

CHAPTER X.—FORESTRY*

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Canada's extensive forests have been an invaluable asset to the country and its people since the earliest days of settlement. The productive portion of these forests has poured increasing wealth into the stream of national income, contributing to the economy of the country as the producer of raw materials for industry and as the source of livelihood for hundreds of thousands of persons. At the same time, the existence of widespread forest cover, productive or unproductive in the sense of human utilization, remains essential to the maintenance of the balance of nature—in protecting water-catchment areas and assuring supplies of water, in lowering the temperature, reducing the velocity of the wind and protecting the land against drought and erosion, and in providing shelter for birds and animals.

Section 1.—Forest Regions†

The forests of Canada cover a vast area in the north temperate climatic zone. Wide variations in physiographic, soil and climatic conditions cause marked differences in the character of the forests in different parts of the country; hence eight fairly well defined forest regions may be recognized. These regions, with the relative proportion of the total area of all forest regions occupied by each, are as follows:—

<i>Region</i>	<i>Percentage of Forested Area</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Percentage of Forested Area</i>
Boreal.....	82.1	Acadian.....	2.0
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence.....	6.5	Columbia.....	0.8
Subalpine.....	3.7	Deciduous.....	0.4
Montane.....	2.3		
Coast.....	2.2	TOTAL.....	<u>100.0</u>

* Sections of this Chapter that deal with forestry and the federal forestry program were revised in the Forestry Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Ottawa. Provincial forestry programs were prepared by the forestry officials of the respective provincial governments. Sections dealing with forest and allied industries, except as otherwise noted, have been revised in the Forestry Section, Industry and Merchandising Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

† A more detailed discussion of forest regions is given in Bulletin 123, *Forest Regions of Canada*, published by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Accounts of variations in Canadian physiography and climate are included in a special article on The Climate of Canada, appearing at pp. 23-51 of the 1959 Canada Year Book.