

at a cost of \$14,497.36. On licensed lands the licensee appoints the rangers, but as the Crown has an interest in all standing and cut timber, the Department pays one-half of the cost. **Timber has become so very valuable that more care than ever is necessary,** and the staff on licensed territory, which numbered 290 in 1904, numbered 360 in 1907, and the cost had proportionately increased from \$35,713.12 to \$41,600.69. The total cost of fire-ranging has increased from \$53,239.14 to \$139,119.23, and it is an item which will continue to increase as the system of forest protection is extended. **It, however, is money well invested, as a single fire might quite easily destroy timber of more value than the cost of several years of ranging.**

Before leaving the subject of fire-ranging, it may be stated that the cost of this service along lines of construction have been borne by the railway companies. The Act has been amended this year to make the companies liable also for the protection necessary after lines are completed and in operation. In this respect the Government is not exacting from the railways any more than it is willing to exact of itself, and to show what the Government thought to be its duty it may be mentioned that throughout thirty-five miles of the Government railway through a portion of the Temagami Forest Reserve as a measure of protection the Department cleared absolutely a strip 600 feet wide on each side of the right of way, at a cost of \$120,123.35, which was reduced by \$45,571.83 by the sale of the timber so cut.

ALGONQUIN PARK.

The Province possesses a splendid national park and game preserve in Algonquin park, which when the Whitney Government took charge, had an area of 1,750 square miles. The present Government has materially increased the size of the park which now includes 1,930 square miles within its boundaries. As a fish and game preserve it is a favorite resort for those who desire to get close to nature. It is also the head waters of several large rivers.