

New Brunswick's Forest Losses Low

STATISTICS released by the N. B. Forest Service covering the present fire season to the middle of August show that the damage has been light and the expenditure for forest fire protection comparatively low. Eighty fires have been reported, burning over a total of 5,760 acres, 30% of which contained merchantable timber and 70% being previously burned land containing young growth of various ages. On Crown Timber Lands only 1,920 acres were burned. This is 96% less than the area of Crown Lands burned in 1921, and 93% less than the average of Crown Lands burned the last four years. Sixty per cent. of the fires did not spread over five acres and only 9 fires spread over 100 acres. When one realizes that over 12 million acres of forest land exist in New Brunswick the damage of 5,760 acres is indeed low and marks a new low record for this province at least. Only ten fires required expenditure of money by the government in extinguishing, the other 70 being put out either by the warden or other person discovering it, or by the county councillors with the voluntary aid of the community, everybody giving their services without pay.

Why fires are lower

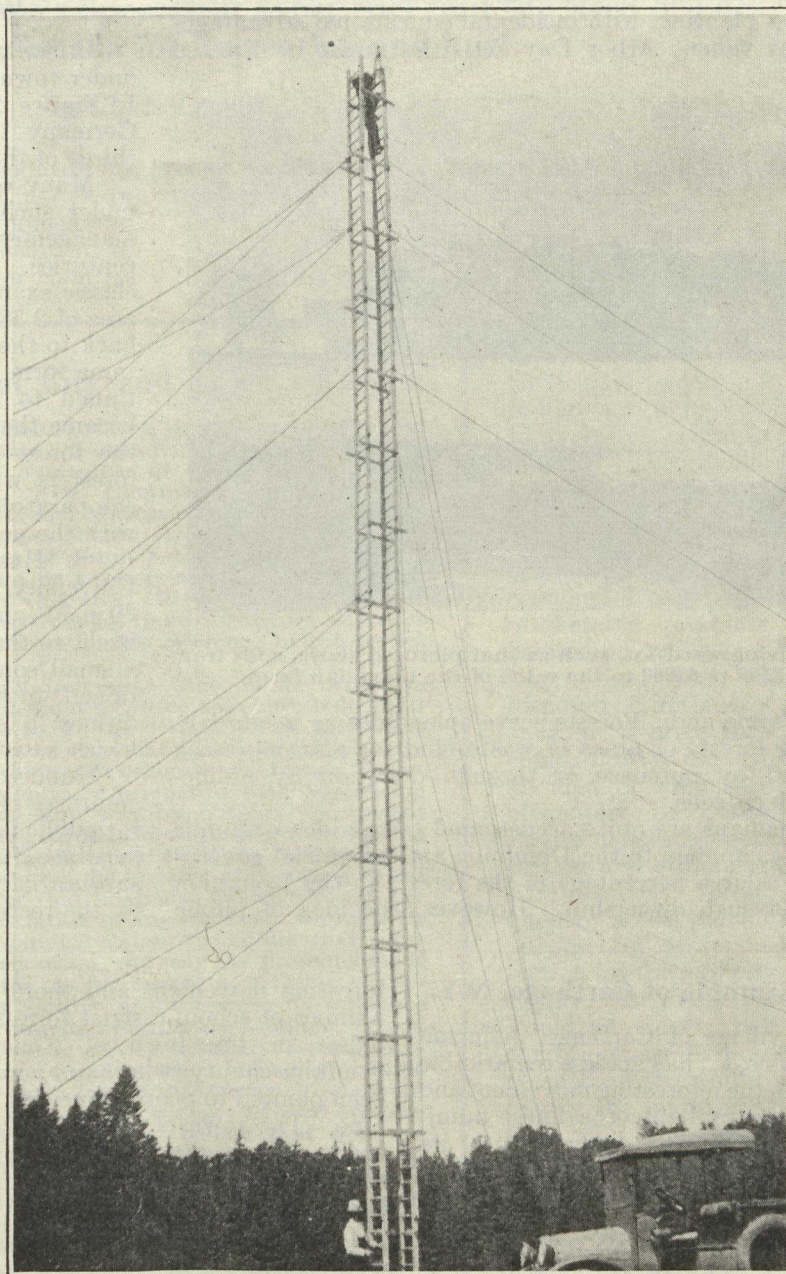
It is rather difficult to decide just where most of the credit is due for this comparatively encouraging state of affairs in fire protection, for co-operation has come from almost every quarter, often from the most unexpected sources. Even the weather man has helped for a part of the time at least. Hazardous periods occurred during the first week and the latter ten days of May and first three days of June and again during the latter part of July, but the heavy rains falling between these dry periods was of unestimated value in preventing forest fires. The recent amendments to the fire law enacted last session were a considerable aid in extinguishing those eighty fires which started, especially those on granted land, where the country councillors who were appointed fire wardens under the new regulations so ably and promptly extinguished those fires which started on private land, relieving the government wardens of this responsibility and allowing them more time to look after fire prevention on Crown Lands. Westmoreland County operating under a separate County Act reports no serious fires and the total loss in that

County is less than ten acres burned over.

County responsibility

There is no doubt that the new enactment requiring the municipalities through their county councillors to extinguish fires without any remuneration whatever has had the effect of encouraging the prompt control of all fires starting and discouraging the starting of fires to secure pay. Again, the greater interest taken by the communities is

reflected in the care of settlers' fires, where the settler wishing to burn and knowing it is against the law to burn without a permit respects the rights of his neighbor as much as he does the fire law, knowing that damage claims are often more costly than actual fines. Railroad fire prevention has again improved this year, reaching a new high record in preventative methods and control. Although thirty-six of the fires were chargeable to railways, the prompt action of the railroads in



A New Brunswick Forest Service portable tower which may be erected in two hours to a height of 85 feet. In this way the Department is able to determine the most advantageous locations for lookouts. Each section is 12 feet long. It requires 2,300 feet of guy rope.