

Spotting Fires From Look-Out Stations

Some Details of How this System is Working out Satisfactorily in British Columbia Dry Belt.

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NOWHERE IN CANADA are topographic and other conditions so favorable to the operation of a fire look-out system as is the case in the dry belt of British Columbia, and in that part of the dry belt which is under Dominion control, the Dominion Forestry Branch has gone farther in intensive look-out development than has been done in any other part of Canada. The only serious difficulty met with in the operation of these look-outs occurs during periods of prolonged dry, hot weather, when fires are numerous and the resulting pall of smoke tends to "blind" the look-outs.

Several of these specially constructed and equipped look-out stations have been installed, and within the next year or two it is anticipated that complete look-out control of all territory within the dry belt will be available. The accompanying photograph gives a very good idea as to



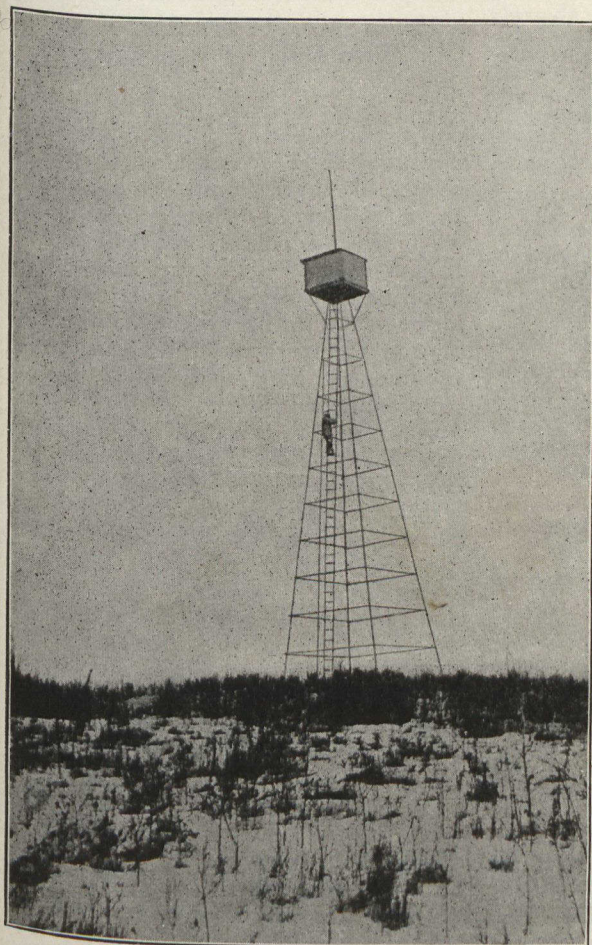
Green Mountain Look-Out, B.C.

the type of building used for the purpose, the most essential feature of which is, from the standpoint of visibility, the extensive use of glass on the entire four walls of the building. As these buildings are generally

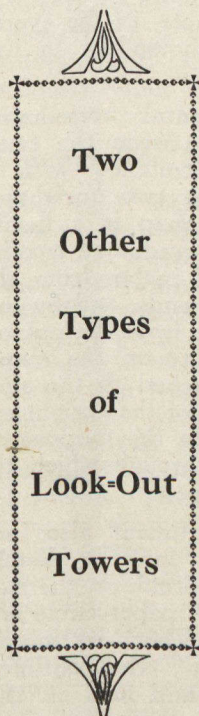
located on exposed points, it is necessary to have them protected against lightning by use of arresters.

In one of these small look-outs the look-out man goes to work in the Spring of the year, and his duty for the entire fire season is to stay on the job at the look-out, spotting and locating fires. Although the immediate location of fires is of importance this information would be of only very restricted use if it were not possible for the look-out man to communicate the information rapidly to the officers responsible for the suppression operations. Consequently, all look-outs are connected up by telephone with the Forestry Branch and government telephone systems, so that at all times a look-out man is in direct communication with other officers of the protective staff.

Inside the look-out the main equipment used, in addition to the telephone, is a pair of field glasses and an



Roblin Steel Look-Out Tower.



Look-Out on Pines Forest Reserve.