

conference — to 'spread the bad news'."

What about those confident statistics? Studies released at the conference indicated that only about half of the statistical surplus is "economically accessible"....

Unproductive forest land

As for the casual impression that Canada has a superabundance of trees, so it does — but great numbers are too far north to grow to a usable size, and enormous stretches of forest farther south are in hopelessly sub-standard shape. "The new forests which are developing in areas which have been harvested or affected by natural disasters are frequently poorer than the forests they are replacing," said the conference *communiqué*. "They are often inadequate in terms of preferred species, quality, density of stocking, insect and disease resistance, or location suitable for economic wood supplies to existing mills."

The expert consensus was that up to 20 per cent of the land harvested every year does not and will not regenerate properly. When areas where regeneration has been blighted by insect infestations, fires and wind damage are added, a total of 647,000 acres is lost from the nation's potentially productive forest stock every year.

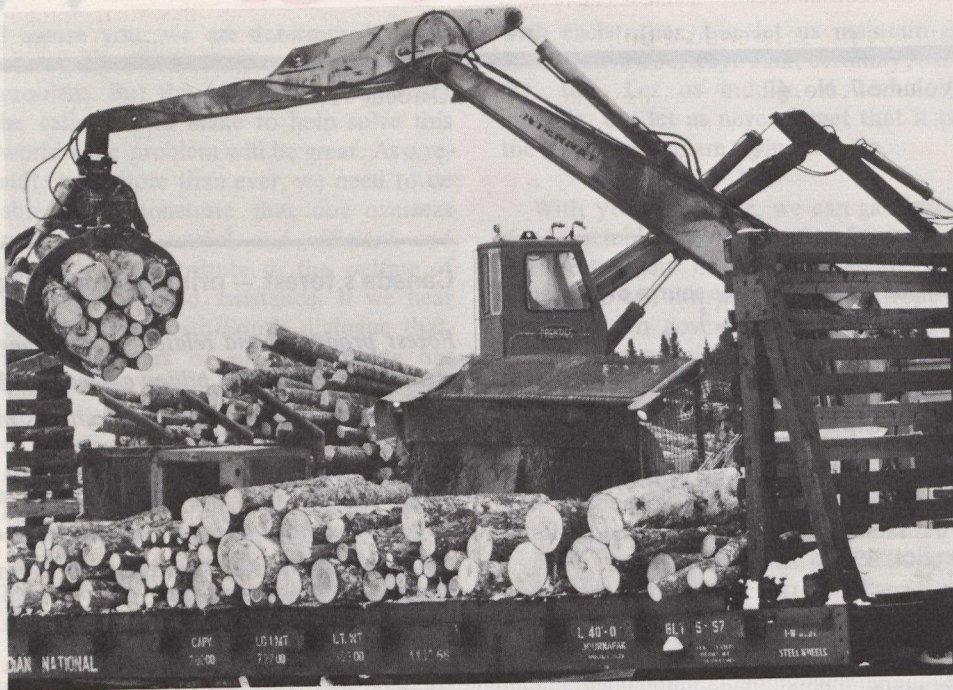
This is being added in turn to a back-

Forest imperatives for Canada

Action by the federal and provincial governments on the problems of the dwindling forest resources began with the First Minister's Conference in February 1978, when both levels of government agreed on the necessity for continued co-operation in forest management. The Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers (CCREM) has been sponsoring a federal-provincial study on forest policies. On June 6, 1979, the CCREM endorsed in principle a task force report entitled "Forest Imperatives for Canada" which clearly requires government action.

Among the principles suggested in the proposed CCREM policy which will ensure proper management of Canada's forests are:

- pre-eminent provincial jurisdiction over its own forest land;
 - the need for compatible federal and provincial policies affecting the resource;
 - the stability of rural employment and communities;
 - maintenance of forest productivity;
 - endorsement of multiple-use forest management;
 - production goals to ensure a viable Canadian forest industry; and
 - environmental protection.
- These goals are suggested as being attainable by:
- informing the public;
 - increasing government funds for intensive forest management from \$220 million to \$400 million;
 - shared federal-provincial funding of forest management and use of tax incentives to encourage private investment in forest management;
 - developing better systems for provision of forest resource statistics, economic intelligence and analysis, and technology transfer; and
 - greater priority for forestry research and development.



Grapple loader piles logs for shipment to mill. Modernization of lumbering industry has increased the importance of good forest management.

log of unproductive forest land accumulated over many years which the Canadian Forestry Association estimates at a staggering 60 million acres. Large parts of this wasteland are to be found in every province. In fact, no province can claim that regeneration within its boundaries

is even keeping pace with the yearly cut.

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Problems will have to be resolved

Can Canada catch up? F.L.C. Reed, one of the nation's leading forestry consultants, says the answer is yes.... As he stated in a recent report for the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, "A more intensive program of forest management is imperative if market opportunities are to be realized and emerging timber deficits offset."

It would be unfair to suggest that either governments or the industry have been entirely negligent in matters of regeneration. Every province has its tree nurseries and reforestation programs; forest products companies attempt to stimulate regeneration through a variety of techniques. Canada ranks high among the nations of the world in forestry research. The problem is not one of a lack of technology nor of good intentions. It is simply that not enough is being done.

We know what to do and we have the means.... But it will take a deliberate commitment on the part of governments, industry, and indeed the public at large to ensure that our forests meet our future needs.... The task will call for common sense, compromise, and determination — but it must be accomplished if our greatest natural legacy is to continue to yield its tremendous rewards.