

seemed to spread all over us, warming the very cockles (wherever they may be) of our respective hearts. O Wooster!—but I'd better not start apostrophising that worthy philanthropist.

Then, too, one recalls a certain brand new pair of working boots, fried in dubbin before the fire; still we did rescue a bit of them. And those memorable Sunday mornings with sulphur swimming baths, on one of which Henry Lee Robinson, the celebrated forester (I can think of no shorter description of him; there are other Henrys, other Lees, other Robinsons, but our Henry Lee, etc., is unique), on one of which, I say, or meant to say, he dubbed the writer, who was throwing a chest and pretending to look big, Simpson—Simpson, who slew—but if you don't know the story this is not the medium for it.

Other things, too: Arthur's woollen tam-o'-shanter, which was useful for keeping his ears on, those cold mornings; innumerable village scandals—oh! Skip the dashing went to a dance; the late ineffable and ubiquitous Rudolph V., languidly disporting himself one night before the village "fans" in the hospital gymnasium turned into a temporary cinema; football matches and a game of golf that never came off.

But the term's beginning came in sight; so we perforce packed up and away, with very pleasant recollections of solid work, and those blue skies, hard frosts, brief mid-day sunbaths; we'll come again, Hans Andersen, we'll come again.

—A. W. R.

SPRING CAMP, 1926.

The initial three-weeks' camp of the School of Forestry at Moana last year proved such an unqualified success that the continuation of the custom then established was a foregone conclusion, and the question asked where foresters foregathered was not "Will we have a camp this year?" but "What arrangements have been made for the camp?"

The arrangements made differed very considerably, however, from those of the previous year, as the camp programme this year had to cover field instruction work of greater variety and on a more advanced scale than was needed in 1925. The locality selected, therefore, was at Darfield, in the centre of the activities of the Selwyn Plantations Board, whose operations present for detailed study a working local body forestry organisation carrying on a complete programme of activity according to a definite forest policy laid down upon well-considered lines, such as is not to-day found elsewhere in New Zealand, nor, indeed, in most parts of the world outside the continent of Europe. All forest activities from seedling-raising to milling are in progress within easy access from Darfield, while the many mature

and growing stands of different species under various experimental silvicultural treatments and in different sites could be studied side by side, and practical conclusions arrived at.

The camp was made, therefore, at Kimberley, near Darfield, in a small whare owned by the Malvern County Council. The advance party, Messrs. Hutchinson and Russell, left Christchurch on Saturday, 21st August, in the School Ford, with a mountainous load of camp gear, instruments and personal kit, and arrived in due course at Kimberley, took possession of the place, and commenced housekeeping, having everything in first-class order by the time the rest of the crew put in their appearance on the Monday following. No cook was taken on the camp, as it had been thought that some experience in camp cooking was essential to all budding foresters. Therefore, it was arranged that each day one student should act as chef, being relieved of other duties for that day. The system worked very well on the whole, and the camp certainly did not suffer for lack of plenteous well-cooked meals, though the cooks had each their trials and tribulations with green pine slab firewood and smoky, ancient stove. Lack of pots and pans was a matter of grave concern, until a raid on the Darfield garage set us up with goodly supplies of the ubiquitous and versatile petrol tin. It was rather fortunate, too, that the shops of Darfield were only a scant three miles away, so that in case of dire emergency a dash into town in Bobbie's car would always save the day. A settled routine was very soon established, however, and things went quite smoothly, a great deal of talent hitherto unsuspected coming to light in the great field of domestic economy.

The question of mobility had to be considered, for the Selwyn plantation system covers practically all the plains between the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers, and wide distances must necessarily be covered in an examination of areas. However, Canterbury country roads are excellent both in extent and condition, and the camp moved on wheels, with two cars and a bike providing the *modus operandi*. There was, of course, the School Ford; then McLaren brought his Buick roadster, while the bicycle was more or less disowned, but seemingly came from some rather questionable haunt in Rolleston House. With a little squeezing the two cars contained the whole party, and were in use every day, over nine hundred miles being registered by the two vehicles in connection with the camp.

The aim of the work at the camp was primarily toward giving the students a broad and comprehensive view of a working forestry organisation in all its various aspects. The first few days were, therefore, spent in a tour of inspection of practically all the reserves

under control of the Selwyn Plantation Board, to enable all the students to get clearly in mind a picture of the nature and extent of the enterprise in hand—the location of the reserves, their soil and climatic limitations, productivity, economic aspects, and so on. With this broad outline in mind, attention was then given in detail to the various operations in progress. The nursery at Darfield was visited, and a close study made of methods employed in raising forest trees for planting in Canterbury. In this connection Mr. R. G. Robinson, Superintendent for the Selwyn Board, placed half a day of his time at the disposal of the School in going fully into the reasons underlying the various methods and technique evolved as a result of his experience of twenty-five years or more in afforestation work. Planting operations were then followed in detail; studies were made of the various silvicultural experiments in progress with regard to converting idle scrub and diseased eucalypt stands into commercial timber lands by various under-plantings; matters of spacing and thinning were gone into, with the results of past experiments under the eye, and critical studies were made of fire protective matters, of milling, of forest grazing, and all other phases of practical forest administration.

