

To make arrangements with other federal agencies for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act, and to enter into agreements with any persons providing for economic studies of forest resources or forest industries, forest research and demonstrations, and the operation of forest products laboratories.

The first federal-provincial agreements entered into under the Act in 1951 concern federal participation in payments for forest inventories and reforestation. The Federal Government agreed to pay half the cost to the provinces for completing and maintaining forest inventories during the next five years and to pay a proportion of the cost to the provinces of reasonable programs of reforestation on unoccupied provincial Crown lands. In addition, the Federal Government undertook to pay part of the cost of establishing new forest nurseries during the same period.

By March 31, 1956, the Federal Government had contributed \$5,240,434 to these eight provinces of which \$4,561,511 was for forest inventories and \$678,922 was for reforestation. By this date, on the average, 82 per cent of the forest inventory programs had been completed. Reforestation projects included the planting of 59,283,000 trees, the seeding of 6,751 acres, and the establishment of four provincial tree nurseries. On the expiration of these agreements in 1956 the Federal Government offered to renew financial assistance to the provinces for completing their inventories for a further two-year period, and for inventory maintenance, together with reforestation on the same basis as previously, for a period of five years.

Under the Act, the Federal Government in 1957 entered into agreements with several provinces to provide federal financial assistance in the field of forest fire protection. The federal aid will provide more fire protection facilities and equipment such as portable pumps, fire hose and tools, vehicles, communication systems, fire towers, roads and trails specifically required for forest fire protection purposes. Generally, federal contributions will cover 50 per cent of the cost of items provided under the agreements.

A further provision of the Canada Forestry Act was implemented in 1954 when the federal Forestry Branch assumed responsibility for forest fire protection and forest management on the military training area of Camp Gaagetown, N.B. The Branch also carries out forestry work at the request of the Department of National Defence on other military areas in Canada.

Federal Forestry Branch

The chief functions of the Forestry Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources are to provide information and assistance, in forestry matters of national importance, to the provincial authorities, who administer the publicly owned forests lying within provincial boundaries, and to the industries who depend on the forests for their raw materials. The Branch conducts research in forestry and in the utilization of forest products and provides financial help to the provinces in connection with the activities mentioned above.

The Forestry Branch organization comprises three Divisions concerned with Forest Research, Forest Products Laboratories and Forest Operations. A special Section concerned with Forest Economics constitutes a part of the Branch administration.