

The white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) has a wider distribution, being common from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coasts and is more abundant throughout its range than yellow birch. The tree does not attain the size of yellow birch, nor is the wood as heavy and strong. When of sufficient size it may be sawn into lumber, but for the most part its use is restricted to spoolwood and certain classes of turnery. The tough, easily split bark of this tree was used by the Indians for centuries for covering their canoes. A variety (*Betula papyrifera* var. *commutata*) occurs on the east and west coasts and in British Columbia where it often reaches sawlog size and is used for furniture and plywood.

Maple.—The maple is the second most important hardwood in Canada and is represented by ten native species scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The sugar maple, or hard maple (*Acer saccharum*), produces the most valuable lumber and, like birch, is used for furniture, vehicle stock and interior finishing. The sap of this tree is the principal source of the maple syrup and sugar of commerce. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), often called "soft" maple, has much the same uses as sugar maple except for exacting requirements of hardness and strength. Broad-leaved maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) occurs on the British Columbia coast, where it is manufactured locally into furniture and flooring.

Poplar.—The poplar species (*Populus*), of which there are eight native to Canada, are widely distributed, one or more species being found in every province. The tree is fast-growing and produces a light-coloured, general utility wood of light weight. It is being used increasingly for veneers, match splints and boxes, and in the manufacture of pulp, particularly soda pulp. In the Prairie Provinces, where other species are not plentiful, it is also used for fuel.

Basswood.—Basswood (*Tilia americana*) is a valuable wood of light weight for cabinet-work of all kinds, cigar boxes and, in fact, wherever stability is required in a soft homogeneous hardwood. Its distribution is limited to the southern part of Eastern Canada.

Elm.—Elm is represented in Canada by three species, white elm (*Ulmus americana*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), and rock elm (*Ulmus Thomasi*). The wood of these species is hard, heavy and tough, and is used for cooperage, boxes, veneer products for baskets and cheese boxes, vehicle stock, agricultural implements, and hockey sticks. Rock elm is a particularly valuable wood in boat-framing.

Minor Species.—Beech, oak, ash and red alder are all cut into lumber in various parts of the Dominion but, because of small supply or limited range, do not reach great commercial importance.

Section 3.—Forest Resources

The forested area of Canada is estimated at 1,290,960 sq. miles, or 37 p.c. of the total land area. In comparison, only 16 p.c. of the land area is considered to be of present or potential value for agriculture, and only 7 p.c. is now classed as "improved and pasture" The forested area within the boundaries of the nine provinces totals 1,167,960 sq. miles, or 58 p.c. of the provincial land area. About 478,000 sq. miles of the existing forests are classed as "unproductive" They are made up of small trees which cannot be expected to reach merchantable size because they are growing on poorly drained lands, or at high altitudes, or are subject to other adverse site conditions. These unproductive forests, however, perform