



Forest fires take a severe toll of property in newly settled districts where loss is hardest to bear. A scene at Five Fingers, New Brunswick, on May 27th, 1920.

have been no holocausts such as the Northern Ontario horror of 1916, but loss of life has been recorded in Northern Manitoba, and shocking loss of property in many sections of the country, notably the burning of St. Quentin, New Brunswick.

Again and again the Canadian Forestry Association has stressed the fact that when a forest burns the people pay. They pay because the private owner of a timber berth makes the smallest of all the profits that come out of a well-operated forest. He also bears the smallest of all the losses involved in the destruction of a forest by fire. This is so, because for every four dollars that come out of a log in the woods, three dollars go to wages and supplies and one goes to government taxes and interest on investment. It is reasonable to assert, likewise, that when a forest burns the loss in employment and railway traffic and supplies greatly exceeds the license holder's loss. One may the more readily agree with this by remembering how a cord and a half of logs worth perhaps \$30 at a railroad siding becomes worth \$120 when manufactured into a ton of newsprint paper. Growing in the for-

est, the wood equivalent of the ton of paper would be worth at most a few dollars. The community value of an accessible timber limit, therefore, must be counted by our governments and private citizens in terms of potential employment, potential export trade, new towns and population, railway freight, and public taxes. As a nation we have bromided ourselves with the foolish thought that when a grocery store burns down an insurance company writhes in great pain and that the common folk get off scot free. Similarly, there is a widely-held notion that when a timber limit goes up in smoke, the individual limit holder bears the entire burden. As a matter of hard truth, it is the community that "stands the shot."

What Went Up in One Fire

Only occasionally is it possible to render into graphic terms the icy statistical totals of timber fires. Here, however, are terms graphic enough for anybody; they were embodied in a statement made to the Forestry Magazine by one of the best known lumber firms in the Ottawa Valley:

"Some years ago, a settler who was allowed to locate on the edge of our