

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 for purposes of administration the province is divided into eight Forest Regions each in charge of a Regional Supervisor responsible to the Provincial Forester for forest activities within his region. The Forest Service is also responsible for the development, maintenance and operation of parks and recreation on Crown lands throughout the province.

The cutting of timber is governed by timber sale, licensed timber berth, pulpwood lease, or timber permit. Timber sales are disposed of by public auction or sealed tender 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. On the basis of a forest resources inventory completed in 1956 and other information, working plans with annual allowable cuts on a sustained-yield basis have been brought into operation in the more accessible areas.

Forest fire protection is a most important activity 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 dependent mainly on natural means although 8,069,000 trees were planted during the past ten years as part of the federal-provincial agreement (see p. 457). 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 co-operates fully with federal authorities in investigating and controlling forest damage resulting from insects and diseases. The Forest Service also carries out public education in the fields of fire prevention and forest conservation. Use is made of all usual methods including radio, television, newspapers, signs, talks to school children and club members, film tours, etc.

Saskatchewan.—The forests of Saskatchewan, including watered areas, are located mainly in the northern half of the province and cover 147,360 sq. miles or 53 p.c. of the total area. Provincial forests constitute approximately 92 p.c. of all forest land in the province and are managed and developed by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Forestry Branch, consisting of six divisions—Administration, Fire Control, Forest Management, Forest Research, Inventory and Silviculture—is responsible for developing and evaluating forest policies and management programs based on the findings of inventory and research. The responsibility for carrying out such policies and programs is borne by the Regional Administration Branch. For purposes of resource administration, the province is divided into five regions, each under the supervision of a Regional Superintendent. The regions are subdivided into Conservation Officer Districts which vary in size according to resource base and population to be served. Close liaison is maintained between the Forestry Branch and the Regional Administration Branch.

A major responsibility of the Forestry Branch is the development of techniques in the prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires. A network of 69 lookout towers equipped with two-way radios is maintained throughout the province and is supplemented by three aircraft on regular patrol duty during the high-hazard periods. A group of smoke-jumpers, trained to parachute on remote fires, is in constant readiness during the fire season and takes immediate suppression action which it maintains until relieved by