

# CHAPTER XIII.—FORESTRY\*

## CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. FOREST REGIONS.....	384	Subsection 2. Forest Protection.....	403
SECTION 2. IMPORTANT TREE SPECIES....	384	Subsection 3. Scientific Forestry.....	405
SECTION 3. FOREST RESOURCES.....	387	SECTION 6. FOREST UTILIZATION.....	406
SPECIAL ARTICLE: Noxious Forest In-		Subsection 1. Woods Operations.....	406
sects and Their Control.....	389	Subsection 2. The Pulp and Paper In-	
SECTION 4. FOREST DEPLETION AND		dustry.....	408
INCREMENT.....	400	Subsection 3. The Lumber Industry...	415
SECTION 5. FOREST ADMINISTRATION...	402	Subsection 4. Manufactures of Wood	
Subsection 1. Administration of Do-		and Paper.....	416
minion and Provincial Timber-Lands.	402	SECTION 7. POST-WAR TIMBER CONTROL.	417

The forests of Canada cover a vast region in the north temperate climatic zone, reaching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific; they extend northward from the International Boundary to beyond the Arctic Circle. Wide variations in climatic, physiographic and soil conditions cause marked differences in the character of the forests in different parts of the country, hence more or less well-defined forest regions may be recognized.

### Section 1.—Forest Regions

At pp. 184-188 of the 1941 edition of the Year Book the forest regions of Canada are separately described, together with the dominant and associated tree species common to each.

### Section 2.—Important Tree Species

In Canada there are more than 125 tree species of which 33 are conifers, commonly called "softwoods" While the number of deciduous or "hardwood" species is large, only about a dozen of these are of much commercial importance in the lumber trade, and about 80 p.c. of the volume of merchantable timber is made up of softwoods.

**Spruce.**—The five native spruces are all of commercial importance, furnishing over one-quarter of the total production of lumber in Canada and over two-thirds of the total quantity of pulpwood consumed in Canadian pulp mills. Light colour, freedom from resin, and the desirable characteristics of its fibres make spruce the premier pulpwood of the world. The wood of all the spruces, when seasoned, is practically tasteless and odourless and, consequently, is much in demand for food containers. It is very widely used for construction, interior finish, boxes and crating, and many specialty purposes. Of the five native spruce species, the white spruce (*Picea glauca*) is the most abundant and the most important commercially. With black spruce (*Picea mariana*), it ranges from the Atlantic Coast to Alaska, extending to the limit of tree growth. The black spruce is a smaller, slower-growing tree, often confined to swampy sites and reaching sawlog size only under

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