

and establishing new forest tree nurseries. This form of assistance is available to all provinces who may desire it. Other aspects of Federal forestry policy include intensive research in silviculture and management, forest inventory methods, forest fire protection, forest economics, forest biology, and forest products. In the pulp and paper field the Federal Government subsidizes the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada and in the field of public education we support the Canadian Forestry Association. Moreover, the Federal Government is solely responsible for all phases of forestry activities in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon Territory and our 29,146 square miles of national parks.

Extent of Canada's Forests

I would like to lay before you a few broad facts as to the extent of our forests in Canada. As you are aware, a considerable portion of our very large country lies in the far north, where climatic conditions are too severe for forest growth. For this reason it might be somewhat misleading to call your attention to the relationship between forested and non-forested lands for the whole of Canada, including the vast Northern Territories. It is more informative to point out that nearly 60 per cent of the land area of the ten provinces is covered by forests. When one considers the great extent of our wheat fields in the West, it is obvious that in certain provinces the proportion of land bearing trees is a good deal higher than the figure I have just mentioned. A considerable proportion of the total forested area is classed as non-productive because growth is too slow and too poor to permit of the introduction of sustained-yield forest management; nevertheless, the estimated area of productive forest exceeds 700,000 square miles.

You will, I understand, be given more information later regarding the systems of forest land tenure in Canada, but I would like to mention in passing that more than 90 per cent of all the forest land is owned by the Crown - most of it in the right of the provinces.

It is estimated that about 70 per cent of the merchantable timber is of coniferous or softwood species. For many years the growth of our great forest industries was based almost entirely upon the softwood portion of the forest, but more recently increasing attention has been given to the utilization of hardwoods. This is true not only in the manufacture of lumber but also in the manufacture of wood pulp. The increasing possibilities for using profitably the hardwood content of our forest stands is extremely important from the point of view of forest management because it opens up the possibility of treating our natural mixed forests as a whole, instead of removing the softwoods only and leaving residual hardwoods to take complete charge of many areas.

Although detailed statistics regarding our forest industries will be available to you in publications which will be distributed, a preliminary idea of the scale of operations may be gained from the fact that in 1950 in Canada the forests and the industries dependent on them employed more than 346,000 workers, paid out more than 845 million dollars in salaries and wages, and turned out products with a net value close to 1,600 million dollars.

The forest products industries are particularly important to the national economy because of the part they play in Canada's external trade. Exports of these products are very great and imports relatively small. As a result,