

During 1914, 163 permits to export logs were issued, the total amount exported being 65,678,054 feet, which compares with previous years as follows: 1911, 47,000,000; 1912, 63,280,375; 1913, 58,752,678. The quantity of each species was: Cedar, 41,660,300 feet B.M.; fir, 9,916,180; spruce, 7,733,035; hemlock, 2,683,388; pine, 3,599,325; balsam fir, 25,589; cottonwood, 60,237. All logs exported during 1914 were graded.

Other products exported in an unsawn state are poles, posts, props, and hewn or slabbed ties. About 3,000,000 lineal feet of poles and piles were shipped from British Columbia in 1914; 1,836,000 lineal feet from Cranbrook and Nelson Forest districts to the prairies, Ontario, and the central states; 1,133,810 lineal feet from Prince Rupert, Vancouver, and Island Forest districts to California. An important industry in Cranbrook and Nelson Forest districts is the shipping of posts, props, and ties to the prairies. These exports for 1914 were: Posts, 16,341 cords; props, 7,525 cords; ties, 510,513 pieces.

There is practically no export of posts, props, or ties to the United States. The value of unmanufactured exports in 1914 was \$1,100,000, made up as follows: Logs, \$520,000; poles and piles, \$240,000; unsawn ties, \$150,000; posts, \$130,000; props, \$60,000.

The total value of such exports in 1913 was \$1,321,641. No immediate rapid increase in the annual exports of these products can be expected, for the low value of such materials precludes their being transported in great quantities for the long distance necessary to reach densely settled countries. Their consumption appears to be restricted chiefly to Western America, and may be expected to grow with the growth of population.

Lumber is the one item of export which has established the otherwise adverse balance of provincial trade.

Competition in the Prairie Provinces.

The only important market developed for British Columbia during the past decade has been the Canadian prairies. In the best of times the Canadian prairies is a hotly contested market for lumber. The following imports came from the United States in 1914:—

	Feet.	Value.	Average per M.	% de- crease 1914 over 1913.
Planks, boards, etc., dressed one side, not dutiable	71,130,000	\$842,227	\$11.85	33
Sawn boards, etc., duti- able	5,996,000	86,002	14.34	66
	77,126,000	\$928,229		..
Pieces.				
Laths	13,112,000	29,920	\$ 2.28	60
Shingles	10,456,000	18,112	1.73	69
Totals		\$976,261		..

Further competition which cannot possibly be eliminated during the next decade is that of the Prairie Spruce Mills, which cut 225,000,000 feet annually, and the Western Mills of Ontario, which send 50,000,000 feet a year. For several years past British Columbia has cut 1,000,000,000 feet to 1,200,000,000 feet of lumber for the prairie trade. So acute was the building depression in 1914 that only about 700,000,000 was cut for the prairie trade, and not all this quantity was delivered.

The situation plainly calls for general reorganization, for the mills of British Columbia have looked to the prairie for a sufficient market during the past ten years. The output capacity for these mills is as follows:—

District.	No. of mills.	Capacity per ten-hour day.	Capacity per year of 300 days.
Cranbrook	46	1,153,200	345,960,000
Fort George	16	200,000	60,000,000
Hazelton	12	41,000	12,300,000
Island	50	1,594,000	478,200,000
Kamloops	20	683,700	205,010,000
Lillooet	21	20,000	6,000,000
Nelson	32	877,000	263,100,000
Prince Rupert ..	18	392,000	117,600,000
Tete Jaune Cache	1	100,000	30,000,000
Vancouver	89	3,176,000	952,800,000
Vernon	29	282,000	84,600,000
Totals	334	8,518,900	2,555,570,000

The prairie market has never yet in any one year taken over 60 per cent. of the output of these mills; the export market has not in any one year in the past decade taken 4 per cent. of the annual output. Manifestly the only relief which will enable the lumber industry to meet its obligations is an extension of export markets.

Must Have Markets.

The part played at present by British Columbia in the export trade of the Pacific Coast is shown in the statement of the foreign exports for 1914:—

	From British Columbia.	From Washington and Oregon.
Africa	9,521,137	3,045,051
Atlantic Coast	6,439,892	26,209,981
Australia	5,850,426	176,706,113
United Kingdom and continent	4,824,265	30,106,409
India	3,153,631	11,543,134
South Sea Islands	2,710,153	8,606,427
Japan	2,082,327	8,853,809
China	1,290,139	122,545,014
West Coast of South America	983,927	78,382,689
California	806,400	1,045,801,406
New Zealand	368,949	11,486,055
Hawaiian Islands		35,903,438
Panama		19,293,733
Philippine Islands		12,513,583
East Coast of South America		7,945,010
Alaska		6,516,625
Mexico		5,324,474
Central America		104,703
Totals	38,031,246	1,610,947,654

The same necessity for expansion of markets exists in the northwestern states as in British Columbia. British Columbia, in striving for sufficient markets to keep her mills operating, will be forced to meet the keen competition of the American mills. Although the market in the Canadian prairies has never been great enough to take more than three-fifths of British Columbia's output, the Americans have in nearly every year of the past five supplied at least one-fifth of it. Although there is now free lumber into the United States, only 40,000,000 feet were shipped from British Columbia to the United States in 1914, as compared with the 77,000,000 feet imported into the Canadian prairies from the United States during the same period.

The provincial forest branch intimates that to find and hold a wider lumber market will tax every resource of both manufacturers and government through years of effort, and that the extension of markets for British Columbia is such a public necessity that it should engage the attention of the government as the largest shareholder and as trustee of the public prosperity, though obviously no great improvement can be expected until the selling price of lumber is again greater than the cost of producing it. This selling price can only be increased by the operators of British Columbia and the northwestern states.