

## FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In spite of the fact that the responsibility for the management of the forests of Canada lies overwhelmingly with the provinces, it has been recognized since early in the century that certain forestry functions could best be performed by a central, nationally-oriented authority. Specifically, such matters as basic forest research, forest-products research, forest entomology and pathology research and survey are best dealt with at a national level, to ensure that the results of study are made available to the whole forest community.

### Department of Forestry of Canada

The forest policy of the Federal Government is to a large extent set forth in the Department of Forestry Act of 1960. This Act incorporates all the powers of the Canada Forestry Act of 1949, which it replaced, and gives the Department of Forestry the responsibility for conducting all federal forestry research previously carried out by the Departments of Northern Affairs and National Resources and Agriculture. In addition, the new Act provides for federal participation in forestry publicity and public-education programmes.

Broadly stated, the objectives of the Department of Forestry are the improved management and protection of the forest resource, the fuller use of forest products, and the improvement, through research, of the competitive position of Canada's forest industries.

Specifically, this Act says, "the duties, powers and functions of the Minister extend to and include all matters over which the Parliament of Canada has jurisdiction relating to the forest resources of Canada". "The Minister," it goes on,

- "(a) shall provide for the conduct of research relating to the protection, management and utilization of the forest resources of Canada and the better utilization of forest products, and may establish and maintain laboratories and other necessary facilities for such purposes;
- (b) may undertake, promote or recommend measures for the encouragement of public co-operation in the protection and wise use of the forest resources of Canada;
- (c) with the approval of the Governor-in-Council, may enter into agreements with the government of any province or with any person for forest protection and management or forest utilization, for the conduct of research related thereto, or for forestry publicity or education;
- (d) may provide for the making of forestry surveys and provide advice relating to the protection and management of forests on land administered by any department or agency of the Government of Canada or belonging to Her Majesty in right of Canada; and
- (e) at the request of any department or agency of the Government of Canada, may assume responsibility for the protection and management, including the disposal of timber and other forest products, of any forest on lands administered by such department or agency.