

Subsection 2.—Provincial Forestry Programs

All forested land in provincial territory, with the exception of the minor portions in National Parks, federal forest experiment stations, military areas and Indian reserves (see Table 2, p. 32), is administered by the respective provincial governments. The forestry program of each province is outlined below.

Newfoundland.—Geographically, the Province of Newfoundland has two separate regions—the Island and Labrador on the mainland. The productive forested land of the Island is estimated at 12,998 sq. miles and of Labrador at 20,879 sq. miles, a total of 33,877 sq. miles. Only 578 sq. miles are classified as farm woodlots. Most of Labrador's forests are leased but are as yet virtually untouched.

A large part of the forest land in the interior of the Island is leased, licensed or owned by paper companies, but a three-mile-wide belt along most of the coastline is retained as unoccupied Crown land for the purpose of providing firewood, construction material, fencing material, etc., for the local population. Within this coastal forest belt, every household has legal right to cut 2,000 cu. feet of wood a year for domestic use. This form of cutting is generally without intense control or restriction but a policy is being introduced whereby cutting in certain 'management areas' is controlled by forest officers. Approximately one half of the Crown forests are at present under management.

Commercial timber-cutting on unoccupied Crown lands has been by permit since 1952; permits for amounts up to 120 cords per person are issued by the field staff but permits for larger quantities must be approved by the government. This type of permit is generally preceded by advertising of standing timber for sale by tender, the timber involved usually being over-mature or damaged by fire, insects or storms.

The Island of Newfoundland is divided into three Forest Regions, each under the control of a Forest Supervisor; the regions, in turn, are each divided into five districts. Districts are headed by a Forest Inspector having a staff of wardens and rangers. Twenty-eight well-equipped forest fire depots and 21 lookout towers, connected by radio-telephone, are operated by the Newfoundland Government, and many others are operated by the two paper companies, the Newfoundland Forest Protection Association and the Canadian National Railways. Aircraft, equipped with water-dropping tanks, are stationed at Gander throughout the fire season; they patrol forest areas and transport equipment and crews when necessary. Helicopters are used as well. Forest fire protection facilities have also been established in Labrador, the main base being at North West River near Goose Airport, and a sub-depot in the Carol Lake iron ore development area. The permanent forestry staff of the Newfoundland Department of Mines, Agriculture and Resources, numbering 75, is augmented by a like number of seasonal employees during the forest fire season. The two paper companies maintain their own fire protection organizations.

Forest research for Newfoundland is performed by the federal Department of Forestry. No reforestation is done in the province.

Prince Edward Island.—Almost all of Prince Edward Island's woodland is privately owned, so that the Forestry Division of the Department of Industry and Natural Resources is concerned mainly with planting, woodlot management and fire protection. A small nursery, established jointly with the Federal Government, deals with the Island's needs by providing planting stock for the reforestation of waste lands, the cost of which is shared by the Federal Government, and fulfilling the requirements of private individuals at a reasonable cost.

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 to the inauguration of a program designed to educate the owner in the proper care and management of his woodlot.