

valuable functions. They help to protect watersheds and conserve water supplies; they provide fuel and building materials to natives and travellers in remote areas; and they are the habitat of valuable fur-bearing and game animals.

The productive forests covering more than 813,000 sq. miles are considered capable of producing continuous crops of timber suitable for domestic and industrial purposes. A considerable proportion of these forests is not yet accessible for commercial operations, but constitutes a valuable reserve for the future. About 435,000 sq. miles of productive forests are considered to be economically accessible at the present time. One-half of the productive forest area bears trees large enough for use as sawlogs, pulpwood or fuelwood, and the other half is occupied by young growth of various ages, kinds and degrees of stocking.

The total stand of timber of merchantable size is estimated to be 311,201,000,000 cu. ft., of which 191,347,000,000 cu. ft. is accessible. These cubic volumes are volumes of wood that can actually be used. Expressed in commercial terms, the accessible timber is made up of 250,250,000,000 bd. ft. of logs in trees large enough to produce sawlogs and 1,684,710,000 cords of smaller material suitable for pulpwood, fuelwood, posts, mining timbers, etc.

Since the end of the War there has been increased interest and activity in forest inventory surveys, particularly on the part of the Provincial Governments. The work is being greatly facilitated by the use of air survey methods. These prove of great value both in the preparation of the basic maps and for the actual forest inventory information.

