

themselves in the favor of the Old World, and many of the explorers who were searching for gold returned with wood.

The Original Forest.

What did the original explorers of the coasts of America discover in respect to the forests? James Defebaugh, late Editor of the American Lumberman, says that they found a wooded coast from the Strait of Belle

plains and mountains of the extreme south and the great treeless areas between—the prairies, the pampas, the llanos—and notwithstanding the areas lifted high above the treeline by the Rockies, the Sierras and the Cordilleras, the western continent was one of forests. It is difficult to define the treeless areas and to say exactly what percentage of the area of any one country or state was wooded or treeless, but in an approximate way some general facts may be stated.

Canada was and is a forested, or rather a wooded, country. Botanists, geographers and students of economics note a difference between forested and wooded areas. The forests yield timber of commercial value, but the wooded areas offer a welcome and means of livelihood to the settler. The total area of Canada, excluding Newfoundland and Labrador, is estimated to be at 3,745,574 square miles. Of this great area 1,351,505 square miles is estimated to be still wooded. It is probable that the original wooded area of Canada was about 1,690,000 square miles. All of the arctic territory

LUMBER PRODUCTION IN CANADA 1912

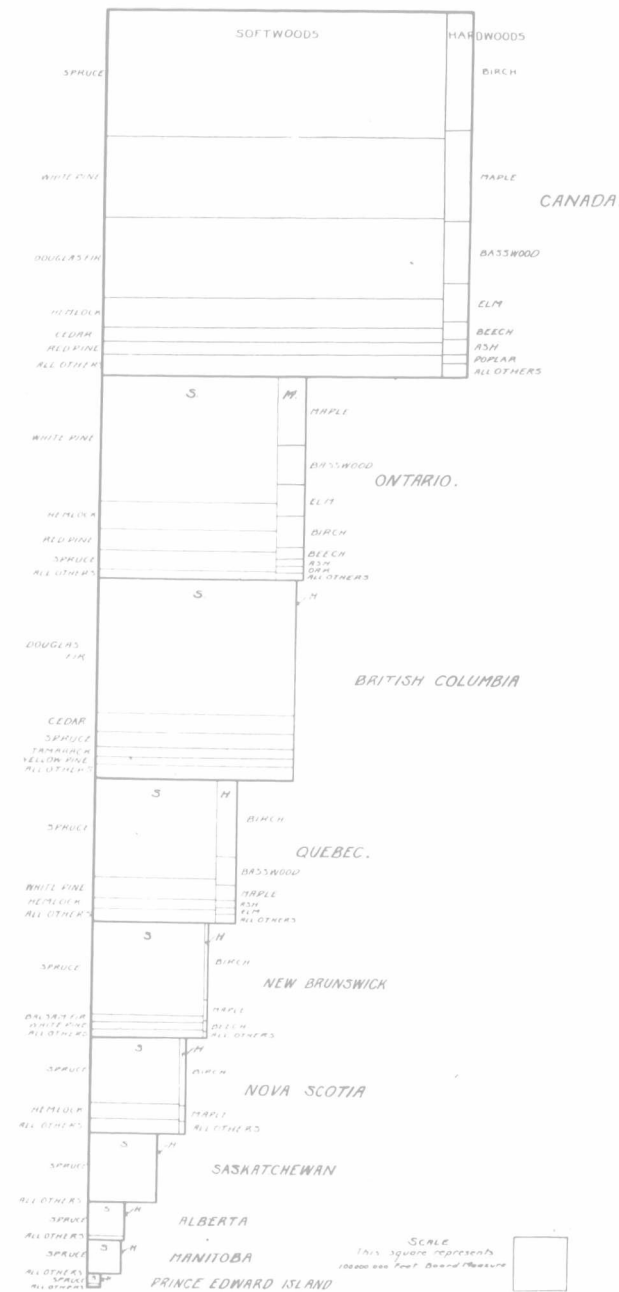
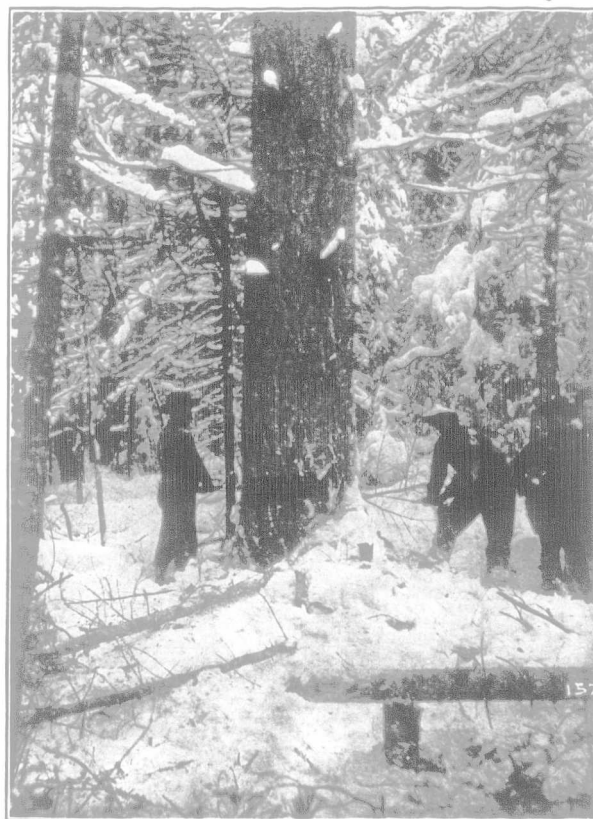


Diagram 3

Isle, 52 degrees north latitude to the mouth of the Rio de la Plata, 35 degrees south latitude practically without a break. The forest fringed the shores for that enormous distance, spanning nearly one-fourth of the earth's circumference and much augmented by the many and great indentation of the shore line. Back of the wooded shores for the most part a solid forest extended inland, in some places for two thousand miles. Notwithstanding the great areas of arctic muskeg in the north, the barren



Felling a Noble White Pine, Ontario

of Franklin, estimated at 500,000 square miles, and parts of Yukon and Mackenzie and more than half of Keewatin are and were treeless; owing to the influence of their arctic climate. The Labrador Coast and the northern part of Ungava are also largely treeless because of their northern latitude, fully ninety percent. of Canada was wooded. Newfoundland's coast was forbidding, but its interior was heavily wooded.

What is now the United States presented an almost solid and continuous forest from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River and in places still farther west; and then, after an interval of treeless plains, came the mountains with their forest groups and beyond them the wonderful arboreal wealth of the Pacific Coast. The total land surface of the continental United States, excluding Alaska, is 2,072,594 square miles. It is estimated that the present forest area is about 1,000,000 square miles; but, combining the fragmentary records that are to be found and estimating areas from the history of settlement and of agricultural development, as well as by the effect produc-