

## FORESTRY BRANCH FIELD WORK.

The Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior has, this summer, eight parties in the field. Two of these are working in the newly created forest reserve on the eastern slope of the Rockies, two in the British Columbia Railway Belt, and four in the Hudson Bay district.

The two parties that are working on the eastern slope of the Rockies have instructions to make a rapid survey or 'reconnaissance' of the region, covering as much of it as can be done consistently with good work. One has been working southwards from Calgary, the other northward.

Large areas have no doubt been burned; these areas it will be their duty to map with as much accuracy as time will permit. They will also report on the tree species, the size and density of the growing timber, the park lands and various other features.

The work of the British Columbia parties is of an essentially different character. There has been included in the timber berths a good deal of land that is of considerable value as farm land; especially in the river bottoms is this the case. The work of these parties consists chiefly in the examination of such land so as to determine what land is unfit for agriculture and should be reserved and what land can properly be thrown open for farming.

Each of the above parties consists of a forester-in-charge, three assistants and a cook.

The work of the Hudson Bay parties is of still another character. There are four of these parties, each consisting of two men. Of these men, some are trained forest engineers, others are experienced timbermen and travellers.

Two of the parties went in by way of 'The Pas' where the C.N.R. line to Hudson Bay at present ends. One of these made at once for Split Lake. The other party started its inspection at The Pas and proceeded down the Nelson river.

The other two parties went in via Norway House, at the north end of Lake Winnipeg. Oxford House is headquarters for one of these, and its members are proceeding to inspect the timber around Hayes river, God's lake, Fox river and other streams, reaching up to York Factory. The other party is proceeding from Oxford House to Split Lake, inspecting the timber along the route.

In addition to inspecting the timber, all four parties have instructions to keep a sharp lookout for forest fires, and have authority to appoint and employ fire rangers where they think it necessary.

Two of these parties (probably a third) will winter in the territory they traverse, so as to be on the spot, ready to continue operations next spring.

## ALBERTA FIRE PATROL.

Interviewed by the Calgary News, Mr. D. B. McDonnell, of Winnipeg, spoke very highly of the system of fire patrol maintained by the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior along the line of construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway from Edmonton to Wolf Creek. 'There are enough rangers to cover the entire line of grade daily,' he said, 'and they ride back and forth over the country meeting at fixed points. Already they have been instrumental in extinguishing a number of fires which, if not taken in hand at the right moment, would have spread with disastrous results.' Mr. McDonnell, who is a representative of the T. A. Burrows Co., had just returned from a trip of inspection of limits of that corporation on the Athabaska, Brazeau, Macleod, Pembina and Saskatchewan rivers. In speaking of the timber resources of the country through which he passed, Mr. McDonnell said that the settlers who are gradually getting in there seem very anxious to preserve the timber, and that whenever a fire threatens they turn out and fight it to a man. 'They realize the value of the timber and the scarcity of it,' he said, 'but it is practically impossible for them to cope with the situations that arise at times in places remote from the railway, and I think that a larger force of fire rangers in these districts would undoubtedly result in a saving of many thousands of dollars worth of timber annually.'

## CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

The objects of this Association are (1) the preservation of the forests for their influence on climate, fertility and water supply, (2) the exploration of the public domain and the preservation for timber production of lands unsuited for agriculture, (3) the promotion of judicious methods in dealing with forests and woodlands, (4) reforestation where advisable, (5) tree-planting on the plains and on streets and highways, and (6) the collection and dissemination of information bearing on the forestry problem in general.

YOU are directly interested. YOU are a user of wood in some form or other. YOU pay more for that wood than you did ten years ago. YOU or your successors will pay far more in future unless the forests are properly cared for.

The Association is trying to bring about that better care, and your assistance will be appreciated. The membership fee is \$1 per year; \$10 secures life membership. Address your application to the

**Secretary Canadian Forestry Association,  
Canadian Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.**