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## SAVE FORESTS FROM FIRES

Appeal Again Being Made During Week Devoted to Purpose of Education

### LOSSES LAST YEAR

Northern Part of Province Did Well and Expected to Continue Good Work

Once again the Governor General has declared by Royal Proclamation a "Save the Forest" week and from April 18 till 24 all Canadians are requested to give their thought to the consideration of one of Canada's most pressing problems, the salvation of what remains of our once mighty timber stands, from the annual attack of their most deadly enemy, the forest fire. While the problem is nation wide no province in the Dominion is it more vital and important than the Province of British Columbia.

### Fatal Season

The fire season of 1925 was the most fatal to the forests of British Columbia since records have been kept of the annual destruction. There were reported in all 2,521 fires. The area burnt over comprised 1,023,789 acres. Merchantable timber destroyed was estimated at one billion fifty-eight million board feet with a net stumpage loss under the most conservative appraisal of \$1,223,197. A huge acreage of young and thrifty reproduction valued at \$634,544 was sacrificed; areas of unmerchantable timber and grazing range to the value of \$263,964 were fire swept. Forest products, buildings and equipment worth \$625,318 also fell the flames. There was also expended by the government and private parties \$750,801 in fighting fire.

These figures totalled show that the people of the province lost through forest fires in one season, three and a half million dollars.

### Analysis of Causes

The analysis of causes shows that only 632 or 25 per cent of the fires were attributed to lightning and the balance 1889 or 75 per cent sprang from human hands. Applying these percentages to the total loss we find that \$875,000 was due to the one unpreventable cause, lightning, but that \$2,625,000 was the direct result of human carelessness, apathy or indifference. The prodigality of the drunken sailor who lights his pipe with dollar bills is proverbial, but is it one whit more foolish or wanton than that of a people who waste their substance in such a fashion?

People are all prone at times to complain of heavy taxation but if we took stock of our own shortcomings we might find that in many instances we invited it, and no more convincing proof could be offered than the figures given above.

### Northern Co-operation

The forestry officials of the Prince Rupert district congratulate themselves that in the black year of 1925, their timber losses struck the lowest level since the wet year of 1921. Cost of fire fighting was higher than in the two previous years, but was approximately one third of the cost in the next lowest district in the province. Throughout the interior of the district from Terrace to Fraser Lake precisely the same weather conditions prevailed as in other parts of the province. To what then must be attributed the fortunate conditions that prevailed? To one thing, and one thing only, the loyal and active co-operation of the public throughout the Skeena, Bulkley and Lake Valleys. It is impossible here to recite all the instances of this splendid co-operation but the following are selected as outstanding.

Mathias Wesley, Indian, Honorary Warden, saw lightning start a fire high up on the hillside. He called on two other natives, started right away to the fire and held it to half an acre.

### Woman's Fine Work

Mrs. Bedore of Rose Lake, while her husband started for a fire they observed, jumped a horse, rode to the station and called the dispatcher at Smithers on the section house phone. He located the ranger along the track and reported the fire to him within 15 minutes of Mrs. Bedore's advice. A dangerous fire was extinguished before it had burned two acres and at a cost of only \$13.80.

A pupil of Tintagel School found a fire burning and reported

it to Miss Fittimore, the teacher, who at the head of her sturdy band of juvenile firefighters completely extinguished it while it was under a quarter of an acre and with no cost to the people.

Any of the fires cited above might have become conflagrations with heavy timber losses and costly expenditures. A sense of public responsibility and decisive action saved the public purse and the winter payrolls from poles and ties.

### Abnormal Year

The fire season of 1926 is approaching. What is the story to be? Is there to be a repetition of 1925 with its holocaust of timber and its enormous and wasteful expenditure? Everywhere throughout the province those who have its prosperity at

heart await the answer anxiously. The winter of 1925-26 has been abnormal. There has been the lightest snowfall recorded in twenty years. An early spring is promised in the interior valleys. With seasonable rains and a warm April the advanced growth may render the spring hazard light or negligible. Mid-summer will be the most dangerous period. The absence of snow in the hills and the consequent absence of local moisture will, even with a normally dry summer, produce a highly hazardous condition of affairs. It behooves people to be on their guard one and all. Exercise the utmost care with fire. Preach the gospel of forest protection to the careless. Credit the forest officer with sincerity of purpose and lend him unstinted support

and co-operation. Realize the forests are yours and your children's to be cherished and protected.

### United Action

United public action, and united public action alone can stop the forest fire.

"A burning forest is a burning shame" and the shame is every citizen's of the province.

### TELKWA

Mrs. Ray of Fort Fraser, accompanied by her children left for her home on Tuesday after having spent several weeks with her mother, Mrs. Green.

During the Easter holidays Miss Iris Hopwood of Giscome, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs.

P. Slavin.

Clean up! That is the password in and around Telkwa just now. So, as well as having the reputation of being one of the very prettiest spots in the valley, it will also be one of the tidiest.

Since returning to town, O. A. Reigle is busy in his old stand on Main Street.

Archie Mapleton is busy getting up another dance, which is billed to be a peppy one and it takes place on Friday, April 16.

The past few days have been windy, and on Monday night a pleasant shower of rain fell.

Miss Edith Strimboldt of Top-

ley is spending a few days as the guest of Miss Lyla Cornwell.

During last week, Miss Perle McDonald spent a holiday with her sisters, Mrs. Goodacre and Mrs. Chapman of Smithers.

After some months in the south E. M. Hoops returned on Sunday morning and is again busy with his various interests.

Mrs. H. H. Noonan entertained the ladies of St. Stephen's W.A. on Tuesday.

Many new cars have arrived in town during the past few days.

Pete Powers has returned from the south where he spent several months.

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- Men's Overcoats, sponged and pressed . . . . . \$1.00

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- Ladies' Suits, light colors . . . . . \$2.50
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