

Since the end of the Second World War several provinces have made great progress in bringing their forest inventories up to date. The information obtained is being used by the forest authorities to formulate their respective provincial forest policies.

Hand in hand with the formation of provincial forest policies goes the task of preparing forest management plans. Provincial officials, in co-operation with the forest industries, are taking steps that have as their object the management of the forests for a sustained yield of forest products. Another important feature in the development of these policies is the reforestation of those areas which have not regenerated naturally. Since the War, this has been given considerable attention. Improved logging methods which will ensure better natural regeneration are also being introduced where conditions are more favourable.

The relationship between the yield from the forests and the development of forest industries is affected by technological changes and scientific advances in industry. All such improvements tend to increase the degree of utilization of forest products. By devising methods to utilize the inferior tree species, for example, the forest industries can increase their wood supplies although the productive capacity of the forests has not increased. Similarly, advanced methods of extraction which will utilize a greater proportion of the whole tree will augment the available supply of wood as though additional forests were planted. Forest products research is also reducing the waste from present wood-manufacturing processes. An illustration of this is the production of industrial alcohol from sulphite liquor—a by-product in the manufacture of sulphite wood-pulp.

Adequate forest management is still in its infancy in Canada. Nevertheless, the economic obstacles to the practice of sustained yield are becoming of less importance as the available supply of timber becomes less accessible to the mills. If action is taken in an aggressive manner to conserve the forests and increase their yield, Canadian forest industries should be able to maintain, if not expand, their present capacity. The lumber industry, which was founded on virgin forests, does present a special problem. The large logs sawn into lumber in the past are being replaced by smaller sawlogs grown in second-growth stands. This does not mean, however, a smaller lumber industry but rather planning to produce clear sawlog material by the practice of good silviculture. Further, it means promoting the more economical use of wood by devising improved methods of lumber manufacture, and by developing new techniques in the use of lumber in construction.

From the standpoint of the national economy the primary needs are: to grow the greatest amount of the most suitable woods as economically as possible; to improve standards of wood utilization; and to reduce to a minimum the forest losses from fire, insects and disease.

INDUSTRIES BASED ON THE FOREST*

Across Canada, these industries which include operations in the woods, the lumbering industry, the pulp and paper industry, the wood-using industries, and the paper-using industries, present an intricate mosaic. From all provinces such products as lumber, pulp and paper, railway ties, telephone poles, furniture, and plywood enter into the stream of Canadian commerce. Participating in the historic growth of the country, these industries have made a distinctive contribution to the nation's economic development and cultural heritage.