

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; and timber permits are granted to settlers and small operators at appraised rates for a period of one year or less.

An inventory of the forest resources of the province was completed in 1956 as part of the conservation plan. On the basis of this inventory and other information, working plans with annual allowable cuts on a sustained-yield basis have been brought into operation in the more accessible areas.

Fire protection, also part of the conservation plan, is one of the most important activities of the Forest Service. Fires are detected by air patrol, lookout tower and road patrol and rapid communication is maintained within the Service by radio and telephone. The Air Service transports men and equipment to fires in areas beyond the reach of roads. The main air base is at Lac du Bonnet and summer air bases are maintained at The Pas, Norway House and Thicket Portage. The total area under fire protection is about 97,000 sq. miles.

Regeneration of the forest is mainly dependent on natural means although 4,000,000 trees were planted during the past five years as part of the Federal-Provincial Agreement (see p. 465). The Pineland Forest Nursery is operated at a point near Hadashville to supply planting stock for denuded areas of Crown land and to furnish farmers with shelter-belt and woodlot seedlings.

The province has no forestry research organization but co-operates with several federal services which maintain two research areas.

The Department of Natural Resources Conservation Branch distributes information covering all aspects of the Department's resource management programs. A large part of the Branch work, particularly during the summer, is devoted to publicizing the activities of the provincial forest management program. Film and lecture tours are conducted, pamphlets distributed and training and assistance for field staff provided, all with the objective of making the public aware of the great value of the provincial forests, and of the need for their wise use and protection.

The Department of Natural Resources co-operates fully with federal authorities in investigating and controlling forest damage resulting from insects and diseases.

Saskatchewan.—The forests of Saskatchewan cover 117,750 sq. miles, or 54 p.c. of the total land area of the province. The provincial forests, which account for 88 p.c. of the total forest land, are administered by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Natural Resources, under authority of the Forest Act. It is the responsibility of the Forestry Branch to devise policy that will regulate all phases of forest activity so that the people of Saskatchewan may benefit from this resource in perpetuity. Cutting of white and black spruce and jack pine timber on Crown land for commercial purposes is the exclusive right of the Saskatchewan Timber Board, a Crown corporation.

The policy determined by the six divisions of the Forestry Branch—Administration, Fire Control, Inventory, Management, Silviculture and Research—is carried out on a regional basis under the supervision of a regional superintendent who is directly responsible to the Regional Administration Branch of the Department of Natural Resources. This Branch implements the policies conceived by program branches such as the Forestry