

Department administers the Lands and Forests Act as it pertains to all lands and is responsible for forest fire suppression. Forest fire detection is facilitated through 29 observation towers and an aerial patrol service, all integrated with land vehicles and headquarters by radio and telephone communication systems. Fire suppression crews and rangers with equipment 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 various types and sizes, one newsprint mill, two groundwood pulp mills and a chemical pulp mill; construction of a second chemical pulp mill was under way in mid-1965. These mills, along with the export pulpwood trade and pitprop production, produced about 270,500 M ft. b.m. of sawn materials and about 608,000 cords of round products in 1964. Twenty-six sawmills were equipped for the production of pulp chips from sawmill residue and the equivalent of about 68,000 cords of chips was produced from slabs and edgings.

The reforestation program, which has been active for many years, is being expanded with respect to non-forested land and experimental work on land preparation on fire barrens is being conducted. In 1964, approximately 1,000,000 trees were removed from the six forest nurseries for planting in the field, mostly on non-forested land.

Forest management programs include the construction of access roads into Crown land timber areas and stand improvement under federal-provincial agreements. Timber, pulpwood and Christmas trees are sold through public tender and cutting on Crown land is done under recommendation of district foresters of the Department of Lands and Forests. Management cruises, regeneration studies and experimental cuttings are conducted on Crown lands and an active program of operating these lands under sustained-yield management plans is well under way.

Forest research is carried on by Federal Government agencies and the Nova Scotia Research Foundation. Investigations involve stand improvement, cutting methods, and insect and disease activities. Extension projects include fire prevention, a film program in schools, distribution of information on forest and wildlife conservation, promotion of the Christmas tree industry, woodlot improvement, preparation of material for the mass media, and technical assistance to sawmill operators.

New Brunswick.—Of the total land area of New Brunswick (27,835 sq. miles), approximately 86 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 by a Crown company sponsored by the federal and provincial governments and by representatives of the forest products industries. Forest Management Licences issued by the province authorize operators to cut and remove forest products in accordance with forest management plans and cutting permits. Stumpage dues are paid to the province when products are cut by the licensees.

New Brunswick does not maintain a forest research organization but co-operates with the federal Department of Forestry in that field. The University of New Brunswick has also undertaken a small number of forest research projects in co-operation with the National Research Council, the provincial government and other interested organizations.

In the field of education, the University of New Brunswick offers undergraduate and graduate courses in forestry leading to B. Sc.F. and M. Sc.F. degrees. It is also responsible