

*EDITORIAL*

## All you need to go to the Moon is Science

In 1980 the great funambulist Karl Velander fell to his death while walking a wire rope stretched between two sky-scrapers. One can speculate on the cause of the accident — a swirl of wind bouncing off one of the buildings, a lack of concentration, a fault in the equipment. To successfully stroll the straight and narrow of such an act demands an understanding of physics, a head for the job, and good equipment. Any rope-walker will tell you that his job is an art, an art that would not, however, be so spectacularly successful unless it was keenly woven into the latest in science.

Forest management too is an art. It is not a science. It is an art sheathed in a thick coat of science, and as a consequence made immeasurably more efficient. Modern trends show a danger of the fine coat smothering the man at the core. The profession of forestry will loose a lot if that finally happens. The man, having been given satisfactory direction, must, at the end of the day be allowed to manage his forest. Deny him responsibility, run the show on dictates and you can still produce timber — but do not expect such a man in his Sunday clothes to get out of his car to clear a blocked drain. It takes a private concern, not science, to clear a blocked culvert on a Sunday morning.