The Polytechnic Journal

San Luis Obispo, California
December, 1908
The Forest Ranger is appointed by the Forester after having passed an examination, which is given once a year by each of the Supervisors, who are scattered throughout the United States.

There are two sections to this examination, the technical or written, and the practical or field work. The first consists of questions concerning land, claim, and grazing laws of the United States; also questions relating to lumbering and timber scaling. The second is probably the most interesting. The men who are being examined are taken to a convenient place and put through tests of shooting, packing, tree cutting, surveying, riding and the art of cooking by camp fire.

The Forest Reserves are divided into districts. After a man has passed the requirements he must provide himself with a horse and camping outfit. He is then sent to his district, where he assumes his duties, for which he receives, until promotion, $75 per month.

The duties of the Ranger are divided into two parts. In the summer he must patrol his entire district, and be on the lookout for all forest fires. As the districts often cover a considerable area of land, from two to three townships, and as the country can only be traversed by keeping to the trails, it sometimes takes several days for the Ranger to make a complete patrol of his district. The Government is now trying to supply each Ranger with a cabin and barn. These are generally located, as near as possible, to the center of the district. In some cases, however, where water is plentiful, they are built on ridges where the Ranger can get a good view of the surrounding country, and thus locate disastrous fires.

The winter duties are sometimes delayed by the snow and heavy rains. They consist principally of trail building, running telephone lines, making fire lines, gathering pine seeds, and, in some localities where nurseries are located, he assists in transplanting and shipping trees.

The Ranger keeps a diary of each day's work. At the end of each month the account of his work and experiences is forwarded to the Supervisor, who carefully inspects the entire and keeps a careful record of what the Rangers are doing. The following is a copy of a day's work, taken from the diary of a Ranger in the Angeles Reserve, which is located in Southern California:

"July 18, 1908.

"Left camp at 7:30 a. m., rode to
Squirrel Inn, had lunch. Rode down to Seeley Flats and over to Thompson's ranch. Issued burning permit to Mr. Thompson for July 20. Left ranch at 2:30 p.m. Started for camp by the way of Saw Pit Canyon. Reached the summit at 3:45 p.m. and arrived in camp at 4 p.m. Worked on timber reports until 5 p.m., Weather clear. Time put in, 8 hours and 30 minutes."

In issuing a burning permit a Ranger fills out a blank, which explains the conditions and gives the date on which the permittee is to burn rubbish, leaves or brush. If the permittee does not comply with these conditions and the fire escapes his control the law deals with him very severely.

Fighting fire is one of the duties which the Ranger meets during the summer or dry season. These fires are very destructive and cost the Government thousands of dollars annually. These fires sometimes burn for days and the Rangers often become exhausted trying to extinguish them.

The methods by which fire is checked are back firing, cutting trails and by throwing dirt on burning leaves around the fire line. The best fire-fighting tools are the shovel, ax and brush knives. The Government has lately placed large boxes, containing fire-fighting tools, at places on the reserves where the tools may be obtained on short notice. The canteen is found to be a very welcome friend to the Ranger; several of these are placed in boxes.

Mountain fires are started in numerous ways, but the principal cause is the careless camper, who neglects to extinguish his camp fire. Lightning, however, has in several cases been the cause of fires. The Government at the present time pays 25 cents per hour and furnishes meals for all those who assist in fire-fighting. All able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 45 years are expected to assist in fire-fighting.

During the year of 1907 the area of burned timber was less than one-tenth of one per cent of the entire National Reserve. This percentage has been increased considerably in the recent summer months.

The Ranger spends his evenings in study that he may receive promotion, which is given every year. Each year he receives a vacation of 15 days and in case of sickness he is also given a 15 days' sick leave.

Taking everything into consideration, Uncle Sam is not such a bad fellow to work for after all.

ELMER AYL.

JOSHES

Found, the following: "Please admit J. Willoughby to classes. Absences as follows are excused on account of 'domestic troubles'. Friday, 1-2 periods. Signed—"

Miss Oughit says "That Sauer is getting sweeter every day."

This equation can be solved if A plus R equals S plus D.
A stands for Artie.
R stands for Rosie.
S stands for Sauer.
D stands for Dughit.

