

CHAPTER IX.—FORESTRY.*

NOTE.—A short article on "Physiography, Geology, and Climate, as Affecting the Forests" was published at pp. 311-313 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

Section 1.—Forest Regions.

The forests of Canada cover a vast region in the north temperate climatic zone, reaching from the Atlantic ocean to the Pacific; they extend northward from the International Boundary to beyond the Arctic Circle. Wide variations in climatic, physiographic, and soil conditions cause marked differences in the character of the forests in different parts of the country, hence more or less well-defined forest regions may be recognized. The following principal regions are described separately: Acadian, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence, Deciduous, Boreal, Sub-Alpine, Columbia, Montane, and Coast. For descriptive purposes, it is convenient to consider two sections of the Boreal Region as separate entities, and they are described hereunder as the Northern Transition, and the Aspen Grove Sections.

The Acadian Forest Region.—This region includes all of the province of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and all but the northwest corner of New Brunswick. Its climate is characteristic of maritime regions, and is highly favourable to tree growth. Annual precipitation averages about 40 inches. Topography and geology are widely varied. In northern New Brunswick the maximum altitude is 2,700 feet above sea-level, and northern Cape Breton island and parts of Nova Scotia are fairly rough. The surface of the remainder of the region varies from level to gently rolling.

There is a general coniferous character to the region, especially in the northern parts of New Brunswick and Cape Breton island. Mixed forests, interspersed with so-called "hardwood ridges", are common, however, occurring more frequently in the southern parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Among the coniferous species red spruce is the characteristic dominant, and is usually associated with balsam fir. White and black spruce, and white and red pine, are widely distributed. Jack pine occurs in pure stands on sandy plains. Hemlock, which is still to be found in most parts of the region, is believed to have been much more important in former times. Other characteristic conifers are cedar and tamarack.

Yellow birch, maple, and beech occur in fairly large quantities and usually occupy well-drained ridges. White birch, wire birch, and poplar are found in association with the coniferous species. Among the other hardwoods are oak, butternut, basswood, ash, and elm.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region.—This forest, centring on the Great Lakes system, and extending eastward down the St. Lawrence valley, is

* Material in this chapter, with the exception of the special article appearing at pp. 254-263, has been prepared by R. G. Lewis, B.Sc. F., Chief of the Forestry Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in co-operation with Roland D. Craig, F.E., of the Dominion Forest Service of the Department of Mines and Resources. Section 1 is based on Dominion Forest Service Bulletin No. 89, "A Forest Classification for Canada", by W. E. D. Halliday. The Forestry Branch of the Bureau of Statistics collects and compiles statistics relating to forest production and publishes four annual printed reports covering the lumber industry, the pulp and paper industry, and the wood-using and paper-using industries of Canada. These printed reports are usually preceded by a number of preliminary mimeographed reports, one for each important industry or group of industries. For detailed list of publications, see Chapter XXIX.