



Developments in Fire-Fighting Equipment

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The Dominion Parks Branch, which was responsible for the introduction of the light weight portable gasoline fire-fighting units now so universally and successfully being used both in Canada and the United States for fighting forest fires has followed up this light weight pumping unit by a heavier type of gasoline operated pump which has just been built by a Canadian firm for use in the valleys, along main roads, in Western National Parks. Much has been written describing the construction and use of the portable units, and the purpose of this article is to convey to these interested in forest fire protection a slight idea as to the type of the experimental unit just completed which will be ready to handle the fire situation along the main auto roads in Rocky Mountains Park next spring.

Strangely enough, the more difficult problem of dealing with forest fires which occur off the main and auxilliary roads was first dealt with and more or less solved; that is to say, the portable gasoline pumping units have preceded the heavier and less mobile type. Those

departmental offices who were responsible for the introduction of the gasoline pumping units were more concerned with providing means of getting water to a fire occurring in the less accessible districts and hence the portable gasoline pumping unit, weighing but 130 lbs. was the product of their lengthy and careful investigations. Having produced an eminently satisfactory unit capable of being easily transported by canoe, pack-horse, railway speeder, etc., the attention of the Parks Branch Officers was next directed towards dealing with the fire situation along the many miles of recently constructed auto roads where a much heavier type of unit could be used which would deliver a greater quantity of water through longer lines of hose.

Automobile Pumping Units

A three-quarter ton auto truck chassis of an approved make was fitted at a well known Canadian fire engine company's factory with a rotary pump which was placed in position on a line with the chassis, behind the chassis transmission and suitably geared thereto. The pump