

5.—Forest Administration.

1.—Administration of Dominion and Provincial Timber Lands.

The Dominion Government administers Crown lands, including timber lands, in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and in the Railway belt and Peace River block of British Columbia.

In all other cases timber lands are administered by the provinces in which they occur. On the area under Dominion control and in most of the provinces only the right to cut timber is disposed of, the title to the land remaining in the Crown, so that there are few privately owned timber lands, other than farmers' wood lots. As new regions are explored, their lands are examined and the agricultural land disposed of. Absolute forest land is usually set aside for timber production, and the policy of disposing of the title to lands fit only for the production of timber has been virtually abandoned in every province in Canada. The ownership of forests by towns and communities, so common in Europe, is almost unknown in Canada, although efforts are being made to encourage the establishment and maintenance of forests of this nature.

Dominion Timber Lands.—Dominion timber lands are administered by three different branches of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa. The Forest Service administers forest reserves and provides fire protection on all Dominion forest lands, the Timber and Grazing Branch deals with timber berths, and the Canadian National Parks Branch administers the Dominion parks, which are primarily national playgrounds and game preserves where the timber is withdrawn from commercial use. The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada has charge of fire protection along railway lines in Canada.

Forest reserves are primarily intended to supply the surrounding settlements with timber for local use, and to protect the watersheds. The method of disposal of this timber and the conditions under which it can be removed are such that regeneration of the natural forest is as well provided for as possible without actual replanting of cut-over areas. The policy of the government is to extend these forest reserves so that eventually they shall include all non-agricultural lands capable of supporting tree growth, and to provide for their maintenance in a forested condition by natural regeneration, except where entirely denuded areas demand artificial methods. On all other Dominion timber lands licenses to cut timber, renewable annually, are granted for stated areas. Regulations provide for cutting to a diameter limit and disposal of logging *débris*. The export of raw or unmanufactured timber cut from Dominion Crown lands and provincial Crown lands is prohibited in every province but Nova Scotia.

Approximately 27,335 square miles of forest lands in the Prairie Provinces are privately owned.

British Columbia.—In the province of British Columbia, the Forest Branch of the Department of Lands has administered timber lands since 1912. All unalienated lands in the province which are examined and found to be better suited to forest than to agricultural production are dedicated to forest production, and all timber lands carrying over a specified quantity of timber are withdrawn from disposal until examined by the Forest Branch. During the last two years some 5,600 square miles have been set aside permanently for forest purposes. The present practice is to sell cutting rights for a stated period by public competition. The royalties are adjusted periodically on the basis of prevailing industrial conditions. About 3,000 square miles of timber land are privately owned.