

Official Estimate B. C. Timber Losses

By M. A. Grainger, Chief Forester, in a Letter to
"Canadian Forestry Journal."

Victoria, B.C., Aug. 14: The Forest Fire Season for 1918 has been, to date, one of rather moderate fire risks, with three weeks of extremely hot dry weather, which created the worst fire risk since 1910, breaking into the season during the latter part of June and first week in July. This was attended, in the Coast and Island District, with several severe outbreaks of forest fires, so that during one week alone there was destroyed a large quantity of logging machinery, camps, equipment and logs. Several thousand acres were burned over during this time of stress, which was followed by a 24 hour rain that eased conditions, and allowed the fire fighters to assume control of a somewhat serious situation.

The interior has had a fairly average fire season. Nelson has been visited with an extraordinary number of lightning fires (which do not choose the most accessible ground to start in) consequently the cost of fighting some of these is quite out of proportion to the acreage burned over, and damage resulting.

The total number of fires to date, the greater majority of which come under the heading of "no cost" fires, is 444, the cost to the Department of fighting these up to date is \$22,134.00; the acreage of cost fires burnt over is 37,836 acres. 8,700 M. feet of merchantable timber has been burned of which 3,200 M. feet are salvable.

Taking it all round, the fire season in B.C. has been one of average damage, and the present weather gives rise to the hope that the worst of the danger is now over.

The formation of a Lumberman's Association in New Brunswick, which will co-operate with the Crown Lands Department in the handling of the forests of that Province marks a new era in co-operation.

WOOD FOR ONTARIO'S USE.

The Ontario Government will have shipped by the end of the present month from Algonquin Park some fifteen thousand cords of wood for the use of the parliament buildings in Toronto and the different provincial institutions. The wood will be used in the fall and early spring to conserve coal. Some twelve municipalities in Ontario availed themselves of the offer of the government to cut wood in Algonquin Park and have taken about thirty thousand cords. It is said that a cord of wood will give as much heat as a ton of coal.

WASTING THE VALUES.

Saw-mill waste amounts to about 40 per cent of the original tree. The finished lumber, on the average, represents only from 30 to 35 per cent of the tree. New developments in the utilization of wood waste are being made continually, but it is false economy to handle waste unless the by-product industries can be carried on at a profit. Effective utilization calls for a variety of chemical and mechanical processes which must be adapted to the form, species and quantity of wood waste available at any point.—*Dr. J. S. Bates.*

In the month of August, President Wilson authorized a loan of one million dollars to the Forest Service for fire fighting expenses to meet the serious emergency conditions in the national Forests of the north west and the Pacific coast States. The loan was made from the special defence fund of fifty million dollars placed at the disposal of the President by Congress. It is recognized that the protection of the National Forests is an important and essential war activity.