CHANGES IN TIMBER DISPOSAL REGULATIONS IN CANADA DURING 1933

By J. R. DICKSON

DURING 1933 the forest industries for the most part were still more or less seriously affected by the great depression, but on the whole conditions were very much better than in 1932. Last year, as in the preceding depression years, very little tendency was shown by Canadian Forest Authorities to effect changes in their timber regulations, and in particular those controlling silvicultural practice.

MARITIME PROVINCES

In Nova Scotia no changes of any kind were made.

In New Brunswick the general timber regulations were revamped, much of the wording being rearranged. The only changes of note, however, were in several of the diameter limits, also in an upward detailed revision of dues covering the winter's cut of 1933-34, and in the important new provision made for the direct sale of pulpwood by the cord, in part, instead of entirely by the thousand-board-foot-unit as heretofore. Taken seriatum these changes are:

(a) Minimum cutting diameter limits:

White Pine, now 14 inches, formerly 12.

For Hemlock, cedar, maple, and beech, a 12 inch limit is set.

(b) Increased stumpage dues:

DUES SCHEDULE, FOR CUT OF WINTER 1932-33:

Spruce, Balsam, Pine, Tamarack, Cedar and Hardwood saw-	
logs, per M. b. m.	\$1.00
Spruce and Balsam logs used for pulpwood, per M. b. m.	\$2.00
On all other classes of lumber rate to be one-half of that for 1929-30	

DUES SCHEDULE FOR CUT OF WINTER 1933-34:

White Pine, per M. b. m.	\$2.50
Red Pine, Spruce, Balsam, Hemlock, Cedar, Jack pine, Tam-	
arack, Maple, Beech and White Birch, per M. b. m.	\$2.00
Yellow Birch, ordinary sawlogs, per M. b. m.	\$2.50
Yellow Birch, veneer logs, per M. b. m.	\$3.50
Spruce, Balsam, and Jack pine sawlogs, used for pulpwood,	
per M. b. m.	\$2.50
Spruce, Balsam, and Jack pine pulpwood, per cord	\$1.00
Poplar sawlogs, per M. b. m.	\$1.25

(c) Scaling and Sale of Pulpwood:

Formerly all pulpwood was sold by the board-foot unit, under a converting factor of 500 board feet=1 cord. Now, it may be scaled and sold directly by the cord, and as the government in setting the dues, has placed a 25 per cent. bonus on cord measurement, many firms who formerly logged pulpwood in long lengths have now changed or modified their methods and are cutting largely 4-foot wood. It is reported that Quebec is to adopt the same sensible and just plan without delay.

CENTRAL PROVINCES

In *Quebec*, little or no change was effected in the timber disposal regulations in 1933, the same rate of reduced stumpage charges being continued to cover the 1933-34 cut.

As the stumpage dues schedule (which may be had on request) shows, the 1933-34 rates are:

- A. White Pine, oak, hickory, and walnut group (sawlogs) ..\$2.00 per M.
- B. Red Pine and the other Hardwoods (sawlogs).....\$1.50 per M.
- C. Jackpine, spruce, balsam, hemlock, birch, cedar, poplar,
(sawlogs)\$1.00 per M.
- D. Pulpwood Species, used as pulpwood\$2.00 per M.

Throughout the depression years a valiant effort has been made in *Quebec* to uphold the new system of "cutting by exception." The Chief Forester states that these flexible, preliminary working plans enable the logging practice to be fitted to local stand conditions, conserve the younger age-classes, and foster sustained yield. Some 53 per cent of *Quebec* limits covering 40,811 square miles, have now been inventoried under the plans. Two or three of those first adopted in 1923 were subjected to their initial check-up and revision in 1933.

In *Ontario* no changes affecting the disposal of timber were reported for 1933. It will be recalled that the stumpage dues on saw-material only were reduced 60 per cent. on the winter's cut of 1931-32. In 1933 the dues were cancelled on the log cut of 1932-33. For the cut of 1933-34 certain concessions have been given the operators, spruce pulpwood being \$1.00, while on sawlogs the dues are reduced 50 to 80 per cent. below the standard schedule.

