

to the tree. The prevailing trees on the river-flats of the Pelly River are cottonwoods, aspen, alder, spruce and willows.

The Yukon Territory has produced roughly about one hundred and fifty millions in gold. A great proportion of that gold would never have been produced were it not for the fact that there were trees in the Yukon Territory of sufficient size and in sufficient quantity to enable the miner to obtain at reasonable rates logs, lumber and wood. Lumber, of course, is not one of the exports of hte territory. The only products exported from that district are gold, furs, mastodon bones and a few live animals required for fur-farming purposes.

The Fuel Question

The great rush of miners and prospectors occurred in 1898, and the largest centre of population was and is the City of Dawson. To provide lumber for houses, stores, public buildings, sluice boxes and other mining purposes there were at one time four sawmills at Dawson with an aggregate capacity of ninety thousand feet per day. There were also sawmills at Selkirk and White horse. In addition to lumber, it should be remembered that wood formed the only fuel supply worth mentioning. There is coal in the Yukon but not conveniently situated to the main consuming centre. It was and is used to

some extent, and of late years it has been used to a great extent by the river steamboats. This is due to the fact that the wood supply along the Yukon and Lewes Rivers between Dawson and Whitehorse has been heavily drawn upon for the last twenty years by the steamboats and it eventually became necessary for the steamboats to obtain some other kind of fuel, as the cost of wood delivered to the river bank became exorbitant.

Up to the end of the last fiscal year there has been cut in the Yukon Territory about two hundred and twenty million feet of lumber and three hundred and fifty thousand cords of wood on which Crown dues have been paid. The Crown has received in dues for timber cut in the Yukon Territory about \$611,000.00. The figures given are no indication of the total cut, as wood, logs and lumber used for mining purposes are not subjected to the payment of Crown dues and the amount used for such purposes can only be roughly estimated. Mining is practically the only industry in the Yukon Territory. Logs and poles are used for cabin construction, for timbering shafts and tunnels. Wood was used for thawing purposes before the introduction of stream thawing devices, for fuel in boilers after the introduction of machinery, for fuel for dredges until the introduction of hydraulic electric power, and lumber

was used for sluice boxes and flumes.

When it is considered that for all these purposes the products of the forest were used without the payment of Crown dues, it is thought that it would be safe to say, in order to arrive at an estimate of the total cut to date, that the amount on which Crown dues have been paid might be multiplied by three. This would result in an estimate total cut of over one million cords of wood and six hundred and sixty million feet of lumber. This would mean that the timber resources of the Yukon Territory have been diminished to that extent to produce gold to the value of one hundred and fifty million dollars.

The Yukon's Future

The Yukon Territory is only in its infancy. There is untold wealth in minerals not yet developed. There are tens of thousands of square miles not yet prospected. Its future is all before it. There are large areas of magnificent grazing lands on which many herds of cattle will some day be turned loose. Today, the population is counted by the thousands, but for every thousand now there will be hundreds of thousands some day. There is great timber wealth not yet touched, and the miners and settlers for many generations will probably find ample timber resources for their purposes.

British Columbia's Way of Enforcing Fire Laws

By C. S. Cowan, Assistant Provincial Forester

Victoria, B.C., Oct. 11, 1921.

Canadian Forestry Magazine, Ottawa.

Your letter of October 4th is received.

THE procedure we are carrying out in British Columbia is this: The

Forest Act makes provisions for the issuance of permits for fires during the close season. Regulations under which camp fires can be built as well as regulations which cover the conduct of smokers, blasting operations, land clearing or any industrial purposes within **one half mile** of Forest or bushland have been made. Having passed legislation concerning these things, a penalty was also provided for non-compliance. So long as we have a law which we do not enforce so long will it be disregarded, therefore when a fire occurs as a result of contravention of the Act, our ranger's first job is to get this fire out and the next is to secure his evidence and lay an information. Very often we cannot get actual eye witnesses but the circumstantial evidence is taken, as the Forest Act lays the onus of proof upon the defendant. These are cases, of course, where we bring an action and where we know we will not gain conviction

but even in such cases the prosecution of suspected individuals may have a good effect, for it shows that our men are on the job and sooner or later they will be caught.

In dealing with infractions of the Act, where a case is contentious it is referred to the District Forester for advice as to whether an action should or should not be brought but our instructions this year made it clear that the Field Officer who did not gather, where possible, evidence as to the origin of a fire was as much derelict in his duty as a man who did not do his best to extinguish a fire.

It is a good thing in Forest Protection services to keep a fire curve for each man, i.e., the number of fires reported each week and where peaks occurred to analyze the given causes. The percentage of fires of unknown origin should be small, the percentage of fires caused by campers would show the need for greater vigilance and education. The number of railway fires will point to the necessity for a properly organized and efficient patrol force as well as close inspections of locomotives, fire appliances, and so on.

As to the imposition of fines, that is a matter which rests in the hands of the local magistrates, but if our men carry out their functions in a workmanlike manner, convictions must be gained and a fine must of necessity be imposed, or failing that, a jail sentence. It would appear to me good policy to enroll each magistrate on the list of Forest Protection enthusiasts. There are certain districts where this is not so and such magistrates are avoided.

To sum up, we have at last grasped the very point that we have been preaching for years, that 90 per cent of our fires are caused by human agencies and any means which we adopt to prevent such occurrences is a step in the right direction. We have advertised for years: this is the velvet glove. We are now showing that the quality of firmness is still retained inside the soft cover.

There is, in reality, little sympathy in this world for the wrong doer, and our men really gain in local esteem by the proper carrying out of their legal functions.