

external trade in 1951 in the group of commodities which our Customs authorities describe as "Wood, Wood Products and Paper" resulted in a favourable balance in Canada's commodity trade account exceeding 1,200 million dollars.

I hope that what I have said will convince you that Canada's interest in the proper management and in the perpetuity of her forest resources is based upon economic considerations of the greatest importance. We have some distance to go before our overall forest management will be satisfactory, or the protection of our forests against fire and other natural enemies will be adequate. On the other hand, I believe you will find that long strides in the desired direction have been made since the Second Conference met here in 1923. . . .

. . . The administration of Canada's forests, taken as a whole, has three characteristics of outstanding importance. First, each of the ten provinces owns and administers the publicly-owned forests and other natural resources lying within its boundaries. Second, the Federal Government is responsible for the administration of only 8 per cent of the productive forests of the country, namely, those lying in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the national parks, the Indian reserves and the forest experiment stations. Third, the principle of public ownership of forest land has been closely adhered to during the historical development of this country, with the result that more than 90 per cent of the total forest area still belongs to the Crown.

Provincial Administration

The responsibility for forest administration in each province is centered in a department of government headed by a minister. The permanent head of the department is the deputy minister, and he is responsible for the execution of approved policies and for departmental administration. So far, the arrangement is uniform and will be perfectly familiar to all of you.

The name of the department responsible for forestry varies from province to province, and there are also very considerable differences in organization and in the titles and duties of the principal officers. The similarities, however, are much more important than the differences, and the functions performed by each forest administration are virtually the same. In addition to a head office, located in the provincial capital, district offices are maintained and the districts are further subdivided into ranger districts.

Senior staffs of the forest services are largely made up of men who have received university training in forestry. However, during the past twenty years, several provinces have established special ranger-training schools, which enable field men to receive systematic instruction in the many and difficult tasks they are called upon to perform. There is no doubt that the increase of facilities for ranger-training is one of the most important forestry developments in recent years.