

How New Brunswick Guards Forests

The development of an efficient fire protective organization has been made possible through the inauguration of the N. B. Forest Act and Forest Fires Act of 1918, the former placing the administration of all matters pertaining to forest fire protection under the Forest Service and the latter Act containing the most modern regulations of carrying out the work of fire protection.

With provision made through these two Acts, a staff of about 1,000 men have been organized to act in case of fire during the dry season and having as a nucleus the permanent staff of Inspectors and Forest Rangers, headed by the Provincial Forester. Each year the staff of temporary men has been increased and the public has become more interested and greater co-operation is possible.

Permanent Staff:

Office Staff.—

Provincial Forester.
Assistant Provincial Forester.
Chief Game Warden.
Chief Scaler.
Stenographers and Clerks. Total 8

Outside Staff.—

Inspectors. 5
Forest Rangers 37 Total 50

With this permanent nucleus of fifty, an organization of nearly 1,000 men was maintained during the past severe fire season, with full authority to act in case of fire and call out men. These temporary men within telephone call were of immense value during the very hazardous times in May and June of this year, and made it possible for a ranger to deal promptly with all fires in his own district, in spite of the fact that fires occurred in many parts of his district at once.

The temporary force consists of the following:

Voluntary Fire Wardens.... 150
Co-operative Fire Wardens.. 100
Temporary Game and Fire
Wardens 50
Road Supervisors acting as
Fire Wardens 500

Caretakers of Settlements.... 10
Labor Act Commissioners... 125
Railway Patrolmen 60
Look-out Men..... 4

Total 1,000

The voluntary fire wardens are citizens of settlements in forested sections having authority to call out men to fight fires occurring, and also in many cases to issue fire permits.

The co-operative fire wardens are woods foremen in the employ of lumber companies who received the same authority as Government Fire Wardens.

The Road Supervisors in the employ of the Public Works Department rendered very valuable assistance by acting as fire wardens in case of fire, having been instructed to do so by the Minister of Public Works.

The railway patrolmen on railroads under the Railway Commission and under Provincial Charter were employed and paid by the railroads, while the other railroads entered into a co-operative agreement whereby railway patrol was maintained, the Forest Service assuming the greater part of the cost.

Co-operation Secured.

In addition to the above temporary force, the effectiveness of the Forest Service in controlling forest fires was greatly increased through the co-operation obtained from the various lumber interests, railroads, provincial departments, citizens and professional men. It is interesting to note the increased interest taken by the people of the province and their hearty co-operation is absolutely necessary for the successful extermination of forest fires. Much success has been attained through the use of propaganda, fire posters, warnings to fishermen, campers, the Canadian Forestry Association with its exhibition car and motion pictures, etc.

Area Protected.

The province contains over 12,000,000 acres of forest land, 7,500,000 of which belongs to the Crown. Fires were