

but few hoped to live long enough to see the day when a man would really be sent to jail for setting forest fires.

Now it has happened. The Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Association has had a good many men fined for setting fire to their slashings to clear off their farms, contrary to law, at a time which endangered the surrounding forests. But the Association found that many of those fined considered that the more trees burned the more land cleared, and that a fine was a small price to pay for clearing their own farms—no matter what happened to the adjoining forest. It was, therefore, decided to press the matter, and as a result the delinquent was convicted and sent to jail for three months.

We do not present this in any vindictive spirit. We are sorry for the man who has had to go to jail. But if Canadian forests are to be saved somebody had to begin the unpleasant business of teaching men that arson is punishable whether in town or in the forest. In the past individual timber owners have hesitated to prosecute because of the attitude of public opinion, and because of the fear of retaliation by more fire upon their particular holdings. Now the union of owners known as the Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Association has acted, and it is the duty of every good citizen to give them their countenance and support. This is not a matter which concerns the Lower Ottawa or the Province of Quebec alone; it concerns every township in Canada where there is standing timber, nay, it concerns every part of Canada in which there is a man, woman or child. This indifference to forest fires and to the incendiaries who start them has been one of the scandals of North American civilization.

This is not a case of vindicating the rights of private property as against the rights of the citizen. The timber that is burned does not, in

the ultimate analysis, belong to any individual or corporation. It belongs to the people of Canada. Whatever the lumbermen get out of it the public get at least three times as much. In spite of this the Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Association will be subjected to much criticism by the people with whom they have to deal, and, possibly, to re-creation. It is the duty of all Canadians to support the Association and to endeavour to bring public opinion into the right attitude on this question. Until public opinion is right no army of fire rangers, however large, or however well organized, will protect our Canadian forests from their great enemy

#### A NOVA SCOTIA OPPORTUNITY.

*The Maritime Farmer*, in a recent issue, refers to the natural park in connection with the Dominion Experimental Fruit Station at Kentville, Nova Scotia, and to the value of this park to the people of the province. The Kentville Station embraces about three hundred acres of land, of which nearly one-half is in the form of a deep glen, the sides of which are covered with virgin timber of large growth. In urging the selection of this site for the station, the committee of the Fruit Growers' Association appear to have taken into consideration that this was one of the few remaining pieces of primeval forest readily accessible to the people. The idea was a very good one, but fruit growing and forestry are different businesses, and it is doubtful if those in charge of the station know just what to do in order to protect and handle the forest to the best advantage. At certain seasons the tract is liable to be endangered by fire, and what to do with a forest to get the best results does not fall within the training of a horticulturist. It would be a good thing if some arrangement could be arrived at whereby the Department of Agriculture could avail itself of the tech-