

combine to cause serious shortages. Advisory committees were established in each of the main pulpwood regions east of the Rocky Mountains. Domestic prices for pulpwood were established, by regions, after consultation with Canadian producers and consumers. Exports to non-Empire countries were made subject to permit and were allocated on a quota basis, with the understanding that mills in the United States, which normally relied on Canada as their chief source of pulpwood, would receive supplies based on available quantities and their average imports during the previous seven years.

Because of shortages in 1943, domestic prices were adjusted upward and placed on a consumer basis. This action was taken to bring pulpwood up to price levels comparable to those of other primary forest products. In 1944, a further increase in price was granted to brokers and dealers because they were considered to be an integral part of the trade and, as such, entitled to a certain margin over and above the price which might be paid to a producer.

Consumption of pulpwood by domestic mills was substantially higher during the war years than in the pre-war period. Shortages of labour made it necessary to draw heavily on accumulated inventories and the continued operation of many Canadian mills now depends on suitable weather conditions and the availability of adequate bush labour. Until inventories can be built up, some measure of control of exports of pulpwood appears to be inevitable.

Operating Difficulties.—From the early part of 1942, until the end of the War in 1945, the demand for labour by war industries was very great and, in addition, very large numbers of woods workers enlisted in the Armed Forces. As a consequence, woods labour in Canada has been in short supply and the loss of experienced key men has been particularly serious. Rationing of foods and difficulties in obtaining needed supplies have further added to the burdens of logging operators. In spite of these difficulties, the output of sawlogs, pulpwood, and other forest products has been maintained at a remarkably high level and, with the return of men from the Armed Forces, it is expected that still higher production will be possible during the immediate post-war years.

Effects on the Forests during the War Years, 1939-45.—Because the forested area of Canada is large in relation to the population, it is unlikely that heavy cutting during the War has seriously injured the future productivity of the forest estate. On the other hand, the need for obtaining the highest possible yield per man-day from the available labour force has tended to concentrate fellings in the best and most accessible forest areas and local overcutting has certainly taken place. In addition, stocks of specially valuable woods, such as Sitka spruce and yellow birch veneer logs, have been seriously depleted, and the reduction of trained forest protection staffs has resulted in considerable losses from fire and pests which might otherwise have been reduced. The existing situation can be corrected by building up forest protection organizations and improving the general standards of forest management and plans are being developed by the Dominion and Provincial Governments to accomplish these improvements.