

The necessity of this work and its great importance will be seen when it is stated that a very large percentage of the locomotives examined had serious defects in their fire protective appliances, which were immediately remedied at the request of our Inspector. The seriousness of the forest fire hazard along railroads is easily realized when it is stated that over 788 fires occurring from the smokestacks and ash pans of locomotives, operating through the forests were extinguished by our patrolmen during 1918.

Public Sentiment Improved

Considerable improvement in general fire protection throughout the province and greater interest by the public has been noted, due to a considerable extent to the educative propaganda recently adopted. Over 15,000 attractive and warning posters were placed throughout the Province. The Press was used to a large extent. Through co-operation with the Board of Education, circulars on fire protection were read in 1500 country schools by the teachers, and the children urged to be careful with fire in the woods. Five hundred (500) fire protection posters were placed in railway smoking cars through the permission of the railroads. One thousand circulars on slash burning were distributed. Over 100 various interesting slides on fire protection were distributed and shown in many of the forty motion picture houses in the Province. Envelopes for all correspondence carried fire protection data during the fire season; several thousand pocket whetstones carrying fire protection information were distributed to woodsmen, hunters and fishermen; a course of ten lectures on the Crown Lands was given to the Provincial Normal School students last year, and it is considered that this brought beneficial results, and it is probably that the course will be continued; 1000 copies of the Fire Act were distributed,—the whole tending to create a healthy sentiment regarding the importance of fire protection. The need of all this publicity is fully justified when the following summary of the fires reported is considered.

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The above tabulations show that over 80 per cent. of the damage done was caused by the carelessness of fishermen, campers, hunters and smokers neglecting their camp fires or throwing away burning matches, and by the railroads through defects in the fire protective appliances on their locomotives.

It is therefore absolutely essential that carefulness with fire, and a proper appreciation of this our greatest national resource, should be so impressed on the minds of our citizens, especially those whose business or pleasure takes them within the forests, that in the near future the neglected camp fire will become unknown, and forest fires will no longer destroy the people's heritage.

Railway fires: 788 of which 759 were on Government-owned roads. Total damage \$2606. Area burned 637 acres.

	No. of fires	Estimated damage	Acreage burned
Fishermen, hunters, campers, picnic parties, neglecting camp fires.	29	\$55817	17874
Settlers burning slash	15	8950	181
Industrial operations	5	2743	62
Unknown causes	10	2150	318
Incendiary	3		4
Grand Total	850	\$72266	19080

WIRELESS FOR FOREST FIRES.

Dunwoody Institute, Minneapolis, on October 13th, volunteered the use of its wireless plant in maintaining communication with Duluth, should other sources be broken by the forest fires. Dunwoody has the only authorized radio plant in the state, except the Government station at Duluth. It has been able to maintain the station only through the fact that naval operators have been trained at the institute.