

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 concerned mainly 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 re-stock 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.—The area of Nova Scotia, including fresh water, is 21,425 sq. miles, 15,080 sq. miles of which are classed as forested, exclusive of the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and the area northeast of the park. Ninety-seven per cent of the forested land is regarded as productive.

For Canada as a whole, 90 p.c. of the forested land is held by the Crown, but in Nova Scotia only about 22 p.c. is Crown property. These Crown lands are administered by the Department of Lands and Forests through a professional staff of 25 persons. In addition, there are about 15 professional foresters associated with the forest industry in the administration of privately owned lands. The Department of Lands and Forests administers the Small Tree Conservation Act on all lands and is responsible for forest fire suppression on all lands, regardless of land tenure. Forest fire detection is facilitated by 27 observation towers and an aerial patrol service, all integrated with land vehicles and headquarters by radio and telephone communication systems. Well-equipped fire suppression crews and rangers are stationed throughout the province.

The forest industry is of prime importance to the economy of Nova Scotia. There are some 600 sawmills of all sizes, one large newsprint mill and two large pulp mills in operation at present and a new chemical pulp mill is under construction in the Port Hawkesbury-Mulgrave area. These mills, along with the pulpwood export trade, pitprop production, boxwood and barrel production, as well as other facets, use an equivalent of 1,375,000 cords of wood annually.

An active reforestation program has been under way since 1926. Although not as ambitious an undertaking as in some parts of Canada, the program is being expanded in areas where there are less fortunate circumstances relative to natural regeneration. At present there are four producing nurseries with two others under development. Forest management programs include the construction of access roads into Crown land timber areas under the Federal-Provincial Agreement. Timber, pulpwood and Christmas trees are sold through public tender and cutting is under the recommendations of the district foresters of the Department of Lands and Forests. Inventory surveys, regeneration studies, and experimental cuttings are conducted on Crown lands.

Forest research is carried on by Federal Government agencies and the Nova Scotia Research Foundation (see p. 425). Investigations involve stand improvements, cutting methods, and insect and disease activities. Extension projects include an active fire prevention campaign, a motion picture program for schools, distribution of information on forest and wildlife conservation, promotion of the Christmas tree industry, and preparation of articles for general distribution, for newspapers and for magazines.