

that fires have received, the expenditure has been well within the amount available. By October 1st, forest protection will have cost this year under \$180,000. Refunds from Grand Trunk Pacific Railway of half of the expense of patrol and fire fighting in the regions traversed by their line and from the Canadian Northern Railway of all expense incurred in supervising their contractors will reduce the amount chargeable to the Forest Protection Fund by nine or ten thousand dollars and, as the income of the fund is about \$230,000, there will remain available for improvement work in the autumn a sum about \$60,000.

DISPOSAL OF DEBRIS.

I have watched with great interest the controversy that has raged in other Provinces and States as to whether operators should or should not be compelled to burn or otherwise dispose of lumbering slash. The solution adopted by us has been to leave the matter in the hands of the forest service which is empowered to deal with this slash at the expense of the Forest Protection Fund so as to favor the growth of the new crop of timber and to give it as much protection as possible against fire. This work and the clearing up of dangerous localities will necessitate a slash burning campaign in many portions of the province. Experiments already made by us in this line have proved most successful.

EDUCATION OF PUBLIC OPINION.

We are all conscious of the remarkable change that has taken place in public opinion with regard to forest fires. Ten years ago people in the West looked upon the burning of entire watersheds as a natural alteration in the scenery that went with railway construction, mining, or land clearing as a matter of course. There was a good deal of wagging of heads at such wholesale destruction, but the prevention or controlling of forest fires seemed to be too big an undertaking and there was consequently a general feeling of helplessness in the matter. That was so even five or six years ago. Today in this Province there is an outcry if precautions are not taken to prevent fires in places where dangerous conditions exist, and when fires occur people expect the fighting of them to be organized promptly, and look for just such money to be expended as the circumstances require.

Public opinion, in other words, has been educated to higher standards, and this result has been accomplished almost entirely by the steady publicity that forest protection has received through the Press, through public speaking, through the efforts of Forestry Associations, and through the enforcement of the permit law and other local work.

WASTE IN LOGGING

Six years ago we in this Province felt powerless to prevent the annual waste by fire; today we see our way with confidence. If one great problem can thus be solved, why not another? Today, for instance, each million feet of lumber manufactured on the Pacific Coast means the wholesale butchery of low grade material for which our operators can find no market. Other waste there is that is preventable, for example, the using of high class material in the woods for purposes for which inferior timber would suffice, and the cutting of lumber into even lengths only, on account of which trade practice investigation shows that 2 per cent is lost; but before the main problem of the low grade log we are as helpless today as we were regarding fire protection a few years ago. I look to co-operation between the operators of this Province and the Forest Service in order that this disease of waste that affects our forests may be studied as carefully as doctors study human diseases.