

The Maritime Provinces are noted for their fruit and vegetable crops, particularly for the oat and potato crops of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick and the apples of the Annapolis valley in Nova Scotia. Quebec and Ontario are pre-eminently mixed farming communities, various districts specializing in dairying, tobacco, sheep, etc., while the Niagara peninsula in Ontario has long been famous for its fruit crops of both large and small varieties. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the production of grains is still of primary importance but is giving way to more diversified types of agriculture, while the stock-raising industry, once so typical of the prairies, is regaining much of its former importance. In British Columbia the fertile valleys are devoted principally to apple and other fruit crops, and numerous districts along the coast and on Vancouver island are given over to general farming and market gardening.

Of the larger areas of land still available for settlement, the clay belt of northern Ontario and Quebec, which is suited to the growing of splendid crops, is to a large extent undeveloped, and even larger areas in northern Saskatchewan and Alberta await cultivation.

Forests.—The forests of Canada rank second only to agriculture in their contribution to the national income. It is estimated that forest products make up about 20 p.c. of all the freight hauled on Canadian railways, and the heavy excess of exports over imports which the wood and paper group provides, amounting to \$228,616,000 for the fiscal year ended March, 1930, constitutes an influential factor in Canada's international balance of trade.

Canada's forest area may be roughly divided into three main parts:—(1) the great coniferous forest of the Pacific slope, (2) the northern forest, principally coniferous, which stretches from the east slopes of the Rockies, north of the prairies and of the Great Lakes to Labrador, and (3) the mixed softwood and hardwood forests extending from lake Superior through southern Ontario and Quebec to the Maritime Provinces. Canada's forest area has been estimated at 1,151,454 square miles, some of which is agricultural land; 17.3 p.c. is covered with accessible mature merchantable timber, 9.7 p.c. with immature but merchantable forest products and 48.2 p.c. with accessible young growth which will eventually be merchantable. The remaining 24.8 p.c. is inaccessible or unprofitable at present. With regard to quantity of timber it has been estimated at 425,000,000,000 feet board measure for saw timber and 1,122,000,000 cords of pulpwood, etc., the stands in Eastern Canada making up 41 p.c., the Prairie Provinces 25 p.c. and British Columbia 34 p.c. of the total, which amounted to over 224,000,000,000 cubic feet. These figures place Canada as the second most important country in the world with regard to total forest area, Asiatic Russia being first and the United States third in this respect. During recent years the annual cut (now estimated at 4,778,000,000 cubic feet) has generally exceeded the new growth, and enormous losses have been caused by fire and other destructive agencies. In spite of the vast extent of the uncut and unburned forests it cannot be said that the measures so far taken by legislation and the application of scientific forestry to preserve them and encourage their regeneration have been sufficient to assure us an adequate supply of timber for the future.