

well attended to. Nevertheless, the Chief Fire Inspector has busied himself to secure co-operation with the provincial governments for further improvement, and such co-operation has in several cases been already secured. In Quebec, for instance, this co-operation is now perfected, and all railways, except the two federal roads, are under the same rules, with the Provincial Fire Inspector at the same time an officer of the Railway Commission.

This phase of the forest fire problem — protection against railway fires—is in a good way of being permanently settled, when the two federal roads are brought under the operation of a system like that of the Railway Commission.

### **Brush Disposal.**

In the first report of this Committee the propriety of looking into the question of brush disposal in the slashes of the loggers was intimated. Since then the Ontario Government has tentatively licensed some timber limits with the condition that he brush be disposed of.

The Committee would accentuate again that the manner of brush disposal, namely by merely lopping, or by burning, and the method of procedure must vary according to conditions in each case, and that there may be cases when neither of these precautions are of practical value, or the cost not in proportion to the benefit. Hence discretion in prescribing the condition of brush disposal is needful. It is very easy to bring condemnation and the charge of impracticability upon the proposition of brush disposal by injudicious method of application.

Lately an inspection of the result of lopping in the mixed stands of hardwood and spruce in the Adirondacks was made by authorities, including members of the federal Forestry Branch and the Forester of the Commission of Conservation, and a report of the satisfactory results and

practicability of the method is to be looked forward to.

We may anticipate briefly the information, that logging slash constitutes the most serious fire menace in existence; that brush disposal is a practicable and feasible method of minimizing fire danger, though secondary to patrol; that the methods of brush disposal to be adopted in any particular case can be determined only by careful consideration of all the surrounding conditions; and that where brush burning is practicable both financially and silviculturally, this is the most efficient means of reducing the slash menace, but that where brush burning is not practicable for any reason, the lopping of tops may be advisable. The latter is especially applicable to spruce and cedar operations in the east, but even here lopping may not always be necessary.

These precautionary measures should, of course, be supplemented by other systematic attempts to reduce fire danger and to limit fire damage. There is always room for further perfection of any organization.

The Committee also desires to call attention to the claim of the Dupont Powder Works, of the value of dynamite for trenching in fighting forest fires. The claim is that a trench six feet wide and two to two and one half feet deep may be excavated by placing cartridges of dynamite on top of the soil two feet apart at the rate of 300 feet in 15 minutes.

A very decided attempt at organizing the protective service was made by the Forestry Branch, some 300 miles of trail and 100 miles of telephone lines having been constructed. Extension of the fire ranging into the Yukon would appear a matter deserving immediate consideration.

The new forest service of British Columbia will devote itself for the present mainly to solving the forest fire problem.

When the forest fire services of the provinces which own timberlands