

voluntary integrated planning at the community level; and the joint federal-provincial undertaking, the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board which is developing its area on multiple-use lines, along with its primary function of protecting the forested watershed of the Saskatchewan River system.

Protection of Canada's Forests

A major obstacle to the introduction of better forest management is the menace of forest fires and of insects and disease. On the average, nearly 2,000,000 acres are burned annually in Canada and the estimated values destroyed amount to some \$4,000,000; but, as you know, these estimated values fall far short of the actual loss involved. Putting it another way: the merchantable timber burned equals one-third of the yearly consumption of our pulp and paper industry. The present rate of fire loss is estimated as double the rate that could be tolerated for the practice of sustained-yield forestry.

Fire protection continues to be a principal concern of all provincial administrations, and accounts for about half of all expenditures for forest management. The vast extent of our coniferous forest, lack of an adequate road system in many regions, and climatic conditions, combine to make fire protection especially difficult, though very great improvements in organization and methods have been achieved over the past thirty years. A wide use of aircraft is common. Provincial fire-protection services afford protection for all forests except those occurring within organized municipalities. Quebec and Newfoundland are unique in that, besides the provincial services, fire-protection associations have been formed by owners and lessees of forest properties to provide protection for their own holdings. The Federal Government, as I have mentioned, pursues basic research in fire protection and has, among other things, pioneered in the development of methods of measuring forest-fire danger which are widely used by the protection services.

Protection of the forest from loss by insects and disease will doubtless become easier, at least in the accessible areas, as better silvicultural practices are followed -- especially in the removal of mature timber subject to mortality. An example of the timeliness and flexibility of federal co-operation with the provinces to combat grave insect infestation in provincial forests is illustrated in recent spraying operations against the spruce budworm in northern New Brunswick. Here, some 4,000 square miles of pulpwood forests are seriously threatened by this insect. Federal financial participation in the cost with the government and forest industry in New Brunswick will be one-third of an estimated \$9,000,000 covering a three-year period for the operation.

Conclusion

I trust I have indicated, although briefly, the nature and scope of our activities in Canada in the development and use of our forest wealth. We have, after a half-century of organized forest direction, provided a legislative and professional framework which will permit us to attain, in time, the three-fold objective to which we mutually subscribe, namely: effective forest protection, maximum renewable yield of the most suitable forest species, and multiple resource use.