

tection of all forest lands, including cut-over lands, against fire, with a division of the cost of maintaining protection between the public and timberland owners.

COOPERATION WITH STATES

CLARKE-McNARY LAW

Activities in State cooperation have been extended materially through the Clarke-McNary law of June 7, 1924. This act authorizes annual appropriations of \$2,500,000 for the prevention and suppression of forest fires, \$100,000 for the distribution of forest planting stock to the owners of farms and \$100,000 for assistance to farmers in managing their forest lands. The appropriations for the year July 1, 1926, to June 30, 1927, are: \$710,000, \$75,000, and \$50,000, respectively.

FIRE CONTROL

Forest fires in the United States have burned over annually during the 10 years from 1916 to 1925 an average of 11,865,000 acres and have caused damage averaging \$20,944,000 a year. During this period the number of forest fires averaged 51,000 a year.

Through cooperation of the Federal Government with the States under the provisions of the Clarke-McNary law, which in the provisions covering such work, supersedes the Weeks law of 1911, substantial progress has been made in bringing about protection against forest fire. The law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with States which provide by law for a system of forest-fire control and are prepared to spend each year at least as much as the Federal Government contributes toward maintaining the system.

In 1911, the first year of cooperation under the Weeks law, 11 States entered into agreements to protect a total of 7,000,000 acres of forest land, at a total cost of \$350,000, of which the Federal Government contributed about \$39,000. In 1925 the 30 States cooperating, under the Clarke-McNary law, protected approximately 182,000,000 acres of forest land at a