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For full information and illustrated literature, write

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staff such detailed reports of fire-fighting strategical operations as can be secured and by relieving some of the staff officers of most of the usual details of forest protection work so that they may give special attention to this important phase.

Unlike military camps fire camps are extremely simple. It is very seldom that such camps are large enough or remain in one place long enough to require special sanitary precautions or highly specialized organization. Provision for safety in location is necessary but usually is easily secured. The same is true of provision for medical service. Injuries, sometimes fatal, are not uncommon in fighting fires and yet, on the whole, they are not sufficiently numerous to require any special organization. There is, therefore, in a specialized fire-protection staff nothing that corresponds to the medical corps or sanitary corps of an army. All responsibilities of this nature as a rule fall upon one of the officers, such as the camp foreman. The greatest advance has probably been made by those organizations which maintain at their base supply stations a number of special fire camp first-aid kits, which are distributed by the quartermaster as needed, and handled by the time-keeper or the camp foreman in the field.

The tactics of fire-fighting include all those specific measures of control that are employed in the immediate vicinity of the fire. As a specific illustration, a decision to divide the crew and begin the attack on the fire

on both flanks at once rather than to endeavour to combat the head is a strategical one, but a decision as to whether to cut a trench near the edge of the fire or to use a trail existing at some distance from the edge or to make no guard-line at all but try to beat out the fire or to extinguish it with water, is a tactical one. Fire-fighting tactics have advanced much further in organized development than has strategy. A considerable number of methods are known and much has been done toward improving these methods. Particularly is this the case in methods for using water in fighting forest fires. Theoretically water is the ideal material to use for fire extinguishment but the practical difficulties of getting the material to the point of use are very great in all but a few very limited regions. As might be anticipated, it is only those highly perfected organizations which have solved the problems of preparedness and strategy that are able to advance with real success beyond the simple fire-fighting tactics to the employment of more elaborate methods involving the use of water, particularly the employment of gasoline pumps.

The value of a highly developed system of communication lies in making possible the rapid concentration of adequate control forces on the fire-line and in their successful maintenance. It has little direct bearing on the actual conduct of the fight. Indeed, an unspecialized force with no rapid means of com-

munication may use just as efficient tactics as the most highly specialized force with the most improved system of intercommunication. Where it will fail, however, will be in the early discovery and in the rapid concentration of adequate forces in such fires as occur and in the ability to handle and maintain large forces in regions of difficult accessibility. The result is seen in comparing the records of specialized with non-specialized forces. Wherever conditions are at all comparable, a specialized staff will secure protection at a mere fraction of the cost of equal protection by an untrained non-specialized staff. Moreover, the specialized force will be able to secure adjustment of expenditure according to the character of the season from year to year, or even from period to period during any one season, which an unspecialized force cannot do with any real success. Finally, the specialized force will weather the periodical unfavourable seasons with success, both because it expands automatically according to the danger and because it strikes quickly and places fires under control without delay. It cannot be taken by surprise but detects and locates fires with certainty and precision while they are still in an easily controllable stage. Its record will show few or no large fires in a dangerous season and a low average of acreage per fire, while the record of the non-specialized force in a dangerous season will always show a break-down more or less complete and a high percentage of fires that get beyond all control and burn themselves out or until extinguished by rain. These periodic break-downs are of much greater importance in judging the efficiency of fire-protective organizations than is generally admitted, since it not infrequently happens that the destruction that occurs in a single disastrous season more than offsets the protection afforded during a very long series of favourable years. On the whole, in most timbered regions where advancing settlement, railways, lumbering operations, and various other developments have radically changed the forest fire situation for the worse, no organization for forest protection can be considered efficient unless it has made adequate provision for automatically expanding during exceptionally dangerous seasons, so that it can at all times keep the situation well in hand. *The real test of success is not control of fires during normal seasons but control during the periodic abnormal season without the necessity for keeping up at all times a large and expensive organization that serves no other useful purpose.*