

Subsection 2.—Provincial Forestry Programs

All forest land in provincial territory, with the exception of the minor portions in National Parks, federal forest experiment stations, military areas and Indian reserves, is administered by the respective provincial governments. The forestry program of each province is outlined below.

Newfoundland.—Geographically, the Province of Newfoundland has two separate regions—the Island and Labrador on the mainland. The productive forest land of the Island is estimated at 12,984 sq. miles and of Labrador at 20,878 sq. miles, a total of 33,862 sq. miles. Most of Labrador's forests are leased but are as yet virtually untouched. Only 578 sq. miles are classified as farm woodlots.

A large part of the forest land in the interior of the Island is leased, licensed or owned by paper companies, but a three-mile-wide belt along most of the coastline is retained as unoccupied Crown land for the purpose of providing firewood, construction material, fencing material, etc., for the local populations. Within this coastal forest belt, every household has legal right to cut 2,000 cu. ft. of wood a year for domestic use. This form of cutting is generally without intense control or restriction but a policy is being introduced whereby cutting in certain 'management areas' is controlled by forest officers. Approximately one half of the Crown forests are at present under management. Commercial timber-cutting on unoccupied Crown lands has been by permit since 1952; permits for amounts up to 120 cords per person are issued by the field staff but permits for larger quantities must be approved by the government. This type of permit is generally preceded by advertising of standing timber for sale by tender, the timber involved usually being over-mature or damaged by fire, insects or storms.

The Island is divided into three forest regions, each of which is subdivided into five districts. Each region is under the control of a regional forester and each district is headed by a district ranger with a staff of rangers and assistant rangers. Twenty-eight well-equipped forest fire depots and 21 lookout towers, connected by radio-telephone, are operated by the Newfoundland Forest Service; others are operated by the Newfoundland Forest Protection Association, the two paper companies and the Canadian National Railways. The Forest Service operates eight aircraft for fire detection and water bombing, and two helicopters for transporting men and equipment.

Forestry operations in Labrador are under the supervision of a regional ranger located at Happy Valley (Goose Airport). The permanent staff of about 90 persons is augmented by a like number of seasonal employees during the fire season. Forest fire protection bases are located near Goose Airport and at the Carol Lake mining development area. The two paper companies maintain their own fire protection organizations.

Prince Edward Island.—Almost all of Prince Edward Island's woodland is privately owned, so that the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture is concerned mainly with planting, woodlot management and fire protection. A small nursery, established jointly with the Federal Government, deals with the Island's needs by providing planting stock for the reforestation of waste lands, the cost of which is shared by the Federal Government, and fulfilling the requirements of private individuals at a reasonable cost.

In proportion to its size, Prince Edward Island exports a great deal of pulpwood. This export, combined with the fuelwood and lumber cut each year, led to the inauguration of a program designed to educate the owner in the proper care and management of his woodlot.

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.