

Constitutionally, administration and disposition of natural resources rests mainly with the provincial governments. Under the British North America Act, fisheries were under federal jurisdiction and the federal and provincial governments shared legislative authority with respect to agriculture, international and interprovincial waters, etc., with federal legislation taking precedence over provincial legislation should conflict arise; however, subsequent interpretations of the Act have established most aspects of control of resources as being matters of provincial jurisdiction. As well, in the years following Confederation certain provinces, by agreement, assumed varying degrees of responsibility for administering the fisheries legislation and other federal resources legislation. Within this general framework, the Federal Government has taken certain steps to establish a national resource policy, to co-ordinate the activity of the various federal departments concerned with resources and relevant social and economic problems, to undertake or share in research, and to provide initiative and financial assistance in the establishment of co-operative federal-provincial programs of resource adjustment and development; and provincial governments have moved significantly to accommodate their administrative structures to the need for integrated, planned resource adjustment and development. Aspects of this trend to accommodate legislative-administrative organization to emerging needs will be apparent in the following descriptions of federal and federal-provincial agencies and programs. In addition, a great number of wholly provincial programs have been instituted, which further illustrate the trend toward integration of activities in resource administration.

Federal participation in land and water conservation programs began before the turn of the present century; starting in 1877, this included the work of the now disbanded Department of the Interior in the field of surveying and development of water resources in Western Canada. Later, such programs included those conducted under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act which was enacted in 1935 to aid in the rehabilitation of the drought-stricken areas of the prairies, the work on the eastern seaboard conducted under the Maritime Marshlands Rehabilitation Act of 1948, water development projects undertaken under the terms of the Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act of 1953 and, most recently, the broad and comprehensive resource development program for all of Canada envisaged under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act of 1961. Over this period, many projects have been undertaken, both under these legislative measures and under the terms of reference of the federal and provincial government departments and agencies concerned with resource development. They vary in nature and scope but each has as its basic objective the more effective utilization of Canada's land and water resources and the provision of a greater degree of economic stability for the rural areas of the country.

Section 1 gives the currently available data on the land resources of Canada; Section 2 describes the above-mentioned resource development legislation and the results of the implementation of that legislation; Section 3 outlines the organization of the federal and provincial committees established to co-ordinate the work of departments concerned with natural resources; and Section 4 gives brief indication of the federal-provincial programs undertaken by other federal departments and agencies with the same concern.

## Section 1.—Land Resources

Information currently available regarding Canada's vast land resources is shown in Table 1, where the land area is classified as occupied agricultural, forest and 'other' land, the latter including urban land, road allowances, grass and brush land and all waste land such as open muskeg, swamp and rock. The Department of Forestry estimates that about 48 p.c. of the land area of Canada is forested and, according to the Census of 1961, less than 8 p.c. is classed as occupied farm land. A great part of the 1,606,788 sq. miles of 'other' land is located in the Yukon and Northwest Territories which together have a land area of 1,458,784 sq. miles. The occupied farm land in these Territories is practically nil and the forest area is estimated at 275,800 sq. miles.