

Forestry.—According to estimates of the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior the total area of land covered by timber in Canada is between 500 and 600 million acres, of which between 300 and 400 million acres are covered by timber of commercial size. Distributed by provinces the estimated acreages of commercial timber are as follows: Nova Scotia, 5,000,000; New Brunswick, 9,000,000; Quebec, 100,000,000; Ontario, 70,000,000; Northwest provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta), 100,000,000; British Columbia, 100,000,000. These figures make an aggregate of 384,000,000 acres for the Dominion of Canada.

In the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and the greater part of British Columbia the administration of the forests is under provincial control; but forests on the public lands of the Northwest provinces and within the Railway Belt of British Columbia are under the control of the Dominion Government. For many years both the Dominion and Provincial Governments have adopted the policy of setting aside forest reserves for the purposes of providing a permanent supply of timber, of maintaining conditions favourable to a continuous water supply and of protecting animals, fish and birds within the reserve boundaries. Under successive enactments the total area of the forest reserves of Canada has grown from 7,413,760 acres in 1901 to 139,068,480 acres in 1912. Of the latter total 111,400,320 acres are in Quebec, 11,539,200 acres are in Ontario and 16,128,960 acres are on lands under federal jurisdiction in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.¹

The Dominion forest reserves are distributed as follows: Manitoba, 2,294,240 acres; Saskatchewan, 599,680 acres; Alberta, 11,881,280 acres; British Columbia, 1,353,760 acres. The largest single reserve is that of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta, which occupies 11,656,320 acres. In most cases the present administration of the forest reserves consists of little more than a service for the prevention and control of forest fires, chiefly by the appointment of forest rangers, the enforcement of fire-prevention regulations and the provision of fire-fighting appliances; but measures are being taken, especially by the education and training of forestry experts, to bring the forest areas of Canada gradually under more scientific and remunerative management.

The following is a list of the principal forest trees in order of commercial importance in Canada:

¹ For references to Forest Reserves legislation of the Dominion Parliament, see Canada Year Book, 1906, pp. xv-xvi., and 1911, p. xvi.