

Thus, in all the provinces but Prince Edward Island, large areas are still available for settlement, and while the nature of the soil and of the climate may in some cases restrict the variety of crops, in general the grain, root and fodder crops can be profitably grown in all the provinces, while stock raising is carried on successfully both in the more densely settled areas and beyond their frontiers.

The Maritime Provinces are noted for their fruit and vegetable crops, particularly for the oat and potato crops of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, and the apples of the Annapolis valley in Nova Scotia. Quebec and Ontario are pre-eminently mixed-farming communities, various districts specializing in dairying, tobacco, sheep, etc., while the Niagara peninsula in Ontario has long been famous for its fruit crops of both large and small varieties. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta the production of grains, especially wheat, is still of primary importance but is giving way to more diversified types of agriculture, while the stock-raising industry, once so typical of the prairies, is regaining much of its former importance. In British Columbia the fertile valleys are devoted principally to apple and other fruit crops, and numerous districts along the coast and on Vancouver island are given over to general farming and market gardening.

Of the larger areas of land still available for settlement, the clay belt of northern Ontario and Quebec, which is suited to the growing of splendid crops, is to a large extent undeveloped, and even larger areas in northern Saskatchewan and Alberta await cultivation.

**Forests.**—The forests of Canada rank second only to agriculture in their contribution to the national income. It is estimated that forest products make up about 15 p.c. of all the freight hauled on Canadian railways, and the heavy excess of exports over imports which the wood and paper group provides, amounting to \$123,784,411 for the fiscal year ended March, 1934, constitutes an important factor in Canada's balance of international trade.

Canada's forest area may be roughly divided into three main parts: (1) the great coniferous forest of the Pacific slope, (2) the northern forest, principally 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 1,153,000 square miles, or 32.8 p.c. of the land area. Some of this is agricultural land, but it is considered that about 1,100,000 square miles is essentially forest land which can best be utilized in the production of wood. Not all of this area can be considered as capable of producing timber at the present time, only some 791,670 square miles being regarded as accessible and productive, of which 412,725 is young growth, leaving 378,945 square miles of land carrying timber of merchantable size. With regard to quantity of timber, the accessible stand has been estimated at 165,846 million cubic feet, or 290,230 million feet board measure of saw timber and 920,335,000 cords of pulpwood, cordwood, etc. The stands in Eastern Canada make up 64.3 p.c. of the total, those in British Columbia account for 24.2 p.c., leaving 11.5 p.c. of the accessible timber in the Prairie Provinces. During recent years the annual drain on our forest resources (estimated at 2,812,000,000 cubic feet in 1932) has generally exceeded the new growth. This annual depletion includes enormous losses which have been caused by fire and other destructive agencies. In spite of