

## Serving Two Nations in One Day.

One of the odd experiences of the Canadian Forestry Association's Tree Planting Car in the prairie province this year was encountered at Coutts, Alberta. This town lies directly alongside the United States boundary, the American municipality adjoining being called Yellowgrass. When the Tree Planting Car arrived for its daily lectures, the only siding available lay half in the United States and the remainder in Canada. Curiously enough, the school authorities of Yellowgrass, confident of the hospitality of the Canadian Forestry Association, brought their school children to a special

lecture and a little later the Canadian children from Coutts also assembled. At the conclusion of the lectures, the odd spectacle presented itself of Mr. Mitchell, the Association's lecturer, carrying on discussion with American citizens at one end of the car, resting on American soil, while Mr. Cooch, his assistant was engaged at the other end of the car with Canadian citizens on Canadian soil. Surely the Tree Planting Car that day was acting as the international "bridge of understanding" to which the orators so frequently refer.

## NEW BRUNSWICK'S EXPERIENCE WITH FIRES.

Fredericton, N.B., August 27, 1921.—Weather statistics recorded by the Federal stations in New Brunswick show the present fire season to have been the driest for over half a century. Periods of from six to twenty-five days occurred without any rainfall, not even showers with the precipitation from 30 per cent to 70 per cent below the average for the various stations during the months of May, June and July. This condition coupled with drying winds and extremely hot weather not only dried out the field crops but made conditions in the forest the most hazardous for fires on record, and rendered fire fighting very difficult on account of the lack of water in the swamps and brooks and the very dry condition of the soil.

Statistics for the fire season have not been completely compiled at the time of writing, and may reveal some changes upon closer investigation. About 300 fires have been reported, of which 200 required extra crews of men to extinguish. About 60,000 acres were burned over, 80 per cent of which was previously burned over land. Forty per cent of the area burned was privately owned land. The cost of extinguishing is in excess of previous years. The most serious day of the year was on August 6th when a very heavy windstorm swept across the southern part of the province, rendering the control of fires very difficult. Several residences at the summer resort of Westfield were burned as well as five houses at the village of Gagetown.

### Causes of Fires.

Fishermen, campers, picnic parties and others in the woods were the cause of about fifty per cent of the fires. Railways caused twenty per cent, settlers fourteen per cent, while thirteen per cent are charged to miscellaneous causes. Lightning has for the first time in the experience of the Department caused serious fires, three per cent being attributed to this cause due no doubt to the extremely dry weather and thunder storms, not followed by heavy rains. The very dry condition of the woods accounts to some extent for the large number of fires charged to camps as it was found that in several cases fires spread from campers fires where the party had used precaution and put water on their fires.

### Standing timber Escapes.

Apart from the loss of property at Westfield and Gagetown the damage to standing timber has been very small this year. Complete statistics are yet not available regarding the amount of timber burned. The damage caused from the different sources of fires is not in the same proportion as the causes. Settlers' fires caused practically no damage this year, while the damage from railways is also small. The restriction placed on all slash burning on

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