

TIMBER IN CANADA.*

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CANADA'S present supply of commercial timber has been variously estimated at lying between five and seven hundred billion feet, board measure, and covering an area of approximately 170,000,000 acres. This estimate refers only to timber of commercial value as saw timber. It does not include pulpwood, firewood, tie and pole material or small timber of any description, although this may have considerable commercial value.

Even pulpwood values are difficult to estimate as so much depends on accessibility to market. Firewood may be worth four dollars a cord in the settled parts of the country, and may have absolutely no value whatever in more remote districts. Ties may be worth forty cents at the railway, but the cost of transporting them may exceed this value, and they then become valueless for the present at least.

A complete estimate of available forest products could not even be attempted with the information existing, and this estimate is therefore largely confined to commercial saw timber (including all material ten inches and over in diameter at the stump).

British Columbia contains a land area of approximately 226,186,240 acres (353,416 square miles), of which about twenty-one per cent. is covered with commercial saw timber. This area of about 50 million acres has been estimated to contain 300 billion feet board measure.

The coast type is made up largely of Douglas fir, hemlock, Sitka spruce, western red cedar, western tamarack, western white pine and others of less commercial importance, and contains the bulk of British Columbia's best saw timber (about 225 million feet). The interior is divided into two distinct types. The Dry Belt country is characterized by light precipitation and the tree growth is light in consequence. It consists largely of Douglas fir and western yellow pine. The Kootenay country has a high annual precipitation and is practically a modified repetition of the coast type, characterized by the addition of such species as mountain fir and Engelmann spruce, and a lack of Sitka spruce. This type grades into the Southern Rocky Mountain type of mountain fir, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine, which crosses the summit and clothes the eastern slope of the Rockies down to the prairie line.

British Columbia cut in 1913: 1,173,647,000 feet, board measure, of lumber in her mills. Over two-thirds of this was Douglas fir, about 7% was tamarack and 7% red cedar, and of the remainder, 5% was spruce, 5% western yellow pine, 3% hemlock, 2% western white pine, and 1% each, mountain fir and jack pine. With the exception of unimportant qualities of cottonwood, maple and birch, no hardwoods are found in this province. Twelve kinds of wood were reported.

The province of Alberta has a total land area of 161,000,000 acres (252,925 square miles), of which 5,416,000 acres are said to contain saw timber to the extent of twenty-one billion board feet. Four reserves exist in Alberta at the present time, and these contain 16,-

711,776 acres. This province sawed in 1913, 44,662,000 feet of lumber of the following composition: Spruce, 93.8%; jack pine, 5%, and small quantities of Douglas fir, tamarack, poplar, balsam fir and birch. With the exception of birch and poplar the forests of Alberta are entirely coniferous. The Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, mountain fir and lodgepole pine, extend from British Columbia down the eastern slope and mix with the typically northern forest type.

In the northwest territories and the Yukon the forest at the present time has practically no commercial value. Forest cover exists but the trees are not found in commercial sizes or quantities. Wood is used locally for fuel, fencing and rough construction, but none is sawn and brought to the lumber markets. The country is sparsely settled; much of it has never been explored.

Saskatchewan's land area is 155,764,080 acres (243,382 square miles) and the province's timber area covers 3,584,000 acres and contains about fourteen billion board feet. The province in 1913 cut 114,800,000 board feet of lumber. The lumber was made up of spruce (98.2%) almost entirely, with small unimportant quantities of tamarack, jack pine and poplar. The forest reserves in Saskatchewan cover an area of 1,152,889 acres and consist of eight different reserves.

Manitoba contains a land area of 148,432,640 acres (231,926 square miles), of which 1,920,000 acres are saw timber land with a stand of some 6,850,000,000 feet of timber. The northern part of this province is covered with the same northern forest type found in Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta, but another type is found in the south-eastern part, sometimes called the southern Laurentian type. It is characterized by white and red pine, cedar and hemlock among the conifers and such eastern hardwoods as maple, yellow birch, elm, ash, basswood, beech, etc. The white and red pine reach Manitoba as do also the cedar, black ash, white elm and basswood; the other trees of this type are usually confined to Ontario and the provinces farther east.

Manitoba in 1913 cut a total of 71,961,000 feet of lumber in her saw mills. Spruce formed about 90% of this quantity as in the other prairie provinces. Smaller quantities of poplar, tamarack, jack pine, birch and balsam fir are also produced. Five forest reserves have been set aside, containing an area of 2,629,440 acres.

Ontario is Canada's largest lumber producing province and probably contains more mature standing timber than any other province excepting, perhaps, British Columbia. The land area of Ontario has been estimated at 234,163,200 acres (365,880 square miles). The greater part of this area is covered with the northern forest type of spruce, jack pine, poplar, balsam fir and tamarack, and parts of the northwestern portion of the province are treeless or covered with timber of no commercial value. This northern type in Ontario covers at least 180 million acres. South of this in Ontario and, generally speaking, south of the height of land between the St. Lawrence and Hudson Bay basins, we find the southern Laurentian type of forest which covers the southern rim of the Laurentian shield of rock formation. This type covers some hundred million acres in Ontario and Quebec, and has been estimated to contain 200 billion feet of saw timber. In this area are situated the principal forest reserves of both these provinces. Ontario has a forest reserve area of 11,539,200 acres (18,030 square miles) and Quebec has 111,400,320 acres (174,062 square miles). Ontario is Canada's premier white pine province

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