

Distributed by Causes.	
Lightning.....	4
Railroads.....	35
Lumbering.....	2
Brush burning.....	56
Campers.....	14
Incendiary.....	5
Unknown.....	52
Miscellaneous.....	6
Total number of fires.....	174

The total area burned over, including both timbered and open land, was 46,511 acres, while the damage to timber and improvements amounted to \$28,132. This data is significant, since the season was a very wet one. In spite of this fact, however, many fires were started and considerable valuable property destroyed. In order that we may be prepared for the real dry periods, which are bound to come in the near future, probably within five years, it is hoped that a well organized scheme of forest fire protection may be developed, and that individuals, corporations and other landowners organize forest fire associations and make it possible to co-operate to the fullest extent with the State throughout the wooded regions.

#### COÖPERATION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN FIRE PROTECTION

In 1911 Congress approved an act (Weeks Law) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to coöperate with states in the protection from fire of forested areas at the headwaters of navigable streams, and an appropriation was made available for such protection. Under the coöperative agreement, States were obligated to spend an amount equal to the allotment provided by the government. Wisconsin was one of the first states to coöperate and has received an annual allotment of \$4,500.00. Under the agreement entered into in 1916, eight federal patrolmen were appointed by the Conservation Commission for a period of six months and have been given definite districts to patrol and are under the direct supervision of the Head Ranger. During periods of no fire danger these patrolmen are employed in permanent improvement work, such as building trails, fire lanes, telephone lines, roads, etc. A close coöperation exists between the Federal Patrolmen and the State force of eight forest rangers.

#### PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT WORK

In the development of the forestry work some 37 buildings have been erected to shelter the ranger force at an approximate cost of \$28,600. Two forest nurseries have been established which have an output of 1,000,000 trees annually. Other improvement work includes the building of about 250 miles of roads, 140 miles of fire lanes, and 80 miles of telephone lines.