

Forest Lands under Provincial Control.—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 of Canada. Efforts are being made, especially in Quebec and Ontario, to encourage the establishment and maintenance of forests on a community basis. Information regarding forest administration in the individual provinces is given at pp. 234-236 of the 1942 Year Book.

Royal Commissions on Forestry.—In 1944, a Royal Commission on Forestry was established by the Province of British Columbia with Mr. Justice (now Chief Justice) Gordon Sloan sitting as sole Commissioner. Over a period of two years the Commission held a series of hearings and received representations from the Government, the forest industries, and the public. In his report, the Commissioner presented a review of the whole forest situation in the Province; a number of the recommendations were implemented by legislation shortly after the report was presented. One recommendation which the Government considered unacceptable was that the administration of the forest resources of the Province should be placed in the hands of a more or less independent commission. The Premier of the Province stated that it was the view of his Government that administration should continue to lie with the Department of Lands and Forests.

In 1945, the Province of Saskatchewan appointed a Royal Commission, under the chairmanship of Frank Eliason, to conduct inquiries into forestry matters. Two interim reports have been published recommending more adequate fire protection and the curtailment of the annual cut on forest areas under provincial control to an amount roughly approximating one-twentieth of the estimated stand of merchantable spruce timber in each particular area. A new policy of timber disposal replaced the old practice of selling timber on a stumpage basis with a system of cutting and processing timber by contract. All timber for re-sale from Crown lands will remain the property of the people of the Province, and will be turned over at rail-head to the Saskatchewan Timber Board for marketing.

In 1946, the Province of Ontario appointed a Royal Commission, under the chairmanship of Major-General Howard Kennedy, C.B.E., M.C., to investigate all phases of Ontario's forest industries and to work out a comprehensive policy towards the economic development and perpetuation of the forest resources of the Province.

In the five other forest provinces, although formal public inquiry has not been considered necessary, forestry problems are receiving close attention from governments and from industry, and steps are being taken to improve and strengthen administrative and protective services.

Subsection 2.—Forest Protection

Fire Protection.—The Dominion Government administers the forests of the National Parks, Forest Experiment Stations and the Northwest Territories and Yukon, and is, therefore, responsible for fire-protection measures therein. 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