

3.—Average Forest Utilization and Depletion, 1957 and 1958, compared with Ten-Year Average 1948-57

Item	Usable Wood			Depletion		
	Av. 1948-57	1957	1958 ^p	Av. 1948-57	1957	1958 ^p
	M cu. ft.	M cu. ft.	M cu. ft.	p. c.	p. c.	p. c.
Products Utilized—						
Logs and Bolts—						
Domestic use.....	1,463,357	1,547,011	1,771,600 ¹	42.7	47.6	47.7
Exported.....	9,857	6,704	4,700	0.3	0.2	0.1
Pulpwood—						
Domestic use.....	1,085,195	1,119,211	834,200	31.7	34.5	22.4
Exported.....	173,811	153,035	109,300	5.1	4.7	2.9
Fuelwood.....	358,178	285,051	272,000	10.5	8.8	7.3
Other products.....	73,931	61,154	57,250	2.1	1.9	1.6
Total Utilization.....	3,164,329	3,172,166	3,049,050	92.4	97.7	82.0
Wastage—						
By forest fires.....	250,457	74,956	669,400	7.6	2.3	18.0
Total Depletion².....	3,423,786	3,247,122	3,718,450	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Including logs for pulping. ² The figure for depletion does not include wastage by agencies other than fire, such as insects, diseases and natural mortality, for which no reliable estimates are available. It represents an average annual depletion of 7 cu. feet per acre on the accessible productive forest area; a much higher rate of depletion occurs on the more accessible occupied productive forest lands.

Forest Fire Statistics.—Forest fires in Canada during 1958 numbered 7,817, as compared with 6,080 during 1957 and an annual average of 5,586 for the 1948-57 period. The area burned in 1958 was 4,939,880 acres, more than double the annual average for the decade. Both value of timber destroyed and cost of fire suppression reached all-time highs. Much of the loss was attributable to exceptionally dry weather during the summer in British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon, and lightning was responsible for more fires than any other single cause. The percentage of fires caused by lightning increased from 14 in 1957 to 21 in 1958; the percentage of railway-caused fires also increased over 1957 but all other causes either declined or remained the same, on a percentage basis. More than 3,000 additional square miles of forest area were placed under protection during the year.

4.—Forest Fire Losses, 1957 and 1958, compared with Ten-Year Average 1948-57

Item		Average 1948-57	1957	1958
Totals, Fires.....	No.	5,586	6,080	7,817
Fires under 10 acres.....	"	4,347	4,981	6,429
Fires 10 acres or over.....	"	1,239	1,099	1,388
Area Burned.....	acres	2,133,890	903,260	4,939,880
Merchantable timber.....	"	367,155	85,672	733,571
Young growth.....	"	445,645	80,704	804,879
Cut-over lands.....	"	211,623	118,541	1,657,436
Non-forested lands.....	"	1,109,457	618,343	1,743,994
Average Size of Fire.....	acres	382	149	632
Merchantable Timber Burned—				
Large material (10 ft. or over D.B.H.).....	M cu. ft.	81,848	35,142	460,252
Small material (4 ft. to 9 ft. D.B.H.).....	"	177,609	39,814	209,181
Estimated Values Destroyed¹.....	\$	5,671,055	1,598,306	14,465,235
Merchantable timber.....	\$	3,268,077	788,661	7,613,445
Young growth.....	\$	1,270,682	251,520	5,247,501
Cut-over lands.....	\$	197,598	116,026	806,593
Other property burned.....	\$	934,698	442,099	797,696
Actual Cost of Fire Fighting.....	\$	3,020,954	2,074,517	7,747,510
Totals, Damage and Fire Fighting Costs.....	\$	8,692,009	3,672,823	22,212,745
Area under protection.....	sq. miles	..	1,333,170	1,336,954

¹ Figures do not include such values as damage to soil, stream-flow, wildlife, recreation and tourist facilities.