

Section 2.—Forest Resources

The forested area of Canada is estimated at 1,713,755 sq. miles, and about 56 p.c. of that area is capable of producing merchantable timber. Of this productive area, 719,919 sq. miles are now accessible for commercial operations and the remainder, at present beyond the reach of economical transportation facilities, contains much valuable timber that will be brought progressively into commercial development as demand requires its use and as transportation becomes available. The great areas of forest considered commercially non-productive are nevertheless of significant value to the country in the influence they exert on climate, moisture and soil. Table 1 shows the areas of productive and non-productive forest land in each province and territory. Forested land, classified by type of growth and by province, is given in Chapter I at p. 31.

1.—Productive and Non-productive Forest Land, by Province, 1962

Province or Territory	Productive Forested Land			Non-productive Forested Land	Total Forested Land
	Accessible	Potentially Accessible	Total		
	sq. miles	sq. miles	sq. miles	sq. miles	sq. miles
Newfoundland.....	28,216	5,661	33,877	53,915	87,792
Prince Edward Island.....	812	—	812	122	934
Nova Scotia.....	15,106	—	15,106	1,283	16,389
New Brunswick.....	23,755	79	23,834	492	24,326
Quebec.....	134,159	86,113	220,272	157,860	378,132
Ontario.....	130,633	35,108	165,741	96,006	261,747
Manitoba.....	36,761	21,422	58,183	64,637	122,820
Saskatchewan.....	25,503	15,505	41,008	76,730	117,738
Alberta.....	115,574	3,809	119,383	41,056	160,439
British Columbia.....	183,500	24,911	208,411	59,227	267,638
Totals, Provinces.....	694,019	192,608	886,627	551,328	1,437,955
Yukon Territory.....	14,200	27,900	42,100	39,100	81,200
Northwest Territories.....	11,700	21,900	33,600	161,000	194,600
Canada.....	719,919	242,408	962,327	751,428	1,713,755

There are more than 150 tree species in Canada, of which 31 are conifers, commonly called 'softwoods'. About two thirds of these softwoods and 10 p.c. of the large number of deciduous or 'hardwood' species are of commercial importance. Approximately 82 p.c. of the volume of merchantable timber is made up of softwood species. The dominant species existing in each forest region are given in Section 1. Detailed information is contained in Department of Forestry Bulletin No. 61, *Native Trees of Canada*.*

With help from the Federal Government, inventories of the forest resources are made periodically by provincial forest authorities and, with their co-operation, the federal Department of Forestry compiles the National Forest Inventory. The latest estimates of the total stand of timber, by province and region, appear in Table 2. These estimates are subject to constant revision as more accurate and complete inventories are compiled.

The predominant part played by pulp and paper, lumber and other forest product industries in the development of Canada has resulted in a widespread tendency to evaluate the forest in terms of timber alone. However, a growing realization of the economic importance of the forest for its non-commercial values, such as recreation and wildlife and watershed protection, is bringing about increasing recognition of the true value of the forest and is thus developing a broader concept of forestry.

* The sixth edition, 1961, is obtainable from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa, price \$2.