

## FOREST AREA.

The information available in regard to the forest area of Canada is of the most general nature, and the various estimates which have been made are uncertain. Actual knowledge is confined to restricted areas, and general conclusions are based on deductions therefrom, on judgments from climatic, geologic and other conditions, or on measurements made upon the map. In regard to the timber granted under timber license, and that included in forest reserves, there is fairly definite information, but in regard to the general forest areas knowledge is confined to the routes of travel followed by and reported on by the members of the staff of the Geological Survey. No attempt, except the survey undertaken by the province of Ontario in 1900, has been made either by the Dominion or Provincial Governments to have any systematic examination or estimate of the greater forest areas. In the interests of accurate knowledge of one of the greatest of Canada's natural resources, it is desirable that in all the provinces, and in Dominion territory, a forest survey should be undertaken and systematically carried out throughout the whole forested area.

In the census of 1891 the forest area of Canada was estimated at 799,000,000 acres. More recent estimates reduce the area to between 500,000,000 and 600,000,000 acres, but this will include areas of timber which is not at present merchantable, and for land covered with merchantable timber presently available estimates have been made as low as 200,000,000 acres, and even 100,000,000 acres. It is to be remembered, however, that these are estimates based from deductions from a general knowledge of conditions or of special areas, and none of them are entitled to great reliability.

The stand of timber is even less known, but between five and six hundred billion feet of timber suitable for sawing would be a conservative estimate. In addition there are large areas suitable for pulpwood. The whole forest area of Canada has suffered so severely from fire that the average stand must be computed at a low figure.

The area included in forest reserves and parks in the Dominion is 128,060,800 acres, and the area held under timber license or lease is 75,800,000 acres, but these areas overlap to a considerable extent.

### DOMINION FOREST RESERVES.

(Established by Forest Reserves Act, 1906.)

	Sq. Miles.
<b>Manitoba—</b>	
Riding Mountain Reserve.....	1,535
Turtle Mountain Reserve.....	109½
Lake Manitoba West Reserve.....	248
Spruce Woods Reserve.....	110
Duck Mountain Reserve.....	1,251
Porcupine No. 1 Reserve.....	322
	3,575½
<b>Saskatchewan—</b>	
Beaver Hills Reserve.....	72
The Pines Reserve.....	145
Moose Mountain Reserve.....	163
Porcupine No. 2 Reserve.....	360
	740
<b>Alberta—</b>	
Cooking Lake Reserve.....	114
Cypress Hills Reserve.....	18
Kootenay Lakes Reserve.....	54
	186