

Forest Research

The larger proportion of the forest research work done in Canada is conducted by the Dominion Forest Service, which works in close collaboration with provincial authorities. However, certain provinces also maintain research staffs of their own. The principal objects of this research work are the discovery of the best means for managing the forest resources so that future supplies of wood products will be assured both to industry and to individual users. Work of this kind is very complex, and most parts of it require a lapse of considerable periods of time before worthwhile results can be obtained. It includes experimental treatment of selected areas of forest by different methods, investigations of better methods of protection, and many other allied lines of work.

Artificial Reforestation

Most of the forests of Canada reproduce themselves after logging or fires by natural means, and the securing of new growth of the most desirable species is mainly a matter of proper management of logging operations. There are areas, however, from which all possible sources of seed supply have been removed and on which forests can only be re-established by planting. Planting may also be necessary to check the progress of drifting sand dunes or to provide shelter for farm buildings and fields. Several provinces, notably Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, maintain large forest nurseries where planting stock is grown both for forest plantings and for the supply of farmers. Permanent nursery stations are maintained. Permanent staffs are small but considerable local employment is provided during the transplanting seasons. The output of these stations runs into millions of small trees annually.

Publicity and Extension Work

Since improvements in management of the forests depend ultimately on public support, the forest services do everything in their power to draw the attention of the people to the importance of the forest resources, the benefits we reap from them, and the need for protecting and improving them. Main reliance is placed on the press and the radio but these sources of public information are supplemented by the issue of special literature and by public lectures. Increasing emphasis is being placed on introduction of courses on the value of natural resources into public schools because it is believed that the child who is taught to appreciate our resources will take an active interest in their conservation when he grows up.

Farm Forestry

It has been realized in recent years that farm woodlots together make up one of the most important sections of our forest resources. In the decade before the outbreak of war they contributed almost one-third of all the wood cut in Canada for all purposes although a large proportion of this was firewood. They are the most accessible of all our forests. Although these woodlots are all privately owned, their importance to the community justifies the provincial forest services in providing special advice and assistance to their owners. Good management of farm woodlots