

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.

Section 3.—Important Tree Species.

In Canada there are approximately 160 different species and varieties of plants reaching tree size. Only 31 of these are coniferous, but their wood 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 90 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.

Section 4.—Forest Resources.

Areas.—The total land area of Canada, revised according to the Labrador Boundary Award of 1927, is estimated at 3,510,008 square miles, of which 560,000 square miles is considered as being suitable for agricultural or pastoral purposes. According to the 1921 census about 220,134 square miles of this agricultural land was occupied and about 115,770 square miles was improved.

The total area covered by existing forests has been estimated at 1,151,454 square miles, of which about 82,260 square miles is land which, if cleared, would be suitable for agriculture. Under the most economic arrangement about 52,000 square miles of this last area would be cleared and devoted to field crops and pasturage and the remaining 30,000 square miles would be, and no doubt will be, left under forest cover in the form of farmers' woodlots. This leaves an area, of about 1,100,000 square miles of land which could be utilized to the best advantage under forest.

Of the total area under forest at the present time, amounting to 1,151,454 square miles and including the 82,260 square miles of agricultural land, about 200,000 square miles carries mature merchantable timber, 111,234 square miles carries immature but nevertheless merchantable timber and 554,646 square miles carries young growth which if protected from fire and other damage will eventually produce merchantable timber. All this area is so situated as to be commercially exploitable at present. The remaining 285,574 square miles is considered as inaccessible or unprofitable to operate under present conditions. As the result of the constant and inevitable improvement in conditions affecting profitable exploitation, such as the extension of settlement and transportation facilities, the increasing world scarcity of forest products, and the ever increasing demand for these products, due to the development of industry and the discovery of new uses for wood, and the improvements in the methods, equipment and machinery used in logging and manufacturing forest products, most of this inaccessible timber will eventually become commercially exploitable.