

Department also maintains two tree-planting stations located at Indian Head and Sutherland, Sask., which provide farmers in the three Prairie Provinces with planting stock for the establishment of windbreaks and shelter-belts.

Provincial Administration

The responsibility for forest administration in each province is centred in a department of government headed by a Minister, who is an elected member of the legislature and a member of the Provincial Cabinet. The permanent head of the department, the Deputy Minister, is responsible for the execution of approved policies and for departmental administration. The name given the forestry department varies with the province; also, there are considerable differences in organization and in the titles and duties of the principal officers. The similarities, however, are of greater importance than the differences, and the functions performed by each forest administration are virtually the same.

In each province, the department responsible for forest administration usually performs other duties in connection with lands, mines or other natural resources. In most cases a branch form of organization is used, with the senior forestry officer directly responsible to the Deputy Minister. In Quebec there are separate services concerned with forestry and forest protection, each having its own chief. In Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia, a divisional form of organization is used in which the Deputy Minister is, in effect, in direct charge of forestry work.

In addition to the departmental headquarters, usually located at the provincial capital, each forest service maintains administrative districts with a district officer in charge of each. Large districts may be further divided into sub-districts, each in charge of a field officer or forest ranger. The district chiefs and their field staffs carry on the administration according to instructions issued from head office, and important questions outside the ordinary routine are referred to head office for consideration. Ordinary business, however, can be conducted more efficiently by district officials who are thoroughly familiar with conditions in their own localities.

Senior staffs of the forest services are made up largely of men who have received university training in forestry. However, during the past 20 years several provinces have established special ranger-training schools, which give systematic instruction in the many and varied tasks the field men are called upon to perform. Increase in facilities for ranger-training is one of the most important forestry developments in recent years.

Forest Protection.—Protection of the forests against fire is the most urgent duty of any forest administration and, at the same time, the most difficult and costly. The vast extent of Canada's forests, lack of adequate access roads in many regions, and climatic conditions combine to make fire protection a problem of primary importance.

Although many improvements in fire-protection organization and methods have been effected over the past 30 years, the fire menace is still a major obstacle to the introduction of better forest management. Carelessness with camp fires and smoking materials, and improper burning of slash when clearing land, are still far too common in Canada. An average of over 5,000 fires are reported each year, almost 4,000 of which are known to be caused by human agency.