## COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION

I was afraid there would be a great public complaint about the obstacles we might be placing in the way of land settlement, but there was absolutely no complaint. People living in timber, recognized that they would not be exposed to the carelessness of their neighbours as they would be if there were no permits. Another thing which I have decided as being most economical is that we must protect all timber-lands.

One cannot pick up a body of temporary men, 400 or 500 in the spring, and make them understand what one wants them to protect. Of course nobody who thinks the situation over wants to protect only merchantable timber : it must all be protected, because, if a fire starts in undergrowth, or if it is left alone and reaches such an extent as to attack merchantable timber, then when it reaches the merchantable timber it is impossible to fight it.

at Study

We realize that, although we have better conditions than in the other provinces, with more streams and mountains and broken country, the only way is to

discover fires at the start, to study the hazards, and to take measures to fight the fire when it first breaks out. The first thing we have to do is to give lot" of supervision. I am sure there is more money wasted in fire protection to-day than is used economically because of lack of field supervision. Fire wardens are nearly all temporary men, and if one does not give them supervision and training, and does not try to keep the good men from year to year one cannot get the results desired. In the first fire protection services of Canada, far more wardens were wasting money than were making good use of it. Unless we have good permanent supervision of fire protection and have the same men as permanent rangers year after year we will not get the good results because we have large areas to protect with very small sums of money. Probably the most important feature, aside from the actual fighting of the fires, is public education. Most fires that occur are due to carelessness. The only fires that cannot be absolutely guarded against are those caused by lightning and they are not frequent.

Revults Education by

Most fires which we are spending money to fight are started by residents of the country in which they start. If those people had the situation put before them constantly they would not start the fires, and we have found

the just by education we have been able to reduce the number of ... We have moving-picture slides showing the danger of fires, which were shown in all the moving-picture houses. We gave away