

Protecting Limits by Telephone Lines.

Private initiative and enterprise frequently anticipates government action in many lines of endeavour, and in the line of forest protection a well-known lumberman of Quebec, Mr. William Power, ex-M.P. (recently elected a director of the Canadian Forestry Association) is showing the way to all the Canadian governments in installing telephones throughout one of his limits, mainly with the idea of assisting in the protection of the forest from fire.

The limit in question is owned by the River Ouelle Pulp and Lumber Company, and is situated along the line of the National Transcontinental railway in Kamouraska county, Quebec, near the International boundary. The work of installation has been carried out under the personal supervision of the manager, Mr. W. Gerard Power, son of Mr. Wm. Power.

Fifty-two miles of telephone have been strung, forming a circular chain of communication through the heart of the tract. Telephones have been installed for the use of the fire-rangers at five different points along this line, and portable telephones, capable of being adjusted to the line at any point, will be supplied to the rangers and carried with them in the woods, provided suitable instruments can be procured. If not, ordinary wall telephones are to be installed every two miles along the line of the National Transcontinental, where it passes through the limits.

The application of the telephone to this use is not entirely new on the limits of the River Ouelle Company. Over two years ago a line was built ten miles from Ste. Perpetua village east, connecting with the Kamouraska Telephone Company's line. This first trial of the system proved such a success that during the summer of 1910 it was extended and a line built from the company's office in St. Pacomé, crossing the River Ouelle into the sixth range of the parish of St. Onesime, and thence following the Ste. Anne colonization road to the National Transcontinental, a distance of about seventeen miles. Thence it follows the railway right of way to Lake Ste. Anne, where two guardians are kept during the summer season. From this point the line continues west for nine miles to Ste. Perpetua, joining here the original installation. Another branch runs from the Ste. Anne road east to Powerville, where the company has their mill, following the railway right of way.

The advantage of the arrangement is obvious, and its adoption has come into vogue quite extensively of late years in the United States. A ranger, using the telephone to notify headquarters of a fire, can in a short time have assistance sent him, in this way having frequently the opportunity to confine to a comparatively small area a fire which threatened to develop to serious proportions.

ONTARIO'S WORK IN 1910.

Mr. E. J. Zavitz, in his report read before the annual meeting of the Ontario Experimental Union in January, gave some interesting particulars regarding the work of tree distribution and planting done by the Department of Agriculture of that province. During 1910 200,000 trees were sent out to private planters throughout the province, and an equal number was used by the Department in its planting at the Norfolk County Forest Station. The planting material sent out consisted largely of Scotch pine, white ash, white elm, sugar maple, soft maple, catalpa and black locust. A number of planters also received walnuts, butternuts and hickory nuts for use in planting in woodlots or plantations.

The total number of trees sent out dur-

ing the last five years in connection with the scheme of free distribution amounts to nearly two million. Plantations have been started in about forty counties. Most of the planting has been done in the southwestern part of the province. From eighty to ninety-five per cent. of the trees are living.

About sixty collections of forest tree seedlings have been sent out to schools under the direction of the schools section of the Experimental Union.

For the coming season the department has on hand for distribution trees of the following species: white pine, Scotch pine, white cedar, black walnut, butternut, hickory, sweet chestnut, red oak, maple, white ash, elm and black locust. At present there are in the forest nursery about 800,000 forest plants in nursery lines and about 1,500,000 seedlings in seedbeds.