

and softwood type merges into the Northern Forest belt already described, with the disappearance of the white and red pines, hemlock and the commercial hardwoods.

The Acadian belt covers the Maritime provinces and the south shore of the St. Lawrence in Quebec. The forest is similar to that of the New England states, being characterized by red spruce. With this are found varying proportions of white spruce and balsam fir. In the mixed softwood and hardwood type, which also occurs in this belt, white pine and hemlock occur, with yellow birch, maple and beech representing the commercial hardwoods. Cedar is fairly abundant in the western portion of this region. Burned-over areas in the Acadian belt are chiefly occupied temporarily by aspen and white birch.

### 3.—Important Tree Species.

In Canada there are approximately 160 different species and varieties of plants reaching tree size. Only thirty-one of these are coniferous, but the wood of these forms 80 p.c. of our standing timber and 95 p.c. of our sawn lumber. While the actual number of species of deciduous-leaved trees seems large in comparison to their commercial importance, out of a total of some ninety species and varieties, only four or five are worthy of comparison with the conifers.

**Spruce.**—The five native spruce species are all of commercial importance, furnishing nearly one-third of the total production of lumber. Spruce pulpwood is used in preference to all others, and forms over two-thirds of the total quantity of pulpwood consumed in Canadian pulp-mills and exported in the raw or unmanufactured state. The wood has a long, tough, colourless fibre, and, on account of its freedom from resin, is considered in the markets of the world to be the best material for pulp manufacture. Spruce is also used for railway ties, poles, cooperage and mining timbers. Of the five native spruce species, the white spruce (*Picea canadensis*) is the most abundant and the most important commercially. With black spruce (*Picea mariana*) it ranges from Labrador to Alaska, extending northward almost to the limit of tree-growth and southward into the United States. The black spruce (*Picea mariana*) is of less value, as it is a smaller, slow-growing tree, often confined to swampy situations and reaching sawlog sizes only under more favourable conditions of growth. The red spruce (*Picea rubra*) is confined to the province of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. Its wood is considered to be of greater technical value than that of the other spruce species. The western species, Englemann and Sitka spruce (*Picea Engelmanni* and *Picea sitchensis*), are confined to the interior and coastal regions of British Columbia respectively. Their wood is of high technical value, and can usually be obtained in larger dimensions than that of the other spruces, as the trees attain great size in this region.

**Pine.**—There are nine distinct pine species native to Canada, of which six are of great commercial importance. Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) is the most valuable coniferous wood in Canada. Up to a few years ago, it was the most important wood in Canada in point of quantity of lumber sawn and square timber (Quebec pine) exported. Owing to increased scarcity of good material, the wood has fallen off in production till its place at the head of the list has been taken by the spruces and Douglas fir. The wood of the white pine is soft, easy to work, fairly durable and strong in comparison to its weight. In addition to these properties, its most valuable quality is that of holding its shape with a minimum of shrinkage or swelling. The western white pine (*Pinus monticola*) is similar in most respects