latter's 1936 planting. After getting that off his chest we discussed various matters, principally shelterbelt plantings. Mr. Thorp mentioned that he was doubtful whether trees could be grown here in Western Kansas, as he had planted a considerable number of them thirty years ago but had obtained no results.

I asked him if he was going to be busy for the next half hour. He said he wasn't, so I bundled him off in the pickup and took him out to A. L. Beeley's 1935 Spring plantings. He took one look at the trees and exclaimed: "Were those planted only two years ago?" He then said: "You can come out to my place and put in 3/4 of a mile if you want to." He walked through the planting, admiring the growth, and was especially attracted by the 100 per cent stand of Chinese elm.

We later examined his land and accepted half a mile, much of the land not being favorable. That was the easiest mileage negotiated to date. He didn't ask any questions about ACP payments, kinds of trees, etc. All he wanted was a tree strip "like Beeley's".

WHAT WORKMEN SAY ABOUT GOOD LEADERSHIP

The following is a collection of some of the different statements made by large numbers of workmen in answer to the question, "Who is a good Foreman?" These statements are taken from page 66 of the Civic and Commerce Bulletin No. 8 on the "Foreman and the Human Problem." They constitute the main specifications set up for him:

1. He is a good planner and organizer of his work.
2. He knows his onions about his own job and the other jobs under him.
3. He is a "come on man" and not a "go on man."
4. He never asks you to do anything he isn't willing to do himself.
5. When you have a new job to do he always shows you what you are to do and how to do it.
6. He always gives you a square deal.
7. He plays no favorites among his men.
8. He tells you the truth and keeps his word.
9. He never double-crosses you.
10. He insists on having his orders obeyed but makes them clear so you understand what you are to do.
11. He always treats you with courtesy. Even when he criticizes you, he does not bawl you out before others.
12. His criticisms are meant for your own good.
13. When you do a good job of work for him he tells you so.
14. He always keeps an open door so you can always go to him about your complaints or your troubles.
15. He helps you out when you are in trouble.

- Region 6 Bulletin

Shortly after the last issue of PLAINS FORESTER went to press, our Editor-in-Chief, E. L. Perry, met with a painful traffic accident while walking across one of Lincoln's down-town streets. While the green light was in Ed's favor at the time, it seems that the color-blind driver of the car did not recognize this fact, striking him directly between the safety zone and the curbstone. Ed reports making a perfect three-point landing after "floating through the air with the greatest of ease," and due to the fact that he had made a mental recording of the car's license number even before striking the pavement, there was no reason at all for worry. Although severe bruises, contusions and lacerations were suffered at the time, we are happy to state that Ed was back on the job within a very few days and now appears almost as good as new.

(Editor's note: Just to show you how chickens may come home to roost, when we were hunting pheasants with some of our colleagues last fall, we fired at a certain bird and missed. Well, maybe we fired at more than one bird and missed, but that is neither here nor there. The point is that with simple dignity we voiced a very patent fact; to-wit, that the bird got through our pattern. We had to put up with a considerable amount of crude humor on this score at the time, but imagine our chagrin when, after the accident described above, one of the aforementioned colleagues gravely suggested that we had failed to "get through the pattern" of this automobile. Anyway, we shall try to arrange hereafter to be struck somewhere other than "directly between the safety zone and the curbstone" as Otto so delicately expresses it. It interferes too much with the proper enjoyment of meals.)

Continued cool weather has prevented the start of the Golf Tournament, but we hope to swing into action most any day now. Several of the boys have been seen polishing up the golf clubs, as well as practicing putt shots on the living-room rug and short approaches on the front lawn.

The bowling team managed to hold its own in stiff competition during the past four weeks, having won six of the last twelve games. Bill Ihlanfeldt has again taken his regular place on the team and has been crashing the pins in great style. There is some talk of entering the team in the A.B.C. National Tournament at Chicago next year, clad in forest green uniforms from head to foot. Provided, of course, if and when, etc.

Helen L. Naser and Helen M. Magnuson, Senior Stenographers, are new additions to the Regional Office staff. Miss Naser has been assigned to Timber Management, while Miss Magnuson becomes a part of Fiscal Control-Operation. We welcome these young ladies into our little family and wish them the best of success. Incidentally "Helen" is a grand old name and we like it.

David A. Arrivee, Assistant Supervisor of the Hoosier Purchase Units, Region 9, has been detailed to this office to assist with the large range program now getting under way. We are happy to have "Dave" with us and are thankful to Region 9 for making this possible.

F. Lee Kirby, who is directing the range activities, has promised to hold a field demonstration during a week-end in the near future, to which all members of the Regional Office and their families will be invited. We shall be very happy to attend, as our knowledge at this time is quite limited when it comes to talking about bluestem, grama, sand grass, sedge and other products of the range country.

- O.K.Bartos