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THE CONTROL BURNING SEASON
SPRING & AUTUMN OR AUTUMN & SPRING

By S. J. Quain

With the proposed introduction of strip burning, I consider we should alter our burning season and submit a separate control burning report. The closer study of the underlying principles of control burning and the attempts to mechanise the work should lead to an improvement in both quality and quantity of the burning.

I consider the control burning season should be Autumn and Spring with the control burning report and plans prepared to cover the calendar year.

The following reasons for these proposals are -

- (a) With the introduction of strip burning on a rotation, it is the easiest method of making the most effective use of the burnt strips for fire control, e.g. it is no use having a proposed burning strip of Spring and Autumn as a fire control measure for the Summer because it will not be complete until the fire season has ended.
- (b) The bringing up to date of the control burning plans at the beginning of the fire season impresses upon the officers concerned both the strengths and weaknesses of the control burning carried out that year. This should be more effective than at present when these facts are brought to mind during mid-Winter when generally the warmth of a fire would be much more appreciated.
- (c) The system of calendar year burning will greatly simplify the preparation of the fire year burning plans. This is readily apparent to those officers who have to draw up and check the plans.

- (d) Drawing up the necessary plans will provide those officers on early season fire duties an alternative occupation to cleaning the car or digging the garden.

Comments (not facetious) from some of the general staff both for and against may prove enlightening.