

sq. miles are classed as occupied productive forest land, 21,842 sq. miles of it privately owned, 225 sq. miles federal Crown forests and the remainder provincial Crown land on which leases and permits have been granted. Approximately 132,000 sq. miles of the latter are vacant lands. About two-fifths of the annual cut in the forests of Quebec comes from privately owned lands.

The limits reserved for forest industries are administered by the Department of Lands and Forests and the technical work such as inventory, reforestation, superintendence of cutting, control of culling, verification of plans for development, collecting of stumpage dues, etc., is the responsibility of the Forest Service. These limits are either leased by auction after public notice has been given, or assigned under a special law. The price of the licence is fixed by auction or by Order in Council subsequent to specific legislation. The government reserves the right to dispose of the water powers situated on the limits leased.

A tree-felling permit, which is valid for one year, is renewable if the holder has complied with the conditions imposed; it may be transferred with the authorization of the Minister of Lands and Forests. The lessee of a limit must pay a ground rent in addition to the price of licence and must forward, three months before the cutting begins, a plan of the operations. Wood cut must be measured by a licensed culler and at the end of the operations the limit-holder must produce a sworn statement of quantities cut.

The Forest Service endeavours to promote the use of silvicultural methods among the owners of wooded farm lots and small forest areas.

Quebec's forest protective system comprises three organizations: the Protective Service, the protective associations and the non-affiliated lease holders or owners. The Protective Service is a government body established within the Department of Lands and Forests in 1924 to enforce legislation and regulations governing forest fire protection and to protect vacant Crown lands, township reserves and colonization territories. The protective associations, of which there are six, are syndicates of lease holders and owners who have availed themselves of their right to form an association to satisfy the law which compels them to protect their limits or private forests of 2,000 acres or over. Members assume operating expenses in proportion to the area owned by each but the Department assumes half the costs of fire fighting incurred by the associations. The third group is composed of lease holders and of owners who prefer to discharge their obligations personally as far as forest protection is concerned. They enjoy the same privileges and their obligations are the same as those imposed upon the associations.

To perpetuate the forestry program of the province, the Department has established a number of nurseries, the first at Berthierville in 1908. This nursery has three sections: one wooded with a variety of valuable species of mature age, one serving agricultural purposes, and another devoted to forestry experiments and the cultivation of trees for reforestation or ornamentation. More recently the Grandes Piles nursery and the Gaspé nursery were organized and there are also nurseries in the following counties: Abitibi-East, Témiscamingue, Saguenay, Îles de la Madeleine, Rimouski, Roberval, Rivière du Loup, Témiscouata and Chicoutimi. Their object is the preparation of plants for reforesting nearby districts. 'Floating' nurseries supervised by the engineers of the Forest Extension Bureau and intended especially for growing reforestation plants for private properties, are located at Pont Rouge, Sherbrooke, Scott, St. Hyacinthe, Victoriaville and Mont Joli. The plants are supplied free of charge on request. A dynamic reforestation program is now under way in the province, with an ultimate objective of 10,000,000 plants yearly on private grounds.

The Bureau of Silviculture and Botany and the Forestry Products Laboratory, both subsidized by the Department, are actively engaged in scientific research work in the forestry field. The Bureau studies the possibilities of utilizing spoil-heaps of gold and asbestos mines, tests the fertility of soils in the spruce groves, classifies forests according to type of vegetation, and studies growth and yields of stands in the timber limits by means of permanent research spots. The Forestry Products Laboratory, located at the Duchesnay Forestry Station, examines developments in the field of chemical conversion of wood and in the use of forestry by-products.