

in 1867, and up to October 31, 1915, the total revenue which the provincial treasury received from Crown timber has been upwards of \$52,850,000, an average for 48 years of more than \$1,100,000 annually.

In order to hold up provincial timber revenues, it is essential that new areas of timber suitable for cutting be constantly available, to replace areas surrendered as cut out. To safeguard this situation, it is absolutely essential that there be an adequate system of fire protection on unlicensed Crown Lands as well as on those under license. Any other policy will mean an ultimate decrease in the provincial timber revenues, as well as shortage of supplies for the many hundreds of wood-using industries in the province.

Yet, notwithstanding the above, we find, according to the report of the Department for 1915, that only 107 fire rangers (paid by the province) were assigned to the protec-

tion of the 50 million acres of unlicensed and unreserved Crown Lands containing merchantable timber, as compared with 286 men (paid by the licensees) for the protection of the 10 million acres of land under license. That it is impossible for this relatively small body of men to afford even partial protection on more than a small percentage of such a vast area goes without saying.

Thorough-going Action.

The situation in Ontario calls urgently for a complete reorganization of the whole fire-ranging system along modern and up-to-date lines, with adequate attention to the protection of unlicensed Crown lands as well as forest reserves and parks and lands under license. The Department of Lands and Forests of Ontario is entitled to the credit of having been the first governmental agency in Canada to recognize the necessity for an organized system

of forest fire protection. In 1885, a beginning was made in the organization of a fire-ranging service on licensed lands, and in succeeding years this organization has been developed and extended. However, on the whole, the organization has not kept pace with modern developments in some of the other sections of Canada or in the United States. The lack is very largely one of organization and supervision, both in the head office and in the field. The amount of money now being expended is sufficient, if handled according to modern business standards of organization, to provide a very much better degree of fire protection than is now secured. H. R. MacMillan, Chief Forester of British Columbia, has stated that more money is wasted in fire protection today than is used economically, because of lack of field supervision. The fire protection situation in Ontario is an illustration of this undeniable fact.