

Of the total forest area, less than 10 p.c. has been permanently alienated, being owned in fee simple by private individuals or corporations. The Crown still holds title to 13.2 p.c. of the area but has alienated the right to cut timber thereon under lease or licence. So far 77.2 p.c. has not been alienated in any way. It may be said that 90.4 p.c. of Canada's forest area is still owned by the Crown in the right either of the Dominion or the provinces and, subject only to certain temporary privileges granted to limit-holders, may at any time be placed under forest management and dedicated to forest production.

**Volume of Standing Timber.**—In 1932 the total stand of timber in Canada was estimated to be approximately 266,844 million cubic feet, of which 216,236 million cubic feet was of coniferous species and 50,608 million cubic feet of broad-leaved species.

During the years 1926-30, which were typical of pre-depression conditions, the average annual depletion due to use was approximately 2,000 million cubic feet of conifers and 970 million cubic feet of hardwoods. The average annual loss from fire was estimated at 185 million cubic feet of conifers and 45 million cubic feet of hardwoods. Though no widespread epidemics of insects or fungous diseases have occurred in recent years, local infestations which cause considerable loss develop practically every year. In Nova Scotia, in 1931, the balsam suffered severely from "gout" induced, it is believed, by minute sucking insects of the genus *Dreyfusia*, previously undescribed. In the Gaspé peninsula the spruce saw-fly became a serious menace. In the absence as yet of any basic data on which to estimate the annual depletion from these causes, it may be taken as 700 million cubic feet. The total annual depletion during the five-year period was therefore estimated to have been about 3,900 million cubic feet. To what extent this loss has been replaced by growth increment is not known but, considering the preponderance of the younger age classes in the reproduction, it is believed there has been a considerable net depletion in the merchantable age classes.

Another real difficulty is the division of the existing stand into merchantable timber and that which is inaccessible or unprofitable, since merchantability depends not only on the location but on the density of the stand, the demands of the market for certain species or qualities of product, and the regulations as to cutting. Light stands covering large areas may in the aggregate carry very large amounts of timber and still not be exploitable at a profit. For some species, such as aspen and white birch, which comprise three-quarters of the hardwoods, there is very little demand, and therefore these cannot properly be classed as merchantable, though accessible as far as location is concerned.

In June, 1929, a conference of the Dominion and provincial forest authorities was held in Ottawa and it was decided to undertake a national inventory of the forest resources of Canada, each authority conducting the necessary stock-taking surveys on the land under its jurisdiction. In connection with the inventory definite data are being secured regarding the depletion due to use, fire, insect damage, etc., and the increment accruing. Five years was set as an objective for the completion of an inventory of at least the more accessible parts of the area but, though considerable progress has been made, the disturbed financial conditions have retarded the work in practically every province. The Forest Service of the Department of the Interior acts as a clearing house for the national inventory, and in addition to collecting and compiling the data furnished by the provincial authorities has conducted the inventorial work in the Prairie Provinces and New Brunswick.