

baggage and a sixteen-foot Chestnut canoe, were taken by train on a logging railway running northwesterly from Prince Albert, a distance of about eighty miles, to Crooked Lake, the beginning of that wonderful series of watercourses, which, after three and a half months' hard travel, was to land them in Dawson, Y.T. Though this route, by way of a series of lakes, the Clearwater River, Athabasca River and Lake, and the Mackenzie River, to the Arctic circle, is not much heard of nowadays, it was, for a hundred years, one of the main highways of the Hudson's Bay Company. This part of the trip was accomplished without incident, the various points where there are Forestry Branch officers being visited and other duties performed.

This part of the journey was performed without guides, the two foresters paddling, portaging, camping and cooking along this two thousand mile journey without mishap. At Fort Macpherson, near the mouth of the Mackenzie River, Indian guides were engaged, as it was important to make good time, and the passage of the divide between the valley of the Mackenzie and the valley of the Yukon is somewhat intricate. The party then ascended the Rat River, which enters the Mackenzie near its mouth. This route is known as Macdougall Pass. After paddling through some small lakes on the divide, they reached a tributary of the Bell River, and then passed into the Bell itself. Traversing the Bell throughout, they entered the Porcupine and paddled down it to the Yukon River, which receives the Porcupine at Fort Yukon, in Alaska, U.S.A. They then ascended the Yukon River and reached Dawson on Aug. 24. From that time until they left to come out over the White Pass, on Oct. 9, they were engaged in exploring the different valleys and taking note of the state of the timber and the possibility of its protection from fire. Timber is vital to the carrying on of the industries of the Yukon, the different mining plants using thousands of cords for fuel every year. Fires have done great damage, and the need for protection was evident, but just what will be recommended will be made known in the report to the Branch. It is interesting to know that the trip was made without mishap, and that although the route from Prince Albert lay to the north and east of the Peace River country, into which settlers are now pouring, the travelers went over a comparatively well traveled path, and had no difficulty in securing supplies at the Hudson's Bay Company posts, sufficient to carry them over the next stage of the journey.

From the White Pass and Skagway they returned down the coast to Vancouver and returned east by railway.

Mr. E. S. Davison, who is a native of

Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, has enlisted with the second Canadian contingent for the war in Europe, and is now at the training camp at Kingston, where he has the rank of sergeant.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST PROTECTION.

In spite of hard conditions, the British Columbia fire protection system rendered a good account of itself this year. A report of the work says:—

'All records indicate that the weather has been drier during the present summer than at any other time during the past twenty years. Streams have run dry which have not been seen dry before. In addition, it has been very hot and windy in the southern portion of the province. Between 2,000 and 3,000 small fires have occurred, and it has been necessary to increase greatly the number of fire patrolmen and guards and to employ numerous fire-fighters. Fires have been fought regardless of their size or location, whether in settled country, range lands, scrub, reproduction or timber lands. The result has been that very few fires got beyond control, while those which had done so were brought under control before they had destroyed much merchantable timber. Thus the total fire loss for the province has been extremely small, although the cost of protection this year has been about \$350,000. These results prove the value of elasticity of organization, since the forces could be increased quickly wherever weather conditions made such action necessary. Protection has not been restricted to merchantable timber alone, but has covered the whole country, and fires have not been able to gain a foothold anywhere.'

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF HOO-HOO.

The twenty-third annual convention of the lumbermen's fraternal organization, known as the Order of Hoo-Hoo, held in Winnipeg Sept. 8 to 11, was very successful in spite of the outbreak of war, which somewhat reduced the expected attendance. Delegates were present from all parts of Canada and the United States, the total attendance, including delegates and their wives, numbering 524. The business of the Order was despatched at the morning sessions, and the afternoons and evenings were devoted to social features. Most of the functions connected with the convention were held at the Fort Garry Hotel. An interesting feature of the meeting was the election of a Canadian, Mr. E. D. Tennant, of Winnipeg, to the highest office in the Order, Snark of the Universe. San Francisco was selected as the place of meeting in September, 1915.