

Minor Species.—Elm, represented by three species in Canada, is a valuable vehicle wood. Beech, ash, oak, butternut, chestnut, red alder, hickory, yellow cedar, cherry, and black walnut are all valuable woods used for lumber in Canada, but, owing to scarcity, are of minor commercial importance.

The poplar species, of which there are seven native to Canada, are capable of producing great quantities of material that will eventually become more valuable when better types of hardwood are not so plentiful. They are now used principally for fuel, pulp, and match stock.

For a more extended description of the individual tree species, the reader is referred to pp. 283-286 of the Canada Year Book, 1936, and to Dominion Forest Service Bulletin No. 61, "Native Trees of Canada", published by the Department of Mines and Resources, where the subject is treated in detail.

Section 3.—Forest Resources.

Areas.—The total land area of Canada, revised according to the latest surveys, is estimated at 3,466,556 square miles, of which 549,700 square miles is considered as being suitable for agricultural or pastoral purposes. About 254,873 square miles of this agricultural land is occupied and of this 213,236 square miles is classified as improved and under pasture and 41,637 square miles as forested.

As a result of the constant and inevitable improvement in conditions affecting profitable exploitation, such as the extension of settlement and transportation facilities, the increasing world scarcity of forest products, and the ever-increasing demand for these products, due to the development of industry, the discovery of new uses for wood, and the improvements in the methods, equipment, and machinery used in logging and manufacturing forest products, some of this inaccessible timber will eventually become commercially exploitable. It is estimated that of the accessible forest area 442,354 square miles is producing softwood or coniferous timber, 221,138 square miles mixed softwoods and hardwoods, and 105,971 square miles hardwood or broad-leaved species.

In Canada as a whole about 10.5 p.c. of the total forest area has been permanently dedicated to forest production. Of this total forest area, 8.5 p.c. has been permanently alienated, being owned in fee simple by private individuals or corporations. The Crown still holds title to 13.3 p.c. of the area, but has alienated the right to cut timber thereon under lease or licence. So far 78.2 p.c. has not been alienated in any way. It may be said that 91.5 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 1938, the total stand of timber in Canada was estimated to be approximately 273,656 million cubic feet, of which 222,076 million cubic feet was of coniferous species and 51,580 million cubic feet of broad-leaved species. This estimate is the latest that has been made officially. It is difficult to divide the existing stand into merchantable timber and that which is inaccessible or unprofitable, since the 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