Wood—"How do you do, Mr. Stone. How is Mrs. Stone and all the little pebbles?"
Stone—"All well, thank you. How is Mrs. Wood and all the little splinters?"
BOYHOOD EXPERIENCES

ONE.
"Hello, why are you so late?" said John Dudley, as the office boy rushed breathlessly into the room.
"I had to wait for my breakfast, sir," the boy replied as soon as he could catch his breath.
"That's no excuse, sir," came the sharp reply. "If you haven't a better excuse than that you will have to go."
"It was not my fault. Do you expect me to come to work hungry?" said the boy, turning red.
"Come, now, tell the truth," was the reply. "I know where you were; I happened to come that way myself."
"Well, sir, I went to see the circus. I won't do it again if you don't fire me."
"Well, see that you don't," and Mr. Dudley turning back to his desk, thought of that circus when he was a boy, and smiled grimly. Of course it was better than this one, though.

TWO.
"Boys! boys!" came the voice at the foot of the stairs. There was a stir within the blankets, a stretch and a groan, then a muffled voice called out, "All right!" and everything was quiet.
The voice came again: "Boys, get up, or I'll have to come up there."
The blankets moved again.
Oh, how cold and dark it was this morning! There was no answer to this last call.
A noise was heard on the stairs. Somebody was coming up. There were footsteps in the room, and then the snap! snap! of the switch across the bed.
The footsteps returned and went down stairs.
Then two youngsters, with frownsed hair and blinking eyes, crawled out from under the bed and silently began to dress. EDGAR DUNCAN.

JOSHES

It was on a bright, clear morning
The atmosphere was cool,
When Dutch, our royal freshman,
Was on his way to school.
He met with Miss Van Wormer,
And unto her did say:
"How are you, pretty maiden,
Tis bad to walk alone all the way."

Umpire (at game): "Foul!"
Freshman Smith: "Where are the feathers?"
Umpire: "You goose, they are a picked team."

WILLIAM'S LESSON.

Jop, though knowing it was a sin to bet,
Was game to put up with all he met.
At first he let his money go,
And then his junk, when out of dough.
He bet his clothes down to the skin,
All on the chance that Bryan might win.
So Jop learned a lesson and learned it well,
And in his good natured hot air way,
Tells how he bet all on Wm. J.
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TERMS
Subscription........75 cents per year
Advertising rates on application to the Business Manager.

In the few numbers of the Journal which have been issued this year, we have had occasion to refer to the marriage of several former students. We had had the idea that we had not yet passed our "kid" days, but when we see our recent school-mates taking their place in the social and industrial world we begin to realize that we, too, will soon be called upon to make an application of our education to the practical problems of life. To prepare us for this, our Polytechnic courses are especially adapted.

Thus far it has been like pulling teeth for the editor to secure literary contributions to the Journal, but we trust that from now on conditions will be better.

If it were not for our advertisers we could not publish the Journal. We fully appreciate this support and hope that our students will support them in return.

We wish all of the Journal readers a merry, merry Christmas and a return to work after the holidays with renewed vigor.

SPECIAL DAIRY COURSE.
Next term a special dairy course will be opened in the school's new model creamery. This special course will be open to all who are interested in dairying, and we bespeak for it a liberal attendance, especially by dairymen in this and neighboring counties. The course will be of untold value to those who take it.

We hope that the dairymen of this
part of the country do not have the
same mental attitude that they had a
few years ago when Dr. Ward, the
State bacteriologist, lectured here on
dairy bacteriology. All were invited,
but very few outside of the school at­
tended. One dairyman, when asked to
attend, replied impatiently that “It is
all foolishness; I know too much about
them blanked bugs already.” The fact
was that he did not even know enough
about them to know that they are not
bugs, but plants.

Farmers are looked down upon by
many classes of people, but when agri­
culture is put upon the same intelli­
gent basis as other industries, the
farmer will not have to take second
place to anybody, in society, politics or
the general life of the day.

Plans for the dairy course are not
yet mature, but when they are, the
Journal will give them full attention.

EDITOR.

THE AGRICULTURAL CLUB.

Thursday evening, Nov. 12, the club
met and was presided over by Mr. Con­
dit owing to the absence of both the
President and Vice-President.

