

Of Canada's 1,000,000 square miles of productive forests, almost 82 per cent is held in the right of the provincial Crown and managed by the provincial forest departments. Another 9 per cent is held by the federal Crown in the northern territories and in the form of national parks, military reserves, Indian lands, and so forth. Nine per cent only of Canada's productive forest land is privately-held, and of this almost 31 per cent, or 17,000,000 acres, is associated with farm operations.

It might be important to draw attention at this stage ... to the fact that, in spite of the 82 percent public figure, the relative percentages, public vs. private, vary widely across the country. In some of the older provinces, the Atlantic Provinces for example, public ownership amounts to as little as 10-20 per cent of the provincial total, whereas in the far West, e.g. British Columbia, our Pacific and greatest forest province, approximately 92 per cent of the forest land is held in the right of the provincial Crown, which issues licences and leases to private corporations or individuals.

I anticipate that this Canadian pattern of forest ownership may produce shivers of horror in the spines of some gentlemen here today. I hasten to point out, however, that such a system within the Canadian social context, within the conception of the historic Canadian way of approaching the country's renewable resources, is the direct result of the application of definite value criteria in Canada. For us, these value criteria work and we feel they work satisfactorily. I may have felt that it worked a little less satisfactorily a few years ago, when I was in private industry with the Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia - but, in fairness, I must admit that, in the broad forest industry community in Canada today, there certainly is no unanimity of opinion on this matter of private versus public ownership of resources.

It is obvious, of course, that, with such an overpowering majority of forest land being essentially public, the public pressures for the adoption of broader, more comprehensive multiple uses of these lands are very powerful.

DEMAND FOR SPACE

The demand for space to follow avocational pursuits in the forests of Canada is growing at a rate not dissimilar to that in the United States. We have all the same contributing factors - an increasing domestic population, an increased volume of incoming tourists, rising income levels, more leisure time, increasing mobility, improved recreational equipment and facilities. One must not apply this growing demand against the total supply of forest; rather one must be reasonable and apply the demand against that part of the forest domain most conveniently accessible to our major urban developments and our larger centres of population. It is often here, too, that we find the best standards of communications - roads, rail, and air services.

HISTORIC RESOURCES MEETING

Ever since the end of the Second World War, the need to face and solve this problem of optimum forest land use has been increasing in urgency.

In the fall of 1961, one of the most historic and crucial conferences in Canadian history took place in Montreal. The "Resources for Tomorrow" Conference brought together, for the first time in Canada, some 700 outstanding resource experts from all levels of government, from industry, from the universities, and from independent resource associations. Crucial resource-management problems affecting agriculture, water, regional development, forestry, wildlife, recreation and fisheries were considered, including their research, jurisdictional, administrative and information-extension characteristics....

I think it is fair to say that, as one result of this conference, a more sophisticated and responsible point of view now prevails towards the complexities of land use in all its aspects. If one thing was most evident, it was that we are not dealing in blacks and whites, rights and wrongs, goods and bads. If we are to move towards success, this will ultimately be achieved in the grey colour range and in the spirit of responsible compromise.

CCRM

Another and possibly more tangible result of the conference was the formation of the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers, with its headquarters and permanent secretariat in Montreal. The ten provincial ministerial delegates and the federal Minister of National Resources all hold equal rank and circulate the one-year chairmanship through the delegation. At the moment, the Minister of Resources for the Province of Quebec, the Honourable René Levesque, is chairman.

As examples of the type of material to be found on the resource ministers' agenda, we find that, last month, they considered such things as relations with government committees, a Canadian land inventory, federal-provincial cost-sharing agreements on fisheries and wildlife, management of migratory birds, and relations with non-government agencies, and so forth.

Here is a smooth machinery at top policy-making level, backed by a highly competent technical staff, moving toward the objective assessment of problems, the interchange of vital information, and the ultimate implementation of sound national and inter-provincial and provincial policies.

ARDA

In June 1961, the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act... was passed by the Canadian Parliament, certainly a piece of legislation of the most profound importance in the field of resource management. The Act is intended to provide means of developing national, provincial and local programmes to meet the pressing need for action on a broad front - action to develop natural resources in rural areas, to diversify and develop agriculture and local industry, and to help rural people toward greater opportunities and satisfactions. In each province, there is now a provincial-government ARDA co-ordinator.

ARDA's primary objectives - conservation, comprehensive resource development, and community development - fall into four broad categories: (1) projects for alternative land use; (2) projects for

(Continued on P. 6)