

Timber Resources of British Columbia

Review of forest resources of province issued by Commission of Conservation, Ottawa shows stand of timber smaller than generally thought.—A rear of 135,855 square miles should be permanently devoted to forest production.

We are in receipt of the report of the Commission of Conservation on the forests of British Columbia by Roland D. Craig, F. E. and H N Whitford, Ph. D., published by the Commission of Conservation, Ottawa. The publication treats comprehensively the forest resources of the province in a volume of four hundred pages with valuable maps and interesting illustrations and reflects great credit both on the authors and the Commission of Conservation.

Through the co-operation of the Provincial and Dominion Governments, the timber owners, the Canadian Pacific Railway and other interests, the authors secured very complete data on which to base the estimates. The province was divided into 66 districts, or which separate estimates of the stand were compiled.

The forest resources of the province are estimated to be approximately 350 billion feet saw-material with an additional 16 billion feet suitable only for pulp. In addition to the estimate of the stand, the report describes the effects of the climate, soil and topography on the forests, and outlines the various systems of tenure under which the forest resources have been alienated. Interesting chapters are devoted to the description and distribution of the various species of trees and to the injuries done by insects.

The total land area of the province is 355,855 square miles, of which approximately 200,000 square miles is incapable of producing forests of commercial value. About 145,000 square miles lie above the merchantable timber-line, and on 55,000 square miles below the timber-line the soil is either so rocky or wet, or the forests have been so com-

pletely destroyed by fire that there is no hope of natural re-establishment of forest conditions for centuries.

Of the remaining 155,855 square miles, which is capable of producing forests, only about 28,000 square miles—less than one-fifth—carries sufficient timber to be classified as statutory timberland. In the interior of the province, there are areas of forest land, aggregating 23,800 square miles, which, though not reaching this standard, carry between 1,000 board feet and 5,000 board feet per acre, part of which may be utilized. Only very meagre data have been obtained, as yet, as to the area of land which can be used for agricultural purposes. The forest land classification indicates that somewhat over 5,000 square miles is grass land or very open forest, some of which is suitable for cultivation, but the greater proportion is of value only for grazing. In addition, there is, perhaps, from 12,000 to 15,000 square miles, cleared or under forest, which is more valuable for agriculture than for forest production. Deducting this potential agricultural land, say 20,000 square miles, from the total capable of producing commercial timber, there is 135,855 square miles of absolute forest land which should be devoted permanently to forest production.

The timber on about 100,000 square miles, or two-thirds of the original forest land, has been totally destroyed by fire, and on over half of the remaining 55,855 square miles the timber has been seriously damaged. It is estimated that the province has lost, through forest fires, at least 655 billion feet board measure. As the present total stand of saw-material in the whole Dominion probably does not greatly exceed this amount, the seriousness of this loss, due very largely to public carelessness, is apparent.

The following table indicates the composition of the present stand of saw-material:

Species	Coast		Interior		Total	
	Million Feet Board Measure	Per Cent	Million Feet Board Measure	Per Cent	Million Feet Board Measure	Per Cent
West. red cedar	59,000	27.4	18,019	13.2	77,019	22.1
Douglas Fir	64,000	29.4	12,573	9.2	76,573	21.8
Spruce (1)	14,000	6.7	58,375	42.8	72,375	20.6
West. Hemlock	52,000	24.0	12,164	8.9	64,164	18.3
Balsam (2)	19,000	9.2	13,838	10.2	32,838	9.5
Lodgepole Pine	20	.1	12,130	8.9	12,150	3.5
West Yellow Pine .....	.....	.....	4,208	3.1	4,208	1.2
Yellow Cypress	3,700	1.9	.....	.....	3,700	1.1
Western Larch .....	.....	.....	3,152	2.3	3,152	.9
White Pine	1,100	.5	1,617	1.2	2,717	.8
Black Cottonwood	400	.2	272	.2	672	.2
	213,220	100.0	136,348	100.0	349,568	100.0

(1) Includes Sitka Spruce, Engelmann Spruce, White Spruce and Black Spruce.

(2) Includes Alpine Fir, Lowland Fir and Amabilis Fir.

Of the species used in the manufacture of pulp and paper (hemlock, balsam, spruce and cottonwood), there is 170 billion feet, which is equivalent to 243 million cords of pulpwood. This may be increased to 250 million cords by utilizing smaller timber. As the supply of pulpwood is becoming a very serious matter in eastern North America, it is important to know that so considerable a supply may be obtained in British Columbia.

During the last five years the total cut in the province

has averaged only 1,250 million board feet. With a stand of 350,000 million board feet of timber of economical size, and with over 100,000 square miles of land on which young forests are established and which, if protected, should produce from 5,000 million to 7,000 million board feet per annum, it will be seen that the forest resources of British Columbia can, under conservative exploitation, supply at least five times the present cut without seriously depleting the capital stock.

A close working arrangement has been entered into between the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited, and the Royal Bank of Canada, whereby an interchange of facilities is provided for the customers of both banks.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DOMINION TAX INSPECTOR

Mr. C. H. Glendenning has been appointed to succeed Mr. A. G. McCandless as Dominion Inspector of Taxation for British Columbia and the Yukon. Mr. Glendenning was assistant to Mr. McCandless.