



Railway right of way previous to clearing. The Railway Act requires that railway rights of way shall be maintained free from combustible matter.

found burning along the right of way; and that sectionmen and other regular employees along the track shall promptly extinguish any fires reported to or found burning by them. The railway company must employ additional labor if such action is necessary to the extinguishment of a particular fire. It will be noted that the whole field organization of the railway is made a part of the fire-fighting machine.

In order to fix definitely the responsibility for extinguishing a particular fire, the Order provides that any fire starting or burning within 300 feet of the track shall be presumed to have started from the railway unless proof to the contrary is furnished. The burden of proof is thus put squarely on the railway company. The idea is to get the fire out first, and then talk about it later, if necessary.

Where the fire danger is serious, special patrols are necessary. Here, advantage is taken of the provision of the Order that the railway company

shall provide and maintain a force of fire-rangers fit and sufficient for efficient patrol and fire-fighting duty during the fire season, all the details of the establishment and maintenance of such force to be subject to the supervision and direction of the Chief Fire Inspector or other authorized officer of the Board.

This requirement for the establishment of special patrols at the expense of the railways themselves is the most progressive and perhaps the most radical feature of the Order, and constitutes its chief distinguishing characteristic. So far as known, neither the National nor any State Government in the United States has enacted legislation along this line which approaches this so far as placing the burden of fire protection upon the railways themselves is concerned.

As previously noted, the requirements as to the use of fire-protective appliances are enforced through a special staff of inspectors in the Operating Department of the Board.