



A TREE THAT GROWS LIKE A PEACOCK.

This beautiful and remarkable palm tree is to be found in Nigeria, West Africa. It is known as the traveller's palm on account of the fact that a branch broken off would provide a good drink for a thirsty sojourner. An interesting feature of the tree is that the branches grow separately from East to West.

The Railways and Forest Protection

By Clyde Leavitt, Chief Fire Inspector, Board of Railway Commissioners

In discussions regarding the causes of forest fires, the railways have in years past usually been given prominent though not always honorable mention. The stage of early railway construction has been particularly destructive in this respect, with some notable exceptions, where intensive patrols were maintained by Dominion or provincial forest protection services, either independently or in co-operation with the railways.

During the past ten years, a notable change has taken place in the fire hazard due to railway construction and operation, partly due to the requirements of the Railway Commission, and partly to the

keener interest taken in forest protection by railway management on their own account.

As a matter of actual fact, the railways have now become a minor instead of a major source of forest destruction. While the number of fires reported as set by the railways may still appear alarming, it should be noted that the actual damage is nothing like so alarming, considering the great mileage of our railways through forest sections, the vast amount of highly inflammable debris on Crown and privately-owned lands immediately adjacent to the right of way, and the fact that even with the best available spark-arresting de-

vices in perfect order, locomotives will still set fires during periods of drought. The results secured by the railways in holding down fire losses prove conclusively that their entire organizations, from management to section forces, are working earnestly to prevent the occurrence of fires and to control the spread of those which do occur as quickly as possible.

How the Roads are Controlled.

The Fire Inspection Department of the Railway Commission was organized in 1912. Field inspection for the administration and enforcement of the Board's requirements in railway fire protection is