Federal Public Lands.—Public lands under the administration of the Federal Government comprise lands in the Northwest Territories including the Arctic Archipelago and the islands in Hudson Strait, Hudson Bay and James Bay, lands in Yukon Territory, Ordnance and Admiralty Lands, National Parks and National Historic Parks and Sites, Forest Experiment Stations, Experimental Farms, Indian reserves and, in general, all public lands held by the several departments of the Federal Government for various purposes connected with federal administration (see Table **1**). These lands are administered under the Territorial Lands Act (RSC 1952, c. 263) and the Public Lands Grants Act (RSC 1952, c. 224) which became effective June 1, 1950 and replaced previous legislation.

The largest areas under federal jurisdiction are in the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory where only 85 sq. miles of a total area of 1,511,979 sq. miles are privately owned. This part of the national domain, with the exception of the islands in Hudson Bay and James Bay, is all north of the 60th parallel of latitude and occupies about 40 p.c. of the surface of Canada. It is under the administration of the Northern Administration Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Provincial Public Lands.—Public lands of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia (except the Railway Belt and Peace River Block) have been administered since Confederation by the provincial governments. In 1930 the Federal Government transferred the unalienated portions of the natural resources of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and of sections of British Columbia to the respective governments, and all unalienated lands in the Province of Newfoundland, except those administered by the Federal Government, became provincial public lands under the Terms of Union on Mar. 31, 1949. All land in the Province of Prince Edward Island has been alienated except 126 sq. miles under federal or provincial administration.

Information regarding provincial public lands may be obtained from the respective provinces. (See the Directory of Sources of Official Information, Chapter XXVII, under "Lands and Land Settlement".)

Subsection 1.—National Parks

The National Park concept—the preservation of significant areas in their natural state for the benefit and enjoyment of the public—was developed in North America, and Canada has the second largest number of National Parks and National Historic Parks in the world.

The Canadian system dates from 1885. In that year a 10-sq. mile reserve was established by the Federal Government around the mineral hot springs of Sulphur Mountain at Banff in Alberta and in the following year two spectacular areas in southern British Columbia were set aside as parks. The first National Park was formally established in 1887 by Act of Parliament. By 1930, the National Park system comprised a number of natural and wildlife reserves in Western Canada, three small areas in Ontario, and two small areas in the Atlantic Provinces. Since 1935, four park areas have been added, one in each of the Atlantic Provinces, bringing the total number across the country to 18 and the total area to 29,275 sq. miles.

These Parks are administered by the Natural and Historic Resources Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. According to the National Parks Act of 1930, the Parks are to be preserved for the "benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of Canada" and are to be maintained and used "so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations". Thus, these areas fulfil their intended function of preserving many unique examples of Canadian scenery, magnificent forests, and varied kinds of plant and animal life. To enable the public to make maximum use of this park heritage, campgrounds, roads, trails, picnic areas, beaches, recreational facilities and, at some parks, golf courses and bathing establishments are provided by the Branch, and motels, hotels, lodges and other visitor services are provided by private enterprise on