

Clearfelling for Regeneration of Mallet
Unemployment Relief Scheme.

About the middle of May 1931 a scheme was launched to absorb about 40 unemployed men from different centres on relief works at Lohgray.

Originally it was intended to clearfell 1,000 acres for regeneration with mallet.

Approximately 900 acres were finally clearfelled under the scheme which is very satisfactory considering the initial

Rate of cost
of pay.

At the commencement of the work single men received 15/- a week & married men £3-0-0 a week irrespective of the number of dependants this however was adjusted when the financial emergency act came into force.

see circular scale of rates.

The scheme in reality was worked on a piecework basis, or payment by results, although each man was limited to an area representing the value of a fortnight's work, at the end of which period he received payment, providing the work was completed to the satisfaction of an inspecting officer.

The acreage to be cut depends on the assessed value, which is obtained by comparison with the cost of work done on wages in the same locality.

The men were split up into

four groups each of which worked a separate section. Camping facilities were supplied, although camp sites were hard to find owing to the scarcity of water, generally these were not more than 1 mile from the job.

Tools. - New axes were supplied to each man and a grindstone for each camp. also necessary waterbags & carborundum stones.

Transport was provided to the various camp sites. but the men had to pay their own transport back at the completion of the job.

Marking out Ranges.

Each area is marked off into 5 chain strips, working from a central base line.

Pegs are set up along the base line and numbered AB - BC - CD - DE + 20 or

From each of these pegs offsets are made at right angles to the base line with a Sinescope compass, & carried out to the end of the area by sighting in pegs until the end is reached. This method overcomes magnetic variation which is common in this type of country.

Several lines were run through by compass on a magnetic bearing but were out as much as half a chain at the end of a 60 chain strip.

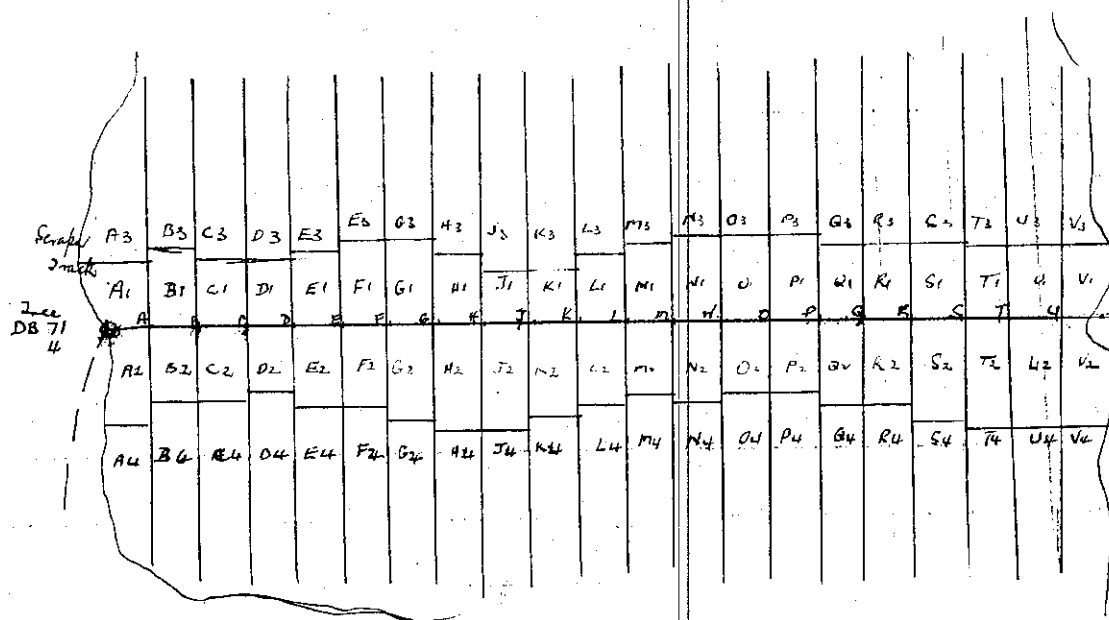
With the five chain strips coupe areas can easily be worked out as

every 2 chains gives you an acre.

Coups are numbered A1, A2, B1, B2, B3, & so on from the base line.

In order to simplify matters so that the men can find their blocks without any trouble, odd numbers should be one side of the base line and even numbers the others.

eg. A1, A3, A5, one side - A2, A4, A6 & so on on the other side.



Distances are usually chained but in the more open vegetation where large coupes have to be made to cover the amount pacing is sufficiently accurate.

Ordinarily a single man has to fell a little over 3 acres to cut out his amount of £3-0-0.

& a married man fells $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

Some coupes may be as much as 9 acres in this forest.

When blazing coupe boundaries trees near or on the line should

be marked distinctly to indicate which side of the line the tree is placed so that there will be no arguments between adjoining coupe workers.

Coupes are drawn for in the usual way; numbers are put in a hat & each man draws his own block.

A record should be kept of the coupes drawn by each man, so that any trees left or other work left undone can be traced to the individual concerned.

During the early part of the scheme the larger, dry, or hollow green trees were burnt down, this being a much quicker & labor saving method than chopping them down. About the end of October this practice was stopped owing to the approaching dry weather. If left to late there is always the risk of a log smouldering away unnoticed & on a hot day setting fire to the whole compartment. An illustration of this was the burning of Area 3 long before the logs were properly dry, with the result that only the leaves & small limbs were burnt.

Arrangements for Delivery of Stores.

The storekeeper makes a trip out to the camps every Monday morning. Arrangements must be made with him to purchase all bread meat & other requirements in addition to groceries.

All men batching have to

sign a procuration order in favour of the storekeeper concerned so that stores accounts can be deducted from their wages & thus assure the storekeeper of payment.

Payment of Wages.

Wages to relief workers are paid on a special wages sheet which has an additional deductions column for the stores account adjustments.

The nett wages are written out by cash order in the ordinary way and endorsed across one corner "Unemployment relief work".

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Note. We do not guarantee that the storekeeper will be paid. The procuration order is just a convenient medium of exchange.

The storekeeper should be informed that amounts the men are getting so that he can get an idea how he stands & can limit the stores to a specific amount.