

*Wildlife Protection.*—In most provinces, administration of laws respecting hunting and fishing is carried out by staffs specially appointed for that purpose. In others, forest officers are required to act as game and fish wardens in addition to their other duties. Whether responsible for wildlife or not, the forest ranger must always take an interest in the movements of hunters and fishermen in his district because their presence magnifies the danger of forest fires. The majority of men who go into the woods to hunt or fish are careful with their camp fires and with smoking, but there will always be a small number who may start conflagrations through ignorance or carelessness.

*Education of the Public.*—The development of public understanding of all phases of forestry from forest protection to utilization of forest products is of paramount importance. The appalling losses caused by forest fires resulting from carelessness continue to be emphasized in educational programs by government agencies, companies, and associations such as the Canadian Forestry Association. The federal and provincial forest services carry on extensive programs of public education in forest-fire prevention with invaluable aid from the press, the radio, the motion-picture industry and many industrial organizations. The Federal Forestry Branch has distributed to schools more than 350,000 copies of *The ABC's of Forest Fire Prevention*, in English and French editions, as well as other publications for school and general use.

One of the most practical methods of adult education is the Tree Planting Railway Car of the Canadian Forestry Association, which has been operating its prairie shelter-belt campaign for over 30 years. Its purpose is to demonstrate and encourage tree planting around prairie homes. The results to date show over 250,000,000 trees distributed by Federal Government and other forest nurseries.

Through many other media, such as 4-H Forestry Clubs, Boy Scout forestry badge work, Royal Canadian Mounted Police handbooks and school science textbooks, public interest is stimulated in Canada's forest resources and the cause of forestry thereby promoted.

### Subsection 2.—Forest-Fire Protection

The Federal Government is responsible for fire-protection measures in the forests under its administration, chiefly those of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the National Parks, Indian lands and forest experiment stations. Each of the provincial governments, except that of Prince Edward Island, maintains a fire-protection organization co-operating with owners and licensees for the protection of timbered areas, the cost being covered by special taxes on timber-lands.

A more detailed description of the administration of fire-protection organizations is given in the special article, "Administration of Crown Forests in Canada", pp. 458-465.

*Forest-Fire Statistics.*—The number of forest fires in 1951, which totalled 4,529, was appreciably lower than the average of 5,281 for the ten years 1941-50. Also, the total area burned in 1951 was 896,426 acres, an area considerably less than half the average loss for the ten-year period. Although the area burned was so much smaller, the actual costs of fire-fighting in 1951 were very high, amounting to almost three times the ten-year average. Almost two-thirds of the costs were incurred in British Columbia where expenditures for this activity were nearly ten times higher than usual.