and black cottonwood, which is perhaps the most important hardwood from the commercial point of view, is found on alluvial soils in the valleys.

Section 2.—Important Tree Species

In Canada there are over 130 distinct species of trees. Only 33 of these are conifers or softwoods, but they comprise over 80 p.c. of the standing timber and 70 p.c. of the wood utilized for all purposes. Of the deciduous-leaved or hardwood species, only about a dozen are of commercial importance as compared with twice that number of conifers.

A short description of the individual tree species is given at pp. 247-249 of the Canada Year Book, 1940. More detailed information on this subject is given at pp. 283-286 of the 1936 edition of the Year Book and in the Dominion Forest Service Bulletin No. 61, "Native Trees of Canada", published by the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

Section 3.—Forest Resources

Canada has 1,223,522 sq. miles of forested land comprising more than 35 p.c. of the total land area. By way of comparison, only about 15·8 p.c. of the total land area is considered to be of value for agriculture, and only about 6·1 p.c. is now classed as "improved and pasture". It is thought that perhaps 252,000 sq. miles now forested may have agricultural potentialities, but the best use to which about 971,522 sq. miles can be devoted is the growing of forests. Not all of this forested area is capable of producing wood for commercial purposes; about 454,000 sq. miles 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 769,463 sq. miles 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 sawlogs. 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 274,000 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 (1,107 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 sawlogs.

A national survey of the forest resources of Canada is being conducted by the Dominion and provincial authorities. The inventories for Manitoba and New Brunswick have been completed by the Dominion Forest Service and that of Nova Scotia is now in progress. Publications describing the forest resources of Ontario and British Columbia have been issued by the forest authorities of those provinces.