

Section 4.—Forest Resources.

Areas.—The total land area of Canada, revised according to the Labrador Boundary Award of 1927 and the latest surveys, is estimated at 3,457,484 square miles, of which 550,000 square miles is considered as being suitable for agricultural or pastoral purposes. According to the 1931 census about 255,094 square miles of this agricultural land was occupied and about 133,220 square miles was improved.

The total area covered by existing forests has been estimated at 1,153,000 square miles, including 26,652 square miles of occupied agricultural land still forested. Most of this will no doubt be left under forest cover in the form of farmers' woodlots. There is also a considerable area of forest land which is of agricultural value and will eventually be cleared but it is estimated that 1,100,000 square miles is essentially forest land which can best be utilised for forest production. (See Table 8, p. 42.)

The accessible and productive forest area is estimated to be 791,670 square miles of which 378,945 square miles carries timber of merchantable size and on 412,725 square miles there is young growth which if protected from fire will eventually produce merchantable timber. The remaining area of 361,330 square miles carries forests of value either because of their influence on water control, climatic conditions, game conservation, or by reason of their attraction to tourists and their value as a source of wood for local use. On account of their geographical location or because of unfavourable growth conditions these forests at present are considered as non-productive from a commercial viewpoint.

As a 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, 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. It is estimated that of the accessible forest area 481,790 square miles is producing softwood or coniferous timber, 213,590 square miles, mixed softwoods and hardwoods and 96,290 square miles, hardwood or broad-leaved species.

In Canada as a whole about 8.4 p.c. of the total forest area has been permanently dedicated to forest production. Previous to the transfer of the natural resources to the western provinces in 1930, some 33,023 square miles of this reserved area comprised national forests but these have now in large part become provincial forests. The distribution of provincial forests, provincial parks and national parks among the various provinces is shown in the following statement.

FOREST RESERVES AND PARKS IN CANADA, 1933.

Province.	Provincial Forest Reserves.	Provincial Parks.	National Parks.
	sq. miles.	sq. miles.	sq. miles.
Nova Scotia.....	-	-	0.05
New Brunswick.....	-	-	0.10
Quebec.....	28,960	7,288	-
Ontario.....	19,607	4,889	15.00
Manitoba.....	3,808	-	1,148.00
Saskatchewan.....	9,217	177	1,869.00
Alberta.....	19,433	3	24,816.00
British Columbia.....	15,964	2,221	1,715.00
Totals.....	96,989	14,578	29,363.15