Influences Operating Toward a Sustained Yield Basis.—During the past two decades public education in fire prevention has made great progress and the efficiency of the fire control conducted by governmental and private protective organizations has increased to such an extent that annual losses from fire have been greatly reduced in spite of increasing hazards. That there is still room for great improvement in fire protection is evidenced by the fact that during the ten years, 1929-38, the records show that the average annual area of forest burned over amounted to 1,716,000 acres, including 551,000 acres of merchantable timber and 1,165,000 acres of young growth and cut-over land, involving the destruction of 833 million ft. b.m. of saw timber and over 2 million cords of other timber.

Another strong influence is the growing recognition of the importance of the young growth. Many stands of "second growth" which have come up after cutting or fire are now reaching merchantable size and are beginning to attract attention. Anticipating the need for practical guidance in the management of these accessible young forests, the Dominion Forest Service is devoting the major efforts of various forest experiment stations to the improvement of the quality and the acceleration of the growth of young stands that nature has established. Operators, too, are showing more interest in putting their operations on a self-sustaining basis and working plans are being developed with this in view.

Changes of great significance are taking place in the uses of wood which permit of the utilization of sizes and qualities that are unmerchantable for sawn lumber. The phenomenal development of the pulp and paper industry has provided a market for vast quantities of wood for which there was no demand twenty-five years ago and the development of the cellulose industry in the manufacture of rayon, cellophane, and numerous other products, is rapidly extending the use of wood. Plastic wood products, fibre board, and laminated wood will undoubtedly provide an increasing demand for these so-called "inferior" classes of wood so that more complete utilization of the forest resources and the elimination of much of the waste that now occurs can be expected. Though there may be a decrease in lumber production, owing partly to a decrease in high-grade timber and partly to the competition of other materials, there is every reason to expect that the demand for wood will be maintained if not increased.

Looking at the situation from a broad viewpoint, it may be said with confidence that with rational management there is no danger of an actual shortage of wood in Canada. There will undoubtedly be shortages in certain localities and of the higher grades of certain species such as will entail the readjustment of industry, but readjustments will come gradually and are, in fact, in progress.

Chief World Markets for Canadian Forest Products.

Though Canadian lumber, pulp, and paper are normally exported to a great many countries, the United States and the United Kingdom provide by far the most important markets for these products. On the basis of value, the United States has been taking 67 p.c. and the United Kingdom 18 p.c., but in recent years the exports to the United Kingdom have materially increased in both actual and relative value.