

had a season in which the organization was shot to pieces. We are all familiar with the steps being taken to employ returned soldiers, and our department as well as others is doing all that is possible in that direction. You can get men amongst the returned soldiers who have all the practical experience, and they have the right dispositions to make ideal men. We are taken them, but I am sorry to say that only a small part of them happen to have experience in the particular districts to which we have sent them. In our organization this season we had on three reserves out of eight almost an entirely new line-up of men to control the fires. On one reserve we had a staff of men only one of whom had been on the staff for a year or more. That has been the hardest situation with which I have had to cope. It is a pretty serious situation for me, as inspector of the province, when fires would occur I felt I had to be out there because I would know more about that district than the men in charge of it did. It has been the most disappointing experience I have ever had. I was just making a rough sketch map the other night and I am afraid this year we have burned up 5 per cent. of the Rocky Mountain reserve. From the standpoint of stream flow that is a catastrophe. We can guard against it by building up. We have been considerably created by the government appropriation. But this year, we have already spent three or four times the amount of our fire reserve and we will have to trust to the tender mercies of the fall session to help us out.

We have to build up not from the beginning, but from a pretty well broken up organization and I trust that we will have the co-operation of this Association in so doing. It happens that in your work a piece of work might be undertaken; for instance, a survey might be started, and it could be left and then taken up again; but with us the key note of our organization is that, we cannot have success unless we have men kept on the work, and in charge in the district all the season.