

PRODUCTION.

FORESTRY.

Areas of Commercial Timber.—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 200 and 300 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), 11,000,000; British Columbia, 30,000,000. These figures make an aggregate of 225,000,000 acres for the Dominion of Canada.

Forest Reserves.—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 152,833,955 acres in 1914. Of the latter total 107,997,513 acres are in Quebec, 14,430,720 acres are in Ontario, and 2,474,240 acres are in British Columbia under provincial control, and 27,931,482 acres are on lands under federal jurisdiction in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The area of 2,474,240 acres in British Columbia comprises only the areas set apart as provincial parks and reserves for water purposes. In addition to this area, all non-alienated timber lands in British Columbia are reserved; their area is not definitely known, but it exceeds 20,000,000 acres.¹ Besides the 30,000,000 acres of alienated and unalienated commercial timber ready for the saw, there are estimated to be 35,000,000 acres of second growth, which in from 50 to 70 years will produce merchantable timber.

The Dominion forest reserves are distributed as follows: Manitoba, 2,606,400 acres; Saskatchewan, 6,195,706 acres; Alberta, 16,711,776 acres; British Columbia, 2,417,600 acres. This total includes also the Dominion parks located within the boundaries of the forest reserves. The largest single reserve is that of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta, which occupies 13,373,860 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.

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