

There is a prodigious growth of young pine on many of the cut-over areas along the Ottawa River, and future harvests of mature timber are assured if fire can be kept out. The future consequences to industrial establishments dependent upon that young growth of pine should make no bill of expense for ranging or educational work seem excessive.

A good deal is being written by amateur observers as to the timber and pulpwood resources of the region north of the height of land in Ontario and Quebec, but it should not be forgotten that forest fires are annually making such tremendous inroads that the future utility of timber tracts on the northern drainage areas is at best a speculation. When single fires can run for thirty miles, as reported by travellers north of the Transcontinental this season, what hope is there of realizing on such a timber area years from now when its

operation becomes commercially feasible?

Two forest fires of special violence were those at Ostrom, Ontario, about ninety miles north of Sudbury on the Canadian National, in July. The damage was as follows:

Area fire swept: 25,000 acres.

10,000 acres of young growth burned (chiefly jackpine).

300 acres of commercial timber destroyed.

150,000 saw logs and a saw mill burned.

Damage estimated at \$30,000.

At this point were 5,500 acres of slashings, where fire, once started, could not be fought.

At Makwa, 55 miles west of Ostrom, this was the record of one fire in May:

12,000 acres burned, including 500 acres of young growth, 5,000 acres of timber, white pine, jackpine and spruce; the white pine destroyed was equal to 900,000 feet, board measure; the jackpine amounted to 1,500,000 feet, together with 5,000 cords of pulpwood. Camps valued at \$5,000 also went up in flame.

While the country has been passing through a bad fire year, it is essential to point out that at no period in our history have forest protection organizations been so thoroughly organized or so well equipped. Many "old timers" point proudly to the days when their books showed very small fire losses in the timber areas, but this may be attributed to one of several causes, or to all of them. The isolation of many timber limits forty years ago was itself an effective protection, but new conditions of land settlement have introduced new population and new fire hazards. Again, the more intensive fire protective organizations of to-day make quicker and more detailed reports concerning forest fires, and in most cases map out the burned area and collect data regarding the damage done.

Lives Lost in Manitoba

About 30,000 forest fires, great and small, occurred in the United States this year. It is probable that Canada has had to suffer from at least 5,000 fires between April and September. There



A badly burned piece of country in Maligne Valley, B.C.