

Fire protection does not usually 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 and woodlot management problems.

Nova Scotia.—The land area of Nova Scotia is 20,402 sq. miles. Of that area, 16,389 sq. miles are classed as forested, 92 p.c. of which is regarded as productive. For Canada as a whole, 91 p.c. of the forested land is held by the Crown in the right of the federal or provincial governments but in Nova Scotia only about 22 p.c. is so held.

The provincial Crown lands are administered by the Department of Lands and Forests through a staff of foresters and rangers. Similarly, trained personnel are associated with the forest industry in the administration of privately owned forest lands. The Department administers the Lands and Forests Act as it pertains to all lands and is responsible for forest fire suppression on all lands, regardless of tenure. Forest fire detection is facilitated by 30 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 in operation some 500 sawmills of all sizes, one newsprint mill, two groundwood pulp-mills and a chemical pulpmill. These mills, along with the pulpwood export trade, pit prop production, boxwood and barrel production, as well as other facets, produced about 245,000,000 ft.b.m. of lumber and about 450,000 cords of round products in 1962. Recently, several large, more efficient stationary lumber mills have been established, equipped for the production of pulp chips from sawmill residue. Tremendous strides have been made in the utilization of slabs, edgings and trim for this purpose and a profitable increase of 30 p.c. has been achieved in utilization of the total wood fibre of the sawlog.

An active reforestation program has been conducted for many years. 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. There are six forest nurseries in operation throughout the province. Forest management programs include the construction of access roads into Crown land timber areas and stand improvement under the federal-provincial agreement. Timber, pulpwood and Christmas trees are sold through public tender and cutting is done under the recommendation of the district foresters of the Department of Lands and Forests. Management cruises, 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. 377). 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.

New Brunswick.—Of the total area of New Brunswick (28,354 sq. miles), approximately 85 p.c. is classed as productive forest, of which the Crown, in right of the province, owns about one half. About 2 p.c. is owned by the Federal Government and the remainder is privately owned. The report of a provincial forest inventory, part of the national forest inventory, was published in 1958. The total volume of wood in merchantable sizes is estimated at 16,900,000,000 cu. feet; coniferous species make up 71 p.c. and deciduous species the remainder.

Protection from forest fires, the first requirement for forest conservation, is mainly the responsibility of the Department of Lands and Mines which also carries out duties in connection with game management and protection, colonization, provincial parks, and the administration of provincial Crown lands. A large-scale aerial spraying program to protect balsam fir and spruce from the spruce budworm has been carried on since 1952