

One of the most difficult problems in connection with fire detection is to keep up lines of communication. The look-out tower without communication by wire is of small value. The look-out towers in Nepigon Reserve are tied up to 130 miles of telephone line. We have at present about 200 miles of telephone line available in Forest Reserves. Throughout most of the settlements in the Clay Belt where towers have been built local telephone lines are available. Along some of the railways it will be possible to tie up with the local stations.

This whole question of communication will require special attention. We have not rushed into the construction of telephone lines on a large scale, feeling that more study should be given the problem.

Reaching and Fighting Fire

Locating forest fires is a comparatively simple matter. Reaching them in time to take effective measures is the serious problem. In many of our districts the only way of reaching interior fires is by long canoe routes and trails. However, in such districts fire hazards are usually small owing to the inaccessibility of the territory.

Where roads, navigable water or railways make rapid transportation possible there are various methods to be employed which help in solving the problem.

During the past season we have employed three small power boats along the shores of Georgian Bay. We have larger power boats on Lake of the Woods, Winnipeg River, Lake Nepigon and Lake Temagami. In addition to the above seven power boats we have several outboard motors which are primarily intended to assist Chiefs in covering territory where previously they had long canoe routes on the larger waters.

Using a Fire Boat

The most efficient arrangement to be made with a power boat is such as we have on Lake Nepigon. The boat remains the major portion of the time at a definite headquarters which can

be reached by telephone from the outlying stations and look-outs. This boat is equipped with fire pump and 1000 feet of 1½ inch hose, also other fire fighting equipment and can proceed to a fire with the least possible delay. At present we have three power boats equipped in this manner. On railway lines we have five power motors used for inspection and carrying fire fighting equipment. In patrolling some 80 velocipedes are being used and such mechanical attachments as the Smith motor which are being tested.

Last Spring five motor-trucks were purchased and these are giving good results in the districts where roads are passable.

185 Canoes in Service

This organization carries about \$100,000. worth of equipment. In addition to blankets, canvas buckets and minor equipment, it was necessary to purchase this season 185 canoes at a cost of \$10,000.00; 200 tents at a cost of \$3,000.00; 28 new velocipedes at a cost of \$1500.00.

One of the problems connected with this work is the overhauling and repairing of equipment and its proper storage. This has required the building of central storehouses. Five storehouses have been built and several others leased temporarily.

Record of a Busy Season

Improvement work such as construction of trails, etc., can only be carried out efficiently after the field organization has been perfected. Our organization being less than a year old has much to learn but the following are some of the more important improvements carried out this past Summer.

New fire rangers cabins built.....	44
New docks or boat landings.....	18
Acres of fire hazard burned.....	3356
Miles of old trails and canoe routes cleaned out	1031
Miles of new trails opened.....	514
Fire signs posted	65000

In this connection I will refer to the Permit System. Owing to a very wet season in the Temiskaming country this system was not given a severe