

Over 2,200 professionally trained foresters are employed in Canada by the Federal Government, by provincial forest services, or by pulp and paper and lumber companies. Those working for the Federal Government are engaged almost entirely in research; those employed by the provincial governments devote their attention mainly to the administration of provincial forest lands; and 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. Under the Federal-Provincial Agreements signed under authority of the Act, seven of Canada's ten provinces have undertaken a forest inventory with federal financial assistance and six provinces have reforestation agreements. The history of the Federal-Provincial Agreements and their relation to the Canada Forestry Act is described in the special article following.

## THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FORESTRY AGREEMENTS\*

### INTRODUCTION

In December 1949 legislation of prime importance to Canadian forestry—the Canada Forestry Act—was placed on the federal statute books. Of equal interest was the announcement in May 1951, by the then Minister of Resources and Development, that the Government of Canada was prepared, under authority of this Act, to enter into agreements with the provinces which would provide for federal financial assistance to them in carrying out certain forestry activities, with a view to promoting sound management of Canada's forest resources.

### HISTORICAL REVIEW

During the first thirty years of this century the forest resources of the three Prairie Provinces and the Railway Belt of British Columbia, as well as those of the northern territories and other lands under federal control, were administered by the Government of Canada through various agencies of the Department of the Interior. The Forest Service of that Department was responsible for all timber administration of forest reserves totalling, by the late 1920's, about 35,000 sq. miles, and for fire protection on nearly a quarter of a million square miles. Research was carried out by the Forest Service on a limited scale, although this activity increased after the Commission of Conservation was abolished in 1921. Forest products research was undertaken at laboratories successively established in Montreal, Vancouver and Ottawa. Nevertheless the functions of the Forest Service were mainly of an administrative nature during this period.

In 1930 the forest resources of the western provinces passed from federal to provincial jurisdiction where, under the British North America Act, they rightfully belonged. (Provincial jurisdiction over the forests of the eastern provinces and most of British Columbia had been established at Confederation.) The administrative duties of the Forest Service in this vast area were thus abruptly terminated; it became—and remains to the present day—primarily a research organization. The Dominion Forest Reserves and Parks Act of 1911, which had provided the legislative basis for most of the Forest Service's activities,

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