

Section 1.—Land Resources

Information available regarding Canada's land resources is shown in Table 1, where the land area is classified as occupied agricultural, forest and "other" land, the last including urban land, road allowances, grass and brush land and all waste land such as open muskeg, swamp and rock. The Department of Forestry and Rural Development estimates that about 48 p.c. of the land area of Canada is forested and, according to the Census of 1966, less than 8 p.c. is classed as occupied farm land. A great part of the 1,599,542 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.

On the basis of information currently available, it is estimated that, in addition to the present arable land across the country, about 40,000,000 acres of virgin land can be used for arable crops if the need arises. However, most of these reserves will require clearing or other improvement measures before they can be used for agriculture. In addition to the present arable land and potentially arable land, 55,000,000 to 60,000,000 acres are suitable for wild pasture.

As the Canada Land Inventory progresses (see p. 471), a great deal of detailed information is becoming available on the land resources of the country, their present utilization and their capability.



Roundup on a Saskatchewan community pasture. In 1967 more than 7,000 farmers placed 160,000 cattle for summer grazing on community pastures operated by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. The total area of the 87 pastures established on land submarginal for crop-raising is about 2,500,000 acres and about 500 riders are required for roundups.