

CANADA'S POSITION AND RELATIONSHIPS IN THE WORLD PICTURE*

Of the earth's 57,000,000 sq. miles of land surface, forests cover 27 p.c., or 30 p.c. if the Continent of Antarctica is excluded. Two-thirds of these timber-lands, totalling 10,000,000 sq. miles, are considered to be productive, with almost 5,500,000 sq. miles accessible for development under present methods of woods operations.

In North America, the productive forests spread out over 2,000,000 sq. miles—almost 22 p.c. of the land area. This puts the Continent, with 19 p.c. of the world's productive forest, in third place, behind Europe (including the whole of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and South America. When the forests are further classified as accessible or inaccessible, North America, with 24 p.c. of the world's accessible forests, ranks second to Europe (including the whole of the U.S.S.R.). These timber-lands are located largely in Canada and the United States and extend over 1,300,000 sq. miles. Because these stands comprise one-third of the accessible coniferous and almost one-fifth of the accessible broad-leaved forests of the world, Canada and the United States are able to assume a prominent role in supplying the world's needs for wood and paper products.

Thus far, this study has brought out the relative position of the North American Continent as a whole in respect to the world and its forests. But how does Canada compare with the United States, U.S.S.R., Brazil, and other countries in forest areas? Reference to Statement I shows that the forests of the U.S.S.R., † the largest in the world, are nearly three times greater in area than Canadian timber-lands. Brazil, possessing 1,500,000 sq. miles of forested land, ranks in second place. Canada's forests rank third and the United States timber stands, covering just under 1,000,000 sq. miles, come fourth. The Belgian Congo, China, Argentina, and Australia follow the United States in that order.

* Data upon which this material is based, are obtained from publications of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

† The information in Statement I concerning U.S.S.R. was published in 1933. More recent data are not available.

I.—COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON FOREST LAND AREAS IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES, 1948

Country	Total Land Area	Total Forest Area	Productive Forest Land			Accessible Productive Forest as Percentage of Total Land	Area of Productive Forest Land per Capita
			Access-ible	Inac-cessible	Total		
			M sq. mi.	M sq. mi.	M sq. mi.		
Canada ¹	3,462	1,275	473	228	701	14	32.7
United States	2,977	975	659	82	741	22	3.4
Sweden	158	91	86	2	88	54	8.5
Norway	119	29	20	4	24	17	4.9
Finland	118	81	80	—	80	68	13.1
Brazil	3,286	1,529	589	867	1,456	18	20.0
Argentina	1,075	188	66	22	88	6	3.6
Union of South Africa	473	14	3	—	3	1	1.8
Belgian Congo	882	464	266	195	461	30	27.8
Australia	2,975	119	53	25	78	2	6.7
China	3,646	320	65	152	217	2	0.3
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ²	8,209	3,682	—	—	1,765	—	—
Japan	145	86	76	10	86	52	0.7

¹ Data given for Canada are from the 1949 National Forest Inventory compiled by the federal Forestry Branch and do not include Newfoundland.

² Estimated prior to Second World War by the International Institute of Agriculture and Professor L. Ilvesallo. Figures include Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Republics.