

Columbia Forest Region.—A large part of the Kootenay River Valley, the upper valleys of the Thompson and Fraser Rivers, and the Quesnel Lake area of British Columbia contain a coniferous forest closely resembling that of the Coast Region. Western red cedar and western hemlock are the characteristic species of this "Interior Wet Belt". Associated trees are the blue Douglas fir, which is of general distribution, and, in the southern parts, western white pine, western larch and grand fir. Engelmann's spruce from the Subalpine Region is important in the upper Fraser Valley and is found to some extent at the higher levels of the forest in the remainder of the region. At lower elevations in the west and in parts of the Kootenay Valley the forest grades into the Montane Region and, in a few places, into prairie grasslands.

Deciduous Forest Region.—A small portion of the deciduous forest, widespread in the eastern United States, occurs in southwestern Ontario between Lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario. Here, with the broadleaved trees common to the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence Region, such as sugar maple, beech, white elm, basswood, red ash, white oak and butternut, are scattered a number of other broadleaved species which have their northern limits in this locality. Among these are the tulip-tree, cucumber-tree, papaw, red mulberry, Kentucky coffee-tree, redbud, black gum, blue ash, sassafras, mockernut and pignut hickories, and scarlet, black and pin oaks. In addition, black walnut, sycamore and swamp white oak are confined largely to this Region. Conifers are few, and there is only a scattered distribution of white pine, tamarack, red juniper and hemlock.

Great Lakes—St. Lawrence Forest Region.—Along the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Valley lies a forest of a very mixed nature, characterized by the white and the red pines, eastern hemlock and yellow birch. With these are associated certain dominant broadleaved species common to the Deciduous Forest Region, such as sugar maple, red maple, red oak, basswood and white elm. Other species with wide range are the eastern white cedar and large-tooth aspen and, to a lesser extent, beech, white oak, butternut and white ash. Boreal species, such as the white and the black spruces, balsam fir, jack pine, poplars and white birch, are intermixed and in certain central portions, as well as in the east, red spruce is abundant.

Acadian Forest Region.—Over the greater part of the Maritime Provinces, exclusive of Newfoundland, there is a forest closely related to the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence Region and, to a lesser extent, to the Boreal Region. Red spruce is a characteristic though not exclusive species, and associated with it are balsam fir, yellow birch and sugar maple, with some red pine, white pine and hemlock. Beech was formerly a more important forest constituent than at present, for the beech bark disease has drastically reduced its abundance in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and southern New Brunswick. Other species of wide distribution are the black and the white spruces, red oak, white elm, black ash, red maple, white birch, wire birch and the poplars. Eastern white cedar, though present in New Brunswick, is extremely rare elsewhere, and jack pine is apparently absent from the upper St. John Valley and the western half of Nova Scotia.

Section 2.—Forest Resources

The forested area of Canada is estimated at 1,712,868 sq. miles, and about 56 p.c. of that area is capable of producing merchantable timber. Of this productive area, 717,817 sq. miles are now accessible for commercial operations and the remainder, at