

three-quarters of the area burned was lost during April and May. New Brunswick did not have a serious fire season; the number of fires was half that of the previous year and three-quarters of the ten year average for the Province. This easy fire season was generally experienced westward across Canada. In Ontario heavy precipitation kept fires below normal, the greatest number occurring in July. In Manitoba the number of fires reported was less than half the average for the previous decade and the total area burned was only about one-twentieth the annual average. The season was cool and wet in Saskatchewan and the 57 fires which occurred during the year were less than half the average number for the previous decade. Although over-all fire losses were less than one-third the annual average the whole of 1954 was a fire season in Alberta: fires were reported every month. In British Columbia losses were the lowest since 1913; and the 116 lightning fires reported were about one-quarter the average number recorded annually over the past decade. In the Northwest Territories and the Yukon in general the weather was on the side of the fire fighters. However in the area from Norman Wells to Aklavik the season was dry and fire losses were heavy, especially on the reindeer ranges.

#### 4.—Summary Statistics of Forest Fire Losses 1953 and 1954 compared with Ten Year Average 1944-53

Item	Provinces <sup>1</sup>			Yukon and Northwest Territories, 1954
	Annual Average 1944-53 <sup>2</sup>	1953 <sup>3</sup>	1954 <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Totals, Fires</b> ..... No.	<b>5,434</b>	<b>6,440</b>	<b>3,022</b>	<b>112</b>
Fires under 10 acres..... "	4,051	4,981	2,573	49
Fires 10 acres or over..... "	1,383	1,459	449	63
<b>Area Burned</b> ..... acres	<b>1,587,561</b>	<b>1,358,375</b>	<b>265,626</b>	<b>1,131,589</b>
Merchantable timber..... "	298,441	203,112	72,136	7,736
Young growth..... "	401,853	499,144	50,677	93,535
Cut-over lands..... "	226,198	293,874	38,981	3
Non-forested lands..... "	661,069	362,245	103,832	1,030,315
Average size of fire..... acres	292	211	88	10,103
<b>Merchantable Timber Burned—</b>				
Saw timber..... M ft. b.m.	451,243	184,407	46,474	395
Smaller material..... cords	1,185,702	1,423,901	834,055	10,607
<b>Estimated Values Destroyed<sup>5</sup></b> ..... \$	<b>4,100,243</b>	<b>4,514,430</b>	<b>1,667,685</b>	<b>278,925</b>
Merchantable timber..... \$	1,759,368	2,285,790	1,246,176	20,945
Young growth..... \$	1,045,941	1,017,408	158,232	187,070
Cut-over lands..... \$	204,869	321,883	45,895	3
Other property burned..... \$	1,090,065	889,349	217,382	70,907
Actual costs of fire fighting..... \$	2,133,986	3,679,216	931,231	37,916
<b>Totals, Damage and Fire Fighting Costs.. \$</b>	<b>6,234,229</b>	<b>8,249,313</b>	<b>2,598,916</b>	<b>316,841</b>
Area under protection..... sq. miles	...	1,129,751	1,106,694	124,000

<sup>1</sup> Includes federal lands within provincial boundaries.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include Newfoundland for which no records were available prior to 1949.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of 109 forest fires in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

<sup>4</sup> Newfoundland included except for cost of fire fighting.

<sup>5</sup> Figures do not include such values as damage to soil, stream-flow, wildlife, recreation and tourist facilities, or the enhanced values resulting from silviculture and management practices.