

## ONTARIO'S FOREST FIRES DURING JULY

The Ontario Forest Service, which was placed on a modern basis in 1917, has been passing through more fire trouble in the northern districts than was encountered in the two previous years. It is impossible to give a summary of the fire losses as this issue of the Journal goes to press, as a number of the fires outside the Claybelt region have been reported only in a general way. After the bad fire period is over, detailed estimates are sent to headquarters at Toronto. As far as present information goes, the bulk of the Ontario fires have occurred on cut-over lands where slash has accumulated.

The fires in the Claybelt country while covering comparatively large areas have burned off what is to be agricultural land and to a large extent over areas that have been cleaned out of pulpwood and tie material. No lives have been lost, but by July 10th between forty and fifty settlers had been burned out.

It is an unfortunate element in Ontario's forest protection situation that the settlers of the north country are preponderatingly in favor of indiscriminate burning, and this despite the terrible experiences of 1916 and 1911. The Ontario law requires every settler to first obtain a permit from a ranger before starting to clear his land by fire, and imposes such regulations as the piling of brush, obedience to the ranger's orders regarding time of burning, etc. Without vigorous local support of such requirements, however, enforcement is very difficult. A large proportion of the fires sweeping parts of Northern Ontario during the first weeks of July were directly and solely attributable to the settlers' defiance of Ontario law. Several prosecutions are now under way, and a few stiff fines would help correct conditions. A change in the Ontario law to permit imprisonment of settlers is not improbable.

## FOREST FIRES IN NEW BRUNSWICK

By G. H. Prince, Provincial Forester.

Fredericton, N.B., July 11, 1919.

The fire season in New Brunswick may be said to be more severe than 1918 owing to extended period of dry, hot weather. The organization of the Forest Service is proceeding favorably, but is not complete, owing to a considerable number of ranger appointments not being confirmed after the six months' probationary period. An examination will be held on July 30th when it is expected that all vacancies will be filled by returned soldiers.

A summary of the fires compiled to date is submitted, but does not include, of course, all fires that have occurred to date:

Total number of fires reported..... 220

General causes ..... 76

Railway causes ..... 144

Thirty-seven of railway fires occurred on right of way, and 107 were reported as tie fires.

The total estimated damage is in the vicinity of \$120,000.

April fires, 2 railway, 2 others..... 4 fires

May fires, 19 railway, 39 others..... 58 fires  
June fires, 125 railway, 33 others..... 158 fires  
220 fires

### Causes.

(a) Settlers neglecting slash fires or carelessness, which resulted in \$50,000 damage .....	30 fires
(b) Fishermen, campers, picnic parties .....	23 "
(c) Railways .....	144 "
(d) Accidental .....	3 "
(e) Careless use of fire, industrial....	12 "
(f) Incendiary .....	5 "
(g) Unknown .....	3 "
	220 "

Twenty-four prosecutions for non-observance of the fire law are in course of action, nearly all of which are in connection with the Kedgwick fire which destroyed so much property. These cases will be heard in Kedgwick on July 16th before Judge Matheson. Complete figures regarding this fire have not been tabulated, but it appears that a large number of settlers during