

The phenomenal development of the pulp and paper industry has provided a market for vast quantities of wood for which there was no demand twenty-five years ago and the development of the cellulose industry in the manufacture of rayon, cellophane and numerous other products, is rapidly extending the use of wood. Plastic wood products, fibre board and laminated wood will undoubtedly provide an increasing demand for these so-called "inferior" classes of wood so that more complete utilization of the forest resources and the elimination of much of the waste that now occurs can be expected. Though there may be a decrease in lumber production, owing partly to a decrease in high-grade timber and partly to the competition of other materials, there is every reason to expect that the demand for wood will be maintained if not increased.

Section 5.—Forest Administration

Subsection 1.—Administration of Dominion and Provincial Timber-Lands

Although the forest resources are, generally speaking, under the control of the provinces, forests of the National Parks, Forest Experiment Stations and the Northwest Territories and Yukon are administered by the Dominion Government.

In Canada the general policy of both the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments has been to dispose of the timber by means of licences to cut, rather than to sell timber-land outright. Under this system the State retains ownership of the land and control of the cutting operations. Revenue is derived in the form of stumpage bonuses (either in lump sums or in payments made as the timber is cut), annual ground-rent and royalty dues collected as and when the wood is removed. Both ground-rent and royalty dues may be adjusted at the discretion of the Governments.

The Maritime Provinces did not adopt this policy to the same extent as did the rest of Canada. In Prince Edward Island practically all the forest land has been alienated and is in small holdings, chiefly farmers' woodlots. In Nova Scotia 87 p.c. of the forest land is privately owned; nearly half of this is in holdings exceeding 1,000 acres. In New Brunswick over 50 p.c. has been sold, and 20 p.c. is in holdings exceeding 1,000 acres. The percentage of privately owned forest land in the other provinces, exclusive of National Parks and Indian reserves, is as follows: Quebec, 8 p.c.; Ontario, 3.3 p.c.; Manitoba, 9.1 p.c.; Saskatchewan, 7.6 p.c.; Alberta, 7.7 p.c. and British Columbia, 8.4 p.c. With the exception of relatively small areas owned by the Dominion Government, the Crown lands and the timber on them are administered by the provinces in which they lie. As new regions are explored, their lands are examined and the agricultural land disposed of. Land suitable only for forest is 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. Efforts are being made, especially in Quebec and Ontario, to encourage the establishment and maintenance of forests on a community basis.