

under regulations providing for fire danger.

Forest fires, caused by excessive drought, raged through the province during the first week in June and much valuable timber, both crown and private, was destroyed. The number of fires reported to the department by the fire wardens totalled sixty-six and the damage was estimated at \$40,000; 161 square miles of ground were burned over. One hundred and twenty-three fire rangers were on duty during the year and each ranger had instructions to call out a sufficient force to fight these fires. In addition to this force 68 fire wardens were specially commissioned to patrol the lines of the Transcontinental and Intercolonial Railways now building and 70 fishery wardens were appointed to protect the angling waters.

It is proposed to introduce legislation to make the fire laws more stringent by enacting that no fires can be set during the dry months for clearing lands without permission in writing from the forest warden.

The forest lands of this province are fast falling into the hands of United

States citizens and a large portion of these lands are being exploited for pulp. The government regulations require that no permit be granted where it is shown that spruce will attain a diameter measurement of 14 inches breast-high in 75 years. A large area has been examined to enable the Department of Crown Lands to pass upon the applications made. It is proposed to introduce legislation during the coming session looking to the prohibition of the export of pulp wood, thus compelling this lumber to be manufactured in the province into paper on the same lines as adopted by the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

A step in advance has been made with regard to applications made under the Labor Act for actual settlement. Lands are now first examined, and if 50 per cent. is not found suitable for agriculture the application is not accepted.

These reforms are in a large measure due to the representations made by the Canadian Forestry Association.

Fire Protection on Forest Reserves.

By ABRAHAM KNECHTEL, Inspector of Dominion Forest Reserves.

This article is written to indicate very briefly some of the measures being taken by the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior to guard the Dominion Forest Reserves against fire. The idea is too prevalent among forest officials that their duty to the woods in this respect ends with the establishment of a fire patrol. Forest patrol is necessary to instruct and caution the public in regard to the use of fire, but when a fire occurs the patrol is unfortunately usually somewhere else; or he finds himself unable to do anything to put the fire under control. As will be seen, the department is using some other means, and is constantly seeking new means to reduce the destruction of the woods by fire.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The Dominion Forest Reserves number twenty-six. Manitoba has six, with

an area of 2,288,160 acres; Saskatchewan, four with 473,600 acres; Alberta, six with 6,209,280 acres, and British Columbia ten, with 1,467,800 acres. The total area is 10,800,840 acres.

These reserves have been set aside by parliament with a view to conserving the timber thereon, and have been placed under the management of the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior. It is the intention of the Department that upon these areas shall be worked out improved methods of forest management which may afterwards be applied to the great forest domain of Canada. The work has several main lines, fire protection being the chief.

FOREST PATROL.

The reserves are constantly patrolled by forest rangers. These are permanent officials. In summer it is their chief