

CHAPTER XII.—FORESTRY*

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—*The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.*

CANADA'S FOREST ECONOMY†

Canada is well known as a land of lakes and rivers with extensive forests reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Canadians have long looked to these forests for supplies of timber to feed their sawmills, their pulp and paper mills, and their furniture factories and boat-building works. The use of wood is almost second nature to them. Yet because Canada is so extensive that the economy of one region may differ widely from that of another, the forests and forest industries are rarely viewed as a unit in the country's economy as a whole. In this article the many parts of the economy based on the forests are brought together in order to present a comprehensive summary showing the relative value of the forests to the economic life of the country.

In Canada, the land is the basis of the economy. The wise use of the land is the foundation of good forestry. Likewise is it the foundation for sound policies for agriculture; for water conservation and water-power development; for game and fish protection; for the fur trade; for the provision of recreation areas and tourist resorts. All these values of the land are interdependent: thus good forestry will aid in maintaining agricultural lands against drought and erosion; will continuously protect water catchment areas and assure supplies of water; will furnish good cover for game and fur-bearing animals; and will give Canadians opportunities for recreation which only the forests can provide.

The strong tendency on the part of many people to evaluate Canada's forest resources in terms of timber alone is understandable. Timber is the most obvious product of forest land, and commonly the chief marketable commodity. The non-timber values of the forests, referred to above, while of great economic importance, have been relatively neglected. As a result of the increasing recognition of these values a broader concept of forestry is developing.

* Sections of this chapter that deal with forestry and forest administration have been revised in the Forest Economics Section, Forestry Branch, Department of Resources and Development. Section 1 is based on Forestry Branch Bulletin No. 89, "A Forest Classification for Canada". Sections dealing with forest utilization and forest industries, except as otherwise noted, have been revised in the Forestry Section, Industry and Merchandising Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

† Prepared by the Forest Economics Section, under the direction of D. A. Macdonald, Director, Forestry Branch, Department of Resources and Development.