

All Acts and Regulations relating to land disposal in Western Canada are designed to ensure a continuously active exploration program and to provide an opportunity for any company to secure exploration rights.

## V. Conservation

Another governmental jurisdiction in the Canadian oil industry occurs in matters relating to conservation. It is generally accepted in many oil-producing countries throughout the world that the state should intervene in the interests of conservation. The oil and gas conservation laws established in Canada are considered by many observers to be of a very high standard. As in leading United States oil producing states, there is an awareness of conservation in all oil activities from initial discovery to marketing.

In 1957 a new Conservation Act was passed in Alberta to replace the Oil and Gas Conservation Act of 1950. The new Act incorporates present day thinking on conservation from the engineering, economic and legal points of view. The new Alberta Conservation Act has the following objectives:-

- (a) to effect the conservation of the oil and gas resources of the Province;
- (b) to prevent the waste of the oil and gas resources of the Province;
- (c) to secure the observance of safe and efficient practices in the locating, spacing, drilling, equipping, completing, reworking, testing, operating and abandonment of wells and in all operations for the production of oil and gas; and
- (d) to afford to each owner the opportunity of obtaining his just and equitable share of the production of any pool.

The administration of the Act is carried out by a Conservation Board which is free of any political influence. The purpose of the Board is to ensure that oil and gas resources are developed and produced in accordance with the best conservation practices. It may accomplish this objective through regulations or orders. Its powers extend to well spacing, drilling, completion, abandonment and prorationing. The Board also functions through drilling and production regulations made pursuant to powers granted in the Conservation Act.

There is also a Conservation Act in Saskatchewan. Conservation is controlled in other provinces through provisions of provincial Mines Acts.

## VI. Government Research

Although government does not participate directly in the petroleum industry, it affords valuable aid through research programs of a scientific and economic nature. For over 100 years the Geological Survey of Canada has done geological mapping in Western Canada. Provincial governments more recently also have had parties in the field. The results of field investigations are published in Memoirs and made available to any interested person or company. Laboratory investigations are also conducted involving the analysis and processing of hydrocarbons. Economic studies relating to costs of oil field operations and marketing prospects are carried out from time to time.