

THE CANADIAN TIMBER SUPPLY AND THE BRITISH DEMAND.

ALTHOUGH for many years Canadian timber products have been exported to Great Britain quite extensively, it is acknowledged that much ignorance yet prevails in the mother country regarding the timber resources of Canada and her ability to supply wood goods in competition with other countries. One reason, and perhaps the chief one, why Canada is not better known in foreign countries, is that a considerable portion of her exports, particularly of lumber, have passed through United States houses, and our neighbors to the south have taken every precaution to conceal the identity of the goods.

Recently, Great Britain has shown a growing disposition to trade with her colonies in preference to other countries, and as a result enquiries are frequently made regarding Canadian timber products. This sentiment has been favorably received by Canadian lumbermen, who, wearied of the tariff changes and other interruptions incident to trading with the United States, are looking to other countries for a market for their output.

The CANADA LUMBERMAN has earnestly endeavored in the past to promote trade in timber products between this country and Great Britain, the largest consumer of wood goods in the world. Henceforth it is the intention to give still greater attention to the British market, by distributing copies of the journal to the timber importers and wood consumers in that country. In addition to our regular mailing list, five hundred copies of this issue will be sent into the British market, and will pass into the hands of persons directly interested in the importation of Canadian timber. Some of these may have but a meagre knowledge of the timber resources and manufacturing facilities of this country, and may be interested in the following brief particulars:

The bulk of the forests of North America are to be found in Canada, her timber area being estimated at 130 million acres. At one time the United States had vast forest areas, but these have become well nigh exhausted excepting in the Southern States, where there is to be found a considerable quantity of what is known as southern or pitch pine. Of late the United States government has adopted the policy of establishing forest reserves, but this precaution was not taken early enough, and in a few years that country will be dependent upon Canada for her timber supply.

It is estimated that the annual production of lumber in Canada is about two and one-half billion feet. Of this quantity, perhaps upwards of one billion feet is white pine and one-half billion spruce, the balance being made up of other woods, such as basswood, ash, maple, birch, elm, oak, beech, cedar, hemlock, Douglas fir, etc. To show the geographical position of these woods, we will commence with the most easterly province of Nova Scotia. Spruce is the chief timber there, although a considerable quantity of hardwood lumber is manufactured also. The total area of good timber lands is given as 2,600,000 acres, and there are a large number of saw mills, many of which manufacture for the British trade. Owing to the number of open ports, shipping can be carried on the year round from almost all parts of the province.

New Brunswick is also a spruce-producing

province, and on a more extensive scale than Nova Scotia. In addition to spruce, there exists an abundance of cedar, birch, maple, beech, and hemlock, with some ash and poplar. Spruce and birch comprise the chief export to Great Britain, but more attention is being paid to the hardwoods, and a greater quantity will likely be manufactured in the future. There is probably over 10,000,000 acres of timber lands in the province, much of which is covered with the finest of spruce. There are numerous rivers and streams to facilitate the getting of logs to the mills, and also providing excellent sites for saw mills, pulp mills and wood-working factories.

Quebec must also be classed as a spruce province, with very little hardwood timber. The spruce found in the province, however, is of excellent quality, and practically inexhaustible, there being large tracts in the north yet untouched. White pine is also native to Quebec, being contiguous to the Ottawa river. The saw mills are equipped with modern machinery, and have an average capacity of 50,000 feet per day.

