

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 is 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 424,637,000,000 feet board measure for saw timber and 1,121,993,000 cords of pulpwood, ties, poles, 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 224,300,000,000 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. During recent years the annual cut (estimated at 4,136,000,000 cubic feet in 1931) 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 reproduction have been sufficient to assure us an adequate supply of timber for the future. Yet an annual increment of 10 cubic feet per acre, which is quite possible under forest management, would provide in perpetuity for the needs of a population of 17 millions at the present annual rate of use.

A classification of Canada's forest area is given in Table 7. The total of forest land is divided into the areas at present carrying timber of merchantable sizes or valuable young growth, and other areas unsuited for present exploitation. It may be pointed out, however, that many of these latter will develop into productive areas as the demand increases and transportation facilities are extended. The totals of forest land given in this table refer to areas which are on the whole better suited to forest production than to any other purpose, although they include about 82,000 square miles of potential agricultural land at present covered with forest.

7.—Area of Productive and Unproductive Forest Land in Canada, 1931.

Province.	Forest Land.				Total Land Area. square miles.
	Accessible.		Unprofitable or Inaccessible.	Total Forest Area.	
	Merchantable.	Young Growth.			
	square miles.	square miles.	square miles.	square miles.	square miles.
Prince Edward Island.....	484	240	—	724	2,184
Nova Scotia.....	6,000	4,296	4,924	15,220	20,743
New Brunswick.....	15,750	9,110	—	24,860	27,710
Quebec.....	150,000	250,000	100,000	500,000	571,004 ¹
Ontario.....	70,000	100,000	70,000	240,000	363,282
Manitoba.....	5,000	60,000	10,000	75,000	224,777
Saskatchewan.....	10,000	15,000	25,000	50,000	237,975
Alberta.....	30,000	40,000	16,650	86,650	248,800
British Columbia.....	23,000	75,000	51,000	149,000	349,970
The Territories.....	1,000	1,000	8,000	10,000	1,463,563
Totals.....	311,234	554,646	285,674	1,151,454	3,510,000

¹ As per Labrador Boundary Award of Mar. 1, 1927.