

TABLE 4-C.—Areas of Timber and Young Growth Burned and Quantities of Timber Damaged in British Columbia and Prairie Provinces (exclusive of Dominion Parks) in 1916.

	Merchantable Timber and Cordwood.			Young Growth.	Non-Merchantable.	Total Area.
	Acres.	M Ft. B.M.	Cords.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
BRITISH COLUMBIA.						
RAILWAY BELT.						
Forest Reserves	30	13	.....	25	350	405
Dominion Lands	97	265	.....	54	2,082	2,233
Total	127	378	.....	79	2,432	2,638
PROVINCIAL LANDS.	15,304	50,415	.....	11,278	134,706	161,288
Whole Province.	15,431	50,793	.....	11,357	137,138	163,926
PRAIRIE PROVINCES.						
FOREST RESERVES.						
Alberta	35	280	10	225	6,618	6,878
Saskatchewan	975	.....	100	50	10,130	11,195
Manitoba	52	.....	.....	.....	98	150
Total	1,062	280	110	315	16,846	18,223
DOMINION LANDS.						
Alberta	3,872	1,630	16,020	4,752	40,382	49,006
Saskatchewan	225	.....	500	2,480	6,660	9,365
Manitoba	1,055	2,685	41,034	13,058	22,965	37,078
Total	5,152	4,315	57,554	20,290	70,007	95,449
WHOLE PROVINCES.						
Alberta	3,907	1,910	16,030	4,977	47,000	55,884
Saskatchewan	1,200	.....	600	2,570	16,790	20,560
Manitoba	1,107	2,685	41,034	13,058	23,063	37,228
Total	6,214	4,595	57,664	20,605	86,853	113,672

Fig. 16 shows the relative area of merchantable timber and cordwood, of young growth, and of areas without either, that were burned. It will be noted that the merchantable timber area burned over, while of very considerable extent in the aggregate, represents only a comparatively small proportion of the total area. This is due in part, of course, to greater efforts properly being made to protect the merchantable areas. It is also due, however, to the fact that usually a fire spreads less rapidly in heavy green timber than on other areas, and also to the fact that past fires have reduced the area of merchantable timber very seriously and increased the proportion of areas of other classes. The larger proportion of the total burned area classified as young growth or as land without either merchantable timber or young growth should not be a cause for congratulation, but on the contrary it should be a serious reminder of the past ravages of fires.

It should be noted also in connection with this diagram that the continual destruction of young growth is one of the most serious effects of forest fires, often exceeding in value of damage done the injury to merchantable timber.

Fig. 17 illustrates the quantity of saw-timber damaged each season. The diagrams do not illustrate as accurately as those showing the number and areas of the fires, the relative severity of the different seasons. The quantity of merchantable timber burnt in a season depends, to a certain extent, on chance as to where fires may happen to