

which the Provincial and Federal Governments and private industries should adopt in regard to the forests. If, for example, the supply of wood being grown is not sufficient to maintain the forest industries, then it is vitally important that more efficient systems of forest protection and forest management be put into practice. The adoption of such measures would then assist in providing a continuous and increased flow of primary wood products to these industries.

It is clear that the approach to a discussion of the adequacy of Canada's forest resources to support industry must be on a regional or district level. Only by building up knowledge of the relation of growth and depletion in the forests, district by district, will it be possible to grasp the Canadian situation as a whole. It means little to the pulp and paper industry of Quebec, for example, to know that in Canada as a whole there exists enough pulpwood to supply the present Canadian pulp and paper industry with all its wood requirements. Or again, the stands of timber in northern British Columbia are of little significance to the lumbermen on Vancouver Island who must depend on local supplies. What a mill owner requires is the assurance of an adequate supply of timber within the shortest possible distance from his mill.

On a regional basis, it is known that some areas will not be able to maintain indefinitely the industries presently dependent upon them; others can support only the present level of industrial capacity, while certain areas, presently distant from both mills and markets, could sustain a large measure of industrial development but must await the economic conditions suitable for their exploitation. For many areas no definite answers whatever can yet be given. From information now available it seems evident that Canada is potentially capable of supporting far larger forest industries than at present; but it is equally certain that any substantial expansion of industry without the introduction of forest management on a much wider basis would be detrimental to our forest economy.

The primary step is a stock-taking of our forest resources. In a country of Canada's vastness such a task cannot be accomplished quickly or cheaply. Not only is it necessary to know the quantity of timber available, but also the individual species by age classes, and their composition by forest types. This information is a basic requirement for the most efficient and scientific development of industrial forestry in Canada.

To develop a national inventory an intricate mosaic of district stock-taking surveys must be correlated, so that the management plans for each district will fit into the national pattern.

It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the technical and silvicultural ramifications involved, but it must be emphasized that inventories are but one feature in the management of forests as a crop. Just as so much effort has been devoted to agricultural research, in order that the products of the farm might be improved, so must studies of tree growth, forest regeneration, and other silvicultural problems be intensified in order that Canada's forests may be managed for the maximum output of the most useful products. To complete these studies for the numerous forest districts in Canada will require years of research. In the meantime, however, such research is being concentrated on those areas which at present give promise of yielding the greatest returns.