

## Section 2.—Important Tree Species.

In Canada there are approximately 125 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.

**Spruce.**—The five native spruce species are all of commercial importance, furnishing over one-quarter of the total production of lumber. Spruce pulpwood is used in preference to all others, and forms over two-thirds of the total quantity of pulpwood consumed in Canadian pulp-mills and exported in the raw or unmanufactured state. The wood has a long, tough, colourless fibre, and, on account of its freedom from resin, is considered in the markets of the world to be the best material for pulp manufacture. Spruce is also used for railway ties, poles, cooperage and mining timbers. Of the five native spruce species, the white spruce (*Picea glauca*) is the most abundant and the most important commercially. With black spruce (*Picea mariana*) it ranges from Labrador to Alaska, extending northward to the limit of tree-growth and southward into the United States. The black spruce (*Picea mariana*) is of less value, as it is a smaller, slow-growing tree, often confined to swampy situations and reaching sawlog sizes only under more favourable conditions of growth. The red spruce (*Picea rubra*) is confined to the province of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. Its wood is considered to be of greater technical value than that of the other spruce species. The western species, Englemann and Sitka spruce (*Picea Engelmanni* and *Picea sitchensis*), are confined to the interior and coastal regions of British Columbia respectively. Their wood is of high technical value, and can usually be obtained in larger dimensions than that of the other spruces, as the trees attain great size in this region.

**Pine.**—There are nine distinct pine species native to Canada, of which six are of great commercial importance. Eastern white pine (*Pinus Strobus*) is the most valuable coniferous wood in Canada. Up to a few years ago, it was the most important wood in Canada in point of quantity of lumber sawn and square timber (Quebec pine) exported. Owing to increased scarcity of good material, the wood has fallen off in production till its place at the head of the list has been taken by the spruces, Douglas fir and the hemlocks. The wood of the white pine is soft, easy to work, fairly durable and strong in comparison to its weight. In addition to these properties, its most valuable quality is that of holding its shape with a minimum of shrinkage or swelling. The western white pine (*Pinus monticola*) is similar in most respects to the eastern species. It does not form extensive pure stands, seldom comprising more than 5 p.c. of the trees on any area of considerable size. It is confined to the province of British Columbia, while the eastern white pine is found from eastern Manitoba to the Atlantic seaboard.

The wood of the red or Norway pine of Eastern Canada (*Pinus resinosa*) is harder and more resinous than white pine, and the tree is a valuable source of structural timber, as well as of sawn lumber. The wood of the western yellow or "bull" pine of the interior of British Columbia (*Pinus ponderosa*) is softer and