

climate is relatively dry, with low summer rainfall and moderate to high temperatures. The driest conditions are found in the lower river valleys: here the forest gives way to open grassland.

The principal tree species are ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and aspen. Towards the northern half of the Region ponderosa pine disappears and associations of Douglas fir and lodgepole pine become dominant. Towards the north and east, stands of Englemann spruce and alpine fir grade into the forests of the Sub-Alpine and Columbia Regions. Aspen is an important constituent of the northern parts of this forest.

**The Coast Forest Region.**—This Region includes the western slope of the Coast and Cascade Mountains and the insular system, the higher elevations of which form Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlotte group and other islands along the coast. The climate is mild and equable, with heavy precipitation varying from 40 to 200 inches per annum, about 70 p.c. of which falls during the autumn and winter months. These conditions are conducive to the luxurious growth of coniferous forests and produce the largest trees and the heaviest stands in Canada.

The dominant trees are western hemlock and western red cedar. Associated with these are Douglas fir in the south and Sitka spruce in the north. All four of these species, of which the most important commercially is Douglas fir, grow to large sizes and occasionally are found in stands running up to 100,000 ft. b.m. per acre. Other conifers that occur in the Region but are of much less importance include: yellow cedar, mountain hemlock, amabilis, grand and alpine firs, and western white pine. Of the broad-leaved trees, several alders are widely distributed, and Garry oak and madrona are found in the United States in the vicinity of the Straits of Georgia. Broad-leaved maple and vine maple occur at low elevations in the southern sections, and black cottonwood, which is perhaps the most important hardwood from a commercial point of view, is found on alluvial soils in the valleys.

## Section 2.—Native Tree Species

There are more than 150 tree species in Canada, of which 31 are conifers, commonly called 'softwoods'. About two-thirds of these softwoods are of commercial importance. Of the large number of deciduous or 'hardwood' species, about 10 p.c. is of any great commercial value to the wood-using industry. About 77 p.c. of the volume of merchantable timber is made up of softwood species.

A short description of the individual tree species is given at pp. 384-387 of the 1947 Year Book. More detailed information on Canadian trees is given in Forestry Branch Bulletin 61, "Native Trees of Canada"\*, published by the Department of Resources and Development.

## Section 3.—Forest Resources

The forested area of Canada (exclusive of Newfoundland) is estimated at 1,274,840 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 7 p.c. is classed as "improved and pasture".

\*Obtainable from the King's Printer, Ottawa, price \$1.50.