

CHAPTER X.—LAND USE AND RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT*

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on p. viii of this volume.

Until recently, governmental policies relating to Canada's renewable natural resources were directed toward the promotion of settlement on agricultural land and the large-scale utilization of other renewable resources. As a consequence, individual choice and initiative by private citizens was the basis of most action relative to resource utilization, and government programs of resource management and regulation, with some important exceptions, were concerned mainly with the rights and duties of individuals. However, widespread technological changes, particularly in the agricultural and transportation industries, have taken place during the past few decades and there has been a strong trend toward the concentration of an increasing population in urban centres. These changes have been accompanied by a related change in the pattern of land use and such developments, together with evidence of a degree of wind and water erosion and other manifestations of neglect of suitable conservation practices, have indicated the need for considerable planned adjustment in rural areas. Also, the increasing complexity of social organization and the attendant trend toward public decisions respecting resource management and use, have implied the need for improved federal and provincial legislative-administrative organization relative to natural resources.

One of the most important responses to these needs was the "Resources for Tomorrow" Conference held in 1961 to permit examination of problems of resource use and of creating an organizational framework suited to the modern requirement for integrated, comprehensive resource-use planning for social and economic development. Subsequent to this conference, the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers, composed of one representative from each province and one from the Federal Government, was established to perform a similar function on a continuing basis. Previous federal investigations of significance concerned with the general problem of government organization for effective resource use were: the Senate of Canada Special Committee on Land Use, established in 1957 and continuing until 1963; the House of Commons Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters; and the National Conference on Reconstruction, held in 1945. Notable among provincial government efforts along similar lines is the annual British Columbia resources conference.

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