

Ontario.—Provincial policy is directed toward the management and protection of timber lands and stabilization of the forest industry. There are 123 management units, of which 36 are large timber licences and those licensees with holdings of more than 50 sq. miles must submit management plans and inventories for their areas. Smaller management areas are integrated into 'public' working circles.

Timber cutting rights are offered for sale with priority being given to the needs of established industries. When a management plan is approved, the licensee provides a plan covering proposed operations for the ensuing year and, additionally, the Minister may require that adequate provisions be made for effective reforestation of licensed areas.

In co-operation with the Federal Government the Province has undertaken an inventory of forest resources. Field work which started in 1946 has been completed and only the final compiling and publication of reports covering Lake Simcoe, Lake Huron and Lake Erie districts remain to be done. These reports cover the agricultural area woodlots of southern Ontario and are important because farm woodlots have a little-realized capacity. For instance, in the Lake Simcoe district alone there were, in 1956, 603 factories manufacturing wood products with a selling value of \$90,000,000 and employing 9,300 persons with earnings of almost \$26,000,000. Other predominantly agricultural districts have timber resources of equal value.

An extensive reforestation program is gaining momentum each year. In 1956 almost 30,000,000 trees were planted, of which 13,000,000 were placed on Crown lands, 4,000,000 on lands managed by counties, townships and conservation authorities, and the remainder distributed to private landowners. Provincial forestry officials plan to increase the scope of reforestation each year until 100,000,000 trees are planted annually. To achieve this objective, tree nursery facilities have been extended. Four established nurseries have been enlarged and five new nurseries organized.

In addition to the reforestation and regeneration of barren lands, the forest production and maintenance program includes measures to combat damage by fire, insects and disease. To fight fire the Forest Protection Division has an efficient staff well supplied with modern equipment. Over 300 lookout towers supplemented by aerial patrols and an extensive communication system guard against forest fires. During 1956, a moderate year, there were 1,017 forest fires which destroyed \$2,870,000 of merchantable timber on Crown lands alone. The cost of fighting these fires was over \$1,175,000. Despite a growing public awareness of fire hazards in the forest, over 700 of the fires were caused by human carelessness.

The Division of Research, as a result of constant study of the factors affecting regeneration of the commercially important tree species, has achieved noteworthy results. Silvicultural treatment of yellow birch has improved germination, survival and height growth. In the white pine program, a new method of grafting has been successful, and an improved method of raising aspen seedlings has been found. Advances have also been evident in soil research and general forest genetics as well as in the development of new fire fighting techniques.

Manitoba.—The forests of Manitoba are administered by the Forest Service, a Branch of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources. The Service is headed by a Provincial Forester and the Province is divided into four Forest Districts—Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western—each with a District Forester in charge. The Whiteshell Forest Reserve, which is an important recreational area, is also supervised by a Forester. Each Forest District is subdivided into Forest Ranger Districts of which there are 40, each in charge of a Forest Ranger.

The cutting of mature timber is governed by timber sale, licensed timber berth, pulpwood lease, or timber permit. Timber sales are disposed of by public auction and cover periods of from one to seven years. Timber berths cover certain areas granted before 1930, the date of the transfer of the natural resources from the Federal Government to the Province. Pulpwood leases are granted over an area of 2,748 sq. miles. Timber permits are granted to settlers and small operators at regulation rates for a period of one year or less.