

OLD APPRENTICESHIP DOCUMENT

By D. H. Perry

To train men for service in the General Division of the Field Staff an apprenticeship scheme was instituted in 1917 by Mr. Lane-Poole, the then Conservator of Forests. Many of the senior men of this Division were trained under this scheme. It is thought that the apprenticeship document covering the indenture might be of interest to our staff.

A copy follows from which some of the official legalese has been omitted to make the document more readable:

INDENTURE OF APPRENTICESHIP TO CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

The indenture made the 17th March, 1917, between Mrs. Smith in the State of Western Australia, of the first part, Bill Smith son of the said Mrs. Smith of the second part, and the Conservator of Forests in the State of the third part:

WITNESSETH :

1. The said Bill Smith of his own free will and with the consent and approbation of his parents (testified by his execution of these presents) doth hereby bind himself apprentice of the said Conservator of Forests to serve him from the 17th March, 1917 during and until the full end and term of four years.
2. The said Bill Smith doth hereby covenant and agree with the said Conservator of Forests that the said Bill Smith to well and faithfully and diligently serve the said Conservator of Forests as an apprentice in the trade or business of a Foresters during and until the full end of the said term of four years.
3. The said Bill Smith shall not at any time during such term cancel, obliterate, injure, soil, destroy, waste, embezzle or make away with any of the books, paper writings, plans, tools, documents or other property of the said Conservator of Forests or the Government of Western Australia or knowingly suffer the same to be done by any other person or persons whomsoever, if within his power to prevent it, without giving speedy notice thereof to the said Conservator or person appointed in authority over the said apprentice.
4. In case the said Bill Smith shall act contrary to the covenant contained in the last preceding paragraph hereof he must indemnify the Conservator within one month for damage committed.
5. The said Bill Smith will at all times during the said term readily cheerfully and diligently obey and execute his lawful and reasonable commands and conform to the rules, regulations of the Conservator of Forests now in existence and which from time to time may be hereafter made during the term of his said apprenticeship.
6. The said Bill Smith shall not depart nor absent himself from the service or employ of the said Conservator of Forests at any time during the said term without his consent first obtained and shall from time to time and at all times during the said term acquit and demean himself as an honest and faithful apprentice ought to do.
7. The said Bill Smith agrees to serve the Conservator truly, honestly, and diligently for the full term of his apprenticeship.
8. The said Conservator of Forests will during the said term by the best ways and means he can and according to the best of his power and knowledge instruct the said Bill Smith or cause him to be instructed in the said trade or business of a Forester and all and

everything pertaining thereto.

9. The said Conservator of Forests will pay the said Bill Smith the sum of 12/6d. per week during the first year of his apprenticeship, the sum of 17/6d. per week during the second year of his apprenticeship, the sum of 22/6d. per week during the third year of his apprenticeship, and the sum of 30/- during the fourth year of his apprenticeship. The said Conservator of Forests shall pay the said Bill Smith a subsistence allowance of 10/- per week to cover the cost of his board and lodging during the period of his apprenticeship. It shall be lawful for the said Conservator of Forests to withhold any increase in wages from the apprentice if he fails to satisfy the examiners.

10. If at any time during the said term of four years the said Bill Smith shall from sickness or any other cause whatsoever absent himself from the service of the said Conservator of Forests he the said Bill Smith shall not be entitled to receive any wages during the time he shall be absent as aforesaid and shall not be entitled to receive any annual increase in pay until he has completed the full yearly term unless the said Conservator of Forests in writing waives the same.

11. Any breach of the foregoing conditions on the part of the apprentice shall render the indenture null and void at the will of the said Conservator of Forests.