

The General Fire Situation

Reports received from railway fire patrolmen in Ontario refer to the gratifying immunity from serious forest fires along the lines under regulation by the Dominion Railway Board. The last week of July, which did such damage in the Clay-belt, was responsible for insignificant losses in timber along the private-owned lines, although patrolmen reported some apparently severe fires working toward the tracks in places. Who can doubt that the favorable railroad record at such a period is largely due to efficient, well-supervised patrol?

Reports received by the Association from the 12,000 square miles of territory in Quebec patrolled by the St. Maurice Forest Protective Association indicate an excellent record thus far. While the rangers have had a number of fires to fight, the areas burned have not been extensive. The value of preventive work has again been manifested. Many fires have been encountered at the edge of the St. Maurice territory, originating beyond its borders, and these have given trouble. Rain fall has been heavy in Quebec this year.

Twenty-five fires have been put out on the Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Association's limits. Most of them were on old burns where young growth had barely taken hold. Berry pickers were undoubtedly the cause of some of the fire trouble, due to unextinguished camp fires. One fire was fought at Chelsea; as far as can be learned it originated with a cigarette thrown from a vehicle passing along a highway. Little trouble with settlers' fires has been encountered on the Lower Ottawa Association's areas this season. Vegetation was unusually heavy and dampened ground fires effectually.

A report from Fredericton, N.B., states that no serious fires have been reported during July on the Crown Lands of New Brunswick.

Protection of Trees

In many cases, when running wire fencing, it is advisable to attach it to trees, instead of setting down fence posts to carry it. If the fencing is attached directly to a growing tree the wire is soon overgrown and embedded in the wood, injuring, and, in many cases, killing the tree. To fasten the wire fencing to the tree, and at the same time protect it from injury, a strip of board, an inch or an inch and a half in thickness, and three or four inches wide, should first be securely nailed upright to the side of the tree. The fencing should then be fastened by staples to this strip. In this manner very little damage is done to the tree, and the wire fencing may be removed at any time.—(Conservation.)

An Important Move by N.T.R.

Arrangements have been made with the National Transcontinental in regard to the patrolling of their right of way through the territory of the St. Maurice Forest Protective Association by which the railroad will pay one-third of the cost of the labor and will pay for gasoline and oil consumed by the power speeders, the Association and the Province dividing the balance of the cost.

A special uniform has been provided for all the St. Maurice rangers this year in the form of a green shirt, with "Protection Forest" in red letters across the chest.