

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The province of New Brunswick escaped serious damage by fire during 1908. The Deputy Surveyor General reports that about 10,000 acres were burned over, the fires being confined to old burned lands. The freedom from loss is credited to the force of 100 fire, fish and game wardens and 100 fishery wardens, employed by the governments, whose duty it is to protect the timber lands from fire.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The report furnished by the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Nova Scotia shows that 56 forest fires occurred in that province during 1908. One, a fire covering about 200 acres in Halifax county, destroyed timber valued at \$975. The remaining fires, covering about 630 acres, were confined to poor and barren lands—lands which had probably been made poor and barren by previous fires.

SUMMARY.

The table given here shows relatively the destruction due to forest fires in 1908.

Jurisdiction.	Number of Fires.	Area Burned Over.	Feet of Timber Damaged or Destroyed.	Value of Timber and Improvements Destroyed.	Lives Lost.	Men employed.	Private Expense.	Public Expense.
		acres.		\$ cts.			\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Dominion Government—								
British Columbia	100	?	10,270,000	5,135 00		464		21,757 48
Alberta	57	7,540	4,000,000	3,180 00		46		13,086 60
Saskatchewan	84	1,800		21,200 00		77		10,319 95
Manitoba	28	120	20,000	60 00		14	500 00	4,701 14
British Columbia	235	88,100	40,000,000	25,000,000 00	22	118	5,000 00	28,083 21
Ontario						692	46,621 45	163,060 84
Quebec	250	80,000		500 00		493	12,090 00	12,000 00
New Brunswick	25	10,000	2,000,000	3,000 00		500	25,000 00	25,000 00
Nova Scotia	56	830		975 00				6,089 00
Totals	835	188,300	50,290,000	25,533,550 00	22	2,404	80,121 45	284,098 22

Nova Scotia employed 1,500 days' labour in fire fighting.

Destruction of Forests by Fire

EXTENT AND IMPORTANCE.

Although the totals appear large, they are all incomplete. The forested territory of Canada is so extensive that record can be secured of only a small percentage of the fires which occur annually. Few or no fires are ever reported for the Northern Forest region, yet in this region we find the most extensive brûlés on the continent, burned-over areas covering hundreds of square miles.

The destruction due to forest fires is under estimated, even for the fires reported. Unless a fire destroys personal property or merchantable timber it is reported as harmless. No account is taken of young growing trees or of the fertility of the soil.

The young trees now covering large areas of cut-over and burned-over land are the trees which are the only timber supply of the future. It is a supply which must be provided. Over large areas on Canadian public lands nature is providing this supply free of cost to the country. In Europe and in several States of the American Union such young trees are being planted for a future timber supply at a cost of \$6 to \$10 per acre, or \$3,840 to \$6,400 per square mile. It is, therefore, just as short-sighted to