

wood. Plastic-wood products, fibre board and laminated wood are providing an increasing demand for the so-called inferior classes of wood resulting in more complete utilization of the forest resources and in the elimination of much waste.

### 3.—Average Annual Forest Depletion during the Period 1940-49

Item	Usable Wood	Utilization or Wastage	Depletion
	M cu. ft.	p.c.	p.c.
<b>Products Utilized—</b>			
Logs and Bolts—			
Domestic use.....	1,063,158	38.3	30.3
Exported.....	21,837	0.8	0.6
Pulpwood—			
Domestic use.....	703,750	25.3	20.0
Exported.....	151,943	5.5	4.4
Fuelwood.....	732,285	26.4	20.8
Hewn railway ties.....	7,238	0.3	0.2
Pit props.....	23,672	0.8	0.7
Poles, posts, rails.....	36,145	1.3	1.0
Miscellaneous products.....	36,100	1.3	1.0
<b>Annual Utilization.....</b>	<b>2,776,128</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>79.0</b>
<b>Wastage—</b>			
By forest fires.....	239,159	32.4	6.8
By insects and disease.....	500,000	67.6	14.2
<b>Annual Wastage.....</b>	<b>739,159</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>
<b>Annual Depletion.....</b>	<b>3,515,287</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Increment.**—The area of occupied forests in the country totals about 294,000 sq. miles, or 188,000,000 acres. This area includes some land that cannot be classified as productive forest land as well as some water. While precise information is not yet available, the net land area of occupied productive forest is estimated to be not more than 70 p.c. of the total occupied area, or 132,000,000 acres.

Almost all of Canada's primary forest products are obtained from these occupied productive regions. During the post-war period the average annual rate of felling on this area exceeded 25 cu. feet per acre. When an allowance for losses caused by fire, insects and disease is added, the average annual rate of depletion for the whole area approaches 30 cu. feet per acre. In many localities, however, this rate has been greatly exceeded; in others, it has been considerably less. Complete estimates of the rates at which the forests of Canada grow are not yet available. The vast size of the country, the diversity of growing conditions and the complex character of the forests place great difficulties in the way of estimating growth. However, the results of numerous studies indicate that over considerable tracts growth exceeds 25, 30 or even 40 cu. feet per acre per annum, but in other areas classed as productive the growth is much less. It seems probable, therefore, that considerable portions of Canadian forests are being cut too heavily at present. Large areas of productive forest still remain unoccupied and, while some unoccupied forests may prove to be quite as productive as those now occupied, a large proportion is difficult of access and is of relatively low productivity. The general situation emphasizes the urgent need for more intensive sustained-yield forest management.