

ing from railroads under construction was less than three square miles, similarly fires resulting from operating railroads were kept under strict control.

There were between ten and eleven thousand permits issued to settlers for the clearing of land; in all cases the areas to be burned over were first inspected by fire wardens and no fires resulted from this cause. The sentiment in British Columbia towards the permit law is extremely favorable and this law has worked out so satisfactorily that it is to be recommended to the other provinces of the Dominion. Between 800 and 900 fires occurred during the past summer, all but 95 were extinguished by the fire wardens without any extra cost; the average cost of extinguishing the 95 for which assistance was required was less than \$50.00 per fire. This small cost of fire fighting is due to the system of patrol employed in all districts where the fire danger was great, to the use of boats on all water ways which enabled wardens to get to fires rapidly, and to the fact that the fire hazard is being constantly decreased through the cleaning up of roads, burning of slash and the making of fire breaks which is being carried on under the direction of the Forest Branch.

The Forest Branch still continues to receive applications for the purchase of small areas of timber; eight parties are now in the field cruising timber for sale. During the past two or three months the dullness of the lumber business has interfered with logging on several of the timber sales and has made it advisable to delay the completion of pending timber sales if the timber is to be sold for its possible market value. The largest transaction now pending is the sale of 500 million feet of timber chiefly hemlock to the British Columbia Sulphite and Fibre Company for the manufacture of chemical pulp, the cutting period on this sale will be between twenty and thirty years and the officers of the Forest Branch are finding it difficult to devise a system of revising the stumpage price periodically in order to protect the Government interests and to be fair to the Company. A very careful examination is being made of the tracts to be cut over in order to render possible the framing of regulations which will protect and encourage the reproduction of the forest. This sale when completed will embody practically all forest regulations and should be of interest in Eastern Canada where sales of pulp timber to companies are frequently taking place.

The Government has recently inaugurated a new policy of handling grazing on public lands by the permit system, the administration of grazing on all unalienated public lands in the Province has been placed in the hands of the Forest Branch.

There are large areas in different portions of the Province where there are almost unlimited possibilities for summer grazing and some possibilities for winter stock in the open. An investigation is now being made of this by the Forest Branch and reports will soon be issued.

Dr. H. N. Whitford has recently arrived in Victoria and will co-operate with the Forest Branch in completing a reconnaissance of the Forest reserves of the Province.

J. M. Swaine, Assistant Dominion Entomologist, has in co-operation with the Forest Branch examined the chief lumbering regions of the Province in order to obtain if possible information of any damage by forest insects. This investigation has resulted in the discovery of serious damage by bark beetles in yellow pine but up to date no other timber of commercial importance has been found to be affected.

All logging operations in British Columbia are carried on under authority from the Forest Branch and in order that forest officers may keep in sufficiently close touch with the work in the different operations, prevent trespass, undue waste and illegal handling of timber, instructions have recently been issued to have all logging operations inspected at least once in three months and reported to the Chief Forester.

THE DANGEROUS CIGARET.

A leading Ottawa lumberman, whose firm has suffered rather heavily from fire in the past season, in speaking to *The Canadian Forestry Journal* called attention to a new danger which threatens not only the timber owner but also the owner of property in towns and cities. This danger is the great increase of the cigaret habit. Our railways are now practically wholly constructed by foreign laborers who are inveterate cigaret users. The cigaret requires much more constant lighting than the old fashioned pipe, and the burning matches are thrown carelessly down wherever the man happens to be with the result that fires get into the slash and from that into the green timber along the line of the railway. An even greater danger arises from the fact that when the man is through with the cigaret he throws the glowing stub down with equal carelessness, and fires start as a result. In towns and cities cigaret smokers throw burning stubs down gratings, over fences or into boxes or barrels. Inflammable material is likely to lie in such places and thus our fire losses in towns as well as in the forest rise to a proportion that is nothing short of criminal.