

- (d) The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources is authorized,
- (i) with the consent of the Governor in Council, to enter into agreements with the provinces for the protection, development or utilization of forest resources;
  - (ii) to make arrangements with other federal agencies for carrying out the purposes of the Act; and
  - (iii) to enter into agreements with any persons providing for forest and forest products research, and economic studies relating to forestry.
- (e) Donations and bequests made for the purposes of the Act may be so used; otherwise all expenditures under the Act are to be paid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for that purpose.

The last-named clause differs from the terms of certain comparable legislation in other fields, such as the Trans-Canada Highway Act, where provision is made for payments to the provinces out of unappropriated moneys in the Consolidated Revenue Fund during a stated period of years and up to a stated maximum. The supply of funds under such "statutory votes" is virtually automatic; however if it should become necessary to exceed the maximum payment stipulated, an amendment to the Act would be required. On the other hand under provisions such as those of the Canada Forestry Act the responsible Minister must seek the necessary appropriation from Parliament each year and must be prepared to justify it item by item; but the procedure is more flexible in that the amount asked for may be determined in the light of current needs.

Apart from the question of financing the clause in the Canada Forestry Act, with which this article is primarily concerned, is Sect. 6, paragraph (a), which reads: "The Minister may with the consent of the Governor in Council enter into agreement with any province, for the protection, development or utilization of forest resources, including protection from fire, insects and diseases, forest inventories, silvicultural research, watershed protection, reforestation, forestry publicity and education, construction of roads and improvement of streams in forest areas, improvement of growing conditions and management of forests for continuous production"

Thus in one short paragraph, provision is made for federal assistance to the provinces embracing virtually every field of forestry activity. In this respect the Canadian law differs markedly from that of the United States, where federal-state co-operation has developed by stages over the years, in fields delimited by successive Acts of Congress.

#### THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENTS

It will be observed that forest protection is the first item mentioned in the list of specific fields of federal-provincial co-operation included in the recommendations of the Wallace Committee and in the Canada Forestry Act itself. Forest fire protection did in fact occupy a prominent place in early planning at the technical level for the implementation of the co-operative clauses of the Canada Forestry Act, and in preliminary discussions regarding the possible form of federal-provincial forestry agreements. However other important fields of forestry activity were also considered. As a preliminary to sustained-yield forest management a reliable appraisal of the location, extent, and nature of the forest resources is necessary. The initiation or acceleration of provincial forest inventory surveys was therefore regarded as a particularly desirable field for federal assistance. Consideration was also given to the provision of financial aid to the provinces in various fields of forest management, notably in the reforestation of lands which, while otherwise favourably situated from the economic standpoint, have failed as a result of logging and fire to restock naturally with usable species.

In the matter of forest research and forest products research the Forestry Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is particularly well equipped to conduct investigations of value both to the provinces and to industry, and it was recognized that emphasis in these fields should be placed on the continuation and expansion of such services. Research in forest fire protection is one of the major phases of forest research in which substantial assistance has been and is being given by the Forest Research Division of the Forestry Branch to the forest protection services maintained by the provincial governments and the forest industry.