

NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

approximately eighty miles, the elevation above sea-level being from 1,350 feet to 2,300 feet. The conditions are parallel with those where the finest apples and plums are produced."

It has been noted that in the northern part of the province the mountains of the interior trend westward and join the Coast range; so that there is a broad plateau between the Rocky mountains and the Coast range, a great part of which is believed to be suitable for agriculture. The trees are comparatively small and the forest is not so dense; so that the cost of clearing is not great, and in some parts there are quite extensive prairies. How much of the land is suitable for cultivation is a matter of conjecture, as there has been no settlement and very little careful exploration. Professor John Macoun estimated that there were millions of acres of land in this north country as suitable for wheat growing as the best lands of the great Western Plain.

It is worthy of note that while the farms of the Western Plain are seldom smaller than 160 acres, and often much larger, the farms of British Columbia are nearly all small. Twenty acres is considered a good-sized fruit farm. Thus, when all the agricultural land in the small valleys of southern and central British Columbia is occupied by gardens and fruit farms the farming population will be larger than the areas of similar size in the great Western Plain.

The fertile valleys of British Columbia have the advantage of sublime scenery. There are mountains in sight everywhere, and many beautiful lakes and rivers.

FOREST WEALTH.

The Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior estimates that Canada has between 500,000,000 and 600,000,000 acres of forest, and that between 200,000,000 and 300,000,000 acres are covered with timber of merchantable size, including 30,000,000 acres in British Columbia, 100,000,000 acres in Quebec, 70,000,000 acres in Ontario, 11,000,000 acres in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, 9,000,000 acres in New Brunswick and 5,000,000 acres in Nova Scotia. With a view to ensuring a future supply of timber, maintaining sources of water supply and protecting wild animals and birds from extermination, 152,833,955 acres of lands have been set aside as permanent forest reserves, including 107,997,513 acres in Quebec province, 14,430,720 acres in Ontario and 2,474,240 acres in British Columbia, under control of the provincial governments, and 27,931,482 acres in the four western provinces under Dominion control. On the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains in Alberta there is a reserve of 13,373,860 acres, which will be of immense value in preserving the sources of many rivers flowing through the great Western Plain.

In Ontario the timber most largely cut into lumber is white pine, with hemlock, red pine, spruce and maple following in order of quantities; in Quebec province spruce leads, with white pine, hemlock, birch and balsam fir following; while in the Maritime Provinces spruce ranks first, with hemlock, white pine, balsam, fir and birch following. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta spruce leads, with tamarack and jack pine following. In British Columbia the cut of Douglas fir