

CANADA'S VAST FOREST WEALTH.

Forests have always been one of the most valuable resources of Canada and promise to be so for years to come. Some of the facts concerning the wooded areas of the country are presented by D. Roy Cameron in an article, "Canada's Forests," published in the May number of the Canadian Geographical Journal. Mr. Cameron is a graduate of McGill and the University of Toronto, has had forestry practice in Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, and has been engaged with the Dominion Forest Service since 1912. Accordingly he is to be accepted as an authority on his subject.

Canada's forests, he writes, extend in a belt 600 to 1,300 miles wide, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast and northward from the international boundary to Hudson Bay and to within a few miles of the Arctic Ocean at the mouth of the Mackenzie River. Because of the wide divergence in geographic, topographic and climatic conditions there is a great variety of forest types, "ranging from the luxuriant forests of

"Douglas fir, red cedar and hemlock found on the coast of British Columbia, and the mixed forests of hardwoods, white and red pine and spruce of the eastern provinces to the stunted birch and spruce of the sub-Arctic regions." There are more than 160 recognized species of trees, of which 23 conifers, or softwoods, and 32 broad-leaved species of hardwoods are of considerable commercial value. The softwoods, in great demand for construction and the manufacture of pulp and paper, comprise 80 per cent. of the total stand and about the same proportion of the annual cut. Despite the advance of settlement the forests still occupy more than a third of the total land area of the Dominion. Of the 783 million acres of forest land 492 million acres are capable of producing timber of commercial value. The poorer stands on sub-alpine, sub-Arctic and other inferior sites also have their value as sources of wood supplies for the local needs of natives and whites and for their influence on climatic conditions, the control of stream flow and water supplies and the protection of wild life.

As for industry, it is stated that in 1937 more than a third of all the manufacturing plants in Canada were dependent primarily on the forests for their raw material. These industries employ an enormous number of workers, both seasonal and all-the-year-round. The average amount paid out annually in salaries and wages is \$157,900,000. As for exports, the average annual value of the sales abroad of wood, wood products and paper, exclusive of books and printed matter, during 1929-1938 was in excess of \$200,000,000, which was 24 per cent. of the total exports of Canadian products. These and other facts given by Mr. Cameron, together with the numerous illustrations accompanying the text in the Canadian Geographical, show the enormous value of the soft and hard timber which Canada possesses in abundance. The forests are assets which should be conserved, no matter what the cost.