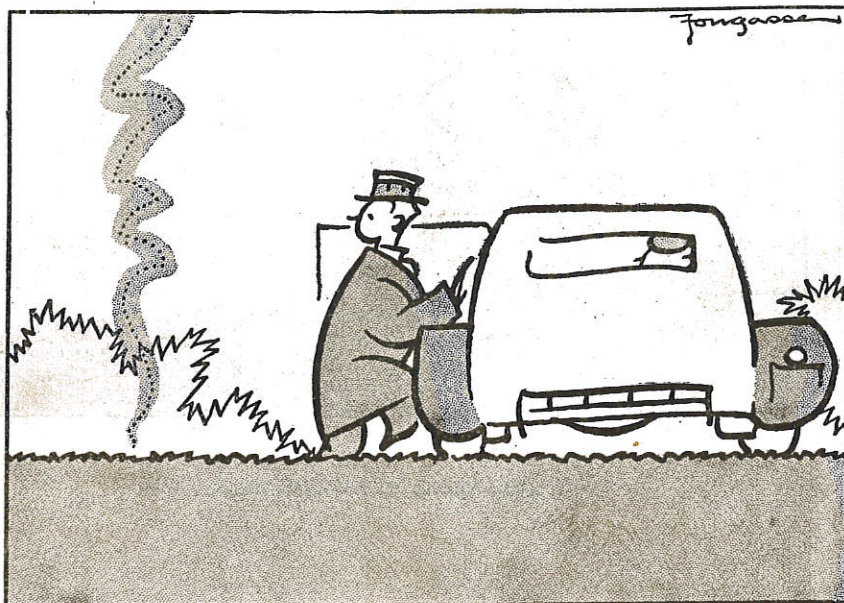


FORESTRY



COMMISSION



"Anyway, it's nearly out."

CONCERNING FOREST FIRES

Most forest fires begin through the setting alight of gorse, heather or dead grasses.

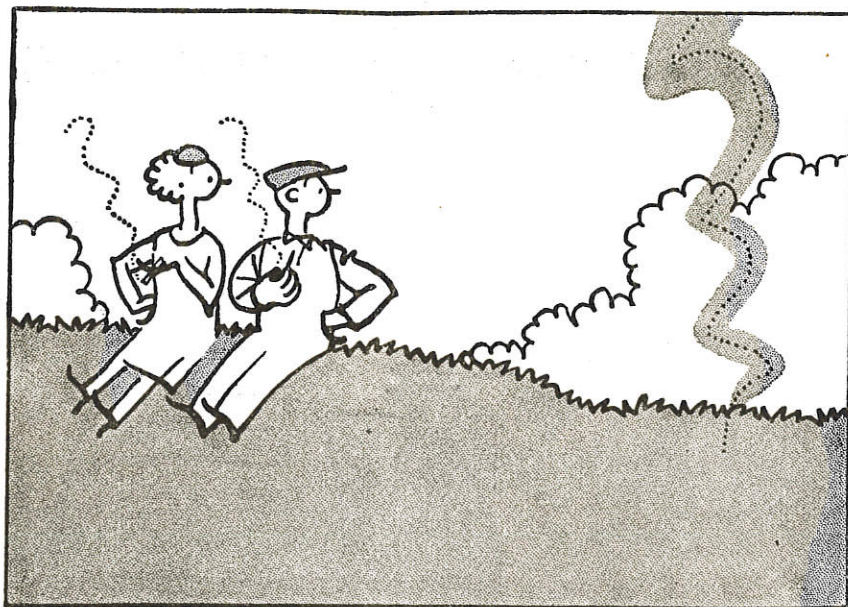
★ ★ ★
Once alight, surface fires spread with alarming rapidity, even in the lightest of breezes.

★ ★ ★
In fact, a spread of no less than a mile in fourteen minutes has been known and recorded in this country.

★ ★ ★

PLEASE DON'T FORGET

that most forest fires start with ONE
match or ONE cigarette.



“It’s too damp to burn—I think.”

Fire will usually destroy young trees *immediately and completely*;
even where the growth of grass and weed is sparse, fire which
passes quickly over the ground can kill the trees.

★ ★ ★

All ground vegetation dries out and becomes inflammable at some
season of the year; danger from fire is *always* present.

★ ★ ★

PLEASE DON'T FORGET

**that it may take nearly ten years for a
tree to grow ten feet high, and ten
minutes for a forest fire to destroy it.**



“That’s funny—that’s just where we lunched.”

The worst periods in Great Britain are February, March, April, May and June, and also the late summer. In one year 5,698 acres of Scottish forest were destroyed in the month of June.

★ ★ ★
This one month’s fire damage corresponded to an area roughly nine miles long by one mile broad. It is just the kind of damage that a carelessly dropped match can do.

★ ★ ★

PLEASE DON'T FORGET

**the horrible death that a forest fire brings
to the living creatures in the woods.**



"I really only wanted one big enough to boil our kettle on."

During the last eight years, 2,650 separate fires have been reported in forests belonging to the Forestry Commission alone: 7,800 acres of trees have been destroyed and the financial loss to the Nation has been nearly £100,000—which is a heavy bill for carelessness.

★ ★ ★

As a very large proportion of these fires arose through the thoughtlessness of one individual in each case, will the reader (especially if an absent-minded smoker or an enthusiastic lighter of fires for picnics) very kindly note.

★ ★ ★

PLEASE DON'T FORGET

that the reason why there are more forest fires in the summer is not just because things burn more easily then—it's because there are more thoughtless people about.