

is becoming a very serious matter in eastern North America, it is of interest to know that so considerable a supply may be obtained in British Columbia.

The estimate of the forest resources of the province submitted in the report of the Commission of Conservation is based on a much higher percentage of detailed timber cruises

than any forest report of a similar nature heretofore issued. It is believed, therefore, that the information will be valuable, not only to the governments, which control the forest policy in the province, but also to timber owners and financial interests, on whom the development of industry so largely depends.

The Fire Fiend's Work on Pacific Coast

Statistics compiled by the British Columbia Forest Branch of the Department of Lands and authorized for publication recently, go to show that the 1918 Forest Fire season was noteworthy in the latter part of June and the first week in July for the greater fire risk since 1910. What looked as if it would be a season of moderate risk was broken by three weeks of extremely hot and dry weather, and the major portion of the total damage resulting from forest fires occurred during this danger period. The number of fires which were fought by the Department at an expense number approximately 200 for the Province, the total number of fires being 900.

Co-operation of Public.

Efficacy of the light car patrol service, inaugurated by the Department last year and expended this season, is emphasized by the number of "no-cost" as against "cost" fires. Added to this, the report acknowledged liberal co-operation on the part of the general public on a far greater scale than hitherto. Promptitude in reporting incipient bush fires resulted in the saving of a considerable expense to the Department.

Total Losses.

Total fire loss to the Forest Branch is given as \$34,726; total area burned over, 70,559 acres; total damage done (timber, stock range, logs, equipment, buildings, etc.), \$143,153.

Merchantable timber: area acres

killed, 4,175; thousand board feet killed, 16,752; thousand board feet salvable, 9,100½; net stumpage loss, \$10,060.

Other forms of property: forest products cut, \$43,080; buildings, \$4,950; logging and railway equipment, \$75,000; miscellaneous, \$300.

Preparing for Next Year.

Considerable expenditure was made during the fall on slash burning, notably in the Vancouver, Vernon and Cranbrook Fire Districts. Several thousand acres were burned over, which will materially lessen the fire hazard for 1919. During the year 140 miles of fire line were constructed; two new telephone lines installed for forest protection purposes and several new trails were cut with the same object, all of which are intended to increase the efficiency in handling forest fires.

Forest rangers and patrolmen this season numbered 160, as against 183 for 1917. This smaller force had, however, an increased number of light cars allotted, and the general result was a greater mileage covered in less time; the vital factor in dealing with forest fires.

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