

Permit Systems for Settlers

Clearing Operations Responsible for Starting Many Fires

Slash-burning operations by settlers now constitute probably the greatest single source of forest fire danger. Sometimes the settler merely exercises poor judgment as to the time of setting out a fire, or fails to have enough men on hand to prevent its spread; again the trouble is simply due to carelessness or recklessness. In other cases, however, it is only too evident that the destruction of the forest by fire is intended, on the theory that fires facilitate settlement. The use of fire is undoubtedly necessary in preparing agricultural forest land for cultivation, but some means of controlling this situation is essential to efficient forest protection on adjoining lands. The most satisfactory method so far discovered is the system of prohibiting the setting out of clearing fires except under permit issued by a government officer. Reports from British Columbia and Quebec, as well as from a number of States, show that this system has proved a notable success wherever given a fair trial, and that the cost is reasonable. The adoption of the permit system in certain portions of Northern Ontario is particularly suggested. In Quebec, an increase in the organization of the Forest Protection Branch is necessary, to provide for the administration of the permit system outside the territory of the St. Maurice and Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Associations, on the same basis of efficiency as within, where a sufficient staff has been provided to give the permit system a fair trial, and where it has proved an undoubted success. Also, the close season should be extended to cover the period between April 1 and November 15, instead of the shorter period now in effect. New Brunswick has authorized the permit system in Hazen and Grimmer settlements, Restigouche county, but this provision should be somewhat extended, with adequate provision for enforcement.

In Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, legislation by the provinces is necessary to regulate settlers' burning operations in proximity to forest reserves. It is suggested that the permit system be authorized in a belt extending six miles outside of forest reserve boundaries. Some amendments to Dominion legislation are also required to supplement provincial legislation along the lines of fire protection.—C.L.

Prohibition of Sale of Game

Cutting off the Pot-Hunter's Market Only Way to Prevent Wholesale Slaughter

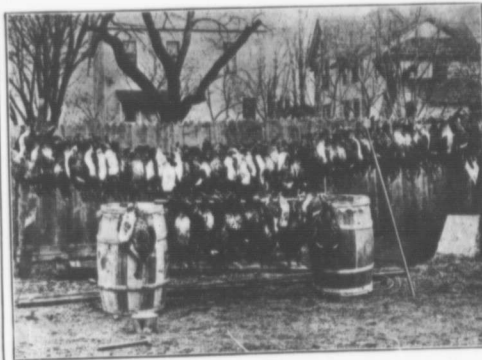
"The very best way to exterminate any species of wild life is to put a price on its head. As long as there are dealers in game, you will find men who will kill it in spite of anything you may do to the contrary. Before the Act prohibiting the sale of game was passed in New York state, one dealer in New York city admitted that he sold 1,000,000 wild birds for food each year." In these trenchant words, Mr. F. K. Vreeland, of the Campfire Club of North America, before a recent meeting of the Fisheries

he sold when marked by the wardens with an official tag. As a result of this law, a new industry of some importance has been built up and those who have a liking for wild game can satisfy it in a more humane manner than heretofore.

Nova Scotia Secures Results

Small Loss by Forest Fires—Satisfactory Operation of Permit System

The Crown Lands Department of Nova Scotia reports a total of approximately 13,000 acres burned over by forest fires during 1915. On a considerable portion of this area, no merchantable material was destroyed, so that the total estimate of damage from these



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Ducks netted illegally in Lake Ontario.

and Game Committee of the Commission of Conservation, succinctly put the case for cutting off the market for game as the only effective means of preserving our vanishing wild life.

The accompanying illustration puts the case even more forcibly. These ducks have not been bagged by sportsmen; they have been netted wholesale on lake Ontario to satisfy the demands of the market. Fortunately, in this instance, a game warden confiscated the birds and thus kept the pot-hunters from deriving profits from their nefarious work.

It is interesting to note that, when the Hornaday-Baine law, prohibiting the sale of game, was before the legislature in New York, the hotel men agreed not to oppose it, provided raising in captivity were permitted. Accordingly, the law provides for the issuing of licenses to those who desire to raise domesticated game. The game so raised may only

fires is but \$15,000. Nearly all of this damage was caused by a single fire, in the vicinity of the Intercolonial railway.

The system of forest fire protection in Nova Scotia is among the most effective in Canada. An important feature is the provision that no person shall start a fire for the purpose of clearing land, or other like purposes, nor operate a portable steam engine within 990 feet of any woods, between the fifteenth day of April and the first of December, without first having obtained leave in writing from the chief ranger or sub-ranger. Such leave is granted only when, in the judg-

ment of the ranger, the action may be taken safely.

Similar provision for the regulation of the setting out of settlers' fires exists in British Columbia, on Dominion forest reserves in the west, in Quebec, and in a portion of New Brunswick. It does not exist in Ontario, nor on Crown lands or lands in private ownership outside of forest reserves in the Prairie Provinces.—C.L.

Statistics of Forest Fires

Compiling of Information Necessary as a Basis for Fire Protection

The collection and publication of statistics of forest fire losses is a matter to which increasing attention has been paid in recent years. Progress in this respect is especially notable in Western Canada. In Eastern Canada, as a whole, the forest fire losses have not been known, on account of the incompleteness of the data published. It is important that information be collected on all fires, not only as to the area covered, but also as to the amount, character and value of the property destroyed. This is necessary in order that the intensity of fire protection may be adjusted to the conditions as well as to afford a basis for the administration of the area in other respects.—C.L.

Conservation of Forests

Lumber Companies Engage Foresters to Ensure Closer Utilization of Material

The latest lumber company to engage the services of a professional forester is J. B. Snowball & Co., Ltd., Chatham, N.B. This company has employed Mr. J. R. Gareau, a graduate of the Quebec Forest school, Laval University, to have general supervision over the woods operations on the company's limits. He will also make a map and timber estimate of these limits, as well as enforce close utilization of all merchantable material. Cutting operations will be regulated with a view to ensuring the perpetuation of the forest, and particular attention will be paid to fire protection. Other companies in eastern Canada employing professional foresters are the Laurentide Company, the Riordan Pulp and Paper Company, the New Brunswick Railway Company, and the Canadian Pacific railway.—C.L.

TO NEWSPAPERS

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