

Forestry Course for Returned Soldiers

Commencing March 25, a four weeks' course in forestry for returned veterans who desire to qualify as forest guards was opened in Vancouver under the auspices of the Vocational Branch of the Military Hospitals Commission, the classes being intended to serve students from the four western provinces. It was stipulated that men enrolling should be in fairly good physical condition, have a fair education, and possess previous experience as lumbermen, loggers, trappers or ranchers. The course of instruction will cover lectures, demonstrations and field work on the subjects noted below:

1. Elementary Forest Survey—(a) Use of instruments; (b) system of land surveys; (c) mapping.

2. Forest Protection—(a) Fire prevention; (b) fire detection; (c) fire fighting; (d) fire laws.

3. Forest Management—(a) Nature of forest; (b) identification of tree species; (c) principles of administration.

The following well-known forest engineers and professors have been engaged as instructors: H. R. Mac-Millan, M.S.F., assistant director of aeronautical supplies, Imperial Munitions Board; Judson Clark, Ph.D., forest engineer; P. L. Lyford, forest engineer; R. D. Craig, M.S.F., district inspector, Imperial Ministry of Munitions; E. H. Finlayson, B.S.F., inspector of Dominion forest reserves, Alberta; D. R. Cameron, B.A., B.S.F., inspector of Dominion forest reserves, British Columbia; W. J. VanDusen, B.S.F., district forester; Professor MacLean, University of British Columbia; J. Davidson, University of British Columbia, and Mr. Lighthall of the B.C. University, who is also Dominion land surveyor.

A NATIONAL WARNING

Canada will pay her war debt from her productive Lands and Forests and Mines.

The Fire Fiend, who is the Kaiser's ally, is scheming to finish the Forests

first. He can't kill the Land or Mines, but the Forest is his natural prey.

Are you aiding the Fire Fiend this year? If not, put out your camp-fire, lighted match and cigarette.

Millions of acres in Canada are growing excellent timber. New industries are coming to use that timber. Thousands of workmen will be given good jobs.

But we cannot have both the industries and FOREST FIRES. One kills the other.

Forest fires are preventible. Put out your camp fire, lighted match or cigarette when in the bush.

SETTLING SOLDIERS

In many of the schemes of soldier settlement and the encouragement of immigration after the war, there appears for almost the first time some concern for the quality of the land, on which homesteading shall be permitted. We may read in this some hope that examination of soil in advance of settlement may reduce the amazing evils consequent upon indiscriminate "locating." Canadians, as a rule, have been slow to recognize that the normal, profitable crop on most non-agricultural soils is timber and that the bitterest experience a government can visit upon a farmer is to establish him in defiance of Nature's fundamental laws. One of the primary duties of the Soldiers' Settlement Board will be to guard the soldier-settler from the pitiful consequences of a bad location. If areas are hastily thrown open without thorough examination by foresters and soil experts, whose advice will be accepted as final, the efforts of the Board will prove worse than useless. It will be a matter of great interest to the Forestry Association and its members to follow the work of the Board and ascertain how far scientific guidance in the selection of lands for veterans is allowed to dominate.