

snow and ice in the forest during the driving season.

Danger from Fires

The fire danger has always been a menace to the estate but up to the present time, no serious damage has been caused. Surrounded as we are by settlers and having a railway passing through the heart of the forest the danger is, indeed great, specially during the month of May and the first week of June, before the young green vegetation has covered the forest floor, the greatest precautions must be taken to put out any incipient fires.

Half the cost of patrolling the railways right of way is borne by the American Co., our superintendent having authority to call on any of their men in case of a serious conflagration. The right of way is patrolled after the departure of a train from Laurier or Villeroy Stations to either end of the estate. The fire ranger travels on a track velocipede and is equipped with a canvas bucket and a Quebec combination axe, mattock and shovel. As many as 19 incipient fires have been put out in a day. A monthly fire report is kept, which states the number of fires, their location, amount of damage and their origin. Wells have also been dug at every mile along the right of way and telephone lines installed through the forest. A special gasoline motor is used to bring up a fire fighting crew, when occasion demands it. The cost of the fire service is not more than one cent and a fraction per acre.

Tamarac Recuperating

The forest has suffered from the Tamarac saw fly as did all the other timbered regions in the province; as a result nearly all the merchantable Tamarac is dead. There is, however, a vigorous young growth coming up. This tract of timber did not suffer to any noticeable extent from the spruce bud worm; the reason perhaps being that the prevailing winds, from their seat of origin, did not pass over the forest.

It has been decided that the selection system by divisions can best fulfil the object of management on this estate.

In former years, the jobbers choose their own "Chantiers" or cutting areas; as was natural, they were confined to the river banks, and the maturing timber beyond a certain distance from the rivers was rarely, if ever, touched by the lumber jack.

The new regulations distribute the cutting areas over the whole track, a portion, called a division, being cut over a certain period, usually one or two years. The size of the division varies according to the amount of timber it contains. Natural boundaries, such as rivers and swamps, are chosen as much as possible. The division is divided into compartments, a mile square, or containing 640 acres. These compartments are required for scientific calculation and orientation. The compartments are divided when necessary into working blocks (chantiers) which are under the control of a jobber.

Roman numerals are used to designate the divisions, the compartments have figures and the working blocks letters.

The trees to be felled are marked by the forester and his crew before the jobbers begin their work. The regulations contained in the contract with the jobber serve as a guide to the marking crew. No hard and fast rule is followed in the marking, as many trees below the diameter limit will have to be felled. These are trees which are liable to be broken or damaged by falling trees which have been cut in the neighborhood; trees which left would be subject to wind throw; infected trees, suppressed trees and damaged trees. On the other hand some trees will have to be left standing which have the required diameter but must remain as wind breaks and seed trees.

The Cutting Plan

A jobber, before undertaking a contract specifies to the administrator