Mr. Mainwaing, the Forest Super­
visor of this district, was introduced
by Mr. Condit and gave an interesting
and instructive talk on Forestry, re­
lating principally to the work that is
being done and the work to be done
in the Forest Service and of the many
difficulties arising in this work. He
also answered many questions asked
by different members relating to for­
estry.

Elmer Awl then told some interesting
experiences that he has had in the
Forest Service in one of the Reserves
in the southern part of the State. He
also told us of the work that is being
accomplished there and answered a
great many questions relating to for­
estry in that section.

On Dec. 3 another meeting was held
and the program prepared for the eve­
ning was a debate on the topic: “Re­
solved, That intensive agriculture is
more profitable than extensive agri­
culture.”

Those who were to take part in the
debate were: Affirmative, Murphy,
Curtis and Yates; negative, Davis,
arklof and Awl. However, when it
came time for the debate Davis and
Murphy were the only ones present.
But the debate came off and every­
body present had to get up and argue
on the side assigned to him. The
President and Secretary acted as
judges, but owing to some disagree­
ment no decision was rendered.

Many good arguments were for­
warded on both sides and the even­
ing’s program proved a success in
spite of the fact that all the members
were not present.

After a short recess a business meet­
ing was called and a few business
items discussed.
On Friday evening the first of the series of debates for this year was held at the San Luis High School between Polytechnic and the San Luis High.

Prof. S. S. Seward, of Stanford University, was selected as judge for the debate.

The subject was: "Resolved, That the United States Government should guarantee the bank deposits." Polytechnic supported the negative and the High School the affirmative. Poly was represented by Watson, Bianchi and Kendall as first, second and third speakers respectfully, Watson also making the rebuttal speech. Schulze, Mason and Jones represented the High School.

The final decision of the judge was as follows: Total points, Polytechnic, 244; San Luis High, 255. Jones, of the High School, with 97 points, was given first place; Watson, of the Polytechnic, with 93 points, was given second place, and Mason, of the High School, with 90 points, was given third place.

The rooter sections of both teams encouraged the debaters as much as possible with numerous yells and songs, and after the program was over cheers were given to both the losing and winning teams.

While the decision was being made the Polytechnic Glee Club rendered two selections.

On Dec. 6 Arroyo Grande and Santa Maria High Schools debated at Arroyo Grande, and the winning school—Santa Maria—will debate against the San Luis High School at Santa Maria probably some time in March, 1909.

Polytechnic will not hold the cup this year, but there are more years coming. We have had the cup two years now and it is only necessary to win the debate one more year to gain permanent possession. Our team did excellent work and our final score was only a little less than that of the High School. Next year we are going to do better.

FRESHMAN ORGANIZATION

As the usual time for organizing the "Freshman Class" comes after the Thanksgiving holidays, the "Freshmen" met on December second and selected class officers. It did not take the class long to decide who they wanted for representatives and the following were elected:

President—Ernest Yates.
Vice President—Glenn Piercy.
Secretary—Elmer Awi.
Treasurer—Ralph Pease.

The class wishes to extend its thanks to the "Senior President" who presided over the election and gave them a good start.
Of all evenings that should be celebrated, Saturday, Nov. 25, stands near the head; and the way in which it was celebrated reflects great credit on the various committees in charge. The occasion was a reception given by the school's Dance Committee in honor of the winning basketball teams.

The heavy fog did not prevent the presence of a good crowd, and a very enjoyable time resulted. Dancing was indulged in throughout the evening, and the merrymakers thoughtlessly stepped the hours away to the music furnished by the Misses Munoz.

The refreshments, which were served just before the last dance, were heartily appreciated and furnished a fitting climax for a delightful evening.

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SCHOOL NOTES

Marie Urban, a former Polytechnic student, was married last month to Ernest Gudel, of Pecho.

On Nov. 21, Ruby Kirk, another former Poly, was married to Fred Jones, of San Luis Obispo.

Nov. 27 witnessed the marriage in Susanville, of Clara L. Stringfield, '08, and Marion B. Rice.

The chorus of the combined boys' and girls' glee clubs made its first public appearance in assembly, Nov. 24.

Allan V. Emmert, '07, has been for about a year teaching horticulture in the Preston School of Industry at Lone.

