

these two factors would indicate an increased efficiency. It will be observed, however, that there is a great irregularity in the factors tabulated here seemingly influenced more by weather conditions than by anything else. No earlier records are available to show what was the condition of things before the present state of efficiency of the fire prevention staffs in these provinces was reached, but, from knowledge available of some of the very destructive fires that have occurred, one may judge that a favourable showing would be made were it possible to make an accurate comparison. However, as far as the last three years are concerned, the period is too short and the various points to be considered are too numerous to permit many generalizations to be drawn.

Special comment should be made in connection with the percentage of large fires on provincial lands in British Columbia in 1914 and 1915. This percentage increased from 31 per cent in 1914 to 42 per cent in 1915, although the latter season was much less dangerous than the former. The reason for this is that on account of enlistments, and conditions brought about by the war, the patrol staff during the fire season was reduced in numbers from 302 to 202. Also a policy of retrenchment was followed in connection with the fighting of fires, the total cost being kept down to \$19,449 as compared with \$132,461 the year before. In addition to the percentage of large fires being increased the average area of the large fires was only 10 per cent less, although the total number of fires, on account of the less hazardous season, fell 44 per cent. The statement of the Chief Forester of the province in regard to this is: "From this season's (1915) statistics, it can readily be proven that fire-fighting is efficacious and does really reduce the fire damage."

As an illustration of the standards that it may prove possible to reach it may be stated that in District 1 (Northern Rocky Mountain region) of the United States Forest Service the standards that have been tentatively set as definite ideals towards which to work are: large fires not to exceed 15 per cent of total number of fires; and average area of large fires not to exceed 100 acres.