

FIRE PROTECTION MATTERS REVIEWED

Report Presented by New Liskeard to The Associated Boards of Trade.

The report of the New Liskeard Board of Trade presented by Wesley McKnight at the annual meeting of the associated Boards last week was as follows:—

The work of the Forest Branch is divided into four classes, Forest Protection, Forest Investigation, Re-forestation, and Forest Pathology.

The average force employed in connection with Forest Protection during the season of 1920 was 1209 men. The pay roll in this case amounted to \$398,919.61.

The other expense, including equipment, expendable property, travel inspection, improvident work, extra fire fighting, express, postage, etc., miscellany \$107,188.10, amounting in all to \$506,107.71.

The outstanding feature of forest administration in this Province as well as in all Eastern Canada is the inability to control the losses from forest fires. The Department states, and I believe rightly so, that the successful working out of this problem will result in timber growth on the bulk of our cut-over lands. It is true the growth will not be as satisfactory as we would like, but any kind of crop is better than barren lands.

Causes of Fires.

The Department has found after years of experience that the whole problem of fire control is the slash and debris resulting from present logging methods. Year after year slash is allowed to be created which is most inflammable and makes extremely hot fires which are largely uncontrollable. Until brush disposal is systematically undertaken as a part of the operating of logging our forests will burn.

The number and origin of fires in 1920 may interest you a little.

Settlers	142	11%
Campers	151	11.7%
Railways	307	23.9%
Lightning	14	1.1%
Logging oper. . .	59	4.6%
Miscellaneous . .	93	7.2%
Unknown	521	40.5%

1287

Of the settlers' fires nearly 1-3 of them were permit fires allowed to get beyond control.

Railway fires in most instances were traced to defective locomotives and the remainder of the 307 were the result of careless railway employees.

Neglected camp fires were responsible for 1/2 as many as the railways. The indifference of tourists, picnickers, berry pickers and other users of woods is incredible, except by those aware of the facts, and this attitude will continue until the Act provides severe sentences for flagrant instances.

Million Acres Burned in Four Years

The area lumbered over formed the setting for the bulk of the fires, being 65.5% of the total burned area. During the past four seasons nearly 1,000,000 acres, equal to about 40 townships were burned and the existing young trees killed. When it is considered that this high percentage is because of sloth, and that this is the land upon which we are depending for our next crop of timber to furnish revenue, one immediately considers the importance of dealing with the problem of slash disposal. Permits were issued in 123 townships. In all, 6,154 permits to burn 22,767 acres were issued in 1920, as compared with 6,635 in 1919.

At the Provincial Forest Station in Norfolk County we have the only Provincial nursery in Ontario.

There is at present in this nursery 1,190,225 trees of different classes of stock. During the past season 130,000 trees were distributed to private land-owners in the Province.

It is expected that a definite system of inspection by the Forestry Branch will be inaugurated.

There is now nearly 500 acres of

plantation at the Norfolk Station and detailed statements of growth are being prepared. The jackpine shows the greatest growth being 21.15 feet high in 12 years with average diameter of 3.50 inches.

In connections with Forest Pathology, Dr. J. H. Faull presented a full report for 1920 dealing with all the diseases of blight, rot, etc., and they are now experimenting carefully in the Temagami Reserve with a view to remedying what is considered a serious matter in connection with balsam, pulpwood and jackpine forest.

Reforestation

The Department has not given figures of the cost of reforestation in large areas, but remembering the large areas burned over each year notwithstanding the large sums of money expended in fire protection, and remembering again the rapid growth of young trees as shown in the statistics it would seem good business on the part of the Government to spend the half million dollars now expended in fire protection in reforesting the 65 per cent. burnt over by logging operations rather than in granting permits to the settlers who are responsible for only 11% of the fire losses as presented. The Department could easily duplicate the amount by making the railway responsible for their share, namely 23.9% and would reduce the percentage due to logging operations by compelling the lumbermen to dispose of the debris created by them in the process of cutting and removing the timber, and a large effort should be made to ascertain the cause of the 40.5% classed as unknown, with a view to placing responsibility under this heading where it belongs.

FOUR ALARMS, WITH ONE REAL FIRE IN FOUR DAYS

The latter part of last week proved a busy time for the Timmins Fire Brigade, though only one real fire had to be dealt with. There were, however, four alarms. The serious fire was at C. Martino's store and residence on Spruce street. The alarm was turned in at 4.20 a.m. Saturday morning. The fire had a good start before the alarm was given and the dense and suffocating smoke made the fire a hard one to fight. However with the Timmins Brigade on the job instantly and three lines of hose at once in commission the blaze was soon under control and the building saved, not, however, before damage was done to the building and a serious loss caused by stock damaged and destroyed. The loss will run to several thousand dollars, all covered by insurance, \$15,000 being carried on the building and stock. The origin of the fire is unknown. Some excitement was caused by the report that some of the occupants had been unable to get out of the building, but this report was untrue, though they had naturally an unpleasant and trying time fighting their way through the smoke to the outside. The other alarms were:—Nov. 11 at 12.45 a.m., call to Third Avenue where there was a fire in a shed owned by a Mr. Lundstrom, little damage being done and the fire soon being put out; Nov. 11 at 9 p.m., call to a chimney fire at the Timmins garage, no damage resulting; Nov. 13, call to the Hollinger Stores, a smoking furnace causing the alarm, —no damage.

ANNUAL MEETING N.O.H.A. AT NORTH BAY SATURDAY

The annual meeting of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association will be held on Saturday of this week, Messrs. Geo. Lake, G. S. Lowe, J. Heppleston and Dr. R. H. Brown likely going from Timmins for the event, the first named being the delegate appointed from the Club here.

ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY EXACTLY AS IT READS

Good fiction is the kind that might be true. The impossible kind is good for nothing—The Daily Nugget.

The Advance is not accusing the Nugget of writing this, though it did appear in that paper last week.



Oddfellows, Shun!

Porcupine Lodge, No. 453, I.O.O.F., intend holding an Informal Smoker in their hall, South Porcupine after Lodge on Monday evening the 21st. of November. All Oddfellows are fraternally invited. The occasion being to celebrate the 7th. Anniversary of the institution of the Lodge. Come along and help us make a good time.

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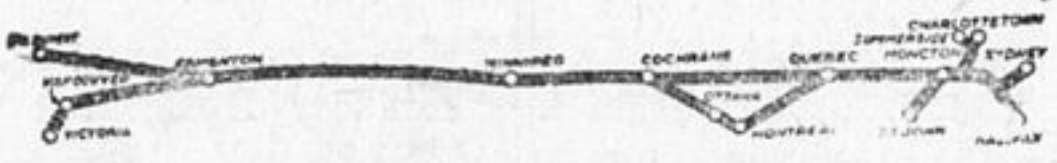
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