The lath propagating house, which was recently added to the plant industry department, is proving a valuable adjunct. It is hoped that a cheesecloth propagating house may soon be erected also.

A girls' glee club was organized this month and a great deal of interest is being shown by the musically inclined. Miss Richardson was chosen leader; Hazel Wood, pianist, and Rachael Ramage, secretary. The girls expect to make good progress in their work and would be glad of any help from those girls who have failed to join. There will be several musical programs rendered during the year by the glee clubs and by a chorus of the boys' and girls' glee clubs combined.
FOOTBALL.

On Saturday, October 21, the High School Football Team lost to the Polytechnic at Athletic Park—26 to 0. It was a well played game but much time was lost in disputing and consulting the rule book. When Poly wanted to gain a few yards all they had to do was to put Buck through the line and then ground was made. Cox proved to be a good man to put around the end. Hayward played a good game at center, considering his having little practice. When Manning once got started, he couldn't be stopped. It was in one of his touchdown runs that he was tackled after crossing the line, and received a sprained shoulder and was forced to retire from the game. Hopkins took his place behind the line and Adams took Hopkins' place on the line.

When the High School wanted to make a gain they tried a punt or forward pass for a line buck but against Poly's stone wall it was of no use. Polytechnic's rooster section showed what it was made of when ever a touchdown run was made from the far end of the field.

The line up was as follows:


The interest in gymnastics is gradually growing. Mr. Condit has planned a hare and hound race for all those interested in long distance running, but final arrangements have not yet been made.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

The final game of basketball was played for the championship of the league between the boys' teams of Santa Maria High School and Polytechnic on the grounds of the latter. Polytechnic won, 14 to 4, thereby winning the championship for the year. The court was in a fairly good condition considering the wet weather. It had been covered with a layer of sand Saturday morning, making it more easy to get around on than on the wet ground. Every man played the best he knew how, and at the end of the first half Polytechnic was on the safe road to victory. Fiedler and Hopkins did the goal throwing and did it well. Better guards than Buck and Murphy
could not be found, while Duncan showed his opponent the scientific method of playing. The game was hard played all the way through, but hardest toward the last when Polytechnic began to get warmed up.

**GIRLS’ BASKETBALL.**

The girls' basketball season ended with a flourish, our girls having won two games and lost one.

Saturday morning, Nov. 21, the team, subs and a few rooters, started for Santa Maria, fully confident of coming home with a score that would weigh heavily in the suit cases. The game was scheduled for 10:30 a.m., but on account of delay of the narrow-gauge train, caused by an agent tacking “Magic Yeast” signs on fences every few miles, the game did not begin until 10:45.

Miss King of the San Luis high school, was referee. At the first tossing of the ball in center, it was caught by the Poly center, and after a difficult struggle, the ball went into the Poly goal. The ball came to Santa Maria goals time and again, but the guards did surprisingly good work and at the end of the first half the score was 9 to 1 in favor of the Poly. The second half, the red and white braced up, and made two free throws and a field throw. This made their score 5. The green and gold kept the ball in motion with the score going up, and when time was called the score was 17 to 5 in favor of Polytechnic.

The school spirit of Santa Maria was fully equal to any school that has ever been in the league. After their defeat it served to keep one in a good humor.” The banquet was the best of the day, and, best of all, it was gotten up and served by the basketball boys of the school. Everything was prime, and the manner in which it was served could not be beaten. After short speeches were made by several of those present the crowd rushed for the train. Some were late, but the engineer, knowing their importance, delayed the train. With cheers for Santa Maria, given by the large (?) Polytechnic rooter section and return cheers by Santa Maria for Poly, the train moved out of the station. The girls reached San Luis In time for the exciting football game between Poly and San Luis high school, done their best, and that grieving would do no good.

As the toastmaster said: “A feed was the best thing to settle one’s mind after a game like the one just played, feat everyone seemed to feel they had done their best, and that grieving would do no good.

**BOYS’ BASKET BALL**

On account of rain the final basketball game between the Santa Maria boys and the Polytechnic team had to be postponed. This game is looked forward to because it will determine the championship between Polytechnic and Santa Maria. Manager Manning of the team has corresponded with teams of the northern and southern parts of the state and expects to get a number of games before Christmas. Most of these games will be played away from home and much enjoyment is looked forward to by members of the team.

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