

ADMINISTRATION OF CROWN FORESTS IN CANADA

Ninety-three per cent of the forests of Canada are owned by the people and are administered by either the Federal or Provincial Governments. In the Maritime Provinces, however, most of the forest has been retained under private ownership. In Prince Edward Island practically all the forest is in private holdings, chiefly farmers' woodlots. In Nova Scotia 73 p.c. of the forest land is privately owned, made up generally of areas exceeding 1,000 acres in extent. Fifty per cent of the forests of New Brunswick are owned by individuals and corporations. The remaining provinces have the following proportions of forest under private ownership: Newfoundland, 16 p.c.; Quebec, 7 p.c.; Ontario, 8 p.c.; Manitoba, 7 p.c.; Saskatchewan, 7 p.c.; Alberta, 7 p.c.; and British Columbia, 4 p.c.

The major proportion of the Crown forests are owned and administered by the provincial governments. The Federal Government administers the forest lands of the Yukon and Northwest Territories and all other federal lands such as the National Parks and forest experiment stations. Most of the provinces have established forest reserves, and seven provinces also maintain Provincial Parks. Forest reserves are set aside either as a source of supply of forest products for industry, or as protection to prevent soil erosion. In both instances, controlled logging operations are carried on and particular care is taken to prevent harmful depletion of the forest resources at any time. In the case of protection forests, the decision as to whether any particular area can be logged in a given year depends on its effect on erosion. No logging would be allowed on a hillside, for example, no matter how desirable from a commercial point of view, if it is likely to interfere with the control of stream-flow.

Table 3, p. 455, gives the areas of National and Provincial Parks, forest reserves and forest experiment stations, by province. The National Parks, which range in size from a few acres to hundreds of square miles, are described at pp. 23-25 and Provincial Parks at pp. 26-30.

Federal Administration

The Canada Forestry Act, passed by the Federal Government in 1949, provides, among other things, authority for the operation of forest experiment stations and forest products laboratories, some of which have been in existence for many years. The Act also authorizes the granting of federal assistance to the provinces to enable them to improve the management of their own forests.

A conference, with representatives from all the provinces, was convened at Ottawa by the Minister of Resources and Development in May 1951 to consider the Federal Government's proposals in detail. The Conference approved, in principle, a draft agreement covering federal assistance to the provinces in forest inventory and reforestation, which provided that the Federal Government pay one-half the cost to the provinces of completing and maintaining their forest inventories during the next five years, and that the Federal Government pay one-fifth of the cost to the provinces of reasonable programs for the reforestation of provincial Crown lands, provided that the federal contribution would not exceed, in any year, the amount by which the combined expenditures for the reforestation of such lands exceeded the average of the province's own expenditures for such purposes during the previous three years.