



CANADA

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## CONTENTS

Canada Husbands its Forest Wealth .....	1
Canadian Art at Santiago Display .....	3
Science-Teaching Conference .....	3
Canadian to Melbourne University .....	3
Canada at NATO Meet .....	3
War on the Lamprey .....	4

Columbia Power Talks .....	4
Arctic Laboratory Opened .....	5
Shipping Statistics .....	5
National Industrial Talks .....	5
Zanzibar and Kenya .....	6
Industrial Development Bank .....	6

## CANADA HUSBANDS ITS FOREST WEALTH

The following passages are from a speech by the Minister of Forestry, Mr. John R. Nicholson, to the opening session of the Fifty-Fourth Western Forestry Conference at the Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, on December 11:

... Under the Canadian Constitution, more accurately known as the British North America Act, it is clearly stated that responsibility for the management of the nation's renewable resources is that of the provinces, with the lone exception of the national fisheries. The forests, of course, are amongst the most important of these resources.

Each province of Canada, therefore, is free to decide on its own policies of forest management, to decide to what extent it wishes to move toward sustained yields, to decide to what degree and by what plan it wishes to accommodate the strong pressures for multiple or integrated uses of forest land, to decide to what extent it wishes to hold the forest land as Crown or public land, and to decide to what degree and to what extent it wishes to dispose of the land to private interests....

In general, we in Canada have found that this Constitutional division of resource authority works admirably. I believe that we would be hard put to conceive of a more efficient system from the standpoint of effective, day-to-day operations.

### CO-OPERATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

At the same time, the creation of a Federal Department of Forestry, in 1960, was the result of the energetic promotion by the forest agencies of the provinces, by the forest industries themselves, and by our universities. As such, the Department was

a dramatic manifestation of the Canadian forest community's desire to bring cohesion to their sphere, a desire to create a national platform for the vital exchange of communication and a desire to give impetus to the Department's principal functions, i.e. forest research, forest entomology and pathology research and survey, forest-products research and forest economics.

Thus, although the system of provincial responsibility in forest management was more or less satisfactory for several decades, it was recognized that in certain forestry areas - in research and in the control of insects and disease - a national agency was both logical and necessary to the overall benefit of the country.

I have introduced this slight diversion to demonstrate the degree to which there is an open and sincere spirit of co-operation and of mutual aid in forestry matters within recognized spheres between the two senior levels of government in Canada.

A concrete example of this co-operation is to be found in the federal-provincial forestry agreements administered by my Department and which, over the past few years, have made available several million dollars of federal funds to assist the provinces in preparing proper forest inventories, reforestation, fire suppression, access-road development and in other programmes essential to the development of efficient forest management according to provincial need.

### CANADIAN OWNERSHIP PATTERN

Another matter that bears close examination, if one is to appreciate the Canadian approach to "Managing Lands for People", is the relation between public and privately-held forest land in Canada.