

Section 1.—Forest Regions

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, hence more or less well-defined forest regions may be recognized. The following principal regions are described separately: Acadian, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence, Deciduous, Boreal, Sub-Alpine, Columbia, Montane and Coast. For descriptive purposes, it is convenient to consider two sections of the Boreal Region as separate entities: these are described hereunder as the Northern Transition and the Aspen Grove Sections.

The Acadian Forest Region.—This Region includes, tentatively, all the Island of Newfoundland except a portion of the Northern Peninsula (where the forest is coniferous in character, with balsam fir the characteristically dominant conifer), Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and all but the northwest corner of New Brunswick. The climate of the Region is characteristic of maritime regions, and is highly favourable to tree growth. Annual precipitation averages about 40 inches. Topography and geology are widely varied. In northern New Brunswick the maximum altitude is 2,700 feet above sea-level, and northern Cape Breton Island and parts of Nova Scotia are fairly rough. The surface of the remainder of the Region varies from level to gently rolling.

There is a general coniferous character to the Region, especially in the northern parts of New Brunswick and Cape Breton Island. Mixed forests, interspersed with so-called 'hardwood ridges', are common, however, occurring more frequently in the southern parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Among the coniferous species red spruce is the characteristic dominant and is usually associated with balsam fir. White and black spruce, and white and red pine, are widely distributed. Jack pine occurs in pure stands on sandy plains. Hemlock, which is still to be found in most parts of the Region, is believed to have been much more important in former times. Other characteristic conifers are cedar and tamarack.

Yellow birch, maple and beech occur in fairly large quantities and usually occupy well-drained ridges. White birch, wire birch and poplar are found in association with the coniferous species. Among the other hardwoods are oak, butternut, basswood, ash and elm.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region.—This Region, centring on the Great Lakes system, and extending eastward down the St. Lawrence Valley, is of an irregular character. It occupies a middle position between predominantly coniferous forests to the north and deciduous forests to the south. Precipitation varies from an annual average of 25 inches in the west to 45 inches in the east, and the growing season is from 100 to 150 days. Good forest soils of sedimentary origin are common, but southward extensions of the granitic areas of the Canadian Shield are within the boundaries of the Region.

The characteristic species are white pine, red pine and hemlock, associated with the maples, yellow birch and, in some sections, beech and basswood. Aspen, cedar and jack pine are widely distributed, and spruce and balsam fir are common in certain localities. Among the less widely distributed hardwood species are white birch, elm, hickories, white and black ash, bur, red and white oak, ironwood and