

Section 5.—Forest Administration

Subsection 1.—Administration of Federal and Provincial Timber-Lands

The major proportion of the forest resources of Canada are owned and administered by the provincial governments. The Federal Government is responsible for the administration of those of the Yukon and Northwest Territories and other federal lands such as National Parks and Forest Experiment Stations. About 97,000 sq. miles are privately owned by individuals or corporations.

The Federal Government's chief responsibility in the field of forestry is to carry out research in problems affecting Canada's forests and their development, conservation and more effective utilization. The Canada Forestry Act, 1949, provides that the Federal Government may enter into agreements with provincial governments, corporations and individuals to develop and conserve Canada's forest resources. Agreements under negotiation provide that during the next five years the Federal Government will pay one-half the cost, to the provinces, of making and maintaining their forest inventories, and one-fifth of the cost of reforesting provincial unoccupied Crown lands.

The general policy of the Federal Government and the provincial governments has been to dispose of the timber under their jurisdiction by means of licences to cut, rather than by the outright sale of timber-land. Under this system the Crown retains ownership of the land and control of the cutting operations. Revenue is received in the form of Crown dues or stumpage (either in lump sums or in payments made as the timber is cut); ground rents and fire-protection taxes are collected annually. All these charges against the timber and land may be adjusted at the discretion of the governments concerned.

The three Maritime Provinces did not adopt this policy to the same extent as did the rest of Canada. In Prince Edward Island practically all the forest land has been alienated and is in small holdings, chiefly farmers' woodlots. In Nova Scotia 73 p.c. of the forest land is privately owned; holdings exceeding 1,000 acres make up more than one-half of this area. In New Brunswick 50 p.c. is under private ownership. The percentages of privately owned forest land in the other provinces are as follows: Newfoundland, 16 p.c.; Quebec, 8 p.c.; Ontario, 6 p.c.; Manitoba, 7 p.c.; Saskatchewan, 9 p.c.; Alberta, 7 p.c.; and British Columbia, 4 p.c.

Provincial lands suitable for growing trees are 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. More detailed information regarding forest administration in each of the provinces, except Newfoundland, is given in the Year Book 1942 at pp. 234-236.

About 1,600 professionally trained foresters are employed in Canada by the Federal Government, by provincial forest services, or by pulp and paper and lumber companies. The staff working for the Federal Government are almost entirely engaged in research; those employed by the provincial governments devote their attention mainly to the administration of provincial forest lands; while those in private industry, although they do some research, are concerned chiefly with forest management and protection.