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PROUD OF FOREST FIRES

There was a time in the memory of living men when the inhabitants of some of our Canadian cities took pride in having their city wrapped in a pall of smoke at certain seasons of the year, because they said it indicated activity in lumbering. To-day cities and provinces are just beginning to take pride in the absence of forest fires. The trees may be cut down and marketed and a new crop started without any fires developing. This is shown in a bulletin just issued by the forestry branch of the Department of the Interior entitled "Forest Fires in Canada, 1914-15-16." This is the first successful attempt to get systematic statistics as to the losses suffered by Canada through forest fires. It shows the danger seasons and the causes of fires, and shows also how fires may be so combatted that the loss in the area equipped and patrolled will be almost negligible. Diagrams illustrate the causes of fire, the extent of our losses, and the character of

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the timber burned. The publication of these statistics will tend to arouse Canadians to the evil of helping our national enemies by allowing fires to destroy wealth which is required to prosecute the war. The bulletin may be had free on application to the Director of Forestry, Ottawa.

An extension of the high grade oil field near Thamesville, Ont., was discovered recently on the completion of a well at the Canadian Pacific Railway station. This well is situated about 1 1/4 miles north of the town and in an hitherto undrilled territory.

The United States treasury department announced on July 30th that loans totalling \$112,000,000 had been recently made to the Allies. Of this sum, France received \$100,000,000, Belgium \$9,000,000 and Serbia \$3,000,000. This brings the total of loans to the Allies to \$6,492,040,000.