

## Section 4.—Forest Administration, Research and Conservation

### Subsection 1.—Federal Forestry Program

**Administration.**—The Federal Government is responsible for the protection and administration of the forest resources of the Yukon and Northwest Territories and of other federal lands such as the National Parks, forest experiment stations, military areas and Indian reserves. The Federal Government also administered (until repealed in 1960) the Canada Forestry Act, which provided among other things authority for operation of forest experiment stations and forest products laboratories. The chief responsibility of the Federal Government in the field of forestry is to carry out research in problems affecting the forests and their development, conservation and more effective utilization. Until the passage of new legislation late in 1960, these functions were carried out by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the Forest Biology Division of the Department of Agriculture. The latter was responsible for all research relating to forest entomology and forest pathology, while the Forestry Branch conducted research in forest economics, in all phases of forest research including silviculture, forest management, forest ecology, tree breeding, forest inventory methods and forest fire protection, and in forest products research.

The passing of the Canada Forestry Act in 1949 was an event of great significance to federal-provincial relations in the field of forestry, as authority was given to the then Minister of Mines and Resources to "enter into agreements with any province for the protection, development or utilization of forest resources". Since that time agreements have been entered into with most of the provinces for federal financial support for programs of forest inventories, reforestation and the purchase of capital assets used in forest fire protection. The history of the federal-provincial agreements and their relation to the Canada Forestry Act is described in a special article appearing in the 1956 Year Book, pp. 459-466.

In the summer of 1958, the first representations leading to the formation of a separate Department of Forestry were made by the Canadian Lumbermen's Association, which submitted to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources a brief urging that an extension service be established to bring the results of forest products research to the attention of small operators. Improved informational services were requested and also additional research in specific fields relating to sawmilling and woodworking industries. In the same year, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association also presented a brief to the Minister asking that forest research programs of the Federal Government be increased substantially.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters studied the forestry situation exhaustively during two sessions of Parliament, hearing evidence from many organizations and individuals from all parts of Canada. Its report in 1959 stressed the importance of the forest industries to the nation and recommended in part that a separate Forestry Department should be established and that the functions of the Forestry Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and those of the Forest Biology Division of the Department of Agriculture should be coordinated in the recommended Forestry Department. The Speech from the Throne on Jan. 14, 1960 asked for authorization for "the establishment of a new department to be concerned with affairs relating to the forests of Canada and their most effective utilization and conservation". The Department of Forestry Act received Royal Assent on Aug. 1, 1960 and became effective upon Proclamation on Oct. 1, 1960.

The Department of Forestry Act sets out the duties, powers and functions of the Minister of Forestry as extending to and including "all matters over which the Parliament of Canada has jurisdiction relating to the forests of Canada". The Minister is to consult with and inaugurate conferences of provincial or municipal authorities, universities,