

4.—Average Annual Forest Depletion during the Ten-Year Period 1941-50

Item	Usable Wood	Utilization and Wastage	Depletion
	M cu. ft.	p. c.	p. c.
Products Utilized—			
Logs and Bolts—			
Domestic use.....	1,089,947	38.3	30.5
Exported.....	15,686	0.7	0.5
Pulpwood—			
Domestic use.....	739,365	26.0	20.7
Exported.....	153,503	5.4	4.3
Fuelwood.....	739,737	26.0	20.7
Hewn railway ties.....	5,890	0.2	0.2
Pit props.....	21,950	0.8	0.6
Poles, posts, rails.....	37,692	1.3	1.0
Miscellaneous products.....	35,917	1.3	1.0
Average Annual Utilization.....	2,842,687	100.0	79.5
Wastage—			
By forest fires.....	231,524	31.6	6.5
By insects and disease.....	500,000	68.4	14.0
Average Annual Wastage.....	731,524	100.0	20.5
Average Annual Depletion.....	3,574,211	...	100.0

Increment.—The area of occupied forests in the country totals about 312,000 sq. miles, or 200,000,000 acres. This area includes some land that cannot be classified as productive forest land as well as some water. While precise information is not available, the net land area of occupied productive forest is estimated to be approximately 70 p.e. of the total occupied area, or about 140,000,000 acres.

Almost all of Canada's primary forest products are obtained from these occupied productive regions. During the post-war period the average annual rate of felling on this area exceeded 25 cu. feet per acre. When an allowance for losses caused by fire, insects and disease is added, the average annual rate of depletion for the whole area approaches 30 cu. feet per acre. In many localities, however, this rate has been greatly exceeded; in others, it has been considerably less. Complete estimates of the rates at which the forests of Canada grow are not yet available. The vast size of the country, the diversity of growing conditions and the complex character of the forests place great difficulties in the way of estimating growth. However, the results of numerous studies indicate that over considerable tracts growth exceeds 25, 30 or even 40 cu. feet per acre per annum, but in other areas classed as productive the growth is much less. It seems probable, therefore, that considerable portions of Canadian forests are being cut too heavily at present. Large areas of productive forest still remain unoccupied and, while some unoccupied areas may prove to be quite as productive as those now occupied, a large proportion is difficult of access and is of relatively low productivity. The general situation emphasizes the urgent need for more intensive forest management.

Section 5.—Forest Administration

Subsection 1.—Administration of Federal and Provincial Timber-Lands

The summary information on forest administration, normally carried under this heading in the Year Book, has been replaced by a special treatment prepared by the Forest Economics Section of the Forestry Branch, Department of Resources and Development.