

ANOTHER TRY

The Bureau of Forestry draws the bulk of its technical men from the College of Forestry, U.P., the only institution in the Philippines that trains men for forestry work. Its enrolment is unfortunately small and smaller still is the number of graduates turned out each year. This explains why the Bureau cannot easily fill its vacant positions.

Several remedies have been tried. Men who had no formal training along forestry lines were taken in the service. Some made good, the rest, handicapped by lack of training, rendered poor service. Deserving fieldmen of the Bureau were sent to the College but this did not help much in solving the problem.

Recently, Director F. Tamesis made another try. Gathering a group of young honor students from high schools all over the country, he sent them to take the ranger course in the College of Forestry as ranger trainees. Their expenses are paid by the government. When they finish their studies, they will fill in the vacant positions in the Bureau. This policy not only aims to solve the personnel shortage eventually, but also to attract more intelligent young men to take up forestry. Director Tamesis deserves praises for this move and more because he has kept on trying. We wish him luck and success.

—N. T. Vergara

A CHALLENGE

The Bureau of Forestry has made an investment in the twenty-seven valedictorians, salutatorians and first class boy scouts that are at present taking the ranger course in the College of Forestry, U.P. Sent to college as government trainees, these young men are to fill the numerous vacancies in the Bureau after they finish their studies. In any business

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investment, the investor runs the risk of losing. The Bureau's investment is no exception. These ranger trainees are expected to make good. They are challenged to live up to our expectations.—BCA—

AFTER THE PLANTING

Every second Saturday of September is Arbor Day, one day out of three hundred and sixty-five days when our mute friends the trees, are remembered. Hundreds and thousands of trees are planted on this day throughout the country by school children, public officials and civic-spirited groups. Well and good as far as it goes.

Growing a plant into a tree is not so simple as sticking a seedling in the ground, however. It needs a little care, a little tending. Unfortunately, this phase of planting is often forgotten. It is not surprising to find only a few plants living among those planted last year, if the plants were not tended. The true purpose then of Arbor Day is defeated if, after the planting, the plants are left to themselves unprotected, uncared for and unremembered till next Arbor Day.—BCA—

OF OUR NEW FORESTER IN CHARGE

When news got around that the "Grand Old Man," Professor Harold Cuzner, was retiring, ours was as good as anybody's guess as to who was going to be the next forester-in-charge. And, as usual, everybody wished that his successor was one who not only knew the problems of the school but was a man of action. One who planned and pushed through his plans.

It is yet too early to make predictions but if we are to judge what the new man at the post can do, the improvements that we are getting are very auspicious signs, indeed.

Now we have a real reading room, an answer to the students' perennial cry since liberation for a library which can accommodate a good number, not only a handful, of students. We have more convocations at which prominent men are asked to address the student body.

Other problems vitally affecting the student body and the faculty are being looked into, and an assurance that everything humanly possible will be done to solve them, one at a time, has been made.

—F.V.B.

LEFT IN THE LURCH?

Metropolitan papers reported that educators and legislators hailed the presidential approval of a bill increasing the salaries of public school teachers and officials. The bill provided not only for higher salary scales for teachers but also for automatic salary increases for every five years of efficient service before and after its enactment. Previous to this, legislation likewise boosted the salaries of other government employees. It was high time, they said, that these low paid and self-sacrificing employees were given better remuneration.

When I hear these praises heaped upon these fortunate public servants and not a single soul-lifting word for the foresters and rangers in the government service, my outlook towards life becomes dim.

For we, less publicized and unsung hard-working public servants, guardian of our vast forest wealth, — have been disregarded for quite a long time already. Without any in-

tion of casting aspersions upon our colleagues in the government service, I believe that foresters and rangers undergo more sacrifices and more strenuous work, unmindful of the unknown dangers lurking in the forests.

The bill, providing for the standardization of the salaries of foresters and rangers were submitted by Congressman Marcos M. Calo for consideration during the fourth session of Congress. The bill barely reached the amendment stage when the session ended. There are those who say that increases cannot be granted due to the condition of our finances. Yet, increases were given others. I just cannot make heads or tails of it!

The increases sought for in the bill are not too much. They are just enough to enable the foresters and rangers to put a little more in their stomachs and a little more clothing on their backs. The foresters and rangers continue their work with zeal and loyalty, trying to give more than what their unremedied situation can afford. Are they to be left in the lurch?

—T.A.S.

CAMPUS NOTES . . .

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