BETTER APPARATUS FOR FOREST FIRE FIGHTING

Some Results of the First Year's Experience with Portable Pump Under Practical Conditions

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The writer endeavored in the January, 1916, issue of this journal to give a description and explain the proposed manner of using a system of portable gasoline pumping units designed by him and built for the Dominion Parks Branch for service in the Dominion Parks of Canada to be employed in forest fire fighting. These fire fighting units are also used for the controlling of certain operations carried on in the forest in which fire is used such as slash burning and back firing. Earlier theories in connection with the introduction of these units have now been put into practice and actual results have been obtained.

The first unit was built and put into service during the summer of 1915. It was used to control slash burning operations in the Rocky Mountains Park and proved very efficient in this work, enabling burning operations to be safely carried out in very dry weather and complete control of the whole situation maintained.

During the fire season of 1916 six units were put into service in the Dominion Parks, two units were put into service by the St. Maurice Forest Protective Association in the Province of Quebec and several units were also put into service in other parts of Canada and the United States. Many inquiries from all over the continent were received and, strangely, the majority of these came from private owners of forested lands, which would indicate that private owners of such property are wide awake to the possible destruction of their timber by fire and are anxious to provide up-to-date protection.

Put To The Test.

One of the claims made for this type of power pumping apparatus was that it could be transported practically anywhere or to any point where a man or pack horse could go. During the past fire season this has been confirmed and put into practice by the Dominion Parks Branch in the Rocky Mountains Park and the St. Maurice Forest Protective Association in Quebec. The photographic illustrations shown here well illustrate the various methods used by the Dominion Parks Branch to transport these pumping units. View (1) shows several pumping units together with hose and auxiliary supply of gasoline being transported in a Ford truck along the main highway. View (2) shows two pack horses being used to transport two units, one horse carrying two engines and pumps and a second horse carrying the hose and auxiliary supply of gasoline. View (3) gives a good idea of the manner in which power canoes can be utilized to move the outfits from point to point on lakes and rivers. View (4) shows how on railway lines track motor cars are used to carry the outfits to a point nearest the scene of a fire. View (5) shows the method of transporting the engine and pump by two men; slings from the stretcher handles pass over the men's shoulders which enable the men to let go of the handles, if necessary, when passing through rough country or climbing. These five views show