

east corner of lake Superior to the mouth of the Saguenay river. The extensive lumbering operations of the past century, together with repeated forest fires, have greatly modified these original types. The exclusive cutting of white and red pine, practised until recently, has resulted in the displacement of these species by spruce, balsam fir, jack pine and the hardwoods, the spruce-balsam fir pulpwood areas being the most valuable type remaining. Jack pine has come in extensively on burned-over areas on lighter soils, and aspen and paper birch are being rapidly established as a temporary type. Along its northern border, this mixed hardwood and softwood type merges into the Northern Forest belt already described, with the disappearance of the hemlock, white and red pines 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 by aspen and white birch as temporary species.

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. A detailed description of the more important species of Canadian forest trees was given on pp. 282-285 of the 1924 Year Book.

4.—Forest Resources.

The total land area of Canada is approximately 3,650,000 square miles. Land suitable for agriculture, including pastoral land, has been estimated at 559,628 square miles, of which about 90,000 square miles are at present devoted to field crops. The area covered by existing forests covers approximately 1,227,000 square miles, some of which is agricultural land. Less than 40 p.c. of this carries merchantable timber (6 inches in diameter), and only about 20 p.c. carries saw timber (10 inches in diameter). The balance of the forested area carries young stands which have come up after fire or cutting. On a considerable proportion of this area the succeeding stands are inferior to the original forests. Under present conditions about a quarter of the timber of commercial size is commercially inaccessible, so that the forests on about two-thirds of our forest area are either too small or too expensive to be operated profitably. This is not a permanent condition, since accessibility depends primarily on market standards, current prices and transportation facilities, and all these factors are tending to increase the extent to which standing timber can be utilized. Young stands, as they reach maturity, also increase the area of accessible timber, and areas of farm land unsuitable for agriculture are eventually abandoned and revert to forest.