

The principal tree species are Englemann spruce, western red cedar, western hemlock and Douglas fir. Associated with these are grand fir, western white pine and western larch. Black cottonwood is found on rich alluvial soils.

The Montane Forest Region.—This Region forms part of the interior dry belt of British Columbia and is found generally at elevations below the Columbia Region. It covers an extensive series of plateaux, valleys and ranges in the interior of the Province. Typical of the Region are ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and trembling aspen. Towards the northern half of the Region, ponderosa pine disappears, leaving Douglas fir and lodgepole pine as characteristic species.

The Coast Forest Region.—The western slopes of the Coast and Cascade Mountains and the islands along the coast comprise this Region. It produces the largest trees and 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. Also occurring in the Region are yellow cedar, western white pine and amabilis fir. Black cottonwood and red alder are the most important hardwood species in the Region.

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 No. 61, *Native Trees of Canada*,* published by the Department of Resources and Development.

Section 3.—Forest Resources

The forested area of Canada (exclusive of Labrador) is estimated at 1,299,759 sq. miles, or 36 p.c. of the total land area. In comparison, only 15 p.c. of the land area is considered to be of present or potential value for agriculture and 4 p.c. is classed as "improved and pasture".

Almost one-half of the total forested area of Canada is classified as "non-productive", i.e., incapable of producing crops of merchantable wood. However, these forests do provide valuable protection for drainage basins and shelter for game and fur-bearing animals.

Of the "productive" half of the forested area, 484,000 sq. miles are considered to be now accessible for commercial operations. For further details see Table 1, p. 19, in Chapter I. The economically inaccessible productive forests contain much valuable timber suitable for lumber and pulpwood. At present it is not economical to conduct cutting operations on these areas but as low-cost methods of transportation are developed, as accessible forested areas become depleted, and as the demand for wood products increases, these inaccessible productive forests will be brought progressively into commercial development. Owing generally to less favourable climatic conditions, the productive capacity of these inaccessible timberlands is expected to be less than that of the accessible areas now being logged.

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