

Columbia differed from those issued by the British Columbia Forest Service because the latter used different conversion factors and different classifications for wood cut in the forests. The DBS is now using British Columbia Forest Service production figures so that the former confusion often encountered by users has been eliminated. Detailed information is given in DBS publication *Logging, 1963* (Cat. No. 25-201).

Table 4 shows only the depletion of the forests caused by utilization and by fire. Information on the extent of damage caused by agencies other than fire, such as insects, disease and natural mortality, is not available. Losses from insects and diseases alone are estimated to be in excess of 1,000,000 M cu. ft. of merchantable timber annually.

The productive forests of Canada covering an area of 959,849 sq. miles constitute the reserve from which forest production will be obtained in the immediate future. The supply of merchantable timber on this area is estimated at 748,982,000 M cu. ft. and the average annual utilization in 1955-64 of 3,326,494 M cu. ft. therefore represented less than one half of one percent of the supply. However, it should be noted that utilization does not occur evenly throughout the productive forest area but is concentrated on the relatively small area of occupied forest land (land under lease, licence or private ownership). Thus, overcutting may occur on many of these occupied areas, emphasizing the need for orderly management of all commercial forests if the forest industries are to maintain their important position in the Canadian economy. Also, efficient utilization of cut timber is an important factor related to forest depletion.

4.—Forest Utilization and Depletion by Fire, Ten-Year Average 1955-64

Item	Usable Wood	Percentage of Total Depletion
	M cu. ft.	
Products Utilized—		
Logs and Bolts—		
Domestic use.....	1,736,968	45.4
Exported.....	9,754	0.3
Pulpwood—		
Domestic use.....	1,155,330	30.2
Exported.....	118,235	3.1
Fuelwood.....	248,575	6.5
Other products.....	57,632	1.5
Totals, Utilization.....	3,326,494	87.0
Wastage—		
By forest fires.....	497,584	13.0
Totals, Depletion.....	3,824,078	100.0

Forest Fire Statistics.—Forest fires in Canada during 1966 numbered 7,468 compared with 7,238 during 1965 and an annual average of 6,620 for the ten-year period 1956-65. The area burned totalled 1,144,439 acres, about double the acreage burned in 1965 but only about one half of the annual average for the 1956-65 decade. However, about 84 p.c. of the area burned in 1966 was in the Yukon and Northwest Territories where there was an exceptionally dry summer season. The provinces experienced their easiest fire season on record with only 210,450 acres destroyed.

As shown in Table 7, human carelessness was again the principal cause of forest fires in 1966. Some 5,782 forest fires or 77 p.c. of all fires reported were attributed to man, and careless recreationists and settlers accounted for almost half of this total. Although lightning ignited only 23 p.c. of the forest fires, this cause accounted for about 60 p.c. of the total area damaged or destroyed.