THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CROWN TIMBER LICENSES IN ONTARIO¹

By MURRAY B. MORISON²

Management in the language of the forester means "forest" management,—the growing and treatment of forests for economic use and the regulation of the harvesting to insure permanency of operations.

In Ontario it is the policy to place all of the Crown forest on a sustained yield and all licenses will be subject to forest management plans, which in some cases will cover only one particular licensed area as a unit, while in other cases one plan will cover several licensed areas as a unit.

The authority for the administration of Crown timber is contained in The Crown Timber Act, 1952, and the Regulations.

In effect it is the expression of the forest policy of the Government of Ontario. It is designed to utilize to the best advantage the products of the forest, to insure sound forest management, to protect the interests of the public and maintain forest industry in Ontario.

The Act specifies in great detail the methods of licensing timber, the powers of the Minister under the Act, the rights of licensees, the methods of determining Crown Timber charges, procedures to follow in connection with the seizure of timber, the licensing of scalers and their examination, the licensing of mills, the establishment of Provincial forests, the composition of an advisory committee to the Minister and the penalties for infringement of the Act and the regulations.

Under this Act, every licensee must be aware of the requirements under the section, Forest Management, as it is stated that: "every licensee shall furnish to the Minister within such period as may be fixed by him not exceeding three years from the coming into force of this Act or from the grant of the license whichever is the later: 'An estimated inventory, proposed master plan, a map forming part of the plan dividing the licensed area into proposed operational units and a statement of the purposes for which the timber is to be utilized.' The Minister may approve a master plan as submitted to him or may approve it with such alterations therein as he may deem desirable." The licensee is also required to furnish an annual plan for the approval of the Minister before operations may commence in any one year.

There is provision under the Forest Management section for the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to cancel or vary any license and the Minister may limit the cutting of timber and determine the species and the quantities of timber that may be cut by any licensee for the manufacture of lumber, pulp, paper or other products. The authority provided here is great and the responsibility is just as great. This is a measure of control to see that the raw material of the forest will be made available to meet the demands and the requirements of the public.

1. A paper prepared for the 1953 Annual Meeting of the C.I.F. at Winnipeg.
2. Ontario Department of Lands and Forests.

The effect of the new Act is to simplify the form of license as practically all the conditions are now contained within the Act or the regulations.

Another important feature of the Act is the fact that the license may be granted for such periods as the Minister may deem proper. Annual licensing therefore is not continued as a regulation under the Act. The amount to be cut per year from a given license may now be controlled or regulated by the allowable annual cut within a management unit in which the license is located. For example, a license containing 10 million feet of pine may be sold with a cut regulated at 2 million feet per year and the period of the license would normally be five years, the time required to cut-over the area. Ordinarily the three year renewal provided in the Act will provide for any event which may have prevented normal cutting during the period of the license. There should be no difficulty for the licensee to continue operating after the expiry of such a license as mentioned above provided it is within a management unit which is now in balance or may be developed in that category, because by the time the first license expires there would be other areas of timber available for disposal within the regulated cut for the unit necessary to meet the ordinary demands of the industry.

The Act provides for the continuation of established industry by giving the Minister authority to offer timber for sale by tender to the public generally or to any particular class or group of persons who in his opinion are or may be interested in such timber as a *source of supply for mills in existence* at the time the offer is made. Thus when management units are set up and where timber is available, management plans will provide for established industry and a continuation of this industry will be assured. This gives considerable room for co-operation between the department and industry in connection with the development and maintenance of the forest resource.

Under certain circumstances, provision is made for the granting of licenses by the Minister with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Such licenses may provide for the continuation of established industry or the development of an entirely new industry where timber is available. Such licenses would depend upon an agreement between the Minister and the party concerned in which provision might be made for a new industrial development to meet the demand of expanding markets and which would be of general benefit to the public.

In the organization chart of the Department of Lands and Forests, the administration of licenses is listed as the function of the Division of Timber Management. The Division is directed by a Division Chief with professional and clerical assistants at the Head Office in Toronto.

The field organization consists of 22 districts, each administered by a District Forester who is responsible for timber management activities as well as all other activities in connection with the administration of the renewable natural resources. The districts are grouped into regions and seven Regional Foresters supervise and co-ordinate inter-district activities.

Communication is maintained between the field and head office organization by correspondence and by travel between officers. The public may deal with

both the field and head offices. A greater decentralization of management is taking place with the development of management plans and the field organization necessary to supervise their operation.