

Section 5.—Forest Administration

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

The major portion 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 on other federal lands such as National Parks and Forest Experiment Stations. About 97,000 sq. miles are privately owned by individuals or corporations.

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, 6 p.c.; Ontario, 8 p.c.; Manitoba, 7 p.c.; Saskatchewan, 7 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.

Over 2,000 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.

Federal Administration.—The Canada Forestry Act 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.

Agreements with the provinces provide that the Federal Government pay one-half the cost to the provinces of completing and maintaining their forest inventories during a five-year period. They provide also for payments by the Federal Government to the province amounting to \$10 per thousand trees planted and \$1 per acre seeded by provinces on unoccupied Crown lands, provided that the share of this program paid for by the province itself is maintained at or above the average level of the previous three years. The Federal Government also agrees to pay one-fifth of the cost to the province for establishment and operation of new forest nurseries.

* More detailed information is given in the 1954 Canada Year Book, pp. 458-465.