

Canadian expertise sought in NZ

CANADA AND New Zealand have much in common in addition to language and culture. Canadian softwood forests have tree sizes similar to those of New Zealand's pine plantations. Both countries view their forests as valuable, renewable resources and recognise the importance of producing wood products of the highest value possible with the least amount of fibre waste.

Canada's vast and ruggedly beautiful forests have been a source of national pride and identification ever since the country achieved Confederation in 1867. From the towering Douglas-fir and red cedars of the West Coast to the boreal forests of the east, trees dominate much of the land mass. The forests have served all at once as symbol, playground, refuge and workplace for generations of Canadians.

But Canadians' close connection with their forests has a very real economic side. With more than 2 million square kilometres of productive forests, Canada is the world's largest source of newsprint, producing about 30 percent of the world's total. Overall, the country accounts for 20 percent of the value of international forest product exports, another world first.

As early as 1700 the colony of New France was building an international reputation as an exporter of wooden masts and spars. Almost 300 years later, Canada's forestry sector is still infused with the vigorous entrepreneurial spirit that characterised those early days. The difference lies in the new technologies, new management techniques and the new understanding of forest renewal, now being brought to bear in meeting world markets for forest products.

In brief, Canada's forestry sector consists of:

- * the logging industry, which annually produces more than 125 million cubic metres of roundwood, generates about \$US3 billion in sales and employs 40,000 people;

- * the lumber industry, with annual production more than 35 million cubic metres, exports around \$US3 billion and



Canada and New Zealand in the world of forests, together.

a steady 12 percent share of the world's total softwood lumber output;

- * the pulp and paper industry, with an annual output more than 30 million tonnes, shipments in excess of \$US10 billion and a workforce of about 125,000.

Canadian companies export more than \$US8.5 billion a year in forest products, generating a net balance of trade well in excess of \$US10 billion annually.

These figures provide a glimpse of Canada's past and present record in forestry. They also indicate the role that Canadian forest industries are looking forward to playing on the world scene in the years to come.

New Zealand link

Because of its early beginning, it was natural that Canadian equipment manufacturers and resource specialists evolved to supply world markets. For example, Canadian sawmill equipment manufacturers still supply state of the art equipment in volume to most forested countries. Because of its extensive experience in developing forest products technology, Canadian expertise is sought today by the New Zealand forest industry's major developers.

This link was established with the appointment of Canadian forester MacIntosh Ellis as the first Director of Forestry in New Zealand. His first annual reports led to the beginnings of the New Zealand Forest Service and the planting boom of the 1920s.

New Zealand's exotic forest — primar-

ily radiata pine — is now well over the million hectare mark. Since 1974 the average annual rate of planting has exceeded 40,000 hectares. The target for the total exotic forest estate is 1.315 million hectares. Special employment plantings by the State could see this figure exceeded.

Exotic softwoods enjoy rapid growth in New Zealand, producing first timber for pulpwood in 12 to 14 years; sawlogs or pulpwood from 20 years; and the final crop from 30 years onwards.

The total roundwood revenue in 1982 was 9442 million cubic metres. Reaching the target of 1315 million hectares by 1990 would increase the sustainable roundwood availability to 27 million cubic metres per year.

Forestry promises to play an even more important role in New Zealand from the 1990s onwards. The national wood supply is anticipated to increase threefold over the next 30 years, an industry that will reduce New Zealand's dependence on farm based exports.

Additional increases in volume are projected to continue well into the next century. As the industry matures and the potential for wood product exports increase, long-term profitability will depend — to a large degree — on the decisions made today by New Zealand mill owners and developers.

The New Zealand forest industry is now at the point where these critical decisions must be made. Canadian consulting specialists have been commissioned by the New Zealand industry to assess world