

the conditions of the permit. A permit demands that a "slash-burn" must be watched by men sufficient to keep it from spreading. This part of the permit is honored more in the breach than in the observance. A strict watch, while slash is being burnt, is absolutely necessary, and any settler not living up to the conditions of the permit should be heavily fined. One or two fines will educate the settlers of a district more quickly and thoroughly than any other method.

The second major cause of the forest fires is the carelessness of all those who enter or journey through the woods in the dry summer season, either for pleasure or work, e. g., fishing and hunting parties, prospectors, river-drivers, etc. They lack intimate personal knowledge of the disastrous effects of their negligence and therefore might be rightly termed intruders. It has been suggested that such intruders should only be allowed entrance into the woods by means of permits issued by officials of game clubs, and by officials of the Crown. This undoubtedly would be a wise move.

The two chief faults of these intruders are negligence in extinguishing camp-fires and carelessness in smoking—faults which cannot be eradicated without the passing of certain legislation. Last summer I witnessed a forest fire of considerable dimensions caused by a river-driver carelessly throwing away the butt of his cigarette. In the Olympic Peninsula, Washington, the United States Secretary of Agriculture has forbidden smoking. Canada can do no less. Each province should pass legislation, heavily fining those found guilty of smoking in our forests and all those found guilty of carelessness in extinguishing camp-fires. Private rights must be sacrificed for the common weal, and if not willingly, then by compulsion.

*To be concluded in the October issue.*

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