

Until 1930 the Dominion Government administered the Crown lands, including timber lands, in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, in the Railway Belt and Peace River Block of British Columbia, and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, but the forests as well as the other natural resources in the western provinces have now been transferred to provincial control. In all cases timber lands are now administered by the provinces in which they lie. 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 now beginning in Canada. Efforts are being made, especially in Quebec and Ontario, to encourage the establishment and maintenance of forests on this basis.

Timber Lands Under Dominion Control.—The National Parks of Canada Branch of the Department of the Interior administers the Dominion parks, now embracing some 12,822 square miles. These are primarily national playgrounds and game preserves, the timber being practically withdrawn from commercial use. The North West Territories Branch of the Department of the Interior administers and protects forest land lying north of the provincial areas. The Department of Indian Affairs administers, in trust for the Indians, all timbered areas within their reservations. Under the Board of Railway Commissioners, a Chief Fire Inspector has charge of fire protection along nearly all the railway lines in Canada.

Forest Administration in the Prairie Provinces.—Upon transfer of the resources in 1930, each province took steps toward the creation of an adequate forest service with a Provincial Forester in charge. In Manitoba the service is under the Department of Mines and Natural Resources, and in its forest regulations framed under the Manitoba Forest Act, the former Dominion Forest Reserves and Crown Timber Regulations are very largely incorporated. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, a closely similar policy is being followed. In every case the central object of policy is to safeguard the regeneration of valuable species in the natural forest types.

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 few years, 10,182 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, but licences to cut, which are renewable annually in perpetuity, have been granted for a large proportion of the accessible timber. The royalties are adjusted periodically on the basis of prevailing industrial conditions. About 3,000 square miles of timber land are privately owned.

Ontario.—Forest administration is carried out in Ontario under the Department of Lands and Forests, which is subdivided into two divisions, each under a