

Mrs. Crocker Retires

No person in the Forest Service can remember the time prior to this month when Edna Crocker was not in the Chief's office, because there has been no such time. When the Forest Service was the Division of Forestry occupying three or four rooms in the old red brick building that housed the Department of Agriculture, Mrs. Crocker, or Edna Frost as she was at first known, became associated with the Chief's office. During Gifford Pinchot's administration, she was secretary to Overton W. Price, GP's associate. Early in Colonel Graves' administration she became the Chief's secretary and served in a like capacity William B. Greeley, R. Y. Stuart, F. A. Silcox, and Lyle F. Watts. Thus, the history of forestry in the United States, as an organized movement, has passed over Mrs. Crocker's desk and probably no person knows it more fully or in greater detail.

Mrs. Crocker's retirement from official activity this month marks in a way the end of the first forestry epoch. When as callow youths the men who are now the brave and reverend seniors of the Forest Service received the cryptic notice "See GP," it was often Mrs. Crocker who admitted them to the inner sanctum. Probably nobody knows better than she the events which preceded the transfer of the National Forests from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture, the early battles to establish range management on the National Forests, the combination of circumstances which culminated in the Forest Homestead Act, the details of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, the development of the Weeks Law program, and all the other long series of epochal events down to the present movement to establish sufficient public regulation of cutting and other forest practices to protect public values on private forest lands. It is wholly improbable that any other secretary to the Chief of the Forest Service will ever enjoy a period of service so fraught with incidents and events bearing directly on the welfare of the Nation and contributing so directly to one of the Nation's major policies and programs, because it is improbable that the conditions under which the Forest Service evolved from a simple Division of the Department into its present status and proportions can again occur.

The earnest desire of every member of the Forest Service is that in the future years Mrs. Crocker will find rich compensation for her long and loyal period of service to the organization to which she contributed so much.

Mrs. Ramona B. Hood, formerly secretary to Assistant Chief Kneipp, has been selected to succeed Mrs. Crocker.

Captain Coville Injured

Word has been received that Captain Perkins Coville, formerly assistant chief of the W. O. Division of Personnel Management, is a temporary war casualty. He is hospitalized in Paris where he is recovering from a back injury, broken bone in the right hand, and lacerations of the head. The injuries were sustained when a truck in which Captain Coville was riding collided head-on with another vehicle.