

## Section 4.—Canadian Forest Resources: Their Relation to the War of 1914-18 and to the Present Effort.\*

In few countries is there such a variety of useful woods as in Canada. Of over 130 distinct tree species there are at least 35 of commercial importance; this is more a matter of amounts available than of the physical properties of the woods. Such species include woods suitable for the manufacture of practically every important wood product. In fact, for the principal uses, such as construction, pulp and paper, and fuel, there are Canadian woods that meet all the requirements.

Fortunately, more than three-quarters of the accessible timber is of "softwood" or coniferous species which are in the greatest demand for industrial purposes in both the domestic and foreign markets. There are, however, considerable quantities of "hardwoods" or broad-leaved trees which are of high quality for flooring, furniture, and other products demanding strength, hardness, and attractive appearance. These hardwoods also make excellent fuel. The relative proportions of softwoods and hardwoods coincide very closely with the demands.

### Canada's Resources in Timber—Depletion and Increment.

**Timber Resources.**—Canada has 783 million acres of forested land comprising more than 35 p.c. of the total land area. By way of comparison, only about 8.6 p.c. of the total land area is considered to be of value for agriculture, and only about 6 p.c. is now used for field crops or pasture. It is thought that perhaps 134 million acres now forested may have agricultural potentialities but the most productive use to which about 650 million acres can be devoted is the growing of forests. Not all of this forested area is capable of producing wood for commercial purposes; about 290 million acres being situated in sub-arctic, sub-alpine, or other unfavourable sites that preclude profitable timber growth or industrial utilization. These "unproductive" forests, however, have important influences on the climate and on the control of water supplies; they provide optimum natural habitats for wild life and wood for fuel and building material for the use of the local inhabitants, white and native.

About 493 million acres are considered accessible and capable of producing continuous crops of timber for domestic and industrial purposes. Of this productive forest area it is estimated that 47 p.c. carries timber of merchantable size, that is, large enough to be used now as pulpwood, cordwood, or saw logs. On the remaining 53 p.c. there is young growth of various ages, kinds, and degrees of stocking that has become established by natural reproduction on areas that have been either cut-over or burned-over or both.

The total stand of timber of merchantable size is estimated to amount to 273,000 million cu. ft., of which 170,000 million is considered accessible. Of the accessible timber about one-third (245,000 million bd. ft.) is large enough for saw material and two-thirds (1,100 million cords) is suitable for pulpwood, fuel-wood, posts, mining timber, etc. Much of this smaller material will attain saw-timber size if allowed to grow another 30 to 50 years but there are some stands growing on poor sites that cannot be expected to produce saw logs.

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