

fire season of 1914. The results show that, of the fires reported, sixty-five per cent started on, or along the company's lines within the 600-foot liability zone. Of the fires which had their origin on, or near, the rights-of-way, more than ninety-five per cent were immediately put out without having caused any damage. In only one case of absolutely known company origin was any material damage occasioned outside of the rights-of-way. This was caused by sectionmen burning *débris* and refuse when the weather conditions were unfavourable. All fires within the zone of the railway company's responsibility were extinguished, regardless of whether started by the railway or not.

**Rights-of-Way
Used as Highways**

It must also be remembered that, in the more thickly wooded districts, and in those sections where settlement is more or less scattered, the railway rights-of-way are used as highways by farmers, settlers, hunters, fishermen, and others, who travel back and forth constantly. Then too, the tramp nuisance is always with us. These people have the reputation of being extremely careless, and there is little doubt that to this carelessness may be traced the origin of many fires on the railway rights-of-way.

The remaining thirty-five per cent of reported fires were started outside of the 600-foot zone, and away from the railway rights-of-way, their origin being due probably to the carelessness of settlers, lumbermen and others, and were in very few cases handled by any local bodies or by forest rangers. No Government organizations exist apparently to handle fires which occur in the districts now being settled, and which are situated immediately between our lines and vast bodies of merchantable timber.

Two examples of these fires may be cited : On or about May 18th, 1914, a fire was started three miles north of the track in the direction of Blind river, near mileage 52—Algoma subdivision. This fire caused a loss of over \$20,000 as shown by the owners. There is little doubt but that this fire had its origin along a river driver's trail. The timber holders themselves put it out, but at an excessive cost.

On the same day, May 18th, 1914, another fire was started by a farmer, near Camneau, on the Laurentian subdivision, to burn some brush. The fire got beyond his control and did a tremendous amount of damage. Our section-house at Camneau was destroyed, together with the household effects of the sectionmen's families. The appraisal of the loss has not yet been received. Rain alone put this fire out, though we endeavoured to protect our property.