

# CHAPTER XI.—FORESTRY\*

## CONSPECTUS

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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, whereby 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.

A short description of the individual tree species is given at pp. 384-387 of the 1947 Canada Year Book. For more detailed information on Canadian trees refer to the Dominion Forest Service Bulletin No. 61, "Native Trees of Canada", published by the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

### 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

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