

Vigorous tree growth and fairly large timber are found along these shallow valleys as far north as 67°, indicating that soil conditions, especially drainage, are more important than climate in defining the limits of tree growth. To the northward, balsam fir disappears early from the forest growth, followed by balsam poplar, jack pine, aspen and paper birch, leaving white spruce, black spruce, tamarack or larch, and willow to define the northern limit of tree growth. This may be roughly indicated by a line drawn from the mouth of the Mackenzie river on the Arctic ocean to the mouth of the Churchill river on Hudson bay and across the Labrador peninsula at about 58° N. latitude.

The Eastern Forests.—In southeastern Canada a number of belts of forest growth with distinctive characteristics are recognized. The hardwood belts include the Carolinian zone, confined to the north shore of lake Erie and the western part of lake Ontario. This is important only as forming the northern fringe of a type which covers a large area in the central Eastern United States, and includes a number of species such as tulip, sassafras, etc., not found elsewhere in Canada. North of this zone, still in the purely agricultural and pastoral area, the original forests were of the commercially important hardwoods, such as maple, elm, basswood, oak, yellow birch, hickory and beech, with patches of pine, hemlock and other conifers on the lighter soils. This area has been largely cleared and devoted to agriculture, and the original forest type is to be seen only on farmers' woodlots.

Since the beginning of the lumbering industry in Canada, the region north of this belt, extending, roughly speaking, to the height of land between the St. Lawrence and Hudson Bay waters, has been the centre of the most extensive exploitation, and still occupies that position as far as Eastern Canada is concerned. The forest types which still exist in this region vary considerably owing to soil and other conditions, but generally speaking white pine occupies the better situations on the lighter soils, and reaches its highest development in this belt. With it is frequently associated the red or Norway pine. On heavier soils, spruce, hemlock and the tolerant hardwoods also form an important part of the stand. Cedar, tamarack and black spruce form typical stands in poorly drained situations. Hardwood ridges, carrying chiefly maple and yellow birch, occur in the southern part of this belt. These, with hemlock, extend north to a line running approximately from the northeast 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 in some cases has taken permanent possession of such sites. On account of its value for railway ties and pulpwood and the ease with which it can be grown it is not at all an undesirable species to perpetuate. Aspen and paper birch are also rapidly becoming established as temporary types. Along its northern border, this mixed hardwood and softwood type merges into the northern forest belt already described, with the disappearance of first the hemlock and the tolerant hardwoods and then the white and red pines.

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,