

Fire Fighting Exhibit at the Exposition

DON CARLOS ELLIS is in charge of the Forest Service exhibits at the Panama-Pacific Exposition which are attracting so much attention from the thousands of visitors, who are curious to learn what the Government is doing with the great forest areas under its control. The larger exhibit is at San Francisco and the feature about which most of the inquiries are made is the forest fire protection and fire fighting exhibit. This is complete in every detail.

In the center of the space is a large model, measuring 12 by 15 feet, showing a ranger district on a national forest. A lookout house and a lookout tower occupy the two highest peaks. These are connected by telephone with a ranger station, which in turn is connected with various users of the forest at a ranchhouse, a hotel, and a powerhouse. The model shows Government roads, trails and bridges, constructed primarily for the purpose of making every part of the forest accessible to fire fighters. Fire-fighting equipment boxes are placed at strategic points along trails and roads, and a fire line kept clear of inflammable material runs along one of the mountain ridges.

To one side of the large center model a full-size fire lookout house, fully equipped for discovering and locating forest fires, is built on an imitation of a great boulder on a mountain top. The house is painted white to serve as a conspicuous target for heliograph messages directed toward it by patrolmen. The building contains binoculars through which a distant forest fire is seen; a fire finder, by the aid of which the supervisor's office can be informed definitely of the location of a fire; and a special type of telephone in communication with the supervisor's office. There are also on display in this tower a portable telephone and a portable heliograph outfit for use by patrolmen. A pair of stereopticon machines are concealed within the imitation rock on which

the house rests and throw pictures and descriptions on screens built into the rock, which tell the entire story of the fire protection work.

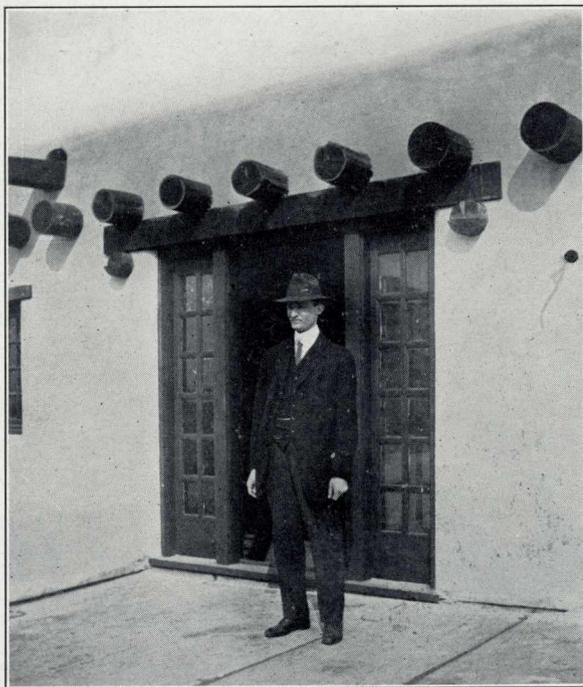
On a redwood tree trunk in another part of the exhibit is displayed a weather-proof iron box telephone, such as is placed along patrol routes on the forests. This telephone is connected with the telephone in the lookout and with a supervisor's telephone at the desk of the demonstrator by slack lines attached to tree trunks on swinging insulators, just as the line is installed on a national forest. This manner of construction enables the line to stand the stress of the elements through the winter and prevents the wire being broken when a tree falls.

The latest type of fire-fighting toolbox, equipped with shovels, rakes, hoes, axes, canvas waterbags and buckets, canteens, lanterns for fighting fires at night, torches for setting back fires, nesting cooking utensils, and emergency rations, occupies a place near the lookout house.

Beside the desk of the demonstrator, who plays the part of the national forest supervisor, is hung a master fire map of the forest similar to the one in the lookout house. On this map is shown the location of every trail, bridge, road, telephone line, telephone station, ranger station, fire-fighting toolbox and lookout station. At the locations of the lookout points are protractors oriented to correspond with the protractors of

those stations. This map enables the supervisor to locate a fire directly from the reports of the lookouts without any mathematical calculations, and to place to the best possible advantage the force of men available.

Fire warning posters and rules concerning care with fire in the forests are posted upon tree trunks and in other conspicuous places through the exhibit as they are in the forests.



DON CARLOS ELLIS

In charge of the Forest Service Forestry Exhibits at the San Diego Exposition and at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, standing at the Entrance to the Building Containing the Exhibit at San Diego.