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THE YEAR \$2.00

Provincial Lumber Industry in an Active Year

Production Increased to \$54,162,523, a Gain of Nearly \$6,000,000 — Increased Production of Newsprint and Aeroplane Spruce Chief Causes.

has been done in investigation and development of overseas markets. While good railway systems provide adequate transportation facilities to the East, expansion to the West in the direction of Pacific markets of China, Australia, South Africa, and South America is strangled through lack of ships. Consensus of opinion is emphatic that round the Pacific is the real and ultimate overseas market for British Columbia timber.

At present Great Britain is the only market with shipping, and there is in addition an enormous emergency demand in sight for timber for reconstruction work. In September the Department's Lumber Commissioner was sent over to England, and on the signing of the armistice all energies were bent to secure a full share of this business for British Columbia. Tonnage, of course, has controlled the situation. All importations to Great Britain have been handled by the Timber Controller, and up to the present any business which British Columbia could do must go through government channels. Negotiations for large orders are still in progress at the time of writing this report.

The year 1918 has seen British Columbia timber most prominent in connection with the war. The rapid development of the Royal Air Force, with an ever-increasing demand for more machines, made spruce for aeroplane construction of vital importance to the success of the Allies. In 1917 labor troubles threatened the source of supply from the Western States, and caused the Imperial Munitions Board to look to other sources for their raw ma-

terial. The magnificent spruce stands of our northern coast offered a solution for the problem. Immense as these resources were, up to this time no serious effort had been made to exploit them for war purposes. Our total output of aeroplane spruce was an insignificant amount per month. Nearly all of it at that time was produced as a by-product in general commercial operations.

The British authorities were advised that in order to secure and maintain an adequate supply of aeroplane material an organized effort to secure the logging of the spruce regions would have to be made, and logging equipment and machinery would have to be transferred from the fir and

The Honourable T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, Victoria, has just published the annual report of the Forest Branch of British Columbia for 1918, which is a valuable document giving thorough and comprehensive information of the operations of the lumber industry for the past year.

The report is prepared under the direction of Mr. M. A. Grainger, chief forester. The report shows that considerable progress has been made in broadening the markets for British Columbia varieties of wood, and under the subject of trade expansion the report reviews this progress and the development of the spruce area for aeroplane construction. The report says:

During the past year the fluctuating demand caused by the emergency nature of all business was reflected in the lumber industry of the province.

The prairie business was, as usual, very uncertain. The year commenced with good demand and a good volume of business was done until about August, when the prospects of a light crop in many sections caused a curtailment.

The eastern Canada market held strong throughout the year. It is estimated that over 150,000,000 feet of lumber, lath and dimension was shipped during 1918. This is a record, and when compared with the 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 feet volume of pre-war business is very satisfactory.

The Department's Trade Commissioner visited the principal centres in Eastern Canada again during July and August. His report on this market may be summed up as follows: British Columbia, during the past two or three years, has obtained a footing which requires only sustained effort to secure for British Columbia timber a market for at least 250,000,000 feet a year. Our business can increase in all grades and all lines from box-shooks to clear timbers and finish. British Columbia lumber is in this market to stay, if the needs of the market are studied and our mills supply the material desired.

During the past three years some preliminary work

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