

CHAPTER XII.—FORESTRY*

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on p. viii 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.

Perhaps in no other country is the national wealth so dependent upon its forest resources and the success of its forest industries as in Canada. The annual forest harvest of some 3,424,000,000 cu. feet supports a highly complex and diversified export and domestic industry directly employing more than 300,000 persons and paying out \$1,200,000,000 annually in salaries and wages. The forests support 8,000 sawmills and 4,000 wood-using plants, many of them small units contributing appreciably to the income of local economies. The pulp and paper industry alone stands first among Canadian manufactures in terms of employment, wages paid, new investment and net value of output, and the sale of forest products abroad represents about 27 p.c. of the value of Canada's export trade.

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

* Sections of this Chapter that deal with forest regions, resources and depletion and the federal forestry program were revised by the Department of Forestry, 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, were revised in the Forestry Section, Industry Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

† A map that shows the forest regions is inserted in Chapter I, illustrating the article on the Flora of Canada. A larger-scale, more detailed map is available from the Department of Forestry. A more detailed discussion of forest regions is given in Bulletin 123, *Forest Regions of Canada*, published by the Department of Forestry. Accounts of variations in Canadian physiography and climate are included in a special article on The Climate of Canada, appearing in the 1959 Year Book, pp. 23-51.