

stretch of forest in a dry season? As a purely business proposition it seems to me that the Province of Quebec can well afford to spend \$50,000 per year in keeping fire out of its magnificent coniferous forests. Such an investment would prove to be the very best kind of insurance on a timber revenue, which is certain to increase tenfold in the next fifty years—provided the province has the goods to deliver.

As a result of the visit of the representatives of the Canadian Forestry Association to Sackville University, in the Province of New Brunswick, in the early part of last year, a meeting of owners of timber lands and others was held at Sackville, at which steps were taken to request the Legislature of that province for special legislation to protect the forests of the County of Westmoreland from fire. As a consequence a special Act relating to that county was passed at the last session of the Legislature. This Act provides that the Municipal Council may, on the request of the holders of a majority of acres of forest lands, appoint a Chief Forest Ranger for the county, whose duties shall be to enforce the Fire Act, investigate fires, institute prosecutions, post fire notices, and authority is given him to call out such assistance as may be necessary to fight fires that occur. Deputy Rangers may also be appointed. The fund for payment of the service, called the "Forest Protection Fund," is to be provided for by the fines collected for offenses under the Act, and by a special assessment on forest lands to cover such additional amount as may be required.

In addition to the restrictions of the general Fire Act of the province, it is specially provided that fires near forest lands, except for cooking or warmth, shall not be allowed from the 15th April to the 15th June, and from the 1st September to the 15th October, and from the 15th June to the 1st September only after permission has been received from the Ranger. No portable or other steam engine may be operated within twenty rods of any forest from the 15th April to the 15th October without leave from the Ranger, which may be granted with or without conditions. Other special provisions are that every male inhabitant must notify the Ranger of any fire he notices; that there shall be a presumption of negligence if railway companies cannot prove their locomotives to be properly guarded; that the fact of a person trespassing or loitering or camping on land where fire starts shall, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be evidence of guilt; that any person owing land on which brush, &c., is burned between the 15th April and the 15th October is to be considered responsible unless the contrary is proved.