It is somewhat difficult to ascertain just what measure of progress is being made in *Ontario* toward making effective the epoch-marking forest legislation of 1927, 1928, and 1929. No doubt the prevailing economic conditions have been a governing factor in the problem.

THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

In October, 1933, *Manitoba* issued in convenient pamphlet form "The Forest Act and Regulations in Force Thereunder." It shows that timber

sales both on forest reserves and lands outside are now all under one set of logging rules. This important change enables the Forester to dispose of timber bordering forest reserves on the basis of quantity, instead of a limited area, and thus successfully round out desirable logging chances.

In order to give better control of portable mills, these are now required to have an operating permit.

Considerable changes also appear in the new schedule of stumpage dues, which may be had on request.

In *Saskatchewan* the timber disposal regulations first framed under the "Forest Act" of 1931 were made subject to many minor revisions in 1932, as, for instance, reduction of the royalty on poplar logs from \$1.50 per M. to \$1.00. Also extension of the "manufacturing clause" to include all sawlogs (as well as pulpwood) cut on licensed berths. In 1933 the only changes made in the Crown dues schedule were first, a reduction of 50 cents per M. on all spruce logs cut on berths and timber sales in the winter of 1932-33, which rate was later extended to the 1933-34 cut, jack pine being added on the timber sale areas. The dues on railway ties were also somewhat reduced.

In 1933 no changes were made in logging or brush-disposal requirements. For better fire protection, however, a Provincial Air Service was organized and the chain of radio stations was extended. Toward the end of 1933 a consolidation of all the forest regulations as amended to date was prepared. These will shortly appear in print and become effective on May 1st, 1934.

In *Alberta* since 1931 one set of timber regulations framed under the "Provincial Lands Act," apply outside forest reserves and another set, authorized by the "Alberta Forest Reserves Act," apply inside. By the end of 1933 these had been amended three times. A further important revision of both sets of regulations is contemplated, with a view to harmonizing their various clauses.

One important change in 1933 was the provision for making timber sales up to 125,000 board feet, under annual permit, renewable for one year. The only changes effected in the royalty dues represent a cut of 50 cents per M. on all green timber cut since October 1st, 1931, and of 25 cents on all fire-killed timber.

Logging conditions remain unchanged except that trees may now be cut to a 6-inch diameter instead of 7.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

No changes, except as noted below, occurred in this province during 1933 in the method of disposing of timber. A general reduction of 15 per cent. was made in the stumpage rates on the timber cut under license during the winter of 1933-34. Similarly, the annual rental on licenses for the same

period is reduced by 25 per cent. It is expected that 1934 will see the "Fire Protection Fund" restored and the "Travel Permit" system adopted.

THE OUTLOOK TOWARD BETTER FORESTRY PRACTICE

It surely behoves Canadian foresters to interest themselves closely in the working out of the "New Deal" movement in the United States, with special reference to the forestry provisions of the Lumber Code, as embodied in "Article X." Lumber, like wheat, is a world product and sold in a world market; which is to say that by and large United States and Canadian lumbermen must in the future, as in the past, receive approximately uniform prices for their product. To finance the application of "Article X" in the United States forests, however, this price level must be high enough to carry the added cost of the basic silvicultural measures decided upon as essential to a sustained yield policy in that country. It is therefore significant that the Canadian Lumbermen at their recent annual meeting in Montreal, passed a resolution which has the effect of making North America virtually one single trade unit, from the lumber market standpoint.

Well and good so far as Uncle Sam is concerned, but how is this situation going to affect *Canadian* forests? What assurance is there that an equivalent portion of the higher prices for wood-goods in Canada, induced by the N.R.A. activities, will be actually expended in our woods on much-needed forest conservation work, and not pocketed by the operators or the governments as a gift from the Gods? A great opportunity is being presented to the Canadian people toward bridging the as yet wide gap between forest precept and forest practice in this country. What use they will make of it may be largely determined by the attitude and energy of the trained foresters in their midst.