

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, 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 130 species or distinct varieties of trees. Only 33 of these are conifers commonly known as "softwoods", but they comprise over 80 p.c. of the standing timber and 70 p.c. of the wood utilized for all purposes. While the number of deciduous-leaved or "hardwood" species is large, only about a dozen are of a commercial importance comparable with twice the number of conifers. The principal use for the hardwoods is for fuel, though increasing amounts are being manufactured into lumber, railway ties and veneers. A detailed description of the more important species of Canadian forest trees was given on pp. 282-285 of the 1924 Year Book.