

regard to the use of fire, and warn hunters and fishermen to be careful with camp fires, wadding from the guns and lighted matches.

Then these forest rangers extinguish fires that start in the woods. The farmers or villagers, are obliged by law to obey any summons of the rangers to help in fighting the fire.

During the danger periods, which occur usually in spring and fall, the forest rangers are assisted by temporary fire rangers.

Burned Guards.

To prevent prairie fires from coming into the reserves the forest rangers burn the grass along the boundaries wherever such a measure is practicable. This is done after the snow is off the grass-land, but before it is out of the woods. Railways burn the grass and other debris along the right of way, under the immediate supervision of the forest rangers.

Plowed Guards.

In arable ground along the boundaries, and through the reserves wherever it is considered advisable, plowed fire guards are made. In making these guards a strip is plowed eight furrows wide; and four rods distant from this on the danger side another strip, four furrows wide is plowed. These strips are discharrowed in the spring and fall just before the danger periods. This double guard is used as a line from which to back-fire when the forest ranger sees it necessary.

Roads are made around the boundaries and through the reserves. These are located so that, when a fire occurs on the reserve, men can be promptly transported to it. When it is deemed advisable, such roads can be used as lines from which to back-fire.

Settler's Slashings.

The forest rangers supervise timber cutting so as to lessen as much as possible the danger of fire. Settlers are instructed by them to cut the trees low so as not to leave stumps more than a foot high; to take out of the woods all parts over four inches in diameter of every tree cut; and to cut the branches so that they will lie flat on the ground.

It is the duty of forest rangers to see that railway engines passing through or near forest reserves are properly equipped with spark arresters. These are not placed in or over the smoke stack, as many suppose, but are bolted to a framework in the forward extension of the boiler.

Cleaning the Forest Floor.

As opportunity affords, forest rangers are required to clean up the forest floor. Dead tree trunks and branches lying around on the ground greatly endanger the forest. Without this material the forest would hardly burn.

The Department encourages grazing on the forest reserves and the removal of hay therefrom as a means of reducing the danger of fire. On every reserve there are grazing areas and hay lands among the timber. In some places there is a dense growth of long grass and pea-vine. This, when dry, offers fuel for fire, and, when the fire gets into it, it is almost impossible to check the flames. Moreover, cattle going to water from the pasture lands make paths, which, though small, offer some resistance to fire and give lines from which to back-fire.

CANADA'S TARIFF RELATIONS.

Overseas Markets Likely to Take Increasing Proportion of Canada's Products.

The fact that overseas markets are more and more opening up for Canada, contributes to complacency regarding the United States tariff outlook. Taking the nine-month period ending with December 31, for the past three years, the following figures represent Canada's export trade of domestic products to the United States, the United Kingdom and its three principal European customers, France, Germany and Belgium.

Some of Canada's Customers.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY CANADA (9 MONTHS).

	1907	1908	1909
United Kingdom....	99,098,985	106,530,525	115,624,114
United States.....	73,601,797	65,449,226	79,339,923
France.....	1,495,184	1,970,645	2,016,422
Germany.....	1,250,549	755,122	1,662,115
Belgium.....	1,386,402	2,039,133	1,619,443

From the foregoing it is apparent that alike in seasons of prosperity and in months of world-wide business recession, Canada's exports to Great Britain have been steadily growing. On the other hand, exports to the United States fell off considerably during the off-year of 1908, though they have since more than regained lost ground. With Germany, too, the export trade fell off in 1908. Both France and Belgium, however, continued their increase in purchases during 1908, though exports to the latter were slightly less in 1909 than in 1908.

Trade Prospects with France and Germany.

That both France and Germany will become more and more profitable customers to Canada is certain, now that improved tariff relations have been established with both. The putting into effect of the new Franco-Canadian trade arrangement, and the ending of the tariff war with Germany promise to be important factors in trade progress.

Those given to belittling the effect of special tariff arrangements upon the trend of trade may be somewhat surprised at the evidence furnished by the table on page 359 relating to the trade of Canada during the past decade with France, Belgium and Germany, as compiled from Canadian government returns. As has been pointed out on a previous occasion, these figures fail to include a considerable bulk of exports which, going by way of New York, are entered as exported to the United States. With France the Dominion entered in 1893 into the "little French treaty." While its reciprocal privileges were more restricted than those of the new treaty, they were not without effect.

Some Tariff Effects.

Previous to the "little treaty," trade with France was practically at a stand-still. In the past decade total trade has increased from \$5,743,272 in 1900 to \$11,373,531 in the fiscal year 1909. And it is noteworthy that Canada's exports have increased relatively more than its imports. Indeed, in the treaty year, exports to France were only \$335,000. In the year ending March 31, 1909—a year of trade depression generally—exports were almost ten times that amount.

With Belgium, Canada had had no special commercial arrangements, and growth in trade has been