

PINE PRUNING WITH LIGHT-WEIGHT CHAINSAWS

by A.B. Selkirk and R.J. Underwood.

The wide spacing and initial vigorous growth of a young *P. radiata* stand at Clifford's Plantation in the eastern portion of the Mundaring Division has presented a problem in having this stand economically low pruned. The plantation is in the 20-25" rainfall belt and is planted on an abandoned farm about 25 miles east of Mundaring Weir headquarters. Early losses due to summer droughting has resulted in the remaining trees assuming the poor form and branchiness of open-grown trees. Axe pruners were consequently faced with the formidable job of removing limbs up to 3" in diameter at their point of junction with the tree bole. To get a clean job, "scarfing" and "backing-down" were required on virtually every limb on every tree. The job proved very costly.

Following an idea by a local officer, advantage was taken of a demonstration given by a chainsaw company representative to test the suitability of a light-weight chainsaw to the low pruning of these heavily limbed trees.

In a trial run on the largest trees at Clifford's, seven trees were pruned to seven feet in just under ten minutes. Allowing for normal delays and operator fatigue, it appears reasonable to expect a tally of up to 200 trees per day from an experienced operator - a tally similar to that obtained from a gang of six men using axes in this particular stand.

The lightness of the saw (about 12 lbs.) and its great power would appear to make the application of the machine to low pruning open-grown trees a feasible, safe and economical project. However, a larger scale trial, together with a properly conducted cost analysis would be necessary before any firm recommendations could be made.

A NOTE ON FORESTRY OVERSEAS

by D. Lejeune

Below is an extract taken from "The Progress of the Forests Department (Sudan) since Independence" :-

"The following is a summary of the main achievements of the Forests Department and its progress after Sudanisation in 1956 and until the Ninth Anniversary of Independence. The rise in standard in quality and quantity of work is attributable mainly to decentralisation whereby the Forests Department seceded from the old combined Agriculture and Forests Department, and is also due to Sudanisation bringing young enthusiasts to work with devotion and determination in this difficult field, the work centres of which are in the hardest and remotest terrains of the Sudan's nine Provinces. The foresters whose working day starts at 6 a.m. and usually continues long after official working hours, do not ask for annual leaves except in sickness and the like. The Director of Forests, as an example, has not taken one day of his entitlement for leave since 1953 and so did several of his colleagues."

The P.S.C. would no doubt be interested to learn that this is not unusual for foresters.
