

on the joint invitation of FAO and the Government of Canada. This Conference made available much valuable information concerning world production and supplies of pulp and underlined the importance of improving statistical reports and reporting in this field. Details of the functions of FAO as they concern forestry are outlined at pp. 264-265 of the 1946 Year Book.

Subsection 2.—Forest-Fire Protection

The Federal Government is responsible for fire-protection measures in the forests under its administration—chiefly those of Yukon and the Northwest Territories, the National Parks, Indian lands, and Forest Experiment Stations. 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 of all timbered areas, the cost being distributed or covered by special taxes on timber-lands.

In each province, with the exception just mentioned, provincial legislation regulates the use of fire for clearing and other legitimate purposes, and provides for close seasons during dangerous periods. An interesting development in this connection in the Province of Quebec is the organization of a number of co-operative protective associations among lessees of timber limits. These associations have their own staffs, which co-operate with those of the Board of Transport Commissioners and the Provincial Government. The latter contributes money grants and also pays for the protection of vacant Crown lands lying within the area of the associations' activities. In the Province of Newfoundland, responsibility for the protection of most licensed timber-lands is vested in the lessees. In addition, the Newfoundland Forest Protection Association, maintained jointly by the government and industry, carries out certain important fire-control functions.

In the matter of forest-fire protection along railway lines, the provincial services are assisted by the Railway Act administered by the Board of Transport Commissioners. This Act gives to that body wide powers relating to fire protection along railway lines under its jurisdiction. Certain officers of the various forest authorities are appointed ex-officio officers of the Board of Transport Commissioners and co-operate with the fire-ranger staffs which the railway companies are required to employ under the Railway Act.

Under the Canada Forestry Act the federal authorities have entered into discussions with provincial forest authorities concerning co-operative measures which can be implemented for the better protection of the forests from fire. The Federal Government may assist the provinces in meeting the heavy costs which adequate protection services entail.

In many districts in Canada, radio-equipped aircraft are used to good effect for the detection and suppression of forest fires. Where lakes are numerous, seaplanes or flying boats can be used for detection, and for the transportation of fire-fighters and their equipment to fires in remote areas. In Western Canada, equipment and supplies are sometimes dropped by parachute to isolated fire crews; in one province parachutists are now employed to fight fires which are difficult of access by other means.