

Another Bill Rendered—Canada Pays



Forest Fires Set by Human Agencies Again Rob the Country of Basic Assets



The forest fire scourge will present the Canadian people with another monster bill for 1920. There are not enough accurate records to compute it at the date of writing, but the adding machine is clicking merrily, and the final red total will overtop the figures of any year since 1916.

Most of this year's forest bonfires were preventible. They started from people. Some were campers who left their cooking fires blazing; some were settlers who while clearing off a patch of land with fire cared nothing if half the countryside were consumed in the same line of flame. Many originated with the railroads, and an inexcusable number from woods' employees. The effect on Canada's reserve of wealth is the same whatever the cause.

Killing Off Our White Pine

Pine as a commercial wood has passed off the stage of scores of Eastern Canadian counties, and the areas once bearing these precious timber trees are in most cases growing up in valueless hardwoods. Canada's remaining pine stock is gathered up into a relatively small pocket of Western Quebec and Eastern Ontario. Yet with all our knowledge of that fact and of the damaging consequences to many great industries and flourishing towns dependent on pine logs, one big blaze this year cleaned out 15 square miles in a single section of Quebec. Lightning furnished the cause in this particular case, but only in a few areas of Canada is lightning a prime offender.



Part of "The Great Brute," on the headwaters of the Assinneau River, Alberta.