The work thus done culminated for the senior students in the collection of full data needed for a forest working plan for such an organisation as that studied, the elaboration of which was a feature of the course in forest management during the ensuing term, providing a field for the practical application to a definite project of the considered results of their whole course of training in forestry, such as they will be called upon to undertake in real practice when they embark on professional forestry in New Zealand.

The junior students were, of course, unable to follow such studies through to completion, but were engaged most profitably in dendrological and botanical studies, and in nursery and plantation technique, while a day was also spent in the native forests near Oxford, where material for dendrological and ecological study was available in both the beech and the taxad types of the Oxford bush. Opportunity was also taken to pay a hurried visit to the big hydro-electric generating station at Lake Coleridge, where we were courteously shown over the power station, being fortunate in seeing one of the big new units in process of assembly, so that its interior workings could be seen and studied.

Recreation, though subordinated always to the actual work of the camp, was by no means absent. Evening lectures were not given this year—instead a hectic series of coon-can games were inaugurated round the fireside, which lasted until the last man fell asleep and

rolled off the biscuit box which did duty as a chair, while correspondence seemed to occupy the time of a number. Every evening, too! There was a dance in a nearby centre one evening, too, but the less said on that point the better.

While we were in camp at Darfield, the tragic drowning in the Waimakariri of Messrs. Carrington and Shannon occurred, and the services of the School were at once put at the disposal of the local constable, who was directing the search. Two days were spent, under his direction, in the searching of the river banks in the lower gorges, while the staff and students attended the funeral of the late G. N. Carrington at Springfield on the 28th August. The students and staff of the School of Forestry wish to record here their sense of loss of these two men, both of whom, but particularly Mr. Carrington, were known to most of us, and of sympathy with their relatives in their decease.

At the end of a fortnight the work mapped out for the Darfield camp had been completed, and the camp was broken up. The junior students thus gained a week to themselves before the commencement of the term, which Russell put to good account by joining the staff of the Selwyn Plantation Board at Darfield nursery, where he lined out seedlings and otherwise busied himself to the satisfaction of the Superintendent. The senior students, Barker, Clark and Hamilton, however, now proceeded with Mr. Hutchinson to the West Coast for a study of logging and milling operations in that region. The Ford was railed through the tunnel to Otira, thus making it possible for us to accomplish the trip entirely independent of train or motor services, enabling us to visit a considerable number of operations in a minimum of time. The operations visited were Faulkner's mill at Omoto, where a Fordson log winch and loco. are in use; Lake Brunner Sawmilling Company's Bell Hill mill, with its up-to-date band saw; the Forest Sawmill Company's plant at Nelson Creek; the mills of Malfroy and Company and Kanieri-Hokitika Sawmills, Ltd., at Hokitika; the mills and bush operations of Butler Bros., Ruatapu; and Stuart and Chapman, Ross.

Visits were also made to the State Forest Service nursery at Woodstock, and the experimental area at Rimu, where the comparative growth of various species on cut-over lands and dredge tailings was noted. The other industries of Westland were not overlooked, and the party was enabled to visit the electrically-operated gold dredge at Rimu, the sluicing operations of the Hohonu Diamond Terrace Company, and the James State Coal mine at Seven-mile, where much that was of interest was to be seen.

On every hand we were met by the well-known cordiality of "the Coast," and the gen-

erous courtesy of the mill and bush superintendents and staffs of the various operations visited, and of the State Forest Service officers and others made each individual inspection, of necessity very brief, of great value in securing for the students a full and comprehensive grasp of the matter in short time. The Ford came through the trip in good style, and though minor mishaps occurred, no serious trouble developed, and the party returned to Christchurch on schedule time, railing through the tunnel as before, and then continuing the journey from Springfield the same day, arriving just in time for the opening of the College term. It was rather a breathless week, beginning with the 3 a.m. departure from Darfield to catch the early morning goods train from Springfield to Otira, and ending late in the evening on the day of our return, with a good deal of night travelling, and many crowded days, but the trip was abundantly worth while in the gaining by the students of at least a glimpse of the scope and practical importance of the many problems of forest utilisation awaiting solution by New Zealand foresters.

SUMMER VACATION WORK, 1926.

Barker is investigating the microscopic structure of New Zealand timbers for the Engineer in Forest Products, and is working at the College under Mr. Foweraker's supervision.

Clark at the moment of writing is arranging for a position with the State Forest Service in the Wellington Conservation Region.

Skipworth is working for the State Forest Service in the Nelson Region, being last heard from at Dumgree plantation.

Tannock is working on the Dunedin Plantation Reserves.

Russell is engaged as assistant by Mr. Hutchinson on the Canterbury Economic Forest Survey.

Roche continues his work with the State Forest Service as Ranger of the Canterbury Region.

McLaren is working in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens under the supervision of the Curator, Mr. Jas. Young.

EX-STUDENT APPOINTMENT.

The Forestry Club extends its congratulations and warmest wishes for all future success to S. C. Hamilton, who has just been appointed Forest Guard at Naseby, in Central Otago. Hamilton is the first of our number to leave the College to take up forestry work, having satisfactorily completed a two-year Ranger course, and while we hate to have him leave us, we are glad to see that the training given at Canterbury College, especially in connection with the Ranger course, is being noted, and considered of value by forestry authorities in New Zealand.

Hamilton will be greatly missed from the Club next year, but we know he will not forget us, and we hope to have him present as often as official duty permits in the future.