

On May 2, 1951 the Minister of Resources and Development announced in the House of Commons that, with a view to encouraging and assisting the provinces in bringing about the management of their forests on a sustained-yield basis, the Government of Canada was prepared to enter into agreements with the provinces which would provide:

- (1) that the Federal Government would pay one-half the cost to the provinces of completing and maintaining their forest inventories during the next five years, and
- (2) that the Federal Government would pay one-fifth of the cost to the provinces of reasonable programs for the reforestation of provincial Crown lands (in other words, the federal share would be equal to one-quarter of the province's share), 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 province's own expenditures for such purposes during the previous three years. This Section has since been amended to provide for federal payments of \$10 per thousand trees planted and \$1 per acre seeded, provided that the province's share of the reforestation program is maintained at or above the average level of the past three years.

To provide for payment of the federal share of these costs in the fiscal year 1951-52 Parliament was asked to vote a sum of \$800,000 for forest inventory and \$225,000 for reforestation.

The fact that the Government thus undertook to implement Sect. 6(a) of the Canada Forestry Act at this time, in spite of the urgent priority assigned to defence expenditures, is an indication of its concern for the welfare of the forest estate. For the fiscal year 1952-53 the vote for forest inventory was increased to \$1,000,000 while that for reforestation was again set at \$225,000 and for subsequent years has remained the same.

A conference, at which all provinces were represented, was convened in Ottawa by the Minister of Resources and Development on May 9 and 10, 1951 to consider the Federal Government's proposals in detail. A draft form of agreement, providing for federal assistance to the provinces in forest inventory and reforestation, was approved in principle by the conference. Lengthy consultations were necessary in the preparation of the final text, and it was not until the middle of October that the documents were completed. In the meantime however, at the Minister's invitation, a number of the provinces had prepared programs of work in accordance with the intent of the agreements, and had made definite progress in implementing them.

Agreements with New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia were executed on Dec. 4, 1951 and with Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia on Jan. 28, Mar. 7, and June 12, 1952 respectively.

#### TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS

Before reviewing the terms of the Federal-Provincial Forestry Agreements in detail it may be of interest to note certain general principles upon which they are based and which, to a considerable degree, are common to other federal-provincial co-operative arrangements in Canada, and to federal-state co-operative measures in forestry in the United States.

- (1) Federal contributions are intended to *supplement* provincial expenditures rather than to replace the normal appropriations made by the provinces.
- (2) The Federal Government shares in the cost of each project carried out under the agreements—that is, no projects are designated as being paid for entirely out of federal funds, and others by the province only.
- (3) The Federal Government claims no proprietary interest in any project carried out under the agreements.
- (4) The actual administration of the projects is the responsibility of the provinces in all cases.
- (5) Adherence to certain general standards and specifications is provided for in the agreements, where necessary in the interests of efficiency, but the Federal Government makes no attempt to set up a rigid, common pattern of procedure, or to discourage the provinces from using existing methods and techniques which have proved satisfactory.