

West of Lake Winnipeg the same tree species are in evidence but in different proportions. Here the soil is deep and relatively fertile, and the characteristic forest is a mixture of poplar and white spruce.

The climate of the Region is severe, and precipitation ordinarily varies from 15 to 30 inches annually, although these amounts are exceeded in eastern Quebec.

The Northern Transition Section.—This area is a part of the Boreal Region, but is described separately because none of its forests is of commercial value although of considerable local economic value. It represents a transition from the merchantable forests of the south to the treeless wastes of the Far North. White and black spruce, larch, and birch are the principal tree species, and these are usually of stunted growth because of the severity of the climate. In river valleys and other protected sites occasional clumps of trees of fair size are to be found. The principal economic value of the forests probably consists in the habitat they provide for fur-bearing animals, and the wood they furnish for fuel and buildings for the scattered inhabitants of the Region.

The Aspen Grove Section.—This Section, which lies entirely within the Prairie Provinces, is also a part of the Boreal Region, but has very special characteristics. It is a zone of transition between the true forest region to the north and the open grasslands to the south. Aspen is the dominant tree, and is in sole possession of most of the area. In southern Manitoba stands of bur oak are found, and elm, basswood, and ash occur singly or in small groups in river bottoms. Most of the area is farmed and much of the forest is now in the form of woodlots.

The Sub-Alpine Forest Region.—This is essentially a coniferous forest extending from the grasslands of the prairies and the western border of the Boreal Region up the eastern slopes of the Rockies to timber-line. This same type of forest reappears in a narrow strip extending northwesterly from the International Boundary between the plateaux of the Montane Region and the non-forested tundra formation of the mountain tops of the Coast Ranges.

In general, this forest formation occupies areas from 3,500 to 6,000 feet above sea-level. Rainfall is moderate, temperatures are low, and the growing season is short. The topography is mountainous with steep-sided valleys, and the soils are mostly derived from glacial and other residual material. The dominant tree species are Englemann spruce, alpine fir, and lodgepole pine. Less widely distributed are mountain hemlock, alpine larch, and white-barked pine.

The Columbia Forest Region.—This Region, often referred to as the Interior Wet Belt of British Columbia, supports forests that are somewhat similar in composition to those of the Coast Region.

The forests properly attributable to the Columbia Region comprise stands in the valleys of the Columbia and other rivers that lie between elevations of 2,500 feet and 4,000 feet above sea-level. Below this range occurs the Montane Region, and above it the Sub-Alpine. The climate is intermediate between those of the Coast and Montane Regions. The precipitation varies from 30 to 60 inches. The Region actually should be mapped as a series of 'islands' and 'stringers' surrounded by patches of sub-alpine forest; but it is impracticable to do this on so small a scale as is used for the map facing p. 248.

Some authorities consider the Columbia Region to be merely an extension of the Coast Forest Region. Because of the complete physical separation of the two