

increases the prosperity of the agricultural community, partly because of the use or sale of wood products and partly because of their protective influence. Several provinces now employ qualified foresters whose chief duty is to encourage farmers to manage their woods along proper lines. This work is developing rapidly and promises to become even more important in future.

DOMINION FOREST SERVICE

Prior to 1930 the forests of the three Prairie Provinces and those in the "Railway Belt" and the "Peace River Block" in British Columbia, were administered by the Department of the Interior of the federal government. In that year the management of these forests was transferred to the provinces and since then federal activities in the forestry field have been principally concerned with research and investigation. The Dominion Forest Service is now a bureau of the Mines, Forests and Scientific Services Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources. Activities of the old Department of the Interior were taken over by the present department in 1936.

The Dominion Forest Service is particularly concerned with forestry problems which are of interest to more than one province or to all provinces and to forest industries. For example, certain forest types may be found in a number of different provinces, and experiments intended to show how they could best be managed are of particular interest to the provinces in which they occur. It is, of course, much more economical for the Dominion to study such questions than it would be for each individual province to investigate them separately. Information obtained by the Dominion is made available both to the provinces and to forest industries. On the other hand, the provinces supply the Dominion with information respecting their own forests in order that summaries for the whole of Canada may be built up.

The main divisions of the Dominion Forest Service deal with forest economics, silvicultural research, forest fire protection investigations air surveys and forest products research.

Forest Economics. This work includes the analysis of statistics secured from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, provincial authorities, and other sources, and general studies of the supply and demand situation in Canada. Trends of development of forest industries and of domestic and foreign markets for forest products are followed and information on forestry conditions in other countries is gathered. The national forest inventory is maintained and revised from time to time as new information becomes available, and comparisons are made between the rates at which forests are being depleted by logging, fires, etc., and the rates at which new growth is replacing that depletion.

Forest Air Surveys. This Division is engaged in the study of new methods for using aerial photographs in connection with forest surveys and a great deal of progress in this highly technical field has been accomplished. New instruments have been devised and ways have been found for measuring tree heights, volumes of merchantable stands, and other factors direct from the photographs.