

British Columbia

This province, with some 95 per cent of its forests publicly owned, has developed possibly the most sophisticated of all sustained-yield systems in Canada up to the present. Timber is still disposed of by public auction unconnected with the over-all management plan. However, 57,000,000 acres of productive forest land are now under sustained-yield control of one kind or another. The two major vehicles are the Public Sustained-Yield Unit, administered and controlled by the Crown, with the timber being disposed of by auction, and the Tree Farm Licence, a 21-year conditionally renewable lease to private industry, which is required to adhere to a general cutting budget and management plan approved by the Provincial Forest Service. The newest legislative vehicle for sustained-yield is the Pulpwood Harvesting Area, which is designed to be "superimposed" on an existing Public Sustained-Yield Unit for the sole purpose of using the smaller species and waste materials thereon suitable for pulp production. The allowable cut from all sustained-yield tenures in British Columbia is estimated at 870,000,000 cubic feet a year, equivalent to roughly 65 per cent of the total provincial scale.

Forest Protection

Protection, so far as this section is concerned and as it relates to provincial administration, is essentially protection against forest fires.

Although administratively the provinces are, in most cases, responsible for protection against outbreaks of harmful diseases and insects, the federal forest authority has, historically, accepted the responsibility for research, survey, and consultative services. In practice, however, the federal and provincial forest authorities generally work very closely together in the planning and implementation of control programmes, though the provinces remain completely responsible for programme execution in the field. In the case of very severe outbreaks, programme costs are often shared by the two levels of government and, on special occasions, have been shared by industry as well.

The major problems of fire control in Canada's forests stem from a lack of ready access in many regions and the occurrence of hazardous climatic conditions during the fire season, which generally extends from early April until mid-October.

Though many improvements in fire-control organization and methods have been effected for the past 30 to 40 years, fire remains a serious problem in forest management, with some 2,750,000 acres being burned over annually. The fire problem is particularly pressing when considered with the developing sustained-yield programmes in most provinces. An average of almost 6,000 fires is reported each year and about 4,500 of these are known to be caused by human agencies of one kind or another. They are, therefore, preventable. With an ever-growing use of the forests for recreational purposes, the hazards from human carelessness are high.

Forest-fire control in Canada is organized on a provincial basis. In Quebec and Newfoundland, forest-protective associations have been formed to administer fire control on the very extensive lands held under licence by industries.

Fire-control operations in the provinces are usually managed from District Offices, and districts in turn are frequently subdivided into ranger districts, each being in charge of a chief