

FORESTRY

Winter Rains to Aid Rangers In Fighting Fires This Summer

Ten-Pound Radios, Which Can Be Carried on Back, Also Expected to Facilitate Protection of National Forests

THE FOREST FIRE season, which begins in the East during the latter part of this month, is expected to be much less disastrous than that of memorable 1931, Roy Headley, of the U. S. Forest Service in Washington, D. C., revealed to Science Service. Despite the alarm occasioned by the burning in the Florida Everglades, there are no fires of any consequence in national forests now, he said.

Rain and snow have fallen heavily throughout the West this winter, breaking the ten-year precipitation record for southern California. As a result ground water is being replenished in national forest states and the opening of the western fire season will probably be delayed until the middle of June. Last spring, the excessive drought and the high, parching winds made conditions in the Northwest acute by April. The cycle of declining precipitation, which has extended over the last dozen years in the West, is believed to be at an end, and normal weather is hoped for, Mr. Headley stated.

New equipment, Mr. Headley also said, is to be tried out in the national forests this summer. Fire fighters will go into the field for the first time with radio sets they can carry on their backs. Each set, consisting of both transmitting and receiving units, weighs but ten pounds and will enable the forest personnel to keep in touch by signal code.

The approaching fire season will also see the introduction of the improved radio outfit which permits transmission not only of code but of voice as well. These sets, greatly simplified and extremely reliable, weigh but 25 pounds and can be transported on horse back. If funds are available several hundred of them will be purchased.

The 25-pound set is a refinement of the 78-pound outfit experimented with in Columbia National Forest during the summer of 1930. Strenuous tests, it was said, have shown the lighter set to be "almost too good to be true." It permits the broadcast of the voice up to a distance of 100 miles.

The new radio sets will find wide usage in fire fighting activity, it was stated. Whenever a member of the forest personnel is away from a telephone he can make his report and receive orders by radio. This is frequently the case in many areas during acute periods of fire fighting. Both the ten- and 25-pound sets will be used under these conditions, while heavier sets are also slated for use on forest service boats in Alaska to make possible communication with points on shore.

Widespread use of the radio sets, Mr. Headley stated, is necessarily dependent upon financial considerations. He also cautioned that the new instruments cannot be counted on, as some persons would expect, to put an end to forest fires. Fire control, however, will undoubtedly be greatly facilitated by them.

Science News Letter, March 12, 1932

PHYSIOLOGY

Extract of Blood-Forming Hormone Checks Anemia

A POTENT extract of normal human stomach juice which will check pernicious anemia when injected into the muscles has just been prepared by Drs. Roger S. Morris and Leon Schiff of Cincinnati, Ohio, in collaboration with Drs. George Burger and James Sherman of the department of internal medicine, University of Cincinnati.

The extract, science's latest weapon with which to fight this once fatal disease, is thought to contain a blood-forming hormone which the Cincinnati investigators have named "addisin" in honor of Thomas Addison, who first described the disease.

That the normal human stomach secretes a substance which prevents the development of pernicious anemia was discovered by Dr. William B. Castle and his associates at the Boston City Hospital, who also found that feeding pernicious anemia patients beef muscle which had been digested by normal human stomach juice checked the malady.

Feeding stomach juice itself was not successful, but the Cincinnati investigators have reported to the *Journal of Medicine* that their concentrated stomach juice when injected into the muscles produces an effect similar to that of liver extract.

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