

A large part of the forests in the interior of the Island are leased, licensed or owned by paper companies, but a three-mile wide belt along most of the coastline is retained as unoccupied Crown land for the purpose of providing firewood, construction material, fencing material, etc., for the local population. Within this coastal forest belt every household has legal right to cut 2,000 cu. feet of wood a year for domestic use. This form of cutting is generally without any control or restrictions but a policy is being introduced whereby cutting in certain 'management areas' is controlled by forest officers.

Commercial timber cutting on unoccupied Crown lands has been by permit since 1952; permits for amounts up to 120 cords per person are issued by the field staff but permits for larger quantities must be approved by the government. The number of large permits varies from 10 to 25 each year and usually cover stands damaged by wind, fire or insects. Unoccupied Crown land is divided into 21 Forest Inspector Districts averaging 281 sq. miles in size. The Island is also divided into three Forest Regions each with a Supervisor who is in charge of Inspectors and is responsible to the Deputy Minister of Resources.

The lack of roads into the remote forests makes fire prevention difficult. Twenty-three well-equipped forest fire depots with radiotelephones are scattered along the coast, and 14 lookout towers, also equipped with radiotelephones, cover a large portion of the forested area. One aircraft, equipped with water-dropping tanks, is stationed at Gander throughout the fire season; it patrols isolated forests and transports fire fighting equipment and crews when necessary. A helicopter is also used at times for this purpose. The forest fire staff, including permanent Inspectors, is approximately 110. The two paper companies maintain their own fire protection organizations.

Forest research for Newfoundland is performed by the Forestry Branch of the federal Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. No reforestation is done in the province.

Prince Edward Island.—The Forestry Division of Prince Edward Island, formed under the Department of Industry and Natural Resources in 1951, became part of the Department of Agriculture in 1955.

Almost all of Prince Edward Island's woodland is privately owned, so that the Forestry Division is mainly concerned with planting, woodlot management and fire protection. A small nursery has been established jointly with the Federal Government to deal with the Island's needs and many people take advantage of seedlings, supplied by this Division at reasonable cost, to restock barren areas. The Federal Government pays half the cost of reforesting waste lands.

In proportion to its size, Prince Edward Island exports a great deal of pulpwood. This export, combined with the fuelwood and lumber cut each year, led the Forestry Division to inaugurate a program designed to educate the owner in the proper care and management of his woodlot.

Fire protection does not constitute too great a problem. Wooded areas are scattered in patches throughout the province and since a network of roads makes all woodlots accessible, equipment can be brought to the scene of a fire quickly and easily.

Research is limited mainly to reforestation problems and these are studied in the provincial nursery.

Nova Scotia.—Forest administration in Nova Scotia is conducted by the Department of Lands and Forests which, in co-operation with other government agencies, the forest industry and the public, endeavours to protect and rejuvenate provincial forests. The Department employs a professional staff of 25, in addition to a large complement of rangers, surveyors, and fieldmen.

Of the province's total area of 21,425 sq. miles, a recently completed Provincial Forest Inventory classified about 15,080 sq. miles as forested. This inventory excluded Cape Breton Highlands National Park and areas to the north of the Park. Crown holdings constitute only about 20 p.c. of the province's total area.