

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.         |
| <b>BRITISH COLUMBIA.</b>   |                                   |               |               |               |                   |                |
| RAILWAY BELT.              |                                   |               |               |               |                   |                |
| Forest Reserves . . . . .  | 30                                | 13            | .....         | 25            | 350               | 405            |
| Dominion Lands.....        | 97                                | 365           | .....         | 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        |
| <b>Whole Province.....</b> | <b>15,431</b>                     | <b>50,793</b> | .....         | <b>11,357</b> | <b>137,138</b>    | <b>163,926</b> |
| <b>PRAIRIE PROVINCES.</b>  |                                   |               |               |               |                   |                |
| FOREST RESERVES.           |                                   |               |               |               |                   |                |
| Alberta . . . . .          | 35                                | 280           | 10            | 225           | 6,618             | 6,878          |
| Saskatchewan.....          | 975                               | .....         | 100           | 50            | 10,130            | 11,195         |
| Manitoba.....              | 52                                | .....         | .....         | .....         | 98                | 150            |
| <b>Total . . . . .</b>     | <b>1,062</b>                      | <b>280</b>    | <b>110</b>    | <b>315</b>    | <b>16,846</b>     | <b>18,223</b>  |
| DOMINION LANDS.            |                                   |               |               |               |                   |                |
| Alberta . . . . .          | 3,872                             | 1,630         | 16,020        | 4,752         | 40,382            | 49,006         |
| Saskatchewan.....          | 225                               | .....         | 500           | 2,480         | 6,669             | 9,365          |
| Manitoba.....              | 1,055                             | 2,685         | 41,034        | 13,058        | 22,965            | 37,078         |
| <b>Total . . . . .</b>     | <b>5,152</b>                      | <b>4,315</b>  | <b>57,554</b> | <b>20,290</b> | <b>70,007</b>     | <b>95,449</b>  |
| WHOLE PROVINCES.           |                                   |               |               |               |                   |                |
| Alberta . . . . .          | 3,907                             | 1,910         | 16,030        | 4,977         | 47,600            | 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         |
| <b>Total . . . . .</b>     | <b>6,214</b>                      | <b>4,595</b>  | <b>57,664</b> | <b>20,605</b> | <b>86,853</b>     | <b>113,672</b> |

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