

ployed on both occasions, and every effort made to check the spread of the flames. Probably more timber was consumed by fire in these two reserves than would supply the settlement depending on them for twenty years. A bush fire, when once well started, cannot be extinguished by any present known means. Back-firing was tried without any apparent success, and the fires ran their course, regulated only by the wind, and died out when stopped by natural causes. Forest rangers will be placed in charge of these reserves the year round, and it is expected that with the aid of properly constructed fire guards and with the assistance of the municipal fire guardian service, the chances of fires getting into the timber on the reserve will be reduced to a minimum.

It is a regrettable, but an undoubted fact, that the settler, who is reaping the largest benefits from the preservation of the timber, and who has the most to lose by its destruction, is largely responsible for its diminution. The future is simply not taken into account by him. Economy in the cutting of his timber is not considered, and more timber is frequently left on the ground where felled than is taken away. Inexperienced men go into the woods for a set of house logs; upon being cut, a portion of the logs are found unsuited for the purpose intended, and are left lying in the woods; thus two trees are often sacrificed where only one is made use of. And the same thing may be said of the taking of timber for fuel; only the best part of the tree being taken, the remainder being left in the woods to be a menace to the green timber in case of fire. I am glad to be in a position to inform you that this condition of affairs will be tolerated no longer. The government timber regulations now in force, provide that a settler cutting under permit shall take from every tree felled all the timber there is in it; and, further, that the tops of trees and other refuse made in the cutting shall be piled up in one place and not left, as heretofore, scattered through the bush. It shall be the duty of the forest ranger in charge of the reserve to see that these conditions are rigidly enforced.