

Agriculture's research for better disease-resistant varieties of sugar cane. He flew in a pontoon-equipped airplane over a great deal of mountain territory near the region explored by Mr. Chinnery, landing at will on the many inland lakes.

Mr. Stirling expressed considerable skepticism over some details of the first press reports of Mr. Chinnery's discoveries. Efforts to link the mountain peoples with ancient Egypt through the type of stone mortars used in grinding

flour, he felt, were unjustified, since mortars are a common kind of household utensil among peoples of a simple culture-level everywhere.

"It is much more likely," he said, "that we have here a group of tribes, hitherto unknown or little known, but which in the end will prove to be quite similar in racial makeup and customs to their nearest neighbors in the already known parts of the New Guinea uplands."

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FORESTRY

Lightning and Drought Cause Over 100 Forest Fires

LIGHTNING and excessively dry conditions throughout the Northern Pacific States were responsible for over 100 forest fires during the week ending August 4.

High winds fanned one blaze of 3,000 acres near Curlew, Wash., into a roaring furnace covering 18,000 acres.

Another fire originating in Canada crossed the border over a three-mile front and entered Coleville National Forest near Vulcan Mountain. A total of nearly a thousand men from C.C.C. camps and the neighboring region fought the two conflagrations.

Lightning storms caused 45 fires in the Wenatchee National Forest alone. Of the 25 that were burning in the Chelan Forest, three were reported as class C, which means over ten acres were burned. These three have laid bare a total of 780 acres of heavily wooded landscape.

Region one, the northern Rockies in Central Idaho and Montana, was at last reports still in a critical state. Koniksu, Kootenai, Selway, Bitterroot and Clearwater National Forests all had fires. All but one in Koniksu and Kootenai were controlled. In Clearwater Forest a fire raging over 8,000 acres was reported to be well manned with C.C.C. crews.

Snoqualmie National Forest, in Washington, has suffered severely from 19 fires. One burned off 1,500 and another 3,000 acres of big timber.

The Forest Service has not as yet computed the extent of the damage done in the West. Reports up to the present time, however, show that this year is heading for a record of destruction from forest fires.

So far, the number of forest fires in 1934 showed an increase of 66 per cent. over the average for a comparable period in the past three years. Officials of the U. S. Forest Service believe that this large increase is in part due to the lack of rain throughout the country.

National and state forests have become like tinder in a great many large areas. The smallest spark is likely to ignite the scorched underbrush and in a very short time a blaze is raging for miles across a wooded countryside.

If the number of fires increases at the same rate throughout this year the total number will exceed the total of 140,722 fires recorded for 1933. The area burned last year was 43,889,820 acres, with a total damage, estimated as accurately as possible by the Forest Service, of \$60,274,960.

Only 3,722,920 acres of the land burned in 1933 were in areas protected by the Forest Service and state forestry organizations. The other 90 per cent. of the damage occurred in regions not included in the 160,000,000 square miles (100,000,000,000 acres) of National Forests. The heavily damaged areas lie in sparsely populated regions of the South and West that have not as yet been dotted with fire stations.

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ZOOLOGY

More Moose Seen By Tourists in Yellowstone

MOOSE, seldom seen in Yellowstone National Park by casual visitors eight or ten years ago, of recent summers have become one of the interesting



BEAR-PROOF

Here's how rangers in Yellowstone National Park protect their beans and bacon from marauding black bears that make things uncomfortable for the cook who doesn't take precautionary measures in storing his food. A huge cage is suspended between two trees on a wire, and is lowered or raised on pulleys. The trees themselves are encased in metal from the base to about 12 feet upward to make sure that Bruin can't get a toe-hold and climb up to do a tight-wire act.

tourist sights. This year these animals are being met more than ever along the roads and trails, according to Superintendent Roger W. Toll, of the park, for an abnormally large "crop" of moose calves resulted from the mild winter which turned conditions topsy-turvy in the Yellowstone.

In fact, abnormal increase in all game animals had been expected, but indications now are that except in the case of the moose the increase was not as big as anticipated. It has been impossible to make a satisfactory check on the increase of the game herds, however, as the early spring caused them to migrate to the summer range much earlier than usual, and for some reason the general route of migration apparently was abandoned. At present the game animals are found scattered all over the park. As a result the rangers are having difficulties in their attempts to count the various species.

Fortunately range conditions in the Yellowstone have shown a slight im-