

to headquarters. Owing to the earlier season this year a complete staff was put on at once.

### *Equipment Purchased*

For the purpose of coping with any fires that might break out in the bush country, the department has purchased this year 65 canoes, 100 tents, 5 portable fire pumps, 5 boats placed on Georgian Bay, Lake Wahnapiatae, Lake Nipissing, Metagami River and Lake Abitibi; 5 motor trucks stationed at Matheson, Englehart, Gowganda, Port Arthur and Dryden. These can be quickly run to the different points of danger, and in this way probably prevent anything like the disaster of three years ago.

The department has also built five chief rangers' headquarters, fourteen rangers' cabins, seven lookout towers, six docks, one railway motor car house, one boat house, 187 miles of new trail, new portages, eight miles of telephone line, and there were 45 acres of special fire hazard burned and cleaned by the rangers.

Additional information reaching the Forestry Journal from Nova Scotia shows the great need for intensive educational work along the lines of forest fire prevention. Many of the disastrous fires sweeping through parts of Nova Scotia in June were directly attributable to careless fishermen. Stories have come to hand of numbers of farmers and villagers who have lost their entire property, many of them uninsured, through preventable forest fires in the neighborhood.

### *Were Precautions Taken?*

A timely word on Nova Scotia's losses is spoken by the Lunenburg Enterprise, as follows:

"There is scarcely any conception of the amount of property or its worth in cold cash that has been destroyed not only in Nova Scotia but in Lunenburg County during the past couple of weeks, by reason of carelessness in regard to bush fires.

They start from nobody knows where, but there is one thing evident that they synchronize with

the sportsman's visit to the woods and streams for a day of sport. A cigarette, a careless match, some dry grass or tinder for it to fall in, and there you have the whole equipment for a destroying, devastating forest fire. The same thing goes on from year to year, and all the preaching of public men and public bodies seems to have but little effect.

People deplore the high cost of living and assessment and the enormous amount of money it takes to keep things going, and then, thousands of dollars are wasted, just plain wasted. Their expenditure does nobody any good. It is a shame and it is pertinent to ask whether every precaution is taken by those in charge of the woods to prevent this annual waste or to discover those responsible for it. All will agree that the instances are rare when anyone has ever been called to account."

According to the Bridgetown, N.S. Monitor, the forest fires in Hants County have driven the wild animals out of their retreats. Bears and a large number of deer have been encountered on the railroad tracks.

### **PERIL IN EDMONTON DISTRICT**

"There is considerable fire danger in some parts of the Edmonton district," states E. H. Finlayson, District Inspector of Forest Reserves at Calgary, according to an interview in the Edmonton Journal. "A year's total of fires is usually from 150 to 250, or more, and while most of these are confined to areas of less than ten acres each, the sum total of ground covered runs into as much as 40,000 acres. The causes of a large proportion of the fires are never known, but many of them are traced directly to settlers and campers."

Some way of utilizing the fire-killed timber on wooded lands that have been swept by these conflagrations is one of the matters to which Inspector Finlayson has given attention. "Only an insignificant proportion of this timber can be used for sawing purposes" he says, "but it is of considerable value in connection with the coal mining industry." There are billions of feet of fire-killed timber on the Alberta