

On the other hand, forest fires, windfall, insect and fungous damage and commercial operations tend to reduce the area. Certain forest areas are cleared and devoted to agriculture. Only when systematic land classification has been completed can the total area of absolute forest land be determined, *i.e.*, land capable of forest production but not suitable for agriculture.

About 249,000 square miles of forest land in Canada have been set aside in forest reserves or parks or otherwise permanently dedicated to forest production. Dominion reserves and parks cover about 45,000 square miles in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the area under Dominion control in British Columbia. The other provincial areas in square miles are as follows:—Quebec, 174,000; Ontario, 23,000; British Columbia, 7,000.

For a large proportion of the present forest area of Canada, there is little reliable information. Comprehensive forest surveys have been made only for the provinces of Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Reports of these surveys were published by the Commission of Conservation. A survey of conditions in Ontario, commenced by that Commission, is now being completed by the Dominion Forestry Branch in co-operation with the Provincial Forest Service. Extensive areas in the three Prairie Provinces have been examined by the Dominion Service, but the extent of their total resources is still undetermined. The New Brunswick Provincial Service has examined 60 p.c. of that province's Crown timber lands and the Forest Service of Quebec is also collecting data as to the forests under its control.

The estimates given here for both area and quantity are based on data insufficient for accuracy; they must be accepted as being subject to revision as more complete information becomes available.

Table 1 gives a rough distribution of these quantities and indicates that the greater part of the saw material in the Dominion is to be found in British Columbia, but that over 44 p.c. of the total resources, including all classes of forest products, is to be found in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

1.—Estimated Stand of Timber of Merchantable Size in Canada, by Regions, 1924.

Regions.	Saw-material.		Pulpwood, Cordwood, Posts, etc.		Total.
	1,000 ft. b.m.	1,000 cu. ft.	1,000 cords.	1,000 cu. ft.	
SOFTWOOD.					
Eastern Provinces.....	76,101,000	16,666,115	552,210	64,700,590	81,366,705
Prairie Provinces.....	17,985,000	3,938,715	272,010	31,825,170	35,763,885
British Columbia.....	345,762,000	75,721,878	47,500	5,557,500	81,279,378
Total Softwood.....	439,848,000	96,326,708	871,720	102,083,260	198,469,968
HARDWOOD.					
Eastern Provinces.....	32,134,500	7,037,430	209,815	20,342,417	27,379,847
Prairie Provinces.....	9,305,000	2,037,735	196,010	18,620,950	20,658,745
British Columbia.....	788,000	172,572	2,160	205,200	377,772
Total Hardwood.....	42,227,500	9,247,797	407,985	39,168,567	48,416,364
Grand Total.....	482,075,500	105,574,505	1,279,705	141,251,827	246,826,332

5.—Forest Administration.

1.—Administration of Dominion and Provincial Timber Lands.

The Dominion Government administers Crown lands, including timber lands, in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and in the Railway belt and Peace River block of British Columbia.