

## Section 2.—Native Tree Species

There are more than 150 tree species in Canada, of which 31 are conifers, commonly called 'softwoods'. About two-thirds of these softwoods are of commercial importance. Of the large number of deciduous or 'hardwood' species, only about 10 p.c. is of any great commercial value to the wood-using industries. About 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, pp. 440-442. Detailed information is contained in Forestry Branch Bulletin No. 61, *Native Trees of Canada*,\* published by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

## Section 3.—Forest Resources

The forested area of Canada (exclusive of Labrador) is estimated at 1,485,870 sq. miles, or 42 p.c. of the total land area.

Over 44 p.c. of the total forested area of Canada is classified as "non-productive", i.e., incapable of producing crops of merchantable wood. However, these forests do provide valuable protection for drainage basins and shelter for game and fur-bearing animals.

Of the productive portion of the forested area, 578,000 sq. miles are considered to be now accessible for commercial operations. Further details are given in Chapter I, Table 1, p. 20. The economically inaccessible productive forests contain much valuable timber suitable for lumber and pulpwood. At present it is not economical to conduct cutting operations on these areas but, as low-cost methods of transportation are developed, as accessible forested areas become depleted, and as the demand for wood products increases, these inaccessible productive forests will be brought progressively into commercial development. Owing generally to less favourable climatic conditions, the productive capacity of these inaccessible timberlands is expected to be lower than that of the accessible areas now being logged.

The predominant part that lumber and other forest products have played in the development of Canada has resulted in a widespread tendency to evaluate the forests in terms of timber alone. A growing realization of the economic importance of the non-timber values, however, is bringing about increasing recognition of their true value and thus developing a broader concept of forestry.

Inventories of the forest resources are made periodically by provincial forest authorities and, with their co-operation, the Forestry Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources compiles the National Forest Inventory. The latest estimates of the total stand of timber, by province and region, appear in Table 1. These estimates are subject to constant revision as more accurate and complete inventories are compiled.

\* Obtainable from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa, price \$1.50.