

no longer had any practical application although it remained on the statute books for nearly twenty years. During this period the need for revised federal forest legislation, in keeping with the altered status of the Forest Service, became increasingly apparent.

At the same time there was a growing conviction in many quarters that provision should be made in any new forest legislation for federal financial assistance to provincial governments in the protection and development of their forest resources. Precedents involving such federal assistance to the provinces already existed in other fields of provincial jurisdiction, where national as well as regional or local interests were affected. Clearly the welfare of the forest estate was a matter of major concern from the national standpoint, not only because of the prominent position of the forest industries in the Canadian economy and the large federal revenue derived from them, but because of the far reaching influence of the forests on streamflow, wildlife, recreational values, and the national wellbeing in general.

This principle had been recognized in the United States as early as 1911 by the enactment of the Weeks Law, which included provision for federal financial aid to state governments in forest fire protection. Federal-state co-operation in this field was greatly expanded under the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924, and was extended to other phases of forestry, although on a much more limited scale, in this and subsequent legislation.

Representations for similar legislation were made to the Canadian Government from time to time. Financial aid to provincially administered forestry projects was given in 1939-40 under the National Forestry Program, a youth training scheme which was cut short by the demands of World War II, and an arrangement was made with the Province of British Columbia during World War II for the use of alternative service workers for protecting forests from the threat of incendiary bombs carried by Japanese paper balloons.

In 1943 the Report of the Subcommittee on Conservation and Development of Natural Resources of the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction—commonly known as the "Wallace Report"—was published. Paragraph 4 of the Subcommittee's recommendations relating to forestry proposed that there be enacted a Dominion Forest Act which would provide, among other things, for "the granting of financial assistance to the provinces for forest protection, insect and disease control or eradication, development of recreational facilities, woodlot improvement projects, reforestation, forestry publicity and education, and subsidies to be passed on to industry for approved forestry practices in woodlands management".

Following the cessation of hostilities in World War II, active consideration was given to the preparation of federal forest legislation which would implement, in substantial measure, these recommendations of the Wallace Report. On Oct. 13, 1949 Bill 62, "An Act Respecting Forest Conservation", was introduced as a Government measure in the House of Commons. The Bill met with approval by all parties in Parliament and received Royal Assent as the Canada Forestry Act on Dec. 10, 1949.

THE CANADA FORESTRY ACT

The Canada Forestry Act is entirely permissive in character. It merely *authorizes* the Governor in Council and the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources to take certain action.

The principal terms of the Act are briefly as follows:—

- (a) Provision is made for the establishment of and carrying out of necessary activities in National Forests and Forest Experimental Areas, and for making regulations for the protection, care, and management of such areas. Penalties are provided for violation of such regulations.
- (b) The establishment and maintenance of forest products laboratories are provided for.
- (c) The Governor in Council is given authority to assist any province or forest owner in the protection and development of forest lands with a view to the conservation and advantageous utilization of the forest resources of Canada.