FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Would that the pages of *The Forestry Chronicle* were more often filled with such interestingly written articles as Dave Fayle's Defence of the Common Worm, and R. J. McCormick's Attack on Our Beliefs about Tropical Jungle Life, both contained in your March edition.

Surely Canadian Foresters are not so concerned about their professional status that they cannot display a sense of humour in their writing or admit to the enjoyment of overcoming a common ignorance.

WILLIAM G. HARRIS

The recent appearance of an article on "Fieldwork in the Tropical Forests" marks a departure from the usual highly technical research papers so unfortunately common to our forestry publication. Although it marks the other extreme, the acceptance of this article nevertheless gives hope that *The Forestry Chronicle* may yet become a chronicle of forestry activities across Canada instead of the chronicle of forest research.

Foresters have long complained that the public shows little real understanding of forestry and confuses the forester with the fire fighter and the romantic forest ranger of Hollywood. Public relations and education is a perpetual topic of debate, and the findings of committees are, year after year, the same thing—rather negative. The reason is simple, but oh! how it hurts us to admit it! We are not foresters, we are at best silviculturists, devoted to the dream of growing trees for the sake of the trees. We are not the least bit interested in the relationship of forests and people.

In British Columbia, we appear to be proud of our policy of sustained-yield forestry, proud of the fact that we have risen above the trivial economic and social problems of the present. Forestry and the logger? Forestry and stable employment? Forestry and community economic planning? What have all these things to do with us? WE ARE FORESTERS!

Thus the pendulum has swung from the over-enthusiastic cut-and-get-out logger to the idealist lost among the trees of his forest, and *The Forestry Chronicle* has served mainly as a soporific for his dreams.

It is time we woke up and grew up, time that foresters, faced with the physical and economic problems of harvesting the crop, endowed the *Chronicle* with more realistic articles. After all is said and done, it is only through logging that the forest can really be manipulated and managed. It is easier for us to ignore the logger's problems, but then, are we foresters? For, as Chief Justice Sloan emphasized in his Royal Commission report: "It is important to realize that sustained yield is not an end in itself; more properly it should be regarded as an instrument by which the real purpose of our forest policy may be achieved. This purpose is social and economic rather than technical; it is the use of our forests for the maintenance of maximum stable employment and profitable production."

D. M. TREW