In the province of Ontario are found the white pine forests of the Dominion. Of a total area of timber lands of about 120,000 square miles, about 23,000 square miles are under lease by lumbermen. The Ottawa valley is the seat of the pine trade, there being manufactured there annually on an average 650,000,000 superficial feet. Extensive pine limits also exist in the Georgian Bay district, in the western part of the province, from which section the Michigan lumbermen have of late years derived their log supply. Red, or Norway pine, is also manufactured in Ontario. This lumber has, within the past two years, met with favor in the British market, and the quantity available has been unequal to the demand. From being almost a drug upon the market, it has become a readily marketable product, and no doubt a greater quantity will be manufactured in the future by the Canadian lumbermen, who realize the vast extent of the requirements of British consumers. Ontario is famous not only on account of its pine forests, but also because of large tracts of hardwood timber, including oak, ash, elm, maple, birch, basswood, beech and hickory. Some of these woods are already known in the British market, but it is only during late years that Canadian hardwoods have been exported to any extent. What has been done, however, is looked upon as but the beginning of the development of the hardwood industry. Lumbermen who have heretofore given no attention to the hardwood timber on their limits, confining their operations exclusively to pine, are becoming convinced of the wisdom of cutting the hardwoods also. With the expansion of the demand they hope to profit by this policy, while it is also desirable from a forestry standpoint to remove the hardwood trees in order that a regrowth of pine may be assured.

Nowhere in the world are more extensive or better equipped saw mills to be found than in Ontario. The machinery is modern, well designed, and in charge of skilled workmen, and the lumber manufactured is of the best quality.

The province of British Columbia has vast timber limits. Of an area of 382,000 square miles, it is estimated that 285,000 miles are timber lands. The Douglas fir is the chief commercial timber, it being found in great quantities

and of exceedingly large dimensions. It is of wonderful strength and elasticity, and is particularly adapted for ship-building purposes. The woods of the province are red and yellow cedar, spruce, white pine, maple, and alder, and a number of others of minor importance.

To the lumber trade of Canada the present may be called a transition period. Within earlier years only lumber in rough form was marketed in Great Britain, conditions have changed, and there is now a steady and increasing demand for the more finished product, such as doors, sashes, chair stock, box shooks, and many lines of wood-working material. To meet this demand some extensive factories have been established in Canada, and many saw mill owners are, at the present time, establishing wood-working plants with a view to exporting the output to the British and other foreign markets. The importer who prefers to trade with Canada will find it possible to obtain goods equal in quality to those produced in the United States, Norway, Sweden, Germany, or any other country. Inadequate shipping facilities have, in the past, operated against Canadian timber exporters, but this obstacle is being gradually overcome by the establishment of new steamship services.

Closely allied to the lumbering industry is the manufacture of pulp, in which Canada bids to become famous throughout the world. Possessing an almost inexhaustible supply of spruce, the best raw material yet discovered for making pulp, and with almost illimitable water power, this country is certain to witness, in the near future, a wonderful expansion of the pulp industry. The large mills that have been established have successfully encountered competition, which fact has given an impetus to other projects of a like nature. Arrangements are about completed for the erection of several new mills in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and ere long a much greater quantity of Canadian pulp will be purchased by British paper-makers.

TRADE NOTES.

The Robb Engineering Company, of Amherst, N. S., have furnished a 100 h.p. engine and boiler and other machinery for a new saw mill being built at Springhill, N. S., by John Campbell, jr.

Mr. D. K. McLaren, of Montreal, announces that he has lately introduced an excellent method of stretching leather used in the manufacture of his English oak-tanned leather belting, and is prepared to guarantee entire satisfaction to users. Mr. J. T. Craig, 69 Bay street, is in charge of the Toronto agency.

We learn that the protracted law cases which have been pursued in England by the Magnolia Anti-Friction Metal Company, Limited—the London branch of the Magnolia Metal Company, of New York—in defense of their right to their celebrated brand, and their business, have been decided in their favor against John Sugden, W. E. Watson, A. B. Brown, the Atlas Bronze Company, Limited, the Atlas Metal Company, Limited, and others, who were enjoined respecting patents, trade-marks, and engaging in any anti-friction metal business, with costs and damages. The text of the decision, as appearing in English papers at hand, is very severe and sweeping. We congratulate the Magnolia Metal Company at the result. The cases have been prosecuted with great vigor and no doubt large expense, but it is of value to American registering under and appealing to English law to know that they do and will protect them when properly appealed to.

The McDougall Lumber Company, of which J. M. G. of Orillia, is a member, will build a saw mill and sash and door factory on the old Beatty site at Parry Sound, Ont.