

of fires, and the penalties were increased to a maximum fine of \$200.00, and not less than \$50.00 in every case of conviction—half the fine going to the prosecutor. Convictions under the Act do not bar individuals whose property has been injured, or destroyed, from suing for damages. Railway companies are made liable for damage done through the medium of their locomotives, and it is laid down that all engines shall be equipped with approved appliances to prevent the escape of sparks and cinders. Neglect to provide such appliances constitutes an offence punishable by a fine of \$200.00 in each case, as well as liability arising out of a civil action. Under the Act of 1897, every Government Agent, Gold Commissioner, Timber Inspector, Forest Ranger, Mining Recorder, Provincial Police Officer, or Constable, is constituted a fire guardian, and each of them is enjoined to prosecute every case which may come to his knowledge. Every pre-emptor of Crown lands is furnished with a copy of the Act at the time of his application. Enforcement of the law is difficult in a territory so vast as British Columbia, and in a majority of cases evidence is difficult or impossible to obtain. The miscreant who deliberately sets fire to the woods is usually careful to hide his guilt, and the hunter or prospector who leaves his camp fire extinguished, or thoughtlessly throws a lighted match, or cigarette stump, or "heel" of his pipe into the underbrush, will in every case proclaim his innocence when confronted with the serious results of his carelessness. Cases are rare in which positive evidence can be secured, and magistrates are loath to convict on circumstantial evidence, where the accused is a poor man to whom the infliction of a heavy fine would prove a great hardship. Many forest fires are also caused by lightning.

The rigid enforcement of the "Bush Fires Act" is impossible without the earnest co-operation of the people themselves. The vigilance of an army of Forest Rangers would prove inadequate to prevent the occurrence of fires without the sympathy and assistance of the community. Eternal vigilance on the part of every man, woman and child in British Columbia is necessary to prevent our woods from suffering the scourge of fire, and in order to create a general interest in the subject of forest preservation the people must be educated to a sense of its importance to the future of the country. The Canadian Forestry Association has undertaken this work of education and every assistance should be extended to enable it to make its work thorough from one end of Canada to the other. The school children should be enlisted in the army of foresters and taught that the wanton destruction of a tree is a crime against society. I would like to see a copy of the Association Journal placed in every school-house and in every home in Canada, in order to awaken universal interest in the subjects with which it deals. It is to the lumberman, however, that the