TIMBER DISPOSAL REGULATIONS

Changes, 1931

By J. R. DICKSON

Dominion Forest Service

NOVA SCOTIA

IN the methods followed in disposing of Crown timber in this province, no changes were effected during the year 1931. It may be remarked in passing that nothing further has been heard in regard to the date when the 1930 amendment to the Land Tax Act will be rendered effective. This is the provision requiring all large private owners of forest land to obtain a Cutting License before felling any timber of the pulpwood species.

NEW BRUNSWICK

In this province during 1931 no change was effected in the existing timber disposal regulations nor in the cutting methods on Crown lands. The same reductions in royalty dues as enjoyed last year will also apply to the present winter's cut, the complete schedule of dues being available on application.

QUEBEC

Beyond a further decided lowering of the regular royalty and rental rates, "in order to aid operators to surmount existing difficulties and to provide employment for a larger number of workmen," there appears to have been no significant change made in Quebec last year either in the Crown timber regulations or their actual application in the woods.

It should be noted that the sharp cut in ground rent, i.e., from \$8.00 per square mile down to \$3.00 was granted only for 1931, though it seems likely to be continued for at least another year.

By Order in Council 2011 of July 23, 1931, a further fifty cents per M in stumpage dues on saw material was lopped off, the royalty now varying from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per M, depending on the species. Pulpwood scaled in the log remains at \$2.50 per M. On all down or dead timber on berths, cut before March 1st, 1932, the ordinary stumpage dues are reduced (Order in Council 1971 of July 24, 1931) by fifty per cent, provided the licensee furnishes a plan of such cutting area with estimate of amount to be cut and labour to be employed, and that all such wood be piled and measured separately. Further, on thirty per cent of the 1931-32 winter cut of green timber the licensee may delay payment of dues for twelve months.

Quebec policy is wisely directed to clearing up all the dead and down timber that may be utilized. To this end (by Order in Council 168 of January 23rd, 1931) mining licensees and settlers cutting such timber as fuel for own use are to be charged only fifteen cents per cord for softwood and

thirty cents for hardwood, as against the ordinary royalties of \$1.35 and \$1.75 per cord respectively.

Order in Council 169 of January 23rd, 1931, provides that in scaling all long timber under six inches at small end, the mean diameter shall apply. For poles up to seven inches at small end a fixed price is set according to length. Eight inch poles carry a ten per cent price increase and over that size a five per cent increase, per inch.

It seems peculiar that even after the pulp and paper industry has become Canada's chief industrial activity, and in Quebec for instance holds over ninety per cent of the licensed Crown lands, that it should still be without a suitable, definite and uniform standard of solid-wood measure, of its own. Why do so many of the provinces continue to dispose of pulpwood by a confusing and unscientific board foot measure instead of the sane and fair cubic content method? Might it be that log rule measure for pulpwood brings considerable "cream and gravy" to the big industry, and in such case is public ownership of our forest resource getting just the square deal it deserves? In this matter Ontario appears to lead the way.

Two minor changes effected in 1931 in Quebec Crown timber procedure may be noted:

- (a) The Minister was empowered to issue timber permits up to 150,000 cubic feet without advertisement or public auction, the idea being to favour small millmen, provide employment and hasten the salvaging of dead and down timber.
- (b) In order to give better control of logging, government inspection is being synchronized with the actual cutting operations; these being speeded up so as to conclude by Christmas. In order that the forest officer may direct the cutting and logging to best advantage, sample plots are used, while full information goes forward to the Chief Forester on an ingenious new cutting-inspection form.

THE QUEBEC FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION

Far-reaching results are expected from the work of the new Forest Products Commission in Quebec in the way of introducing more co-operation and uniformity into the lumber business of that province. In as much as silvicultural progress is in general conditioned by the measure of profit realized in utilizing the existing stand, forest economics naturally occupies a position of primary and increasing importance in matters of forest policy and forest perpetuation. The creation and functioning of the U.S. Timber Conservation Board is clear evidence of this essential trend of thought on the part of all those interested in the wood-using industries. Hence it is reasonable to believe that one of the most beneficial reactions to the work of the new Quebec Board in its study of standards and markets, will be upon the timber cutting regulations

on Crown Lands and possibly also upon the ruinous logging methods being followed by so many of the private timber owners.

ONTARIO

For two years somewhat half-hearted efforts have been made to secure a reduction in stumpage dues. Last summer the *Canada Lumberman* conducted a questionnaire on this subject among Ontario operators and the replies reflected great confusion of thought. Some favoured a cut, others an increase, and others no change. Finally, however, an Order in Council reduced all Crown dues on saw material only, by 60 per cent. But it is clearly stated that this is purely an emergency measure, applying solely to logs cut in the winter of 1931-32. Thus the new royalty rate on pine, maple, birch, oak, and elm is \$1.00 per M; on spruce logs, 80 cents, and on hemlock, tamarack, etc., 60 cents.

MANITOBA

During 1931 no changes were made in the new code of Crown timber regulations adopted in 1930. It was decided, however, that in future the brush-burning requirements would be more rigidly enforced on all operators.

SASKATCHEWAN

Under the Forest Act of March 11th, 1931, authority is given for the framing of a new provincial code of timber disposal regulations involving certain changes in the methods of cutting on Crown lands, also of timber measurement and brush disposal.

The policy of the Department of Natural Resources is to dispose of Crown timber wherever possible by the timber sale method, royalty being collected under the product unit system, as material is cut.

A number of important improvements upon the former, federal Crown timber procedure, are incorporated in the new provincial regulations. For instance, the modified Scribner log rule is discarded and Saskatchewan becomes the first province to make Clark's International Rule ($\frac{1}{4}$ " kerf) its legal, official standard of measurement for saw material. Of all existing log rules it is the most fair to seller and buyer alike. Again, any danger of such a strong vested interest arising in the ownership of a timber berth as to fetter proper freedom of government control in its later management, is obviated by a hard and fast 14-year limit on the license renewals. Finally, the province normally requires all operators, whether under license, permit, or timber sale, to dispose of all their logging brush and debris by burning. A copy of the new regulations may be obtained from the *King's Printer*, Regina.

ALBERTA

In this province, bill No. 7 of 1931, "The Provincial Lands Act," substantially re-enacted the provisions of the old Dominion Lands Act. Hence

the administration of all matters affecting the disposal of timber and the governing regulations in re, continue practically unchanged. In this first provincial land act disposal of any public lands except on a competitive basis, is prohibited.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

During 1931 there were no changes effected in the methods of disposing of timber or the cutting of same, on the Crown lands of British Columbia. It is worthy of note, however, that there was issued to British Columbia forest officers a complete and admirable manual, covering the provincial laws and regulations germane to forest fire protection and the required procedure in their carrying out.