

The weather in Newfoundland was a little drier than normal during most of the season and it was only in June and July that the fire situation became serious. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, weather conditions were generally favourable for fire protection and each of these Provinces enjoyed a very favourable fire season. The weather in Quebec and Ontario was highly variable during the summer of 1951. More than half of the total number of fires in both those Provinces occurred in May. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta all had well-distributed rains throughout most of the fire season and, except in a few small areas, there were no prolonged, dangerous periods of drought. In British Columbia, the coastal regions experienced persistent dry weather in the early spring and the fire season opened about two weeks earlier than usual. Critically dry conditions developed about the end of June and continued until the end of September, necessitating complete forest closure to travel and industry over wide areas during this period.

**5.—Summary Statistics of Forest-Fire Losses, 1951 compared with Ten-Year Average, 1941-50**

Item	Provinces <sup>1</sup>		Yukon and Northwest Territories, 1951
	Annual Average 1941-50 <sup>2</sup>	1951	
Fires under 10 acres..... No.	3,803	3,478	68
Fires 10 acres or over..... "	1,478	1,051	88
<b>Totals, Fires..... No.</b>	<b>5,281</b>	<b>4,529</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Area Burned—</b>			
Merchantable timber..... acres	437,381	135,104	226,764
Young growth..... "	440,004	301,392	55,717
Cut-over lands..... "	280,068	222,957	37,750
Non-forested lands..... "	801,898	236,973	331,729
<b>Totals, Area Burned..... acres</b>	<b>1,959,351</b>	<b>896,426</b>	<b>651,960</b>
Size of average fire..... acres	371	198	4,179
<b>Merchantable Timber Burned—</b>			
Saw-timber..... M ft. b.m.	394,777	373,684	4,459
Small material..... cords	1,782,386	630,389	1,146,369
<b>Estimated Values Destroyed—</b>			
Merchantable timber..... \$	2,318,492	1,219,079	720,247
Young growth..... \$	1,027,012	947,868	82,949
Cut-over lands..... \$	259,446	180,570	600
Other property burned..... \$	841,603	2,042,984	19,964
<b>Totals, Damage..... \$</b>	<b>4,446,553</b>	<b>4,390,501</b>	<b>823,760</b>
Actual cost of fire-fighting..... \$	1,393,199	3,643,320	43,355
<b>Totals, Damage and Fire-Fighting Cost..... \$</b>	<b>5,839,752</b>	<b>8,033,821</b>	<b>867,115</b>
Area under protection..... sq. miles		1,046,000	122,000

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

<sup>2</sup>Excludes Newfoundland.