

Shevlin-Hixon Company Tries Out New Method Of Re-foresting Burned Areas

PORTLAND.—That substantial progress is being made by the Shevlin-Hixon company in its fire protection and reforestation program at Bend, Ore., is reported by William L. Hall, of Chicago, after an inspection of the company's lands. Mr. Hall is head of Hall, Kellogg & Co., consulting foresters for a number of southern and western pine companies.

Until three years ago the Shevlin-Hixon company, in compliance with the Oregon requirement, burned its slashings. The company became convinced that unnecessary damage was being done to soil and young growth by this practice, so sought and obtained consent of state authorities to try out other methods of brush disposal. It then began, through its logging department and its foresters, a systematic study of the brush problem and fire control. As a result of these studies, the company decided upon two guiding principles, which have been steadily followed. First, the dividing of slash areas into relatively small parts by protecting burned strips; and second, the building up within the organization of a spirit of resistance to fires, including alertness in fire detection and preparedness in the effective dealing with such fires as do start.

In carrying out the plan of burning protective strips it was at first thought it might be necessary to burn as much as 30 per cent of the cut-over area. Experience has shown that it is not necessary to burn over 10 per cent, and it is believed methods can be so perfected that not over 5 per cent need be burned. Fortunately, the Oregon provision has been changed so as to allow other methods than broadcast burning. This is a step in advance.

All protective burning and all organization for fire fighting is aimed at the accidental fire which within a few hours may sweep over great areas and do almost unmeasurable damage. The company has made great headway against such fires. In fact, such progress has been made as to justify a high degree of confidence that fires can be controlled without great losses as to area burned and without excessive expenditures either in brush disposal or fire fighting.

Years after year it shows up more plainly that any fire in the pine woods of Central Oregon does heavy and long-continued damage. For this reason it is the company's aim to reduce the area burned to the lowest practicable figure.

The company has never undertaken to leave standing any merchantable trees, as it did not consider it likely that the lands would soon be cut over again. During the period when the method of broadcast burning was followed, nearly all the young trees under merchantable size were consumed. Only here and there a spot escaped. With the development of fire protection plans the company very naturally has advanced to a new point of view as respects young trees. The foresters have pointed out that the lands carry an excellent stock of young growth. Some of it is very small and some is nearly merchantable. This young growth the logging department is now very zealously working to leave uninjured in the logging operations, and it is acquiring much skill in this direction. It can safely be assumed that all unburned areas will show themselves fully set with trees within five years after logging and most areas are fully stocked as logging operations leave the ground.

All this young stock begins to grow within two or three years after logging. The rate of growth has been a continual surprise. We noted this year, said Mr. Hall, sapling pines that had made 55 inches of light growth in three years. We found young trees showing good-sized logs on lands logged over less than ten years ago. These trees were eight to 12 inches in diameter at the time of logging and because of their small size were left standing and fortunately had not burned. Since logging they show growth rings from one-tenth to one-sixth inch wide. These were not average specimens. They were among the best. They have resulted, however, merely by chance. We believe with well-directed efforts much more growth of this excellent character can be obtained.

It has been the opinion that tree growth in the pine regions of Oregon is so slow that it is a factor of no importance to the lumberman. That view appears to be incorrect. On the contrary, it appears to be true that growth possibilities are a factor of such importance that the lumberman can well afford to take it into account. And especially is this true for companies having large holdings and expecting to operate during a considerable period of time.

The Shevlin-Hixon company has done much experimenting with logging machinery and it has carefully studied the effects of different types of machines in damage to young trees. At present it is using in part of its logging several heavy caterpillars for conveying logs to

railroad spurs. These machines are giving excellent results from this point of view. They destroy a minimum of young trees, while their use opens up roadways through the brush areas and this makes fire control easier.

All these factors are tending to emphasize the desirability of taking advantage, so far as possible, of the growth possibilities of the lands. How this can be done in a practical way is a question of importance to pine operators of Oregon just as it is elsewhere.

And Now Here Is Genuine Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Joe Clunk, General Delivery, Herring, Ida.—Dear Sir: Although we were for a moment somewhat taken back by your monumental gall in writing us for a letter of recommendation, nevertheless we are nothing if not accommodating and we enclose herewith a letter which carefully sets forth some of the many things you did for and to us while in our employ.

TO WHOM IT COULD POSSIBLY CONCERN: Joe Clunk, who said he was a mill foreman—and still may make such claim—was employed by us for a period of four hectic weeks one week of which he was "ill" following a Fourth of July celebration at his home, and three weeks of which he put in somewhere in our sawmill, exactly where we have not been able to ascertain nor do we care a tinker's damn to possess such knowledge.

The first day of Mr. Clunk's service at our plant was excellent, he being content with chewing cigar clippings and observing the general operation of the mill, but in no way endeavoring to interfere with production.

On subsequent days, however, he: 1—Instructed sawyer to cut all cants possible, despite the fact that there is no gang saw at our plant. 2—Had scrap with belt chaser. 3—Tried to bully scaler into lowering log deck scale. 4—Got drunk. 5—In an attempt to readjust action of log haul "fixed" it so it threw first log clear past head works and plumb into edger, making edger into mess of junk and causing entire mill shutdown of three days while repairs were made.

These, as we now painfully recollect them, are a few of the high spots of Mr. Clunk's service with us. Should anyone desire any further and possibly more specific details, and will take the trouble to enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope, we shall cheerfully furnish information that will make any mill operator's hair stand directly on end. As for ourselves, we haven't any hair left, as most of what we did have came out during the four weeks Mr. Clunk was here. Yours for homlock filches, HOKUS & WATT'S LUMBER CO., Inc.—Holbrook in the 41. Bulletin.

MILL CLOSED INDEFINITELY SEATTLE.—The South Seattle Mill company, situated on West Marginal Way here, closed down Wednesday and has released all of its employees, 75 in number. The plant will be closed for "an indefinite period, according to the management. Most of the employees have been able to find employment at other plants.

BARR CAMP TO OPEN KELS0, Wash.—The R. H. Barr Logging company, which has been closed since June because of the fire hazard, will commence logging operations at its camp on Mulholand creek a tributary of the Cowee-man river, according to R. H. Barr, head of the company.

Thanks



Some of the boys in the woods this week cut loose with news, as did some others who knew of some lumber news that we would like to print. As a result we were enabled to go duck hunting four times and still get out a fair paper. We wish you would continue the practice, for the geese will be coming in soon and then we want to go after them every day.

As You Can See

It's going to take a lot of cooperation on your part to make this possible. So if your husband takes a gypo contract, or your sidekick participates in any social event —

Send It In!

Remember this fact — if a thing HAPPENS, it's news, especially if it happens at a mill or in a lumber camp. Don't be afraid to take your pen in hand and send us what you have. Nearly everyone reads the Lumberlogue and when your name appears in it you may be put in touch with someone who has been looking for you for years, say bill collectors for instance.

And even if you don't send anything in, remember that others are doing it, and don't forget that in order to know what they are writing about YOU—You must in self defense read

The
The
Lumberlogue