

ed by the lumbering industry, it can be asserted with confidence that the original forested area of the present United States was at least 1,400,000 square miles or nearly one-half of the entire land areas.

Alaska has an area of about 591,000 square miles. Its wooded area, some of which is densely covered with large timber, can be safely estimated at about 100,000 square miles, while a much greater area is covered with brush.

In the New World the forests ranged from the light and easily worked woods of general utility of North America, such as white and yellow pine, to the heavy and hard woods of the tropics and semitropics, adapted



Lumbering by the Sea
Davison Lumber Co., Springfield, Nova Scotia

to multitudes of uses according to their qualities of beauty in color and grain and their adaptability to ornamental use, or as dye stuffs.

Canada's Forest Wealth.

Dr. B. E. Fernow the noted authority on forestry, in his 'Analysis of Canada's Timber Wealth,' divides the Dominion into four broad geographical types, which again may be divided into twelve regional types. The Height of Land which is the watershed between Hudson Bay and the St. Lawrence including the Great Lakes, forms for the most part the northern limit of the Eastern forest, and within this area is confined the commercial timber of the East. The northern Forest forms the second type and extends north and west of this line to the Rocky Mountains, which form the third geographical type, from which the Coast forest is differentiated as the fourth type.

The Eastern Forest may be subdivided into five regional types, which we may designate as the Acadian, the Upper, Middle and Lower St. Lawrence and the Southern Laurentian.

The Acadian type comprises the Maritime Provinces with the Eastern Townships of Quebec south of the river added. This is hardwood forest with a coniferous admixture. The St. Lawrence valley can be divided into three types: the Peninsula of Ontario between Lake Huron and Erie, covered mainly with a rich hardwood forest; the middle St. Lawrence valley including the central western part of the province, between Toronto, Kingston and Midland on Georgian Bay, and the river valley to near Quebec. This is a reduced hardwood type with coniferous admixture; the lower St. Lawrence valley from Quebec north embodying both coniferous and the northern forest characteristic. North of the St. Lawrence valley drift and south of the height of land is located the true commercial forest area of Eastern Canada.

Beyond the Height of Land the northern or sub-arctic forest begins. This is a type containing some of the conifers of the more valuable type, but principally the poorer hardwoods, such as aspen and paper birch. This northern forest has in its southern section the timber areas of northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. The Rocky Mountains forests are the outcome of the

high altitude and the consequent cold and other rigorous climatic conditions. The Pacific Forest may be divided into four types; the northern and southern Rocky Mountain, and the Northern and southern Coast type. The southern Rocky Mountain type is an extension of a southern flora with bull pine, Engelmann spruce and western larch as representative trees. West of the Coast Range the celebrated Coast forest, also an extension of a more southern flora, is found in a belt running for two hundred miles north. Vancouver Island is wooded in this way. Douglas fir, hemlock and giant cedar are the main trees. Along the coast and on the islands north of the Portland Canal, the northern Coast forest changes to the simpler hemlock, spruce type which continues all the way along the Alaskan shore to Cook's Inlet.

The trees most used in Canada today are white pine, white spruce, balsam fir, hemlock, yellow and paper birch, red pine, eastern cedar, tamarack, hard and soft maple, basswood, jack pine, American elm, white and black ash, white and red oak, balsam poplar, beech. In the northwest provinces and the Rocky Mountains, white spruce, trembling aspen, balsam poplar, jack pine, black spruce, tamarack, paper birch, lodgepole pine, Alpine fir, and Alpine larch are the most important species. In British Columbia are found the following trees of commercial importance, Douglas fir, giant cedar, western hemlock, Sitka spruce, Engelmann spruce, Alpine fir, bull pine and lodgepole pine.

The spruce is the most commonly used tree in the Dominion. It is found practically everywhere, and next to the trembling poplar and black spruce, has the widest distribution of any of the native species. In the early days Canada was famed as the home of the white pine and oak. Other species—some of them coming to the fore today as the chief sources of our wood supply were then merely forest weeds, and held in little esteem.

Europe was built on oak and pine. The stout floating walls which have been the defence and pride of the British people for generations were made of the oak which grew in Canada. It was so with the French fleets which were overcome in the gigantic struggle which took place two hundred years ago. It is not surprising, then that practically all the accounts which we possess today regarding the early timber industry had to do with the reservation of oak for the royal navies.

In a grant made by the Governor and Intendant of Quebec in 1683 it was stipulated that 'the said Sieur de



Drawing Logs at Shines Lumber Co., New Brunswick

la Valliere shall preserve and cause to be preserved by his tenants within the limit of the said tract of land the oak timber fit for the building of vessels. . . . in default whereof the present concession shall be null and void.'

It is hard for the modern mind to grasp the indifference, carelessness and even enmity that embodied the attitude of the early settler towards the forest. Truly, agriculture was to be regarded as the main pursuits, when supplies from Old France were scarce, living dear