## LARGE PART OF B.C. FOREST LANDS DEVOID OF TIMBER

## Heavy Inroads of Past Fires—Present Supply Ample However For Great Development

On November 23, Mr. Roland D. Craig addressed the Forestry Club, Ottawa, on the subject of the forests of British Columbia, which he treated from the physiographic and silvicultural standpoints.

The province of British Columbia is approximately 740 miles from north to south and averages 400 miles in width, with a total area of about 250,000,000 acres. Running from north to south ranges of mountains divide the province physiographically into four main zones, which differ widely in regard to climate and silvicultural conditions. The warm. moisture-laden winds off the waters of the Japan current, in ascending the Pacific slope of the Coast Range of mountains, produce an equable climate and cause a heavy precipitation which is conducive to luxuriant forest growth. To the eastward of the Coast range lie the broad interior plateaux where greater extremes of temperature and drier conditions prevail owing to the fact that the winds have been robbed of their moisture in passing over the coast mountains. On the eastern side of the province another series of ranges, the chief of which are the Rockies, again cause a large precipitation and another belt of heavy forests, resembling those on the coast, occur. The north eastern portion of the province, comprising approximately one-eighth of the total area, lies to the east of the Rockies and belongs to the Great Plains, on which the forests are of the same type as in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. From north to south these main zones may be sub-divided following changes in climatic conditions due to differences in latitude and local topography.

## Bulk of Timber on Coast

Two-thirds of the total stand of the timber in the province is on the coast, though the area is only one-quarter of the total. In the coast region for 150 miles north of the International boundary, and including most of Vancouver Island, the forests are of the Douglas fir-cedar-hemlock type, with balsam, spruce, white pine and yellow cedar as secondary species. For the next 100 miles where the temperature is lower and the precipitation heavier, red cedar predominates, with fir occurring only at the heads of the fiords which indent the coast and where the precipitation is lower. Associated with the red cedar are hemlock, balsam, spruce and yellow On the northern coast the cedar. following species occur in order of predominance: hemlock, spruce, red cedar, balsam and yellow cedar. Though confined to a comparatively narrow range on the coast, Douglas fir forms over thirty percent of the stand with red cedar twenty-seven percent, hemlock twenty-four percent, balsam nine percent, spruce seven percent, yellow cedar two percent, white pine one-half percent, and lodgepole pine and cottonwood onehalf percent.

In the Interior Plateau region drier conditions permit a much wider distribution of the Douglas fir which extends to the north of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and in the southern region western yellow pine and western larch are added to the forest species. Taking the interior forests as a whole, spruce forms over 40% with red cedar, balsam, fir, hemlock, lodgepole pine, yellow pine, larch, white pine and cottonwood in

908