

control practice depends. I might mention in this connection that the two nurseries operated in the Prairies have distributed about 250 million trees to be used in constructing wind breaks.

The federal Government is actively interested in every phase of soil conservation. We are doing our best, independently and in co-operation with the provincial governments, to ensure that our available land is exploited in accordance with sound conservation principles.

The Eastern Rocky Mountain Forest Conservation Act of 1947 is a splendid example of federal-provincial co-operation in this field. The Board set up under this legislation by an agreement between the Government of Alberta and the federal Government has jurisdiction over more than 8,600 square miles along the upper portions of the south Saskatchewan River and its tributaries. Its purpose is to achieve and maintain the most desirable conditions for watershed management in that area, by reducing flood water in the spring and maintaining a greater flow during the summer. In this way the farmers in this area are protected to some extent from the disastrous effects of an excess or a deficiency of water.

The Canadian Forestry Act of 1949 authorizes the federal Government to enter into experiments with any province for the protection, development, or utilization of forestry resources. Under this Act, the federal Government has already concluded agreements with eight of the ten provinces and considerable sums of money have been spent to assist them in completing and maintaining their forest inventories and in the reforestation of provincially-owned lands. This forest inventory is necessary before reforestation can be planned, and before soil conservation, flood control, wild life cover and other projects can be undertaken.

Another smaller and very successful project in forestry conservation, which I might mention, is the agreement entered into with the province of New Brunswick and private industry whereby the federal Government is contributing to the cost of terminating the spruce budworm menace to the pulp-producing trees of that province.

The Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act passed at the last session of Parliament, gives the federal Government authority to grant financial assistance to provincial governments for the construction of major water conservation projects. Representations received for assistance under this legislation are now being studied carefully to see how the Government can best use the funds authorized to be spent in this way.

A very great part of the work for which my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries is responsible has to do with conservation. Extensive research is being carried on continuously in his department to enable Canadians to understand and to exploit to best advantage the harvests of our inland and coastal waters. One example of the government's activity in the inland fisheries field is the exploitation of the Great Slave Lake fish supply. Federal Government scientists studied the fish resources of this huge inland body of water before commercial exploitation began, and set a quota which would ensure the permanency of this important source of supply of trout and white fish.