

and their equipment to fires in remote areas. In Western Canada, equipment and supplies are sometimes dropped by parachute to isolated fire crews, or parachutists are employed to fight fires difficult of access by other means.

Fire detection in more settled areas is carried out by means of lookout towers fitted with telephone or radio for reporting and field staffs and equipment are maintained at strategic points. These staffs, when not engaged on fire-control duties, are employed on the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, telephone lines, fire guards and other improvements.

Portable gasoline pumps and linen hose are important equipment and may be carried by canoe, motor-boat, automobile, aircraft, pack-saddle or back-pack. They can provide hose pressures of up to 200 lb. per sq. inch, depending upon the elevation above and distance from the water supply; hose lines of over a mile in length are frequently used. Small hand-pumps supplied by 5-gallon portable containers are also found effective. Bulldozers or ploughs are commonly used for fire-line construction while trucks fitted with water tanks and power pumps are employed for the control of fires adjacent to roads.

The various governmental forest authorities conduct forest conservation publicity work independently and in co-operation with the Canadian Forestry Association. Since its beginning in 1900, that Association has played an important part in securing popular co-operation in reducing the fire hazard. By means of its magazine, which has a large circulation, by railway lecture cars and motor-trucks provided with motion-picture equipment, and by co-operation with radio broadcasting stations and the press, the Association reaches a large proportion of the population of Canada. Efforts are made through the schools, by specially appointed junior forest wardens and other means, to educate the younger generation as to the value of the forests, the devastation caused by fire and the means of preventing such destruction.

Forest Fire Statistics.—The total number of 5,310 forest fires in 1950 was slightly lower than the previous ten-year average of 5,431, although the total area burned, 2,226,765 acres, was 10 p.c. higher than the average loss for the previous 10 years. Fire-fighting costs did not approach the record-breaking totals of 1949, but they did represent an increase of 50 p.c. compared with the average for the preceding ten-year period. The weather in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia was quite dry for the greater part of the fire season, although temperatures were not excessive, and the seriousness of the fire danger conditions in the latter Province necessitated forest closure to travel during June, July and most of August. New Brunswick also experienced a few days of serious fire danger in the spring but, in general, the fire season was considered favourable in the Province as a whole. The forests of Quebec and Ontario were generally drier than normal in the spring but nearly average conditions obtained for the remainder of the season. Manitoba and Saskatchewan had a very favourable fire season. Serious fire dangers occurred in the northern and central portions of Alberta during May, June and October, but better-than-average conditions obtained elsewhere throughout the Province. In British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories, in the spring, wet weather prevailed generally and during the remainder of the fire season there were only a few isolated instances of the fire danger reaching serious proportions.