

Forest Products Research.—This work is directed toward obtaining background data on the properties of Canadian woods, developing new and better uses for wood products, improving methods of processing, and effecting more complete utilization of wood substances. Activities cover all major aspects of forest products and include the determination of the physical, mechanical, chemical and anatomical properties of wood and their relation to adaptability in use; studies of factors affecting quality of wood and of manufactured wood products; determination of factors that cause wood waste in logging and manufacturing; investigation into fire retardant treatments, the preservative treatment and painting of wood and the use of wood for the manufacture of a variety of products by chemical or mechanical means; and studies to determine possible new economic and more valuable uses for woods and to determine methods for the economical utilization of all wood substances available from the annual timber harvest.

The program is conducted mainly at two laboratories—at Ottawa and Vancouver—with units consisting of timber engineering, containers, glues and gluing, veneer and plywood, timber physics, wood chemistry, pulping, wood preservation, paints and coatings, wood pathology, products entomology, wood anatomy, logging, lumber manufacture and lumber seasoning. Research results are made available to the thousands of plants comprising Canada's timber-manufacturing and wood-using industries. Liaison is maintained with these industries to ensure that the research being conducted is of optimum national benefit. There is also constant co-operation with various government units in the performance of many investigations concerned with the use of wood. Research into the use of wood in housing construction and as an engineered material continues in co-operation with the National Research Council and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

At regional establishments, products research is planned on utilization problems of regional interest, and products liaison officers visit sawmills and other wood-working plants to keep industry aware of research developments and technical advances and, on the other hand, to keep the department informed of field problems on which research would be of value.

Departmental personnel serve on many national and international technical committees concerned with forestry problems and continuous collaboration is maintained with forest products laboratories in other countries for the dual purpose of exchanging information and avoiding duplication of research.

Forest Insects and Diseases.—Research on forest insects and diseases is conducted at regional laboratories and field stations in all principal forest regions of Canada. A Canada-wide survey is undertaken in co-operation with the provincial forest services and forest industries to maintain an annual census of forest insect and disease conditions and to detect and predict the occurrence of outbreaks. Survey results are made available to owners and operators of forest lands for use in planning salvage programs and directing control measures to reduce damage.

Laboratory research programs are designed to lead to comprehensive understanding of the biology and ecology of the more destructive forest insects and fungi, and the causes of fluctuations in abundance or severity of damage in time and place. Problems under intensive study include insect defoliators, leaf diseases, sucking insects, dwarf mistletoes, stem cankers, bark- and wood-boring beetles, trunk and root decays, tip- and root-boring insects and diseases of tree seedlings in forest nurseries. Research on development, physiology, nutrition and taxonomy complements the field ecological studies of insects and fungi. Problems of national importance in insect pathology, cytology and genetics, bioclimatology and chemical control are investigated.

Experiments are also carried out in insect and disease control, utilizing cultural techniques, chemicals and biological control agents including parasites, predators and insect pathogens. Technical advisory services are provided in evaluating quarantine programs, possibilities of eradication or control, or other applications of research results. Examples include recommendations for reduction of seedling losses in forest tree nurseries through cultural techniques and chemical applications; the co-operative organization of