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Co-Operating Against Fires

UNDER an agreement entered into between the department of agriculture at Washington and the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railways, there should be a decided decrease in the number of fires which are caused by sparks from locomotives along the lines of those roads in the northwest. The agreement was signed by Secretary Wilson for the forest service, and is primarily designed to prevent damage to the national forests from fires along all lines operated by the railroad companies named.

The agreements have in view both the reduction to the lowest point of fire risk from the operation of the railroads and joint action by the forest service and the railroads to fight all fires which may start along the lines. The companies agree to clear and keep clear of inflammable material a strip of varying width, as conditions may demand, up to 200 feet beyond the right of way and to provide all engines with suitable spark arresters and other standard equipment to prevent the dropping of fire.

It is also stipulated that every effort will be made by the companies to operate their locomotives so as not to cause fires. The protective strip is to be stipulated jointly by representatives of the railroad and the forest service.

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