

The Ottawa Citizen recently had the following to say regarding Ontario's system of forest protection.

"The Ontario forest protection system has been practically unchanged in design for twenty or thirty years. Progressive steps taken by British Columbia's forest service and by the Quebec department of forests have not influenced Ontario thus far to supplant a scheme which experience has proved both extravagant and inefficient. Recently the boards of trade of Ontario have taken up the question of reorganizing the protective system and have addressed emphatic suggestions to the Minister of Lands and Forests.

"The contention of forest conservationists is that Ontario's neglect of annual forest fire losses will ultimately force nearly two thousand wood-using industries of the province into serious difficulties; will raise the price of wood products to the consumer; will badly damage the flow of important streams; injure the fertility of agricultural land, and turn thousands of acres into irretrievable barrens. Indeed, these results are already being reaped by Ontario to an extent which few citizens would credit. That the past history of forest management has been one of neglect and bad judgment is the view of these experts.

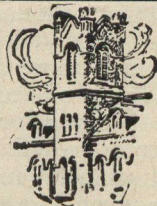
"Ontario appears to have enough rangers employed, about 500, to give reasonably good service in fire patrol. The chief weakness is the absence of real supervision and inspection. Experience in forest protection has proved that unskilled, uninstructed rangers are of small use in guarding expanses of valuable forest from fire. No branch of employment demands more energy and strict attention to duty. There may be to-day many excellent men in Ontario's forest service, but it is grossly unfair to the worthy men and unwise to the other kind to

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