

Salvage of Affected Timber

No matter how efficient the organization for combating forest insects may become, it will always be necessary to devise ways and means for the profitable utilization of timber damaged in the course of infestations. Under present conditions, forest entomologists are required to give advice on salvage in connection with almost every infestation of importance. Full information concerning the present and future state of the forest is required as the basis for cutting plans whereby losses due to insects may be reduced to a minimum. To make pronouncements in such matters places a very grave responsibility upon the entomologist and requires a knowledge of all important factors in the development of outbreaks. It is practically necessary to study each outbreak and each area individually and to determine the condition of the forest, the severity of the attack, the probable rate at which the infestation will develop in the near future, as well as the rate of deterioration of the timber subsequent to death from insect attack. Therefore, in the collection of data, the co-operation of companies and forest services is indispensable. A system of regular reporting has been developed for this purpose. Special report forms have been prepared for those who wish to avail themselves of this service. Prognostications and recommendations are made on the basis of these reports, but it will be readily understood that exact measurements of probabilities are not always possible.

The Forest Insect Control Board

The latest development in the organization of forest entomology is the establishment of the Forest Insect Control Board. On Sept. 14, 1945, this Board was officially set up by Order in Council P.C. 6018, under the Department of Reconstruction. Its object and functions are aptly expressed in the following extracts from the text of the Order:—

- (1) That, in line with the conservation and development of natural resources, it is proposed to establish a Forest Insect Control Board for the purposes herein noted.
- (2) That the losses through forest insects, particularly the current outbreak of the spruce budworm, represent a serious threat to the future of Canadian forest industries and that the seriousness of the situation warrants immediate special action.
- (3) That, while the primary responsibility for the actual institution of control measures has been normally left with the Provinces, the epidemic has now reached the stage where national action is required.
- (4) That the most direct course of action is to establish one body charged with the co-ordination of all efforts, whether Dominion, Provincial or otherwise, in an endeavour to control forest insect outbreaks.
- (5) That, if established, it shall be the duty of the Board to take all possible steps, both separately and in co-operation with the Provinces and Forest Industry, to control forest insect outbreaks, particularly the spruce budworm.

According to the Order in Council, the Board is to be composed of representatives, one from each of the following: Department of Reconstruction and Supply, which representative will act as Chairman; Department of Agriculture; Department of Mines and Resources; Maritime Provinces, a representative to be nominated by joint agreement of the Minister of Lands and Mines of New Brunswick and the Minister of Lands and Forests of Nova Scotia; Province of Quebec, a representative to be nominated by the Minister of Lands and Forests; Province of Ontario, a representative to be nominated by the Minister of Lands and Forests; Province of British Columbia, a representative to be nominated by the Minister of Lands and Forests; Pulp and Paper Industry, a representative to be nominated by the President of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association.