

ected and reported numerous fires in time to bring fire-fighters to the scene. They have also been employed in carrying in supplies to the men when other means were not available. Their usefulness would be increased immeasurably, however, by the maintenance of properly manned fire stations in the woods as already described.

"The limit holders in the district and members of the St. Maurice Fire Protective Association have already had the subject up with the Government and the question is being very carefully enquired into. There is some reluctance upon the part of some of the limit-holders to increase the outlay they are already being put to for fire protection. There is also a serious question involved over whether the Government or private interests should take the initiative and assume the responsibility for establishing and operating the system on an adequate and proper basis. No serious doubt seems to be entertained, however, as to its effectiveness. Nor is there much question that if things are allowed to go on as they have been in the past, Quebec, like other once equally well-favored wooded states, is eventually going to find itself practically de-

nuded of merchantable timber, and that the industries dependent upon a constant supply of wood, which now contribute so large a share to the prosperity of the province, will have to do what similar industries have had to do elsewhere—go out of business. If anyone is at all doubtful about this, an aerial observation of just what the eight weeks' dry season this spring has done to the St. Maurice Valley will prove absolutely convincing.

"In my opinion, further procrastination upon the part of the provincial authorities and the limit-holders over this problem and their failure to get together on a programme of practical fire protection will be most short-sighted and little short of criminal. Last year the Department of Lands and Forests took in over four millions of revenue from timber dues and hydraulic charges in this province. It could well afford to spend one-half that amount, although no such sum would be necessary, in providing adequate protection from what, up to date has proven the province's one great revenue producing natural asset. Such an expenditure would be justifiable even if looked upon merely as a fire insurance premium."



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