

*Education Needed.*

The great necessity is education of all classes of our people—the man in the street, the government officials, members of parliament, lumbermen, business men, woodsmen, farmers, settlers, and hunters, and above all the children, for they will be the men of the coming generation; and often the only way is to educate the children. The church in the Province has done splendid work. His Eminence, Cardinal Begin, Archbishop Bruchesi, and Monsignor Laflamme have for years sent special notices to all their parishes to impress upon their people the necessity for care. The Department of Education, through their inspectors, have distributed leaflets to the schools in both languages, showing by pictures and by simple sentences the danger of forest fires. The reduction in the number of settlers' fires has been remarkable and once the laws are enforced they will be a thing of the past. Members of parliament are especially in need of instruction, for several times they have encouraged their constituents to fight arrest and have influenced the magistrates, tried to use their influence at Quebec, and have even paid the fines themselves. The magistrates have been very remiss in their duty in some districts, discharging offenders in spite of clear evidence and imposing fines of \$1.00, making thus a mockery of the law they are sworn to administer.

*Menace of N. T. Railway.*

The railways, with one notable exception, have had a decided change of heart and railway fires of any seriousness are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. The N.T.R. and I.C.R. are an exception to this and are to-day a menace to the forests of the Province. Although the Honourable Minister of Railways and Canals promised to put into effect the same regulations as those in force on the railroads under the railway Commission and issued an

order to that effect, his heads of departments have not enforced his orders in Quebec and have as yet made no provision for adequate protection. Since these lines run through country which will give them no other freight but timber, they should, even from a selfish standpoint, protect these sections. The Quebec Government has done all in its power to get this matter settled, but has had no satisfaction.

Workers in the woods are still in need of education, as ten per cent. of the fires are still set by drivers. Woodlands Departments are getting more strict, and setting a fire is now in the most progressive companies cause for instant discharge of the man and punishment for the foreman.

*Stricter Laws Coming.*

The proposed amendments to the present law approved by Mr. Allard, and the better enforcement of the fire laws, will be a great step in advance. These changes will require permits to burn clearings at any time during the summer, will require all persons called on by a fire-ranger for help in extinguishing fires to respond under penalty of a fine, will fix minimum fines for infractions of the laws so that a magistrate cannot make the law ridiculous by letting a man off with a one dollar fine, and will punish by imprisonment any deliberate setting of fire to get employment in extinguishing it.

There is a great need for better methods of slash disposal and I believe that the only right method is the piling and burning of the branches and tops as soon as the trees are felled. A fire in a slashing is terribly destructive and almost impossible to fight, and if there was no inflammable material of this kind, fires, except in unusually dry seasons, could never assume dangerous proportions and could be easily extinguished.

The greatest advance in fire prevention methods will probably come