

Forest products have always formed a large part of the raw material used in all kinds of industrial activity and for many years formed the greater part of Canada's export trade. Even at the present time products of forest origin form a quarter of our total exports, being exceeded only by the products of the farm.

Because of our climate, coniferous trees form over 80 p.c. of our forest resources and over 95 p.c. of our forest products as at present exploited. Because of their universal use in industry, the softwoods are in greatest demand, not only in Canada but in the markets of the world. Canada enjoys the reputation of holding the Empire's reserve of softwood timber, being rivalled in her coniferous forests only by Asiatic Russia and the United States. The Canadian species of both hardwoods and softwoods yield lumber and timber of dimensions and quality that are equal or superior to those produced by forests elsewhere.

Statistics of forest production (operations in the woods) in 1927 place its total value at \$205,631,727, with a corresponding equivalent in standing timber of 2,880,137,911 cubic feet. The most important items are logs for sawing, valued at \$74,270,067, and pulpwood for use and export, valued at \$70,284,895. The total value of sawmill products in 1928 was \$139,424,754 and of pulp and paper mill products \$233,077,236.

Fisheries.—The first of Canada's resources to be exploited by Europeans was the fishing banks of the Atlantic coast. It is believed that for many years before the actual discovery and settlement of North America the cod-banks south of Newfoundland and east of Nova Scotia had attracted French fishermen by their abundant catches. These fishing grounds alone extend along a coast line of more than 5,000 miles, comprising an area of not less than 200,000 square miles, and are in the course of the cold Arctic current, a fact which tends greatly to improve the quality of the fish. The most important fishes of the off-shore fisheries are the cod, halibut, haddock, herring and mackerel, while the inshore and inland fisheries number the lobster, oyster, salmon, gaspereau, smelt, trout and maskinonge among their catches. Other fishing grounds include the inshore expanses of the St. Lawrence river, the Great Lakes, where whitefish and herring form perhaps the most valued catches, and innumerable other inland water areas abounding with trout, pike, bass and other game fish, Hudson bay, with a shore line of 6,000 miles, and the Pacific coast. The fisheries of British Columbia, with its coast line of 7,000 miles, have in recent years shown a rapid development, and the products of the estuarian salmon fisheries of the Fraser, Skeena and other rivers now make up two-fifths of the fish products of the Dominion, while in addition large catches of halibut, herring and whales are made off the western coast. The total value of the fisheries in the calendar year 1928 was \$55,050,973.

Minerals.—The numerous and varied mineral deposits of the Dominion form another of her most important resources. Mining is an old industry, coal having been produced in Nova Scotia and iron ore in Quebec early in the eighteenth century. The main development in the industry has taken place, however, in the twentieth century, during which there has been a great increase in the per capita production of minerals and mineral products.

There is a great variety of minerals, metallic and non-metallic. The value of the coal raised greatly exceeds that of any other mineral, reaching \$63,757,833 in 1928. Coal will continue for an indefinite period to hold a commanding position in the industry, for Canada's reserves of this fuel are known to be very great. The other leading non-metallic minerals are asbestos, natural gas, gypsum, petroleum