

is certain to repay the province handsomely. An accurate knowledge of the location, composition and value of forest areas, and likewise of agricultural soils is the foundation of any intelligent administration, and the plan ought to be applied in advance of settlement in all parts of the Dominion.

It is desirable to call attention to the excellent record in fire prevention on the large and valuable timber areas of the St. Maurice and Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Associations in the Province of Quebec. With over 1200 'burning permits' issued to settlers in the St. Maurice territory, not one fire got away, and in suppressing 200 fires caused by other means during the season the loss of merchantable timber amounted to only \$700 and total losses in young growth, cut over lands, etc. to about \$4200. On the lands of the Lower Ottawa Association more than 1000 settlers' permits were issued and only one fire got away, doing little damage. The proof of actual prevention of forest fire losses as provided by these Associations must soon persuade other licensees to try the co-operative plan thereby saving on the cost per acre for patrol, and multiplying many fold the degree of protection. The Quebec Government has given these Associations invaluable help by amending the statutes and regulations and the Minister of Lands and Forests is to be congratulated upon the progressive steps to which he has committed his department.

#### *The Prairie Province.*

The prairie provinces have been the scene of further activities by the Canadian Forestry Association. We first placed before the Ministers of the three Provincial Governments a proposal for the adoption and enforcement of a settlers' permit law so as to give the northern timbered districts protection against settlers' clearing fires. While the legislatures are yet to deal with the question of their 1917 sessions, we have reasons to believe that the adoption of the plan will not be long delayed.

A great work remains to be done in cultivating a better sentiment in the people of the prairies of the need for conserving their forest possessions. As shown by the Directors Report, this task has been taken in hand some months ago by effective publicity methods.

In British Columbia, the year witnessed the resignation of Mr. H. R. MacMillan, a director of the Association, from the post of Chief Forester of British Columbia to engage in private business. The services of Mr. MacMillan to his Province were of the highest order and it is a matter of gratification to know that the new government has appointed the Acting Chief Forester, Mr. M. A. Grainger, to take his place.

#### *Damage by Fire.*

Reports of fire damage to the timber of the country during 1916 inform us that without counting the number of millions that have been needlessly sacrificed, the damage occurred very largely where forest protective organization was weakest. In the Claybelt of Northern Ontario, in the Lake St. John, Saguenay, Black River and Kippewa districts of Quebec, the degree of forest guarding was not comparable with those regions, such as the St. Maurice Valley or British Columbia where organization for fire control is thorough. As concerns the Dominion chartered railways, the record of forest fire immunity along their lines in 1916 is thoroughly creditable. Practically no fires occurred which could be attributed to railway agencies.

It is fitting that some reference should be made to the remarkable proportion of Canadian forest engineers, forest students, rangers, and others in forestry occupations who have taken up military service for their country since the earlier days of the War. Quite two thirds of the technical foresters in the country have long since enlisted, chiefly as combatants, and the number of killed and wounded and of those given military honors testifies warmly to their spirit of sacrifice.