

FORESTRY.

Forest Areas of Canada.—Canada's forest resources are included more or less roughly in three areas, (1) the giant fir forest of the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coast, (2) the northern coniferous forest, stretching in a wide curve from the Yukon, north of the Great Lakes to Labrador, and (3) the deciduous, hardwood forest, extending from Lake Huron through southern Ontario and Quebec to New Brunswick and the Atlantic coast. Varying precipitation, temperature, and soil are the causes resulting in such a division into forest areas. It is estimated that 932,416 square miles, about one quarter of the total area of the Dominion (3,729,665 square miles) is covered by forests, of which about 390,625 square miles can be considered as containing saw-timber of commercial size. Of this amount, some is at present inaccessible owing to lack of transportation.

Types of Forest Growth.—The most important types of forest growth found in the forests of British Columbia are: (1) Douglas Fir—a strong, hard and light wood highly valued on account of its strength and the large sizes in which it can be obtained. Trees reach heights exceeding 250 feet and diameters exceeding 8 feet. It is an important timber for structural purposes, ties, piles, mine timbers, wood-block paving, etc.; (2) Red Cedar—also a very large type of tree, noted for the durability of the wood, which is light, soft and straight-grained; it is the most important wood in Canada for the manufacture of roofing shingles; (3) Alaska Pine or Western Hemlock—a wood much superior to eastern types of hemlock, extensively used for pulp and structural purposes; (4) Sitka Spruce and Engelmann Spruce—with light, soft, and straight-grained wood, much used in aeroplane manufacture and for pulpwood.

In the northern coniferous forest some of the predominant types are: (1) White Spruce—a soft, light wood found over very wide areas, being excellent material for pulp and for construction work where durability is not important; (2) Balsam Fir—largely used for pulp and found over large areas; (3) Larch or Tamarack—a swamp species, partly destroyed by the larch saw-fly; its wood is much sought after for railway ties and shipbuilding purposes; (4) Black Spruce—the smallest of the spruce species and only used for pulpwood; (5) Jack Pine—found growing on poor sites and following more valuable species after forest fires; (6) Balm Poplar—a widely found, deciduous type, of little commercial value.

Of the most important types found between Lake Huron and New Brunswick, mention may be made of: (1) Yellow Birch—Canada's most important hardwood, used extensively for flooring, cabinet work, handles, etc., as it is hard, stiff, strong and takes a fine polish; (2) White Pine and Red Pine—much used for structural purposes but now almost entirely cut from many wooded districts; (3) Eastern Cedar—a small type much used for shingles, fence posts and railway ties; (4) other hardwoods, including Maple, Elm, Ash, Oak and Hickory.