

Under these and certain other minor headings the Federal Government carries on a number of highly important developmental activities. This is usually done by agreement with the Provinces although, in some cases, these agreements are informal and even tacit in character. A brief summary of how these principles work out in the various fields of resource development will provide an interesting basis for comparison with policies followed in the United States.

Forestry provides one of the best examples of the type and extent of the responsibility accepted by the Federal Government. The new Canada Forestry Act which is now before the Federal Parliament has been drafted to define federal responsibility in this field. It provides that the national government may secure forest areas for permanent research projects acceptable to the provincial government concerned; may grant funds to assist the Provinces in the protection and beneficial utilization of forest resources; and may make agreements with public or private corporations or individuals for the initiation of economic studies of forest resources and forest industries.

A specific example of Federal-Provincial co-operation in forestry is the agreement between the federal authorities and the Province of Alberta under which a joint Board administers the Eastern Rocky Mountain Forest Conservation Act which was passed by Parliament in 1947. The duty of the Board is to develop and conserve some 8,500 square miles of forest area on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, and it thus controls and protects the sources of the Saskatchewan River and in this way will eventually make available a greater volume of water for irrigation on the open plains.

There is in Canada a constantly increasing recognition by provincial and federal authorities and by industry of the significance of forest conservation in the broadest sense. But there is much yet to be done. Apart from the appalling annual losses by forest fires, we still waste approximately three-quarters of every tree that is felled in Canada. The principal of sustained yield is still largely a matter of conservation rather than commercial practice.

In the management of forests as a permanent asset, Canadian governments are in a peculiarly strategic position because of their control of the conditions under which Crown lands can be leased to operators.

The general policy of both Federal and Provincial Governments has been to dispose of the timber by means of licences to cut, rather than by sale of the land. Under this system the state retains ownership of the land and eventual control of the cutting operations.

The tendency today - although it is still only a tendency - is to require that forest operations shall be conducted in such a way as to protect the resource.

An important phase of forest conservation is protection against fire. Here both the Federal and the Provincial Governments play important parts. The Federal Government is responsible for fire-protection measures in the forests under its administration, in the Territories and in the great system of national parks, while the Provinces maintain fire-protection organizations, and co-operate with owners and licensees for the protection of all timbered areas within their respective jurisdictions. The Dominion Forest Service, moreover, conducts significant research in the field of fire protection.

Insects and diseases also take a heavy toll on Canadian forests. Here also research and control measures are undertaken by both Federal and Provincial Governments. An interesting example of this co-operation is afforded by the Forests Insects Control Board, operated under the federal Department of Mines and Resources, and composed of ten members representing the Federal Government, Provincial Governments, and the pulp and paper industry. Its purpose is to co-ordinate all efforts into one programme aimed at the solution of the forest insect problem in Canada.