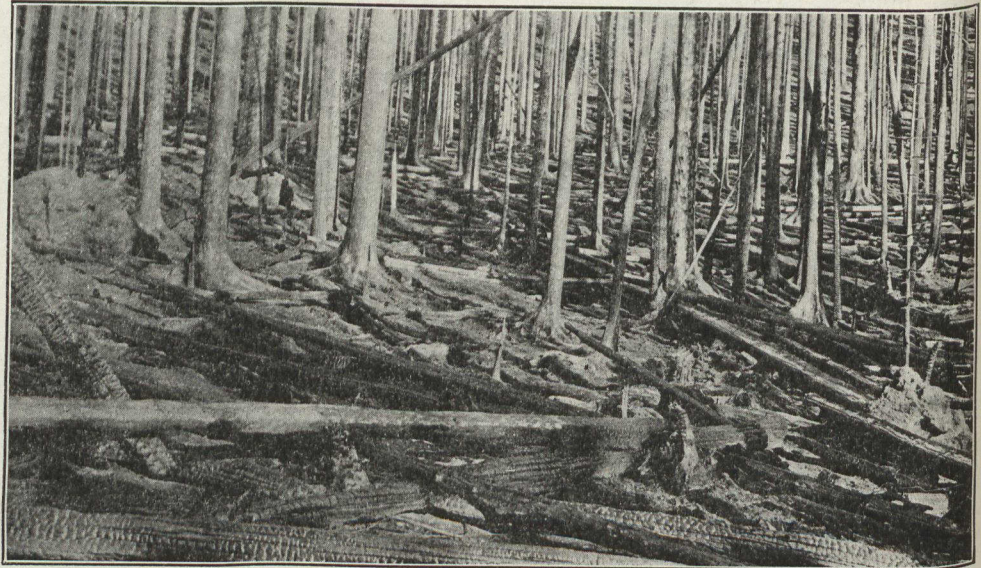


Specializing in Forest Protection

Organization Consists Largely of a Stationary Staff, Each Member of which Functions Along Certain Definite Lines

By W. N. MILLAR.

AS APPLIED to forest protection, specialization involves two primary modifications of old style methods. These are, on the one hand, an extensive centralization of executive authority in the hands of certain field officers, who are responsible for the protection of certain clearly defined forest tracts and, on the other hand, a classification of the duties of the field staff into certain well-defined functions and the assignment of special men to the performance of these special functions. This is best understood, perhaps, by comparing the actual organization of the old style forest protection staff with the modern specialized staff. In the more primitive of the former the staff consists of a number of district chiefs or



Effect of Fire in Dense Stand.



Spruce Forest

Burned

14 Years ago

and again

5 Years ago.

All

Reproduction

Killed.

inspectors each of whom is responsible for the general supervision of the patrol staff in a certain area. These inspectors are most likely permanent employees. Under each is a number of patrolmen or rangers, assigned either singly or in pairs, to a certain subdivision of the inspector's district, called as a rule a "beat." Each of these rangers is responsible for his own beat only and within that area he performs all the functions of the fire prevention staff. The district chief or inspector is required to keep moving from beat to beat principally for the purpose of ensuring that the rangers are in the areas assigned to them and are performing their duties. In addition, he, being a permanent employee and presumably more skilled in those duties than the temporary staff, can assist the latter by advice and instruction. This extremely simple form of organization has, however, only one point in its favour which is that it can be employed where the field staff is wholly untrained or unskilled in modern protection methods while no other form can be so employed. It is, therefore, particularly adapted to regions where the subordinate protection staff consists of extremely low-priced labour, as in India where natives are largely employed for this work. Where our own standards of