

## *Indian Department Requires Lumbermen to Clear Up Debris*

*New Order Will Have Wide Application—Operators Allowed Compensation of Forty Cents per Thousand Feet.*

A move of far-reaching importance has been made by the Department of Indian Affairs, acting on the recommendation of Mr. H. J. Bury, Chief Timber Inspector.

Hereafter, all timber sales on Indian Lands throughout the Dominion will be subject to a clause requiring thorough brush disposal. This introduces the brush disposal principle into lumbering operations on a very large area of Canadian forest lands, over one million acres in the Province of Ontario alone.

The new regulation comes into immediate operation, and applies to old licenses as well as to any that may be issued in the future. It is presumed that lumbermen when tendering for timber to be taken out under this new regulation will doubtless add the cost of this work of brush disposal to the estimated cost of their logging operation and will tender accordingly. In these circumstances the bonus offered will be slightly lower than formerly, but the added advantage of lessening the fire risk will more than offset this slight reduction.

No hard and fast rule as to the method of brush disposal to be followed will be adopted, as it is obviously impossible to have a uniform regulation which shall be applicable to all classes of timber. In a general manner, piling and burning will be followed in coniferous stands, whilst lopping and scattering will be the rule in hardwood timber. These two chief methods will again be subject to variation according to the local conditions.

The Indians take out large quanti-

ties of timber annually under permit, and every encouragement is being given to them to conform to the new regulation, both by personal advice and by the offer of a refund of a portion of the dues collected to offset the cost of effective disposal.

As trustees of the Indian population of Canada, the Department took action in the matter so as to reduce the extravagant and unnecessary devastation by fire which inevitably followed woods operations on Indian lands. The revenues from timber sales are turned into a common fund for the benefit of the Indians of the reservation, no part of the expenses of the administration being deducted therefrom. Preservation of the Indian timber will doubtless be assisted greatly by the action of the Department, and what is equally important, the experience after a year or two will afford valuable data on which an extension of the brush disposal system to all Crown Lands might be determined. At present, with a few exceptions, the most that is accomplished by licensees in this regard is the clearing of debris about camps and buildings, and, in a few instances, the removal of inflammable material from the neighborhood of trails along driving streams.

Too often the mention of brush disposal conveys to the imagination of lumber companies a sweeping order to clear away all logging debris over many square miles. This is not the way in which the practice of brush disposal will get its start in Eastern Canada. If a few companies could be persuaded to burn the slash along their