

Service is operated under the direction of the Provincial Forester, and is mainly used for purposes of forest fire protection. Six forest reserves, containing 3,775 square miles, are permanently reserved for the production of forest products. Timber is disposed of by licence or timber sale, and large numbers of timber permits, covering small quantities of wood, are issued annually to settlers and others. One pulp and paper mill is in operation in the province. The area of privately-owned forest land is estimated to be 8,500 square miles.

Saskatchewan.—The forests of Saskatchewan are administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The organization is unique in Canada, because the different resources are not controlled by different branches of the Department. Instead, each field officer handles matters pertaining to all resources within his district. Forestry affairs of the Department are controlled by the Director of Forests. Timber disposal is carried out under licence, sale, and permit. An Air Service is maintained, mainly for forest protection purposes. Forest reserves occupy 10,003 square miles and provincial parks 258 square miles. Privately-owned forest land is estimated to be 6,250 square miles.

Alberta.—The Forest Service of the Department of Lands and Mines administers and protects the provincial forests. Timber is disposed of through licences and permits except on forest reserves, where timber sales are disposed of but licensed berths are not. The area in forest reserves is 14,316 square miles, and 10,044 square miles of forest land 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 found to be better suited to forest than to agricultural production are dedicated to the former purpose, and all timber-lands carrying over a specified quantity of timber are withdrawn from disposal until examined by the Forest Branch. During the past few years 26,739 square miles have been set aside permanently for forest purposes. Provincial parks include 8,252 square miles. 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 15,000 square miles of timber-land are privately owned.

Subsection 2.—Forest Fire Protection.

The protection of forests from fire is undoubtedly the most urgent and most important part of the work of the different agencies administering forest lands in Canada. Except for the forests of the National Parks, the Forest Experiment Stations, and the Northwest Territories and Yukon, which remain under Dominion control, the administration of forest lands now rests with the provinces. Up to the end of the fire season of 1930, the Forest Service of the former Dominion Department of the Interior was responsible for fire protection in the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, and the Railway Belt of British Columbia. However, by reason of the transfer of natural resources from Dominion to provincial control, their administration is now a matter of provincial concern.

Each of the Provincial Governments, except that of Prince Edward Island, maintains a fire protection organization co-operating with owners and licensees for the protection of all timbered areas, the cost being in part distributed or covered by special taxes on timber-lands. In each province, with the exception just mentioned,