

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 of an irregular character. It occupies a middle position between predominantly coniferous forests to the north and deciduous forests to the south. Precipitation varies from an annual average of 25 inches in the west to 45 inches in the east, and the growing season is from 100 to 150 days. Good forest soils of sedimentary origin are common, but southward extensions of the granitic areas of the Canadian Shield are also included within the boundaries of the Region.

The characteristic species are white pine, red pine and hemlock, associated with the maples, yellow birch and, in some sections, beech and basswood. Aspen, cedar and jack pine are widely distributed, and spruce and balsam fir are common in certain localities. Among the less widely distributed hardwood species are white birch, elm, hickories, white and black ash, bur, red and white oak, ironwood and butternut. The pine forests of the Ottawa Valley and Algonquin Park have been famous as one of the greatest of Canada's lumbering areas. Elsewhere in the Region forests of mixed type predominate, with a considerable proportion of pure hardwood stands in the more favoured locations towards the south.

The Deciduous Forest Region.—This Region in Canada consists of a small northerly intrusion from the great forest of the same type in the United States, and occupies the southwestern portion of what is commonly referred to as the Ontario Peninsula. It enjoys very favourable climatic and soil conditions that permit of the growth of a number of tree species not found elsewhere in Canada. Because of its fertile soil, the area is completely settled, and the forests are now represented only by woodlots, parks, and small wooded areas on the lighter soils.

Among the characteristic trees are beech and sugar maple, together with basswood, red maple and several oaks. Coniferous species are largely represented by scattered specimens of white pine, hemlock and red juniper.

Among the less common hardwoods, which occur singly or in small groups, are hickories, black walnut, chestnut, tulip tree, magnolia, mulberry, sycamore, sassafras, black gum, Kentucky coffee tree and a number of other species that find their northern limit in this Region.

The Boreal Forest Region.—This Region covers the greater part of the land area of Canada. It stretches unbrokenly from the Atlantic Coast of Quebec westward to Alaska. Along its southern side it follows the limits of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region, then skirts the open grasslands of the Prairie Provinces, and is terminated in the west in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. To the north it is bounded by the limits of tree growth.