

To maintain the supply the nation is making huge inroads into its own standing timber. It is impossible to travel by rail through parts of Scotland without seeing the

wholesale cutting of trees. The axe is making a clean sweep of whole woods. There are only three million acres of wooded land in the United Kingdom at the present time.

Better Equipment to Cope with Fires

(To the Editor, Canadian Forestry Journal.)

Fire Protection is distinct from Forestry, but necessary to the latter in protecting the work from destruction by fire. If we are to secure an efficient fire protection organization, it is necessary that we specialize in this class of work, appointing an expert in charge with full authority to administer the Fire Act, suggest and advocate amendments, draw up plans to meet the varied conditions in each district, to give lectures and advise, and who would hold a judicial investigation in connection with every serious conflagration.

The appointing of a Fire Commissioner with the above authority would have a beneficial effect, give powerful support to the heads of Departments and be a thorn in the side of a feeble administration.

The building of lookout towers on high ground equipped with long range field glasses, for the purpose of detecting and locating fires in the incipient stage, and connected by telephone to the various Ranger Stations so that action to have the fire extinguished at short notice can be taken, is an advance in the right direction. The equipment however, of these lookout stations, might be improved by adding the heliograph and flashlight system of signalling and the procuring of a competent operator, and in this connection may I suggest that a fully qualified returned soldier of the intelligence department or Engineers might be obtained.

All working parties, such as telephone and trail gangs, also patrolmen, should be equipped when in the

field with heliograph and flashlight so that their assistance in case of fire might be secured without delay.

The cutting of trails branching out from lookout towers to inaccessible areas to facilitate the transportation of fire fighting gangs and equipment to the scene of action is still another step towards efficiency. The construction of these trails and the mode of transportation leaves much to be desired and is not in line with the method of detection and communication. The trails on high lands through heavy timber belts should be so constructed that fire patrol by motor cycle and transportation by automobile would be possible. On lower lying areas where the timber warrants the expenditure, a narrow gauge track with power speeder for patrol and transportation is necessary. Where it is only possible to use horses, the trail should be made to accommodate a tandem of light drivers.

After locating a fire from observation post, notifying nearest ranger station by telephone or heliograph, the next step would be to make provision for a system of rapid transportation. The reaching of a fire after discovery in the incipient stage, and before it develops into serious proportions, should be the object of every fire organization. To sum up, speed and modern appliances, as advocated, by the leading authorities of our city fire departments for protection of property, are just as necessary in the protecting of our forests.

—T. Mc Naughton.